Company number: 1056004
Charity number: 264221

LISTENING BOOKS

(A company limited by guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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(A company limited by guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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LISTENING BOOKS
REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Council of Management, the members of which are directors of the company, are pleased to present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Annual Report contains the Director's report as required by company law.

The financial statements comply with the Memorandum of Association, the Companies Act 2006, The Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

Reference and Administrative Details

Directors and Council of Management
The members of the Council of Management, who are also the directors of the company and who served during the year are as follows:

G M Howarth	*Chairman*
C Bainbridge	*Treasurer*
J Eccleshare	
D O'Neill	
N Forster	
S.Tekin	
H Grant	

The company has no share capital and is limited by guarantee (company number: 1056004 and charity number: 264221).

Registered Office
Canopi, 82 Tanner Street, London, SE1 3GN

Charity number
264221

Company Secretary
Bill Dee

Auditors
Xeinadin Audit Limited, 5 Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2SW

Bankers
Lloyds Bank plc, 69/73 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NQ

Solicitors
Pothecary Witham Weld Solicitors, 70 St George's Square, London SW1V 3RD

Investment Managers
CCLA Investment Management Ltd, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria St, London EC4V 4ET

Key Management Personnel
The Trustees
Bill Dee
Robert Marchant
Amy Flinders
Louise Barling
Claire Bell

LISTENING BOOKS
REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution and Structure
Established in 1959 (as the National Listening Library Limited), Listening Books is a registered charity incorporated on 26 May 1972. The governing instrument is our Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22 June 1998.

The Council of Management, whose seven members represent organisations and individuals having an interest in people with special needs, are not remunerated for the duties they undertake.

The day-to-day management of the company is delegated by the Council to the Director, who reports to the Council of Management, which approves major decisions and has overall responsibility for the company's activities. The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increases in accordance with average earnings bearing in mind charities of similar size and activity.

Election of Council Members
A person or persons may be invited to join the Council of Management of the company where they are:

- At least 18 years of age;
- Otherwise not disqualified from being so appointed under Sections 72 and 73 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- Felt able to bring relevant experience and influence to the company.

The Board reviews its own performance in changing circumstances and considers whether additional trustees with new skills are required. Trustees are usually appointed by either placing adverts in the charity press or by consideration of whether there is someone suitable known to the company. Potential new trustees have an initial meeting with the Chair, are then introduced to the Board, and only then if elected join the Board. Subsequently they have meetings as necessary with the Chair and receive an induction pack. Further training could be offered if considered beneficial.

Risk management
The charity has undertaken a risk appraisal as required by the Charity Commission. Based on this risk review, the Trustees and executive team consider the most relevant risks, and the means by which they may be mitigated, to be as follows:

- Safety and security of staff, volunteers and members (mitigation includes an annual risk assessment dedicated to health and fire safety, which is conducted through consultation with staff, providing first aid and fire safety training to key members of staff, and a child and vulnerable adult protection policy).
- Data security breaches (mitigation includes measures to restrict access to sensitive information and the successful implementation of a new IT system, which has improved the handling of sensitive data).
- Deterioration of relationships with publishers (mitigation includes a copyright policy outlining the management of copyrighted material and ensuring that staff, volunteers and members are aware of their duty to respect the conditions of our agreements with publishers).
- Service delivery failure (mitigation includes the training of staff, thorough backing up of data, comprehensive IT support and the implementation of a new, bespoke IT system).
- Reduction of trust funding (mitigation includes high quality service delivery, budgeting for possibility of reduced funding in any given year, establishment of appropriate financial reserves level, and income diversification through alternative sources of income where available).

LISTENING BOOKS
REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Objectives and Activities

The Charity's objects are:
To relieve disability or incapacity, whether permanent or temporary, arising from any sickness, injury or other physical or mental condition, in particular, by the provision of an audio book library service including recorded literature and other material, together with equipment for the reproduction of such literature or other material, including the advancement of education of persons suffering from such conditions.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Achievements and Performance

In this National Year of Reading, it is a particular pleasure to record our highest yet number of individual members, both direct and via schools, reaching 12,694 at the last count, not forgetting the thousands more we are reaching through hospitals and hospices.

Reading is an inspiration in so many ways - connecting us in our inevitably limited single worlds to the lives of others - in the past and future as well as the present. Through these stories of others, their tribulations and their courage, whether real or fictional, we discover their sources of strength. With them, we can laugh and cry, feel awe and joy and certainly feel less alone. Anyone with a learning difficulty or disability is likely to experience at times some sense of isolation but that is just what reading directly addresses. Hence, the special importance that books should be accessible to us all, and fortunately listening can be so much more vivid an experience than merely following words on a page!

The widespread success of audio books over the past decade has been a real blessing for Listening Books members, they now enjoy so much more choice and ever-improving quality in the recordings. We love to have requests and recommendations, our Members' Forum is a valuable resource guiding our selections of titles. This year we added 1349 new titles to our existing catalogue, we are forever grateful to publishers who give us generous terms to meet all our members' needs.

It is also heartening to have ended the year with a small financial surplus. In such a challenging economic environment, it feels like an endorsement from many loyal trusts and foundations. We pride ourselves on running a tight ship, strenuously avoiding waste, always looking for opportunities to work better and leaner. But that creates pressure on staff, we are very conscious of the debt we owe them for the quality of the service we provide. The many messages of appreciation they get from members does much, I know , to sustain them but their experience and compassion deserve the widest recognition.

Along with fundraising, there is always housekeeping to be done and this year we have completed enhancing our software system, protecting key data, improving our capacity to monitor progress on many fronts. We have also moved from Remote Desktop to SharePoint, enabling staff working from home to connect with each other more effectively - which has, in turn, led to our decision to run the charity next year without an office - an economy which I hope is positive also for staff, - saving time and travel costs.

Technology, as stated, is giving us exciting opportunities for enhancing our service but we know it can often be problematic for members living on their own, so the understanding and competence of our staff is vital.

Looking ahead, in a world with so much uncertainty, I nonetheless feel confident that Listening Books will continue to make a difference to the quality of our members' lives. Their testimony gives us heart and, as last year, I will end with just one tribute we received,

“Listening Books has been life-changing for my daughter, Maria. She is non-verbal and absolutely loves books. Before discovering Listening Books, she was constantly asking someone to come and read to her because she couldn’t access the stories independently. As a family caring for a child with complex needs, it wasn’t always possible to stop everything and read whenever she wanted. Now, with the Listening Books app, Maria can choose the books she wants and listen to them by herself. It has given her a sense of independence and allows her to enjoy one of her greatest passions whenever she likes.” As shared by a parent of a 14-year-old member.

Summary of key achievements:

- In 2025/26 our annual audiobook loans reached an all-time high of 232,000, an increase of 23% on 2024/25.
- The number of magazine and newspaper articles opened on our PressReader platform grew by 30% to 744,000.
- The number of individual members we serve directly grew by 13% to over 11,300.
- We supported 400 organisations with our service, including hospitals, hospices and schools.
- Our audiobook catalogue grew by 1,400 titles, reaching a total of 10,700.

Financial Review

Reserves policy
Unrestricted funds comprise the accumulated funds which are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the objectives of the company. Free reserves are a specific subset of unrestricted funds.

Free Reserves = Total Unrestricted Funds minus Tangible Fixed Assets minus Designated Funds

It is the intention of the directors that such funds be maintained at a level which, if required, would fund the running costs of the organisation for a period of six to nine (6-9) months, corresponding to a free reserves range of £300k-£450k. This duration takes account of the nature of the funding of the company, where most of the income is from Charitable Trusts being of a cyclical nature affected by the general economic climate, and legacies which are unpredictable in both scale and date of receipt, often resulting in significant movement in the Free Reserves level during the year. At year-end, the free reserves balance stood at £357,568, being within the target range.

Financial position
The net surplus of unrestricted funds during the year ended 31 March 2026 amounted to £353,474 (2025: £120,748). This has resulted in total unrestricted funds available for use at the discretion of the Council of Management of £2,282,167 (2025: £1,928,693). Taking account of commitments in Tangible Fixed Assets (£4,919) and Intangible (titles) Designated Fund (£1,919,680) this unrestricted fund balance was £357,568.

Net deficit on restricted funds in the year amounted to £63,578 (2025: £73,225). This has resulted in total restricted funds at 31 March 2026 of £77,026 (2025: £140,604).

Investment powers
The Trustees accept responsibility for the effective and efficient management of the company's investments. Management of the company's investment portfolio is by COIF Charity Funds. The investment objective is to achieve a balance between income and capital growth through investment in cash, bonds and equities. Exposure to equity markets will normally be gained through investment in authorised unit trusts and investment trusts.

Fundraising Policy
The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Requests for funds are largely through grant applications to sympathetic charitable trusts and the purposes are clearly described. During the year no professional fundraisers were employed and appeals were generally made by email or letter. A complaints procedure is set out as part of the Privacy Policy on the website. No complaints or criticisms were raised concerning the fundraising activities during the period.

Investment policy
The current investment policy of the charity is to aim to hold bank balances of a minimum of £80,000 mainly for working capital, and the Trustees have an ethical investment policy:

Listening Books' investments are held in the CCLA Ethical Fund, which applies a defined set of values-based and ESG-driven investment restrictions. These restrictions are designed to ensure that the charity's investments are compatible with its charitable purposes and reflect the sustainability standards set out in the Fund's Scheme Particulars.

Under the Fund's policy, companies are excluded where they derive more than 5% of revenues from thermal coal or oil sands extraction, or more than 10% of revenues from the extraction, production or refining of oil and gas. The Fund also excludes electricity generators that have not demonstrated alignment with the Paris Climate Agreement, as assessed by the Investment Manager. In addition, certain extractives and utilities companies are excluded where the Investment Manager considers that productive engagement is not possible.

The Fund's broader sustainability approach incorporates ESG risk assessment, stewardship, and a Paris-aligned net-zero pathway for listed equities. These measures support the Trustees' objective of ensuring that Listening Books' investments are managed responsibly and in a manner consistent with long-term environmental and social considerations.

Disclosure of information to auditors

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware and they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

LISTENING BOOKS
REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

The Council members are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Council members, who are the directors for the purposes of company law, to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Council members have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United
Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Council members must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Council members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will be able to continue in operation.

The Council members are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

A resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting to appoint auditors to the company for the ensuing year.

The Trustees' Report was prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies.

Approved by the Council of Management and signed on its behalf by:

G Howarth

G Howarth
Chairman

Date: 21 October 2026

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LISTENING BOOKS

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Listening Books (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included with the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees'(who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LISTENING BOOKS

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to employment and financial reporting legislation and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management, considering the internal controls in place and discussion amongst the engagement team.

We determined that the principal risks were related to management bias in accounting estimates, presentation of separately disclosed items and management override of controls.

In response to the risks identified we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to reviewing trustees' minutes, challenging significant accounting estimates, evaluating the internal controls, agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and identifying and testing journal entries.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

P Newton

Paul Newton BSc BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Xeinadin Audit Limited
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

5 Robin Hood Lane
Sutton
Surrey
SM1 2SW

Date: 22 October 2026

LISTENING BOOKS STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General Fund	Intangible Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	2026 Total	Unrestricted Funds General Fund	Intangible Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Restated 2025 Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:									
Donations and legacies		**219,435**	**-**	**966,286**	**1,185,721**	226,373	226,373	803,786	1,030,159
Charitable activities		**93,503**	**-**	**-**	**93,503**	82,217	82,217	-	82,217
Investment income		**497**	**-**	**-**	**497**	680	680	-	680
Other trading activities		**850**	**-**	**-**	**850**	-	-	-	-
Total income	2	**314,285**	**-**	**966,286**	**1,280,571**	309,270	309,270	803,786	1,113,056
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds		**28,488**	**-**	**-**	**28,488**	32,431	-	-	32,431
Charitable activities		**179,486**	**367,990**	**406,940**	**954,416**	323,534	316,965	390,729	1,031,228
Total expenditure	3	**207,974**	**367,990**	**406,940**	**982,904**	355,965	316,965	390,729	1,063,659
Net (losses)/gains on investments	7	**(7,771)**	**-**	**-**	**(7,771)**	(1,874)	-	-	(1,874)
Net income/(expenditure)		**98,540**	**(367,990)**	**559,346**	**289,896**	(48,569)	(316,965)	413,057	47,523
Transfers between funds		**(733)**	**623,657**	**(622,924)**	**-**	8,287	477,995	(486,282)	-
Net movement in funds		**97,807**	**255,667**	**(63,578)**	**289,896**	(40,282)	161,030	(73,225)	47,523
Funds brought forward:									
As previously stated						304,962	-	213,829	518,791
Prior period adjustment	17					-	1,502,983	-	1,502,983
As restated		**264,680**	**1,664,013**	**140,604**	**2,069,297**	304,962	1,502,983	213,829	2,021,774
Funds carried forward		**362,487**	**1,919,680**	**77,026**	**2,359,193**	264,680	1,664,013	140,604	2,069,297

All of the activities are continuing. There were no recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.
The notes on pages 13 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

LISTENING BOOKS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes		2026	Restated 2025
			£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	5		**4,919**	14,562
Intangible fixed assets	6		**1,919,680**	1,664,013
Investments	7		**118,326**	126,097
			2,042,925	1,804,672
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	8	**171,492**		145,345
Cash at bank and in hand		**190,983**		154,063
		362,475		299,408
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	**46,207**		34,783
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**316,268**	264,625
NET ASSETS			**2,359,193**	2,069,297
FUNDS	11			
Unrestricted:	12			
General fund	12		**362,487**	264,680
Intangible (Titles) Designated Fund	12		**1,919,680**	1,664,013
Restricted	13		**77,026**	140,604
NET ASSETS			**2,359,193**	2,069,297

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Council of Management and signed on its behalf by:

G Howarth

G Howarth
Chairman

Date: 21 October 2026

Company Registration No: 01056004

The notes on pages 13 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

LISTENING BOOKS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	2026		Restated 2025	
	£	£	£	£
Cash (used in) operating activities (see below)		**89,716**		(101,759)
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	**(570)**		-	
Payments to acquire intangible fixed assets	**(52,226)**		(24,636)	
Proceeds from sale of investments	**-**		140,000	
Cash provided by investing activities		**(52,796)**		115,364
Net cash inflow/(outflow)		**36,920**		13,605
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2025		**154,063**		140,458
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2026		**190,983**		154,063

Cash flows from operating activities

Net income/(expenditure)	**289,896**	47,523
Net losses/(gains) on investments	**7,771**	1,874
Depreciation	**10,213**	19,829
Amortisation	**367,990**	316,965
Gifts in kind capitalised	**(571,431)**	(453,359)
(Increase) in debtors	**(26,147)**	(27,601)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	**11,424**	(6,990)
Cash (used in) operating activities	**89,716**	(101,759)

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting as modified by the revaluation of investments to market value and prepared in sterling, which is the financial currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest £1.

Listening Books is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Canopi, 82 Tanner Street, London, SE1 3GN. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

b. Prior period adjustment

During the year the trustees completed a review of the charity's library of audiobook titles, including titles paid for as well as those acquired through gift-in-kind arrangements. Following this review, the trustees concluded that these assets meet the recognition criteria for intangible fixed assets and should be capitalised and amortised over their estimated useful economic life. Adjustments have been made to the comparatives to recognise the intangible asset. Further details of the adjustments made are set out in note 17.

c. Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. Equipment is depreciated over 5 years on cost.

d. Intangible fixed assets

Audiobook titles, including titles paid for as well as those acquired through gift-in-kind arrangements (see further details in note 1i), are recognised as intangible fixed assets where they are separately identifiable and are expected to generate service potential for the charity over more than one accounting period. The charity considers that audiobook licence rights provide future service potential because they enable the delivery of accessible reading services and other charitable activities in furtherance of its objects. The future benefit derived from the licences is therefore assessed by reference to the service potential obtained from the rights rather than direct revenue generation.

Titles are initially recognised at cost. The retail price of titles is used to determine the initial cost where acquired through a gift-in-kind arrangement.

Intangible assets are subsequently carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses. Titles are amortised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful economic life of 10 years.

At each reporting date the charity reviews whether there is any indication that an audiobook licence asset may be impaired. Where indicators of impairment exist, the recoverable amount or remaining service potential of the asset is assessed and the carrying value is written down to its recoverable amount where necessary. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Indicators of impairment may include the withdrawal of rights by publishers, significant reductions in usage of licensed content, technological obsolescence, or decisions to discontinue the related service.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

e. Investments
Investments are stated at market value based on the bid price at the Balance Sheet date and the surplus or deficit of this revaluation is shown as unrealised gains or losses on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities after the Income and Expenditure Statement has been concluded.

Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the proceeds of sale at the date of disposal and market value at the previous Balance Sheet date or cost of acquisition if purchased during the year. These are shown as realised gains or losses on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities and are also included in the Income and Expenditure Statement contained therein.

f. Operating Leases
Annual rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

g. Income
Grants restricted to use in future accounting periods are deferred and recognised in those accounting periods.

Legacies are accounted for as soon as the charity is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the charity is reasonably certain. Amounts receivable after more than one year from the balance sheet date are measured at their present value and an interest element is accounted for each year.

Charitable activities consist of membership subscriptions and trading activities of sales of accessories and other income.

h. Investment Income
Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes the associated tax credits.

i. Gifts in Kind (Publishers)
The company receives discounts from content publishers in the year beyond that normally obtained on a commercial basis. These are included at fair value when received in income and capitalised according to note 1d and amounted to £571,431 (2025: £453,359).

j. Gifts in Kind (Advertisers)
The company receives discounts from advertisers in the year beyond that normally obtained on a commercial basis. These are included at fair value when received in income and expenditure and amounted to £41,132 (2025: £44,385).

k. Gifts in Kind (Legal)
The company receives discounts from legal advisors in the year beyond that normally obtained on a commercial basis. These are included at fair value when received in income and expenditure and amounted to nil (2025: £26,124).

l. Restricted Funds
Restricted funds are those subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by sponsors or other donors or by the purpose of the appeal.

m. Pension Costs
The company operates a defined contribution scheme in respect of all employees. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they are incurred.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

n. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT relating to such expenses. Expenditure incurred in connection with the specific activities as shown on the Statement of Financial Activities represents the direct costs of that activity together with an apportionment of the general overheads of the company as support costs. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Governance costs are incurred in the course of the company complying with its legal and regulatory obligations.

o. Cash and bank

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of opening of the deposit.

p. Debtors

Staff loans and other debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

q. Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

r. Basic financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2 INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Donations and legacies		
General donations	**5,737**	13,038
Grants	**489,170**	441,327
Gifts in kind	**612,563**	523,868
Legacies	**78,251**	51,926
Charitable activities		
Membership subscriptions	**93,503**	82,217
Investment income	**497**	680
Other trading activities		
Other	**850**	-
	1,280,571	1,113,056

We gratefully acknowledge £3,000 in support from The Booth Charities for our Salford members.

3 EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £	Depreciation/ Amortisation £	Other Costs £	**Total 2026 £**	Total 2025 £
Cost of raising funds	11,049	1,277	16,162	**28,488**	32,431
Membership services	377,878	376,287	164,541	**918,706**	992,227
Support costs	16,573	639	11,368	**28,580**	31,565
Governance costs	-	-	7,130	**7,130**	7,436
Total expenditure	405,500	378,203	199,201	**982,904**	1,063,659

Support costs all related to the provision of membership services, and governance costs include auditors' remuneration of £7,152 (2025: £6,816) (inclusive of VAT) of which £6,480 (2025: £6,144) relates to the fee for the audit and £672 (2025: £672) for non-audit services.

4 STAFF COSTS

	2026 £	2025 £
Wages and salaries	**347,133**	388,546
Social security costs	**34,488**	35,048
Pension costs	**23,879**	24,580
Total staff costs	**405,500**	448,174

The average number of persons employed by functional activity was:	**2026 No**	2025 No
Cost of raising funds	**1**	1
Charitable expenditure	**10**	9
	11	10

Members of the Council of Management received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year (2025: nil).

The total remuneration (including pension and other employee benefits) of the key management personnel of the charity (as detailed on page 1) during the year was £286,777 (2025: £275,518).

One employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 per annum (2025: one). One employee received remuneration in band £90,000 - £100,000 per annum (2025: one).

5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2025	220,477
Additions	570
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2026	**221,047**
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2025	205,915
Charge for the year	10,213
Released on disposals	-
At 31 March 2026	**216,128**
Net book value	
At 31 March 2026	**4,919**
At 31 March 2025	14,562

6 INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Title library £
Cost	
At 1 April 2025	3,628,118
Additions	623,657
Disposals	(81,163)
At 31 March 2026	**4,170,612**
Amortisation	
At 1 April 2025	1,964,105
Charge for the year	367,990
Released on disposals	(81,163)
At 31 March 2026	**2,250,932**
Net book value	
At 31 March 2026	**1,919,680**
At 31 March 2025	1,664,013

7 LISTED INVESTMENTS

	At 1 April 2025 £	Additions £	Disposals £	Gains/ (losses) on reval-uation £	**At 31 March 2026 £**
At market value:					
COIF	126,097	-	-	(7,771)	**118,326**
Total market value	126,097	-	-	(7,771)	**118,326**
Historical cost including cash	59,642				**59,642**

8 DEBTORS

	2026 £	2025 £
Other debtors	**145,820**	139,424
Prepayments	**25,672**	5,921
	171,492	145,345

Other debtors includes amounts falling due after more than one year of £16,888 (2025: £24,529).

9 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	**17,618**	7,085
Taxation and social security	**8,399**	9,151
Other creditors	**10,021**	11,031
Accruals and deferred income	**10,169**	7,516
	46,207	34,783

10 LEASING COMMITMENTS

Operating leases
The charity's total future minimum lease payments under operating leases at 31 March 2026 were payable as set out below:

	2026 £	2025 £
Within one year	**9,461**	12,473
Within two to five years	**-**	-
More than 5 years	**-**	-
The operating lease charges for the year were:		
Hire of premises	**35,956**	37,978

11 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Fixed Assets £	Investment Assets £	Net Current Assets £	**Total 2026 £**
Unrestricted Funds	1,924,599	118,326	239,242	**2,282,167**
Restricted Funds	-	-	77,026	**77,026**
	1,924,599	118,326	316,268	**2,359,193**

	Fixed Assets £	Investment Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 2025 £
Unrestricted Funds	1,669,112	126,097	133,484	1,928,693
Restricted Funds	9,463	-	131,141	140,604
	1,678,575	126,097	264,625	2,069,297

12 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure and investments £	Transfers between funds £	**At 31 March 2026 £**
General fund	264,680	314,285	(215,745)	(733)	**362,487**
Designated funds:					
Intangible asset fund	1,664,013	-	(367,990)	623,657	**1,919,680**
	1,928,693	314,285	(583,735)	622,924	**2,282,167**

As restated:

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure and investments £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2025 £
General fund	304,962	309,270	(357,839)	8,287	264,680
Designated funds:					
Intangible asset fund	1,502,983	-	(316,965)	477,995	1,664,013
	1,807,945	309,270	(674,804)	486,282	1,928,693

Intangible asset fund
Designated fund to separate the intangible asset value from the rest of the unrestricted reserves.

13 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	**At 31 March 2026 £**
Downloadables	51,270	599,431	-	(623,226)	**27,475**
Sponsored Membership	-	365,855	(365,855)	-	**-**
Children's Hospitals	72,948	-	(29,824)	-	**43,124**
Palliative Care	5,001	1,000	(6,303)	302	**-**
I.T.System Purchase	9,447	-	(4,650)	-	**4,797**
PC Purchase	15	-	(15)	-	**-**
Pre-loaded Tablets	1,923	-	(293)	-	**1,630**
	140,604	966,286	(1,030,597)	(622,924)	**77,026**

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2025 £
Downloadables	30,872	491,711	-	(471,313)	51,270
Sponsored Membership	1,227	306,075	(307,302)	-	-
Children's Hospitals	147,663	-	(60,732)	(13,983)	72,948
Palliative Care	11,362	6,000	(11,375)	(986)	5,001
I.T.System Purchase	18,628	-	(9,181)	-	9,447
PC Purchase	250	-	(235)	-	15
Pre-loaded Tablets	3,827	-	(1,904)	-	1,923
	213,829	803,786	(390,729)	(486,282)	140,604

Downloadables
To provide funding for titles bought for the audiobook catalogue in both CD and download formats.

Sponsored Membership
To provide funding where appropriate to cover individual members part or full costs of membership.

Children's Hospitals
To provide access to audiobooks for children in hospitals. Formerly called Readathon.

Palliative Care
To provide access to audiobooks for hospices.

I.T.System Purchase
To greatly improve the company website and operating of internal IT systems including book managing system and substantial additional services. The balance on this fund represents both the I.T.System purchased less depreciation, and also the as yet unspent funds.

PC Purchase
To purchase new computer equipment for staff.

Pre-loaded Tablets fund
To provide a preloaded selection of audiobook titles to adults who are elderly and isolated.

Transfers between funds
Income reassigned as permitted by donor charitable trusts.

14 LEGAL STATUS

The charitable company is limited by guarantee. The liability in respect of the guarantee, as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, is limited to £1 per member of the company. There were 7 members as at 31 March 2026 (2025: 6).

15 RELATED PARTY RELATIONSHIPS AND TRANSACTIONS

N D Forster, a trustee of Listening Books, worked at Overdrive Inc. in the year. During the year £47,334 (2025: £22,408) was paid to Overdrive Inc. in respect of purchases.

16 PROVISIONS AND CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The charity is receiving payments from a legacy that has two remaining components to be collected and distributed by the estate. One component relates to loans the estate made to an individual, which is being repaid over period ending in 2042. Annual payments are received by the charity from the estate and an asset of £19,463 (2025: £27,104) has been recognised in respect of this loan.

The second component of the legacy is in respect of a property subject to a protected life tenant. At today's prices, receipt by Listening Books is likely to be in the region of £45,000. In accordance with the SORP para 5.34, no asset has been recognised in respect of this by the charity. The charity will only recognise this component of the legacy when the estate has vacant possession of the property. However, the estate is also required to pay for certain major repairs, which it pays for by reducing the annual payments to legatees in respect of the component described above. No provision has been made against this due to the inherent uncertainty of the payments to be made. Legacy income has been reduced in the year by £7,641 (2025: £2,575) in relation to the reduction in annual payments received.

17 PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

During the year the trustees completed a review of the charity's library of audiobook titles, including titles paid for as well as those acquired through gift-in-kind arrangements. Following this review, the trustees concluded that these assets meet the recognition criteria for intangible fixed assets and should be capitalised and amortised over their estimated useful economic life.

The charity considers that audiobook licence rights provide future service potential because they enable the delivery of accessible reading services and other charitable activities in furtherance of its objects. The future benefit derived from the licences is therefore assessed by reference to the service potential obtained from the rights rather than direct revenue generation. See note 1d for full details on the accounting policy applied.

In previous years expenditure relating to these titles had been recognised within charitable expenditure as incurred. The comparative information has therefore been restated to recognise the title library as an intangible fixed asset together with accumulated amortisation.

The effect of the restatement on the opening balance sheet at 1 April 2024 was:

	£
Recognition of audiobook title library as an Intangible Fixed Asset	1,502,983
Increase in unrestricted funds	1,502,983

17 PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT (continued)

The effect on 31 March 2025 balance sheet:

	Previously Reported £	Adjustment £	Restated £
Intangible fixed assets	-	1,664,013	1,664,013
Unrestricted funds	264,680	1,664,013	1,928,693
Total funds	405,284	1,664,013	2,069,297

The effect on the statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2025:

	Previously Reported £	Expenditure capitalised £	Amortisation £	Restated £
Donations and legacies	1,030,159	-	-	1,030,159
Charitable activities income	82,217	-	-	82,217
Investment income	680	-	-	680
Total income	**1,113,056**	**-**	**-**	**1,113,056**
Raising funds	32,431	-	-	32,431
Charitable activities	1,192,258	(477,995)	316,965	1,031,228
Total expenditure	**1,224,689**	**(477,995)**	**316,965**	**1,063,659**
Net (losses) on investments	(1,874)	-	-	(1,874)
Net income/(expenditure)	**(113,507)**	**477,995**	**(316,965)**	**47,523**