Company registration number 01934024 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 516925 (England and Wales)

ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	A D Burke F C Hartshorne R T Muspratt P E Prayle (Appointed 16 January 2025) R V Rishworth C J Roderick A P Ware
Secretary	T J Trumble
Charity number	516925
Company number	01934024
Registered office	Acorn Venture Farm Depot Road Kirkby Knowsley Merseyside L33 3AR
Independent examiner	Peter Atkinson JS. Accountants & Business Advisors Limited James House Stonecross Business Park Yew Tree Way Warrington Cheshire WA3 3JD
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc Aintree Black Bull Corner of Longmoor Lane and Cedar Road Aintree Liverpool L9 0EG

ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees report	1 - 9
Statement of trustees responsibilities	10
Independent examiner's report	11
Statement of financial activities	12
Balance sheet	13 - 14
Statement of cash flows	15
Notes to the financial statements	16 - 29

ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities
Our Aim
To provide a high-quality, affordable and inclusive resource for the local community.

We believe that everyone has a valued role to play within their community. We therefore provide opportunities for disabled people and young people to participate fully in the day-to-day running of the farm.

Public Benefit
We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. In doing so, we have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on charities and public benefit. Our charitable activities focus on skills development and recreational opportunities for people with special educational needs and disabilities, together with other charitable purposes for the benefit of the wider community.

A recent visitor commented: "All in all, a thoroughly good day out especially for families with young children at a very reasonable price. Not many places like this around lately. Well done to Acorn Farm and all your fabulous staff and volunteers. We will be back and will be sponsoring one of your adorable animals." This feedback suggests we are delivering public benefit.

This annual report summarises our achievements and the outcomes of our work over the past 12 months. It highlights the performance of each key activity and the benefits delivered to the people and groups the charity exists to support.

Achievements & Performance
a) Daytime Support Programme
A core part of our work is delivering a well-established daytime activities programme for people with additional needs. We currently provide 100 placements per week to 36 individuals. This enables us to support up to 20 participants per day and helps ensure everyone benefits fully from their time at the farm.

Most individuals now purchase the service through a personal budget, arranged either by the local authority via the Internal Service Fund or directly through a Direct Payment. We also maintain service level agreements with several local authorities for the provision of community support services.

Attendance remains strong and many participants have been supported at Acorn Farm for a number of years, indicating sustained satisfaction with the service.

"The charity is well supported by its board of trustees and is led by a highly experienced and respected management team."

Our daytime activities programme includes:

Horticulture
Horticultural activities range from producing and selling bedding plants and hanging baskets to maintaining the sensory garden, lawns and flower beds.

Conservation
Conservation activities include maintaining the woodland walk and tree shelterbelt. The woodland area is widely used by visitors and provides access to our overflow car park.

Farm Maintenance
Farm Maintenance tasks around the farm site include building animal shelters, repairing benches and picnic tables, flagging, fencing, plumbing and painting.

Animal Care
Activities include, collecting and grading the eggs and feeding and mucking out the animals. During school holidays, additional activities include assisting in the small animal petting sessions and giving horse rides to visitors to the farm.

Although we have these four specific daytime support programmes Acorn Farm is a truly inclusive project. Therefore, individuals with disabilities are involved in every aspect of running the farm on a daily basis.

Young People
Two young people attend weekly for work experience building skills alongside their college studies.

We continue to enable young people to volunteer at the farm at weekends. Under the supervision of the Weekend Manager they help to run the farm carrying out all the tasks from caring for the animals to helping with horse rides and assisting in the small animal petting area.

We have an average of eight young people who help out each day and a waiting list of those who would like to volunteer. Taking on these responsibilities enables them to develop their self-esteem and sense of pride in their community and consequently encourages them to become responsible citizens.

b) Livestock
The farm's livestock continue to be a major attraction for everyone involved, including our visitors.

During the year 12 lambs were born to our ewes which included 4 sets of twins.

Pearl, the pygmy goat, gave birth to a female kid and we named her Delilah.

Doris, our Gloucester Old Spot sow, gave birth to a litter of 13 piglets. Susie our Saddleback sow, gave birth to 11 piglets. All were black and white much like their father, Billybob, a Saddleback boar. Watching them play provided much joy to all who saw them.

Lexi and Toby, our horses, continue to be a highlight for many visitors each weekend and during school holidays, when they provide rides for children.

Sadly our Meerkat died and we acquired 2 females. We ran a competition on Facebook to name them. Their names are Willow and Izzy.

We purchased 2 new calves in July from Market Drayton Market. A competition was held on Facebook to name the calves, the winning names were Arlo and Bella.

We purchased 2 donkeys named Max and Paddy and they are a hit with the visitors.

We also purchased another Alpaca Eric as Elvis and Ernie needed another companion.

All the animals on the farm are cared for in the week by the people we support and at the weekends by our young volunteers.

The animal sponsorship scheme which we operate continues to be popular and helps us to offset the cost of keeping the animals. Sponsors are rewarded with a certificate, a visitor's pass to the farm, a photograph of their animal, birthday and Christmas cards and a mention on the Roll of Honour on our website. We have extended the scheme to enable sponsors to add the cost of a bale of hay or straw or a bag of animal feed onto their sponsorships.

c) Visitor Facilities and Attractions
Horse Rides
This activity is very popular with visitors. We do horse rides every weekend throughout the year as well as during the school holidays. Bookings may also be made by groups during term time. During the period we were open the horses have given rides to 5,744 children.

Small Animal Petting Sessions
This attraction continues to be extremely popular with many repeat visitors. Over 22,651 people attended sessions during the period covered by this report. Activities include stroking a rabbit, guinea pig and a pet rat, holding a bantam hen and feeding Toby, Teddy and Paddy the pygmy goats. The petting area is open to visitors every weekend and bank holiday and every day during school holidays.

d) Educational services
All the activities below are promoted and delivered by our Education Worker, Marie Moulsdale.

School Visits/Guided Tours
We hosted 1,958 visitors from 41 establishments, including mother-and-toddler groups, nurseries and primary schools.

Incubator Hire
We have four incubators available for hire by schools and other registered groups.

We provide a complete package, including the incubator, brooder, fertile eggs and feed. At the end of the programme, we can collect the chicks and integrate the hens into our laying flock, which produces free-range eggs for sale in our shop. Due to current avian influenza restrictions, none of our incubators were hired out to schools.

Animobile (Mobile Farm Unit)
This is a hugely successful project whereby we take a selection of the farm animals out to groups in the community who would otherwise have difficulty accessing our services. These include children's centres, nursery schools, residential and nursing homes, and community fun days as well as mainstream and special schools.

The selection of animals taken includes a goat, sheep, hen, duck, rabbit, guinea pigs and pet rats. Lambs, goat kids, ducklings and chicks are also taken when available. Over the period covered in this report, the Animobile made 45 visits seeing a total of 3,839 people. Demand for this service always exceeds the number of sessions which we are able to deliver during our peak season.

Animal Handling Workshops
This topic is appropriate for secondary school pupils studying animal-based courses.

Each group of students participates in an animal handling workshop which can include working with the horse, sheep, and goats.

The horse workshop entails learning about health and safety around horses before grooming and tacking up Lola and Jimmy and leading them around the arena.

The sheep workshop entails the students safely fitting the harness and lead rope on to the sheep and individually walking them around the field in a controlled manner. They then muck out the sheep shed and using team work herd the sheep into the shed.

The goat workshop entails looking at the different breeds of goat that we have on the farm. Safe and appropriate ways of handling and restraining them are demonstrated and practised. A foot trimming demonstration is also given.

Each group is given information about the animals they are working with and encouraged to ask questions.

Farm themed Activity Days
We held seven Farm Experience Days and three Horse Days this year. They were attended by 92 young people, who enjoyed the activities and developed new skills.

e) Events
Halloween
This year we held our daytime event on the Friday of Halloween. Activities included Halloween themed games; Feed the ghost, Witches Broomsticks, Pin the nose onto the Skeleton, Splat the rat. We also held a fancy dress competition. The lambing shed was converted into a fabulous spooky Haunted House with real live 'ghosts' and ghouls! The event was a huge success with 664 people attending. We were greatly helped on the day by a team of corporate volunteers from Co-op, trustees, friends, and family of Acorn Farm's Staff.

Christmas Grotto
This was open for 2 weeks in the lead up to Christmas for pre-booked school visits and also over a weekend for visitors to the farm. The lambing shed was transformed into a magical grotto by farm staff and volunteers. The grotto proved popular once again with 286 Children visiting from 8 schools and nurseries during the week. Over the grotto weekends 230 children came to see Father Christmas and received a gift.

f) Visitors
We had another successful year in terms of visitor numbers. During the twelve-month period covered by this report we received 92,507 visitors.

g) Local Fundraising
Our supporters continue to fundraise for us and Lady Derby who is our Patron continues to support us yearly.

h) Trading Company
Acorn Farm Trading Co. Ltd continues as a thriving operation. The shop and café who trade through this company have both had a busy summer.

However, during busy periods both the kitchen and café area struggle to cope with the volume of customers due to insufficient seating in the café area and lack of work space in the kitchen. Similarly, the shop can get very congested.

We had another busy plant sales season. The high quality of the plants together with the competitive pricing and outstanding customer service has led to a large number of customers returning year after year. The success of this enterprise is a credit to our Horticultural Unit Manager Mike Taylor and his team.

Although the vast majority of the plants are sold in the spring and summer we do have plants, tubs, baskets and perennials on sale throughout the year.

The enterprise is run parallel to the horticultural daytime programme.

i) Risk Management
The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. This has led to the implementation of a number of policies including the Reserves Policy, which states that in order to safeguard the future of the farm we will hold in reserve six months of resources expended.

There are a number of other risks which we have identified and are detailed in our Reserves Policy on Page 8. We also have a Business Continuity Procedure.

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of additional policies including Policy and Practice on Payments, Banking and Custody Procedure, Payroll Financial Procedure, Capital Purchases Policy and Asset Control.

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, people we support, volunteers and visitors. These include a comprehensive set of risk assessments. The implementation of safeguarding policies for both Vulnerable Adults and Children ensure that we deal with any safeguarding issues which may arise in a consistent manner. All policies are reviewed on a regular basis by the trustees.

j) Staff Team
Permanent Staff:

Name	Job title	Hours
Tracy Trumble	Farm Manager	37.5
Rebecca Little	Deputy Manager	37.5
Mike Taylor	Horticultural Unit Manager	37.5
Craig Ellingham	Farm Maintenance Worker	37.5
Marie Moulsdale	Education Worker	28
James Gee	Administrative Assistant	37.5
Jane McKillop	Cafe Manager	37.5
Sianah Lowry	Weekday Cafe Assistant	15
Lisa Hughes	Shop Worker	30.2
Lisa Gunn	Farm Animal Supervisor	37.5
Philip Dowsett	Farm Assistant/ Driver	37.5
Sue Rowan	Gardener/Support Worker	6.5
Lynn Fitzpatrick	Weekend Manager (Job Share)	7.5
Val Kelly	Weekend Manager (Job Share)	7.5
Marta Silva	Weekend Cafe Team Leader	11
Megan Roberts	Weekend Cafe Assistant	9
Hannah Duddle	Weekend Shop Worker	12
Nicky Sparrow	Weekend Animal Petting Area Supervisor	12
Val Kelly	Sunday/ School holiday Horse Ride Supervisor	2.5/12.5
Faith Kurzberg	Saturday Horse Ride Supervisor	2.5
Josh Tristram	Weekend Horse Ride Helper	4
Oliwia Jaronska	Weekend Horse Ride Helper	4
Suzanne Austin	Farm Assistant (Weekend)	12.5

Seasonal staff:

Name	Job title	Hours
Hollie Langley	Weekend Admissions Kiosk	11
Harriet Lane	Petting Area (School Holidays)	32.5
Gemma Guelpa	Admissions Kiosk (School Holidays)	30
Alex Coyne	Weekend Café Assistant	6
Diane Goulbourne	Weekday Café Assistant (Job Share)	15
Emma Tyrer	Weekday Café Assistant (Job Share)	10
Josh Tristram	Horse Rides (School Holidays)	10
Vacant	Horse Rides (School Holidays)	10
Vacant	Horse Rides (School Holidays)	10
Vacant	Horse Rides (School Holidays)	10
Sue Rowan	Plant Production Assistant (Weekdays)	11
Helen Corrin	Weekend Plant Sales Assistant	10.5
Heather Dowell	Plant Sales Assistant (Weekdays)	28.5

Staff Developments
Acorn Farm continues to succeed largely through the high level of commitment shown by the staff team, who are always willing to turn their hand to whatever needs doing.

All staff are encouraged to undertake training relevant to their role.

k) Trustees
We are always keen to welcome new trustees on to the board which meets quarterly. Our aim is to recruit trustees who are able to complement the skills and experience of our existing board.

In line with our Memorandum and Articles of Association, the trustees may appoint any interested party as a member of the board either to fill a casual vacancy or by way of an addition to the board. Any member so appointed shall retain their office only until the next AGM, but they shall then be eligible for re-election. The current members of the board of trustees are:

Chris Roderick - Chairperson
Andrew Ware - Vice Chairperson
Fiona Hartshorne - Treasurer
Ray Muspratt - Trustee
Bob Rishworth - Trustee
Aiden Burke - Trustee
Pauline Prayle - Trustee

All trustees have completed a Declaration of Confidentiality and a Declaration of Commitment and Eligibility to be a trustee having regard to Section 72 of the Charities Act.

We have in place a number of policies relevant to the trustees which help to ensure that governance of the charity is performed to the highest standard.

These include a Trustee Recruitment Policy, a Conflict of Interest/Loyalty Policy, a Register of Interests and a Trustee's Code of Practice.

l) Site Developments

Site Reconfiguration
As many visitors will have seen, we have some exciting new plans to build a fantastic new farm hub on our farm. Over the last two years the trustees and staff at the farm have been working hard to raise investment for these plans. We are looking for funds of over £3m to enable us to build modern and useful facilities at the farm. We will continue to work hard in 2026 at raising these funds as we are still not at our target yet.

The new farm hub will provide much needed improved facilities to the day services users, visitors and staff at the farm. We will continue raising funds and working with our architects, DK Architects to progress these fantastic plans in 2026.

FUTURE PLANS
Our plans for 2026 include fundraising for the new farm hub.

Site Improvements
We are continually making improvements and doing repairs to the farm site; thus ensuring that it is safe for the animals who live here and the people who both visit and work here.

m) Conclusions
Acorn Farm continues to provide a highly valued and affordable resource for both the local community and visitors from further afield. We are proud that our facilities are enjoyed by all.

A visitor posted on our social media:

'We had an absolutely brilliant experience at Acorn Farm. The farm is well kept and you can see how well looked after the animals all are. We had a lovely afternoon walking round and feeding/cuddling lots of animals. We also did the small animal petting session which was fab - really informative and all animals were really calm and handled correctly by members of staff. We also enjoyed the farm shop and bought a lovely planter for our garden. We will definitely return again in future!'

In the coming year we will strive to continue to serve the community to the highest standards.

Financial review
Income from charitable activities and other trading activities decreased to £722k (2024: £930k), primarily due to a one off donation in 2024 towards the fundraising for the new farm hub. Expenditure for the year increased to £612k (2024: £502k), resulting in a net surplus before investment gains/losses of £110k (2024: £429k). Unrealised investment gains of £131k (2024: £149k) were achieved in the year.

Reserves Policy
The Acorn Farm Board of Trustees recognises the need to hold reserves to allow for unforeseen circumstances which could result in a substantial drop in income. These could include:

1. A global pandemic.

2. A lack of funding could cause local authorities to terminate the contracts which they have with us for the provision of day services for people with disabilities.

3. A fire, flood or similar incident could result in business interruption whilst repairs are underway.

4. Severe weather could result in damage to the farm buildings making the site unsafe for visitors until repairs are undertaken.

5. Outbreak of animal disease (e.g. Foot and Mouth, e.coli) which could result in the compulsory closure of the farm for a period of time.

6. Outbreak of food poisoning which could result in the closure of the café and/or dairy whilst investigations by the Environmental Health Office are undertaken.

Additionally, the reserves would allow for unforeseen capital works or purchases which may be required to ensure the safety of the farm site (e.g. replacement of unsafe animal housing or to replace faulty tools and equipment).

To cover such eventualities, the trustees believe that Acorn Venture Association needs to hold in reserves 6 months of resources expended and have maintained this position throughout the year.

The actual level of free reserves held is stated in our annual accounts.

Structure, governance and management
The Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 26 July 1985 and registered with the Charity Commission on 4 March 1986.

The Association was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

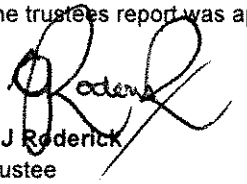
The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:
A D Burke
F C Hartshorne
R T Muspratt
P E Prayle (Appointed 16 January 2025)
R V Rishworth
C J Roderick
A P Ware

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Small companies provisions
This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



C J Roderick
Trustee
Dated: 11 June 2026

ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors of Acorn Venture Association for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Acorn Venture Association (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

E. P. Atkinson

Peter Atkinson F.C.A

JS. Accountants & Business Advisors Limited
James House
Stonecross Business Park
Yew Tree Way
Warrington
Cheshire
WA3 3JD

Dated: 11/6/2026

ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	40,744	-	40,744	289,371
Charitable activities	3	308,047	-	308,047	296,278
Other trading activities	4	300,805	-	300,805	301,741
Investments	5	72,325	-	72,325	43,055
Total income		721,921	-	721,921	930,445
Expenditure on:					
Cost of generating funds	6	21,373	-	21,373	13,137
Charitable activities	7	585,793	5,195	590,988	488,479
Total expenditure		607,166	5,195	612,361	501,616
Net incoming resources before gains/(losses) on investments		114,755	(5,195)	109,560	428,829
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	130,822	-	130,822	148,697
Net movement in funds		245,577	(5,195)	240,382	577,526
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		2,684,490	483,395	3,167,885	2,590,359
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		2,930,067	478,200	3,408,267	3,167,885

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**13**		910,078		932,175
Investments	**14**		1,608,689		1,448,319
			2,518,767		2,380,494
Current assets					
Debtors	**15**	21,341		35,053	
Investments	**16**	633,219		415,521	
Cash at bank and in hand		259,335		368,055	
		913,895		818,629	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(24,395)		(31,238)	
Net current assets			889,500		787,391
Total assets less current liabilities			3,408,267		3,167,885
Funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	**19**		478,200		483,395
Unrestricted funds - designated	**20**	1,900,000		1,650,000	
Fixed asset fund	**20**	671,391		688,992	
General unrestricted funds	**20**	358,676		345,498	
Total unrestricted funds			2,930,067		2,684,490
			3,408,267		3,167,885

ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 11 June 2026

C J Roderick
Trustee

Company Registration No. 01934024

ACORN VENTURE ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**25**		86,215		414,608
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(699)		(10,983)	
Increase in short term investments		(217,698)		(415,521)	
Investment income received		23,462		14,602	
Net cash used in investing activities			(194,935)		(411,902)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(108,720)		2,706
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			368,055		365,349
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			259,335		368,055

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Acorn Venture Association is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Acorn Venture Farm, Depot Road, Kirkby, Knowsley, Merseyside, L33 3AR.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to reflect certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated unrestricted funds relate to funds that the trustees have designated for a particular project within the the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Other trading income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT is recognised on the accrual basis.

In particular, the policy for including items within costs of generating funds is as follows:

Charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both the costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on bases designed to reflect the uses of particular resources. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, while others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Long leasehold land and buildings	Over the term of the lease
Renovations	20% per annum on a straight line basis
Outbuildings and paddocks	10% per annum on a straight line basis
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% per annum on a straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% per annum on a straight line basis
Play equipment	Over 15 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Listed investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

Investments in subsidiaries are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. The investments are assessed for impairment at each reporting date and any impairment losses or reversals of impairment losses are recognised immediately in net income/ (expenditure) for the year.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations, legacies and gifts	40,744	-	40,744	289,371
For the year ended 31 December 2024	51,862	237,509		289,371
Donations and gifts				
Gift aid	31,037	-	31,037	38,818
Donations	9,707	-	9,707	250,553
	40,744	-	40,744	289,371

3 Charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Daytime activities programme	255,410	245,208
Product sales	17,778	15,533
Educational income	31,651	34,270
Other income	3,208	1,267
	308,047	296,278
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	308,047	
For the year ended 31 December 2024		
Unrestricted funds - general		296,278

4 Other trading activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Sponsorship	1,067	837
Admission charges	244,584	242,033
Horse riding charges	14,482	20,203
Petting pavilion charges	37,963	35,809
Room hire	2,709	2,859
Other trading activities	300,805	301,741

All income for both years relate to unrestricted general funds.

5 Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income from listed investments	48,863	28,453
Interest receivable	23,462	14,602
	72,325	43,055

All costs for both years relate to unrestricted general funds.

6 Cost of generating funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity		
Other fundraising costs	2,058	2,287
Investment management administration costs	19,315	10,850
	21,373	13,137

All costs for both years relate to unrestricted general funds.

7 Charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	344,092	311,704
Depreciation and impairment	22,796	21,211
Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives	55,106	35,490
Indirect employee costs	1,608	546
Premises costs	69,950	42,823
General administrative costs	11,990	11,716
Professional fees in support of charitable activities	65,975	55,276
Direct employee costs	4,518	3,447
Governance costs	12,638	4,061
	588,673	486,274
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,315	2,205
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	585,793	
Restricted funds	5,195	
	590,988	
For the year ended 31 December 2024		
Unrestricted funds - general		482,927
Restricted funds		5,552
		488,479

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Governance costs	2,315	2,205
Analysed between:		
Unrestricted	2,315	2,205

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits and there were no other transactions with the trustees during the year.

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Charitable activities	24	30

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	314,941	290,035
Social security costs	22,081	15,464
Other pension costs	7,070	6,205
	344,092	311,704

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

11 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	130,822	148,697

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Long leasehold land and buildings	Outbuildings and paddocks	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 January 2025	1,063,894	582,328	126,202	15,490	1,787,914
Additions	-	600	99	-	699
At 31 December 2025	1,063,894	582,928	126,301	15,490	1,788,613
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2025	143,472	581,068	115,709	15,490	855,739
Depreciation charged in the year	19,474	778	2,544	-	22,796
At 31 December 2025	162,946	581,846	118,253	15,490	878,535
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2025	900,948	1,082	8,048	-	910,078
At 31 December 2024	920,422	1,260	10,493	-	932,175

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Other investments	Total
	£		£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2025	1,448,318	1	1,448,319
Valuation changes	130,822	-	130,822
Income	48,863	-	48,863
Management fees	(19,315)	-	(19,315)
At 31 December 2025	1,608,688	1	1,608,689
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2025	1,608,688	1	1,608,689
At 31 December 2024	1,448,318	1	1,448,319

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Investments in subsidiaries	23	1	1

15 Debtors

	2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	12,756	10,819
Other debtors	5,968	19,123
Prepayments and accrued income	2,617	5,111
	21,341	35,053

16 Current asset investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unlisted investments	633,219	415,521

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	4,295	13,318
Accruals and deferred income	20,100	17,920
	24,395	31,238

18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	7,070	6,205

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£
Farm building refurbishment	483,395	-	(5,195)	478,200

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	357	-	(357)	-
Farm building refurbishment	251,081	237,509	(5,195)	483,395
	251,438	237,509	(5,552)	483,395

The restricted and farm building refurbishment funds relates to fixed assets that were bought using restricted income with the annual depreciation charge of these assets being allocated against the brought forward balance and donations received towards the farm refurbishment project.

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Farm building refurbishment fund	1,650,000	-	-	250,000	-	1,900,000
Fixed asset fund	688,992	-	(17,601)	-	-	671,391
General funds	345,498	721,921	(589,565)	(250,000)	130,822	358,676
	2,684,490	721,921	(607,166)	-	130,822	2,930,067

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Farm refurbishment	1,300,000	-	-	350,000	-	1,650,000
Fixed asset fund	704,651	-	(15,659)	-	-	688,992
General funds	334,270	692,936	(480,405)	(350,000)	148,697	345,498
	2,338,921	692,936	(496,064)	-	148,697	2,684,490

21 **Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2025 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	671,391	238,687	910,078
Investments	1,608,689	-	1,608,689
Current assets/(liabilities)	649,987	239,513	889,500
	2,930,067	478,200	3,408,267

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	688,992	243,183	932,175
Investments	1,448,319	-	1,448,319
Current assets/(liabilities)	547,179	240,212	787,391
	2,684,490	483,395	3,167,885

22 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

	2025	2024
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	58,751	56,971

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

	Gift Aid	
	2025	2024
	£	£
Entities over which the entity has control, joint control or significant influence	31,037	38,818
	31,037	38,818

The following amounts were outstanding at the reporting end date:

	Amounts owed by related parties	
	2025	2024
	Balance	Balance
	£	£
Entities over which the entity has control, joint control or significant influence	4,541	15,819

23 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate charity financial statements for Acorn Venture Association. Consolidated financial statements are not prepared as the parent company and its subsidiary is considered a small group.

Details of the charity's subsidiaries at 31 December 2025 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held Direct	% Held Indirect
Acorn Venture Trading Co. Ltd	As per parent company	Cafeteria services and the sale of gifts, plants and animal feed	Ordinary	100.00	

The aggregate capital and reserves and the result for the year of subsidiaries excluded from consolidation was as follows:

Name of undertaking	Profit/(Loss)	Capital and Reserves
	£	£
Acorn Venture Trading Co. Ltd	(97)	38

24 Control

The charity is controlled by the trustees.

25 Cash generated from operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Surplus for the year	240,382	577,526
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(72,325)	(43,055)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	(130,822)	(148,697)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	22,796	21,211
Investment management fees deducted from portfolio	19,315	10,850
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	13,712	(11,553)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(6,843)	8,326
Cash generated from operations	86,215	414,608

26 Analysis of changes in net debt

The charity had no material debt during the year.