

Registered number: 00073855 (England and Wales)  
Charity number: 529952

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**



The Brontë Society

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**CONTENTS**

	Page
<b>Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers</b>	1 - 2
<b>Chair's Statement</b>	3
<b>Trustees' Report</b>	4 - 16
<b>Independent Auditors' Report on the Financial Statements</b>	17 - 20
<b>Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities</b>	21
<b>Consolidated Balance Sheet</b>	22
<b>Charity Balance Sheet</b>	23
<b>Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows</b>	24
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	25 - 51

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**Trustees**

J M Sladdin, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
S K Bari  
L J Beare  
R L Dunbar (appointed 12 July 2023, resigned 22 February 2024)  
C M Gallagher  
J R Gration  
P A Jenkins  
H C Meller  
A J Midgley  
L G Powrie (appointed 18 May 2023)  
V R Sanders

**Company registered number**

00073855 (England and Wales)

**Charity registered number**

529952

**Registered office**

Brontë Parsonage Museum  
Haworth  
KEIGHLEY  
West Yorkshire  
BD22 8DR

**President**

Dame Judi Dench CH DBE FRSA

**Senior Leadership Team**

R J Yorke - Director  
C Dewhirst  
A Dinsdale  
G Price  
M Tomlinson

**Independent auditors**

Clive Owen LLP  
Chartered Accountants &  
Statutory Auditors  
140 Coniscliffe Road  
DARLINGTON  
County Durham  
DL3 7RT

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**(CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**Solicitors**

Wrigleys  
3 Wellington Place  
LEEDS  
LS1 4AP

**Investment Advisers**

Charles Stanley & Co. Limited  
7 Park Row  
LEEDS  
LS1 5HD

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**CHAIR'S STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The chair presents his statement for the year.

The report that follows details all that The Brontë Society achieved in the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

The 2023 - 2024 financial year has been a very positive year for the Brontë Society and has enabled us to take concrete steps towards making important capital investments in relation to the infrastructure of the Society and its Museum which we expect to provide much needed and significant future benefit to us in terms of business resilience and visitor accessibility.

We are proud to be a National Portfolio Organisation for literature and continue to be extremely grateful for the support of Arts Council England. The Senior Leadership Team and Board of Trustees have worked to embed the Arts Council's Investment Principles (ambition & quality; dynamism; inclusivity & relevance and environmental responsibility) across the organisation, aware that they are vital tools which will help us fulfil our vision and mission and contribute to a fairer, greener, culturally-rich society.

In May 2023, Arts Council England designated the collections at the Brontë Parsonage Museum as 'Outstanding' - an accolade shared with only 154 other museums and galleries in England. We have seen increases in the number of general visitors and school groups and our team has undertaken further training in access and diversity awareness to ensure everyone has a welcoming and unforgettable experience. We worked in partnership with the British Library and the University of Leeds Libraries and Galleries to present the successful 'Becoming the Brontës' exhibition which welcomed over 7,000 visitors between June and October. The Society also launched a digital guide to the museum on the Bloomberg Connects app in December 2023 and released the first series of our podcast, 'Behind the Glass' in March 2024. These innovative, digital assets enhance people's experience of, and sense of connection to, the Brontë Parsonage Museum and make it more accessible, fresh and relevant.

The financial results for the 2023-2024 year are also extremely positive. Income from admissions grew as we welcomed more visitors to the Parsonage and extended the number of days we opened during the summer months. Towards the end of 2023-2024 the Society was fortunate to receive a significant bequest of almost £325k and the Society intends to use this to fund future projects which will ensure the continuing resilience of the organisation.

All of these achievements over the last twelve months give us cause to feel proud and optimistic as we enter a new financial year. We recognise that there are likely to be significant challenges ahead as we continue to operate in uncertain times and that ensuring our future resilience is key. We are confident that we can achieve this by continuing to invest in much needed improvements to the infrastructure of our Society and the Parsonage Museum. Our two major projects for 2024 – the construction of fully accessible visitor facilities and a new website with updated, integrated systems - will both make a significant contribution to our efforts to remain relevant, sustainable and accessible. This capital investment will be supported by continuing to build closer connections with our local communities and our digital global audience. By collaborative working with local and national partners we will seize the opportunities created by Bradford's year as UK City of Culture in 2025 and the Brontë Parsonage Museum's centenary in 2028 to secure the future of our Society.

J M Sladdin, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Date: 23 July 2024

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report together with the audited consolidated financial statements of the Charitable Group for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Objectives and Aims**

The Brontë Society is an outward-looking, multi-faceted organisation with literature at its heart. It was founded in 1893 to establish and maintain a museum and to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family. Haworth Parsonage, now the world-famous and accredited Brontë Parsonage Museum, opened to the public in 1928 and has since welcomed over a million visitors. We are a global organisation rooted in Yorkshire identity and landscape. Our collection of Brontë manuscripts and personal possessions, displayed in the rooms where the Brontës lived and wrote some of the greatest novels in the English language, is the largest in the world.

### **The charitable objectives of the Society are:**

1. To promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family in particular, but not exclusively, by establishing and maintaining permanent museums, galleries and libraries for the public benefit;
2. To acquire by donation, purchase, or otherwise, and to renovate and preserve artefacts, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, engravings, paintings, drawings, photographs, clothing, furniture and other objects of or relating to the Brontë family, and if thought fit, of other authors, for the public benefit;
3. To provide for the examination of the literary remains for further scholarship and better understanding of the lives and works of the Brontës and their writing, and if thought fit, of other authors, and publication of the memoirs of the Brontë family and other authors for the public benefit;
4. To promote the advancement of literature and the arts and to initiate projects that deepen literary engagement locally, nationally and throughout the world and which are rendered interesting by their association with the Brontë family for the public benefit;
5. To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

### **The Brontë Society's vision is:**

'To bring the Brontës to the world and the world to Yorkshire'.

We do this, not only by being an internationally-renowned visitor attraction, but through our creative programmes, expanding digital offer and working in partnership with other museums and literary houses.

### **Our mission statement is:**

To celebrate the lives and works of the Brontës, widening access to their legacy and sharing their contemporary significance with a global audience. We conserve, interpret, display and build creative engagement through our world-class collection and the landscape that inspired the Brontës. We champion new writing today, particularly by women, and promote better understanding of the Brontës' lives and works.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**The Brontë Society seeks to promote the following values:**

**Excellence:** This will underpin all our endeavours. We will be informed, authoritative, consistent and constantly benchmarking to ensure we raise standards to foster our status as the world's leading authority on Brontë literature and history, dedicated to maintaining their legacy and consistently operating with financial and organisational efficiency. We aim to have the highest professional standards in all that we do.

**Inspiration:** We will ensure that all our activities have the maximum impact on our audiences, welcoming them physically as well as digitally, stimulating and engaging them at all levels with memorable experiences and enriching their lives through the Brontë experience.

**Creativity:** We will be imaginative, responsive, progressive and original in the way we approach our activities and operations bringing the widest audiences to the Brontës' story and their works through creative displays, exhibitions and programming.

The Brontë Society has a commitment to **equality, diversity and inclusion** and to promoting a positive culture which celebrates difference, ensures fairness and challenges prejudice. In accordance with this commitment, and the values of Excellence, Inspiration and Creativity listed above, the Brontë Society will foster a positive working environment and wider membership community where Trustees, staff, volunteers and members treat each other with dignity and respect at all times, and where bullying, harassment and discrimination are known to be unacceptable.

We will invest in our Trustees, staff and volunteers, providing training, support, opportunity and encouragement, and restructuring appropriately. We will commit to governance and staff reviews to ensure we have the right people with the right skills in the appropriate positions, to help us achieve our objectives.

**The strategic aims of the Society during 2023-24 were:**

1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants.
2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience.
3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do.
4. To manage and share our Museum and collections in line with our accredited status.
5. To increase resilience through dynamism, data and digital.
6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation.

**Main activities undertaken to further the Charitable Group's purposes for the public benefit**

The Charitable Group's aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further the Charitable Group's charitable purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Charitable Group considers that it satisfies the public benefit requirement as the Brontë Parsonage Museum is open to all members of the United Kingdom and worldwide, making its collections accessible for scholars and general visitors, via its public programmes and use of digital technologies.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRATEGIC REPORT**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable objectives**

Our museum is a home for the imagination, a place of solace and stimulation. Our displays promote creative engagement and our artistic programme interrogates and makes connections with our collections in innovative ways. Literature is at the heart of our work, but taking our cue from the Brontës' own multidisciplinary talents, we explore Brontë links with other artforms, finding new ways to see and engage with our collection and test new ways of reaching and inspiring future generations. Our learning and outreach programmes educate, inspire and demonstrate the relevance of the Brontës' lives and work to contemporary society.

Brontë Genius, a wholly-owned trading company, runs the Brontë Parsonage Museum shop, commissioning and selling items that reflect the lives and stories of the Brontës and the museum collection, to help further the Society's charitable objectives and support its activities. These are consistent with the objectives set out in the Articles of Association.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Strategic objectives**

During the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024, the following achievements were recorded against our strategic objectives:

***1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants***

In February 2023, the Parsonage opened with a new exhibition, 'The Brontës and the Wild', which considered how landscape, weather and the natural world play an important role in the lives and work of the Brontës. A central element of the exhibition was the Brontë family's annotated copy of Thomas Bewick's A History of British Birds, displayed alongside copies of Bewick's woodcut illustrations made by Emily and Charlotte. 'Secret Lives of the South Pennines', a display of woodcuts by Angie Rogers, opened in the Museum foyer at the same time for a period of three months.

The museum exhibition set the theme for our accompanying contemporary arts and events programme. 'Hardy and Free', an immersive audio-visual commission by Carolyn Mendelsohn told the unique stories of twelve extraordinary women whose lives are intrinsically linked with Yorkshire and the natural world.

In April 2023, poet Ian Humphreys was appointed as our Writer in Residence. Over the following 12 months, Ian led walks and workshops resulting in a Haiku First Aid Kit and a new series of stirring poems which are currently available to listen to via QR codes displayed in the field behind the Parsonage.

The 12th annual Brontë Festival of Women's Writing was held 22 – 24 September 2023. Programmed on the theme of 'Women of the Wild', the weekend included readings, performances, workshops and other opportunities for participation and talent development. In line with our commitment to widening access, the festival was delivered in hybrid format, with events taking place in Haworth also available online, either via live-stream or by sharing recorded sessions.

Our current exhibition, 'The Brontës' Web of Childhood' opened in February 2024, telling a story of childhood resilience through imagination, and exploring how their early experiences shaped the Brontës as writers.

***2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience***

Reviews collected via Google and TripAdvisor and comments in our visitor books indicate that the visitor experience at the Brontë Parsonage Museum is overwhelmingly positive. Investment in staff training and development has been a major factor in generating repeat visits and complimentary feedback, as has our expanded programme of free talks and holiday activities.

The addition of a Digital Project Assistant post to support the Marketing and Digital Officer has added capacity to the staff team and helped accelerate our digital development. An agency has been commissioned to build a new website over summer 2024 and we continue to share our collections digitally via the Bloomberg Connects app.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do***

During the year, we welcomed groups from the wider Bradford area and continued to work closely with Holycroft Primary School in Keighley, facilitating visits for families who would not ordinarily visit the Museum. This initiative, supported by funding from Bradford Council has been incredibly successful: between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, we welcomed 70 Holycroft families to the Parsonage, offering an introductory talk and walk as part of their free visit.

Our organisational-wide EDIB (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging) group met throughout the year and the Museum took part in EDI and Access training offered by Museums Development Yorkshire. Our staff and volunteers have also undertaken training in Autism Awareness and Trans and Non-binary Inclusion. We have updated our large print guide, introduced 'calm' bags for neurodivergent visitors and provided Pride lanyards / badges for staff to show that everyone is welcome.

A significant barrier to access has been the lack of visitor toilet facilities at the Brontë Parsonage Museum. During 2023, we successfully applied for funding from Bradford 2025 Cultural Capital Fund and Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme and work on this important project will commence in summer 2024.

***4. To manage and share our Museum and collections in line with our accredited status***

The Brontë Parsonage Museum houses the world's largest collection of Brontë material which is shared with our visitors, live and online audiences and researchers. In May 2023, Arts Council England awarded the Brontë Parsonage Museum 'Designation' status. The Designation Scheme identifies and celebrates outstanding collections, which "deepen our understanding of the world and what it means to be human."

The Museum's displays are refreshed each year and presented alongside a special exhibition. 'The Brontës and the Wild' ran throughout 2023 and included two woodblocks engraved by Thomas Bewick on loan from the Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere.

***Acquisitions***

Every year the collection grows through purchases and donations. The following items came as donations to the Museum collection between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024:

- A notebook compiled by Jonas Bradley of Stanbury, containing black and white photographs of the Haworth area.
- A watercolour painting by Peter Brears, showing the Parsonage kitchen with Charlotte cutting up the hash, watched by Emily, Keeper and Tiger.
- A first edition copy of *The Professor*, inscribed by Joseph Green, son-in-law of Emily Wheelwright.

The Society also purchased Patrick Brontë's letter to Mr Hartley, dated 27 May 1858, and a miniature portrait of Reverend Thomas Tighe.

***Loans***

In January 2024 we were loaned Charlotte Brontë's christening bonnet and a penwork box, believed to have belonged to Charlotte. Both items are on display at the Parsonage throughout 2024. The diary of John Kitson of Haworth came as a loan from Keighley Local Studies Library and is displayed as part of 'The Brontës' Web of Childhood' exhibition.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***Conservation and maintenance***

David Everingham completed work on the cleaning and conservation of the Apostles cupboard shortly before Christmas 2023. The project attracted media attention, appearing in the Guardian and the Yorkshire Post. An image of David and his colleague working on the cupboard was also included amongst the 'most striking photos from the UK in 2023' on the BBC News website. David returned to the Parsonage in early 2024 to carry out a survey of the twenty oil paintings in the collection by Branwell Brontë.

***5. To increase resilience through dynamism, data and digital***

***Finance***

We achieved an operating surplus in excess of our budget for the year ended 31 March 2024, which will enable us to continue to increase our level of reserves. The Society is very grateful for bequests received during the year totalling £340k and the Trustees have allocated these to designated Conservation, Museum Acquisition, Digital Development and Capital Projects Funds to ensure the continuing resilience of the organisation. Full details of these allocations are included in Note 22 to the financial statements on page 46. When the value of the bequests is excluded from the net operating result for the year, we still achieved a surplus ahead of the original budget.

The museum opened to visitors for six days each week for a longer period during 2023-2024 and this contributed to an increase in the number of visitors welcomed to the museum and in the admissions income for the year.

We were in receipt of NPO funding throughout the year and in addition, we received both regular funding from Bradford Council and funding for specific projects. The Brontë Society is very grateful to these organisations for their ongoing support.

***Digital***

Our developing online programme of talks and 'Brontë Lounge' events continued to attract audiences from all over the world and receive positive feedback. Notable successes include an online event hosted in partnership with Elizabeth Gaskell's House, Jane Austen's House and Chawton to celebrate International Women's Day 2023. During the autumn of 2023, we ran a six-week online course, 'The Brontës and the Gothic, led by Dr Sam Hirst, which was attended by Brontë enthusiasts from America to Japan. A major addition to our digital programme was 'Behind the Glass: A Parsonage Podcast.' Eight episodes with special guests were recorded during 2023 and broadcast commenced in spring 2024.

***Marketing***

Due to environmental concerns and reduced budgets, our marketing for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 focused on digital methods.

Our social media platforms continued to grow, and engagement with our online community flourished throughout the period, with our reach on Facebook, Twitter and particularly Instagram increasing significantly on 2022-2023 numbers.

***PR and media***

The Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum attracted high-profile media coverage throughout the year, especially in relation to the Designation Award and the 'Becoming the Brontës' exhibition. We continued to allocate budget to working with a PR agency to support our media activity and this relationship offers a substantial return on investment.

During 2023-2024, we hosted several production crews including ITV News, who broadcast the weather forecast live from the Parsonage in March 2024.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation***

The landscape and natural world are fundamental to the Brontës' work and an important part of what visitors to the Brontë Parsonage Museum, situated on the edge of Yorkshire moorland, experience. The Brontë Society has strong commitment to environmental responsibility and this continued to be a consideration in every aspect of our work during the year. Our organisation-wide Green Group continued to meet quarterly to discuss ecological initiatives and different ways to further reduce our carbon footprint. Six further members of staff have been certified as 'Carbon Literate' and training in this area continues to be rolled out across the workforce.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**Learning and engagement**

Young people and children are a key focus. The Parsonage was a family home and the Brontës wrote from a young age. Our formal learning programme is praised by teachers and during the period ending 31 March 2024, we saw the numbers of school groups increase. While many of our school workshops are curriculum-linked, creativity is embedded throughout. We position the visit as connected to the creative process, enabling students to take advantage of the immersive nature of the Museum, the imaginative potential of our collection, and the sensory connection with the outdoors. We offer free workshops for local schools, forging stronger links and a sense of ownership of the Museum.

The Brontë Society is extremely proud to have been involved in the Bradford Young Poets programme during spring 2023. Working in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, the Brontë Parsonage Museum hosted free visits by a number of schools in Bradford that were identified as being in areas of low cultural engagement. The Brontë story, our collection and surrounding landscape were used as inspiration for creative writing sessions led by a poet and facilitated by our staff, volunteers and teachers from the individual schools.

**Publications**

The Brontë Society's journal, 'Brontë Studies' edited by Dr Claire O'Callaghan, was published three times during the period. During 2023 - 2024, over 2,800 institutions had access to 'Brontë Studies', and the number of article downloads was over 55,500. The journal has a global reach, with the regions of Europe and North America seeing the highest number of full text downloads.

'Gazette', the magazine of the Brontë Society, was produced three times between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. Editor Sharon Wright works closely with the Brontë Society Director and Principal Curator to develop the content and readership of the magazine.

**Building partnerships**

During 2023-2024, we collaborated with a number of other cultural organisations, including Obscura Theatre and South Square Centre (Thornton) as well as with the British Library and University of Leeds Libraries and Galleries.

The Society also continued to develop effective partnerships with other Bradford NPOs, namely Bradford Museums and Galleries, Bradford Literature Festival and Ilkley Literature Festival (now Word Up North). These relationships are set to strengthen as we approach Bradford's year as UK City of Culture in 2025.

Our outreach programme is an important aspect of building new partnerships in order to reach people and communities who are not familiar with the Museum. Many of these people are local to us, in the Bradford district and our work with them is ongoing.

**Growing and widening the membership of the Brontë Society**

The digital membership packages are now our most popular membership categories, with more than 50% of members (who are not Life Members) opting for this type of membership. This has led to a reduction in costs associated with printing and postage and also contributes to a reduction in our carbon footprint. The Young Brontë Friend (16 – 25) category continues to prove popular with over 150 members in this category by 31 March 2024.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**Developing a positive culture that supports staff and volunteers**

The organisation continues to foster a learning culture, embedding evaluation and review at the heart of its activities. All staff and volunteers are encouraged to seek out, and take advantage of, opportunities for Continued Professional Development, including regular 'learning time' to pursue their studies of all things Brontë.

All staff are paid at least the Real Living Wage and in November 2023, the Brontë Society was one of the first businesses to sign up to the West Yorkshire Fair Work Charter. Ideas from all parts of the organisation are shared via our regular staff forum, and employees and volunteers are kept up to date with news and developments via a fortnightly e-bulletin and a more detailed 'Brontë Business', which is produced monthly. The mental health of our workforce is considered as important as its physical health and all staff are entitled to a monthly 'Wellbeing Hour' to pursue leisure or wellbeing activities.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Income and expenditure**

Total income for the year ended 31 March 2024 was £1,646,356 compared to £5,929,430 in the 15 months to 31 March 2023 (including £4,559,934 relating to Heritage Assets donated during the period). Income in 2024 included 12 months' worth of National Portfolio Organisation grant from Arts Council England and other grants, including a grant of £5k from Bradford Council to support our outreach programme. Income from museum admissions for the year to 31 March 2024 totalled £585,854 compared to £556,223 for the 15 month period to 31 March 2023. Retail sales in the museum shop for the year ended 31 March 2024 totalled £314,674 compared with £306,671 for the 15 month period to 31 March 2023. A contributing factor to these increases was the decision to open 6 days a week for a longer period over the summer months.

Total expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 was £1,243,372 compared with £1,365,378 for the 15 months to 31 March 2023. This decrease reflects the shorter accounting period.

Overall, the net movement in funds for the year was a surplus of £410,791 (£57,407 surplus when the bequests are excluded) compared with £4,551,334 (or a net deficit of £8,600 excluding the donated Heritage Assets) for the 15 months to 31 March 2023.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)**

**Financial sustainability**

The Brontë Society welcomed 64,069 visitors in the 12 months from 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, compared with 67,694 for the 15 months from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2023.

During 2023 - 2024, the Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum continued to benefit financially as one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations, with grant funding received for the year of £236,778. The Society is very grateful to Arts Council England for this ongoing support, which will now continue until April 2026.

Being an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation yields benefits other than the immediately financial. It opens doors to networking opportunities, training and professional development, being part of 'something bigger', and encourages confidence in other potential funders.

**Investment policy and objectives**

The objectives of the investment policy are as follows:

- To provide for on-going cash needs to support the operation of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum on a day-to-day basis;
- To ensure the continued protection of the fabric of the Parsonage building;
- To provide for, or contribute towards, the purchase of new acquisitions for the Museum and its collections;
- To provide a basis for future financial planning that will carry forward the Charity's objectives.

**Investment review**

During the reporting period, the Finance & Audit Committee met with Charles Stanley, the Brontë Society's Investment Managers, to review the management of the charity's investments and its goals. As the Society does not currently take regular income from the portfolio, the decision was taken to move from a balanced to a growth approach during 2024. The existing overall risk level will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

During the year net realised and unrealised gains on investments totalled £7,064 and the cost of managing the investments was £2,028.

**Reserves policy**

At 31 March 2024 the group held unrestricted reserves of £938,503, of which £38,144 were other tangible assets and £152,964 were investments. Restricted reserves at the year-end amounted to £90,461. The trustees have agreed, in line with many other National Portfolio Organisations, that the organisation should aim to hold three months' worth of operating costs in reserve. Three months' worth of operating costs, being total unrestricted expenditure less depreciation and irrecoverable VAT, at the year-end amounted to £300,651. At 31 March 2024, total readily available unrestricted reserves amounted to £747,397, of which the Board of Trustees has designated £324,000 for specific purposes, as set out in Note 22 to the financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

During 2024 we will consolidate the achievements of the last few years, and invest in and improve our physical and digital assets in order to 'bring the Brontes to the world and the world to Yorkshire' during 2025 and beyond.

We have identified the following as key areas of development:

- More efficient and integrated collection of data and use of analytics so that we can set targets and monitor progress efficiently and strategically;
- Increased diversity in the workforce and our audiences;
- An upgrade of our IT systems and their integration eg website, CRM and an HR platform, to facilitate analytics, reporting and more efficient working;
- Increased use of digital to widen access to our collection (including our displays through audio and large print transcripts / interpretation) and share our work.

This work will provide the foundations for realising our ambitions for 2025 – 2027: growing our visitor offer, expanding our office space and increasing our collection storage in readiness for our centenary celebrations in 2028.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The Society is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society was established in 1893 and opened its first museum in 1895. It is a company limited by guarantee (number 00073855), having been incorporated in 1902, and is registered as a charity (number 529952). The business of the Brontë Society is governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of the Members in the event of the Society being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1 each. The number of Members at 31 March 2024 was 1,576 of whom 503 were Life Members.

**Organisational structure and decision-making policies**

The Brontë Society is governed by a board of up to twelve trustees who are appointed at the AGM. We are proactive in developing the Board through succession planning, supported by appropriate training and induction. We want our Board to be representative of society and take care to set out the commitment, responsibilities and expertise involved to ensure we attract candidates with the appropriate skills and experience. The Board currently has two sub-committees, Finance, Risk and Audit, which meets regularly ahead of all full Board meetings and the Nominations Committee, which meets as and when required.

The leadership and day-to-day running of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum is delegated to the Director, a marketing and communications professional with extensive experience in the arts and heritage sector. The Director works collaboratively with the Senior Leadership Team which comprises a qualified museum professional with over 30 years' curatorial experience, an experienced HR and project manager, and two Heads of Finance (job share) who are both chartered accountants with more than fifty years' experience between them.

**Appointment, induction and training of new Trustees**

At the first meeting of the Board following the Annual General Meeting the Trustees elect one of their number to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees. All new Trustees are expected to attend an induction training session and to undertake appropriate training during their period of office.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)**

**Key management remuneration**

The Trustees consider the members of the Senior Leadership Team to form the key management personnel of the Society, in charge of directing, running and operating the Society on a day-to-day basis. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and in view of the nature of the organisation, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities.

**Related parties**

The charity operates a wholly owned trading subsidiary, The Brontë Genius Company Limited. This company operates the gift shop of the Brontë Society. During the year ended 31 March 2024, the company made a profit of £26,518 compared with £12,192 profit for the 15 months to 31 March 2023.

**Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charitable Group is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In order to monitor those risks and respond to any changes, the organisation maintains a risk register, which is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and members of the Finance, Risk & Audit committee and scrutinised by the Board of Trustees.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic 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. Under company law, the Trustees 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 Group and the Charity and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and 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 Group and the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

**Auditors**

The auditors, Clive Owen LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on ..... 23 July 2024 ..... and signed on their behalf by:

  
**A J Midgley**  
Trustee

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Brontë Society (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve 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.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' 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.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report.

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

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company 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.

**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 Group's and the parent charitable company'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 Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**

**Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Our audit must be alert to the risk of manipulation of the financial statements and seek to understand the incentives and opportunities for management to achieve this.

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Group. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be around employment law, charity law, company law, health and safety law, taxation law and GDPR
- Enquiry of directors and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of Board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of directors and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies.
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**



**Christopher Beaumont BA (Hons) BFP FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**Clive Owen LLP**

Chartered Accountants &  
Statutory Auditors

140 Coniscliffe Road

DARLINGTON

County Durham

DL3 7RT

Date: 25 July 2024

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Fixed assets funds 2024 £	Total funds Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Total funds 15 months to 31 March 2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	4	353,384	9,958	3,350	366,692	4,622,482
Charitable activities	5	931,564	-	-	931,564	974,209
Other trading activities	6	333,057	-	-	333,057	327,221
Investments	7	15,043	-	-	15,043	5,018
Other income	8	-	-	-	-	500
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>1,633,048</b>	<b>9,958</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>1,646,356</b>	<b>5,929,430</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	9,10	244,140	-	-	244,140	237,223
Charitable activities	11	988,104	11,128	-	999,232	1,128,155
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,232,244</b>	<b>11,128</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,243,372</b>	<b>1,365,378</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments</b>		<b>400,804</b>	<b>(1,170)</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>402,984</b>	<b>4,564,052</b>
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments		7,807	-	-	7,807	(12,718)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>408,611</b>	<b>(1,170)</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>410,791</b>	<b>4,551,334</b>
Transfers between funds	22	(2,061)	-	2,061	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>406,550</b>	<b>(1,170)</b>	<b>5,411</b>	<b>410,791</b>	<b>4,551,334</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		531,953	91,631	6,852,361	7,475,945	2,924,611
Net movement in funds		406,550	(1,170)	5,411	410,791	4,551,334
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>938,503</b>	<b>90,461</b>	<b>6,857,772</b>	<b>7,886,736</b>	<b>7,475,945</b>


**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	16	38,144	46,849
Heritage assets	17	6,857,772	6,852,361
Investments	18	162,822	153,910
		<b>7,058,738</b>	<b>7,053,120</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	51,364	62,006
Debtors	20	71,256	47,831
Cash at bank and in hand		802,187	422,832
		<b>924,807</b>	<b>532,669</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(96,809)	(109,844)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>827,998</b>	<b>422,825</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>7,886,736</b>	<b>7,475,945</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>7,886,736</b>	<b>7,475,945</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>7,886,736</b>	<b>7,475,945</b>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Heritage fixed assets funds	22	6,857,772	6,852,361
Restricted funds	22	90,461	91,631
Unrestricted funds	22	938,503	531,953
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>7,886,736</b>	<b>7,475,945</b>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 23 JULY 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

  
**A J Midgley**  
Trustee

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)**

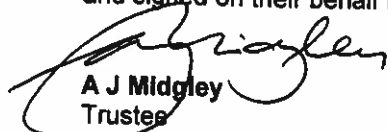
**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	16	38,144	46,849
Heritage assets	17	6,857,772	6,852,361
Investments	18	187,922	179,010
		7,083,838	7,078,220
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	2,179	2,415
Debtors	20	134,305	110,033
Cash at bank and in hand		719,322	376,878
		855,806	489,326
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(90,330)	(102,505)
<b>Net current assets</b>		765,476	386,821
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		7,849,314	7,465,041
<b>Net assets</b>		7,849,314	7,465,041
<b>Total net assets</b>		7,849,314	7,465,041
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Heritage fixed assets funds	22	6,857,772	6,852,361
Restricted funds	22	90,461	91,631
Unrestricted funds	22	901,081	521,049
<b>Total funds</b>		7,849,314	7,465,041

The Charity's net movement in funds for the year was £384,273 (2023 - £4,539,142).

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 23 JULY 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

  
**A J Midgley**  
 Trustee

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash generated from operating activities	<b>365,574</b>	<b>121,725</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>15,043</b>	<b>5,018</b>
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(1,761)</b>	<b>(3,502)</b>
Proceeds from sale of investments	<b>73,205</b>	<b>64,592</b>
Purchase of investments	<b>(72,706)</b>	<b>(60,424)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>13,781</b>	<b>5,684</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>379,355</b>	<b>127,409</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>422,832</b>	<b>295,423</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>802,187</b>	<b>422,832</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**1. General information**

The Brontë Society is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered details can be found on page 1. In the event of the Brontë Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Brontë Society.

The prior reporting period spans 15 months and therefore comparatives are not entirely comparable.

**2. Accounting policies**

**2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society meets the definition of a public interest entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Group and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Group has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

**2.2 Going concern**

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the company will continue to trade for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The Trustees have prepared forecasts that demonstrate that the company will be able to continue to trade within existing bank facilities for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

**2.3 Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.4 Income**

All income is recognised once the Group has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Charity's accounting policies.

Donated facilities and services are recognised in the financial statements when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.5 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Support costs directly attributed to an activity have been allocated to the activity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to any activity they have been allocated in proportion to direct expenditure.

Costs of generating funds (direct costs) are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

**2.6 Government grants**

Government grants are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on receipt.

**2.7 Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

**2.8 Taxation**

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

No depreciation is charged on the asset in the year of purchase.

No depreciation is charged on freehold property as the Trustees consider its value to be not less than original cost.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% - 15% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

**2.10 Heritage assets**

The Charity's collection comprises assets of historical importance recognised as heritage assets previously under FRS 30 (Heritage Assets) and now under the provision of the current SORP and FRS102 which require such assets to be reported in the balance sheet where information is available regarding cost or value. Items purchased for the collection are capitalised as heritage assets and included at cost or value at acquisition in the balance sheet. Items purchased prior to the implementation of Current SORP are not capitalised. Items donated to the collection are capitalised as heritage assets at market value at the point of donation where material. Depreciation has not been provided on heritage assets on the basis that their residual value is such that any depreciation charge would be immaterial. A description of the collection, its management and developments during the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

**2.11 Investments**

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

Investments held as fixed assets are shown at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.12 Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Benefits received and receivable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term, unless another systematic basis is representative of the time pattern of the lessee's benefit from the use of the leased asset.

**2.13 Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell. Stock is measured on a first in first out basis.

**2.14 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**2.15 Cash at bank and in hand**

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 acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**2.16 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

**2.17 Financial instruments**

The Group only has financial assets and financial 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**2.18 Irrecoverable VAT**

The charity was partially exempt for VAT purposes for the year ended 31 March 2024. Irrecoverable VAT has been included in the Statement of Financial Activities during the year within support costs.

**2.19 Pensions**

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Group to the fund in respect of the year.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgement:

Stock provision - a provision is allocated against any identified obsolete or slow-moving stock where appropriate.

**4. Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed assets funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Donations</b>					
Bequests and donations	353,384	-	-	353,384	50,452
Contemporary arts donations	-	198	-	198	335
Collection care donations	-	48	-	48	110
Purchase fund donations	-	2,699	-	2,699	4,333
Museum redecoration scheme	-	82	-	82	99
Education donations	-	2,931	-	2,931	4,014
Piano maintenance fund	-	-	-	-	2,205
Taylor & Francis Prize fund	-	4,000	-	4,000	1,000
Heritage assets donations	-	-	3,350	3,350	4,559,934
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>353,384</b>	<b>9,958</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>366,692</b>	<b>4,622,482</b>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>50,452</i>	<i>12,096</i>	<i>4,559,934</i>	<i>4,622,482</i>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**5. Analysis of income from charitable activities by type of income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Museum admission donations	541,784	<b>541,784</b>	514,174
Museum admission gift aid tax	44,070	<b>44,070</b>	42,049
Grants receivable	238,038	<b>238,038</b>	296,163
Contemporary arts income	2,825	<b>2,825</b>	3,378
Education group admission	40,444	<b>40,444</b>	46,894
Events	13,607	<b>13,607</b>	15,564
Subscription from members	33,259	<b>33,259</b>	39,443
Conference	4,050	<b>4,050</b>	-
Exhibition tax refund	1,837	<b>1,837</b>	1,344
Bradford Council grant	11,650	<b>11,650</b>	15,200
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>931,564</b>	<b>931,564</b>	<b>974,209</b>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>974,209</i>	<i>974,209</i>	

**6. Income from other trading activities**

**Income from non charitable trading activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Royalties, licensing and repo fees	18,383	<b>18,383</b>	20,550
Income from sales	314,674	<b>314,674</b>	306,671
	<b>333,057</b>	<b>333,057</b>	<b>327,221</b>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>327,221</i>	<i>327,221</i>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**7. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Dividends receivable	3,875	3,875	2,406
Bank interest	11,168	11,168	2,612
	15,043	15,043	5,018
<i>Total 2023</i>	5,018	5,018	

**8. Other incoming resources**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Insurance	-	-	500
	500	500	
<i>Total 2023</i>	500	500	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**9. Expenditure on raising funds**

**Expenditure on raising funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Purchases and direct costs	160,429	<b>160,429</b>	159,521
Wages and salaries	81,039	<b>81,039</b>	74,751
Pension costs	644	<b>644</b>	660
	242,112	<b>242,112</b>	234,932
	242,112	<b>242,112</b>	234,932
<i>Total 2023</i>	234,932	<b>234,932</b>	

**10. Investment management costs**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Investment management fees	2,028	<b>2,028</b>	2,291
	2,028	<b>2,028</b>	2,291
	2,028	<b>2,028</b>	2,291
<i>Total 2023</i>	2,291	<b>2,291</b>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**11. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	988,104	11,128	<b>999,232</b>	1,128,155
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>1,106,959</u>	<u>21,196</u>	<u>1,128,155</u>	

**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2024 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	570,417	428,815	<b>999,232</b>	1,128,155
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>581,482</u>	<u>546,673</u>	<u>1,128,155</u>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Staff costs	424,039	<b>424,039</b>	425,589
Curatorial	35,991	<b>35,991</b>	32,733
Advertising and marketing	29,187	<b>29,187</b>	35,567
Exhibition and display	4,066	<b>4,066</b>	23,476
Education	4,802	<b>4,802</b>	4,360
Creative Programme costs	49,051	<b>49,051</b>	35,153
Travel and training	8,674	<b>8,674</b>	6,891
Events	7,602	<b>7,602</b>	15,358
Membership	2,025	<b>2,025</b>	2,355
Conference costs	4,480	<b>4,480</b>	-
Taylor & Francis awards	500	<b>500</b>	-
	<u>570,417</u>	<u><b>570,417</b></u>	<u>581,482</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>581,482</u>	<u>581,482</u>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Staff costs	200,115	<b>200,115</b>	216,848
Depreciation	10,468	<b>10,468</b>	19,913
Travel and training	4,234	<b>4,234</b>	5,145
Rates and water	2,011	<b>2,011</b>	3,782
Insurance	14,783	<b>14,783</b>	17,308
Light and heat	19,783	<b>19,783</b>	15,507
Recruitment	250	<b>250</b>	325
Communications and technology	29,793	<b>29,793</b>	26,663
Security and fire safety	16,437	<b>16,437</b>	29,003
Cleaning	4,654	<b>4,654</b>	6,477
Garden	4,268	<b>4,268</b>	2,392
Property repairs	11,080	<b>11,080</b>	27,750
Input VAT not recoverable	19,172	<b>19,172</b>	25,400
Miscellaneous	1,298	<b>1,298</b>	1,001
Administration costs	18,696	<b>18,696</b>	67,742
Bank charges	17,849	<b>17,849</b>	17,515
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of investments	743	<b>743</b>	6,708
Governance costs	53,181	<b>53,181</b>	57,194
	<u>428,815</u>	<u><b>428,815</b></u>	<u>546,673</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>546,673</u>	<u>546,673</u>	

**13. Auditors' remuneration**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Fees payable to the Charitable Group's auditor for the audit of the Charitable Group's annual accounts	<b>19,325</b>	18,000
Fees payable to the Charitable Group's auditor in respect of:		
All taxation advisory services not included above	<b>725</b>	-
All assurance services not included above	<b>470</b>	-
	<u><b>725</b></u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><b>470</b></u>	<u>-</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**14. Staff costs**

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	<b>Charity 2024 £</b>	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Wages and salaries	649,770	661,394	568,731	586,643
Social security costs	37,166	36,956	37,166	36,956
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	18,901	19,498	18,257	18,838
	<u>705,837</u>	<u>717,848</u>	<u>624,154</u>	<u>642,437</u>

Included within staff costs are redundancy payments totalling £nil (2023: £nil).

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	<b>Group 2024 No.</b>	<i>Group 2023 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2024 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2023 No.</i>
	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>Group 2024 No.</b>	<i>Group 2023 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2024 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2023 No.</i>
	<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	<b>Group 2024 No.</b>	<i>Group 2023 No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	-	1

Disclosure for 2023 relates to the 15 month period. There are no employees that exceed £60,000 employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance) on an annual basis. The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the charity was £175,375 (2023 - £212,657).

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**15. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, expenses totalling £653 were reimbursed or paid directly to 6 Trustees (2023 - £NIL to Trustees). Expenses reimbursements related to travel and subsistence and were repaid directly to Trustees.

**16. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	18,640	612,200	114,213	745,053
Additions	-	1,761	-	1,761
Disposals	-	(373,457)	(54,657)	(428,114)
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,640</u>	<u>240,504</u>	<u>59,556</u>	<u>318,700</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	-	589,055	109,149	698,204
Charge for the year	-	7,743	2,723	10,466
On disposals	-	(373,457)	(54,657)	(428,114)
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>223,341</u>	<u>57,215</u>	<u>280,556</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,640</u>	<u>17,163</u>	<u>2,341</u>	<u>38,144</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,640</u>	<u>23,145</u>	<u>5,064</u>	<u>46,849</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**16. Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

**Charity**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	18,640	612,200	114,213	745,053
Additions	-	1,761	-	1,761
Disposals	-	(373,457)	(54,657)	(428,114)
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,640</u>	<u>240,504</u>	<u>59,556</u>	<u>318,700</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	-	589,055	109,149	698,204
Charge for the year	-	7,743	2,723	10,466
On disposals	-	(373,457)	(54,657)	(428,114)
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>223,341</u>	<u>57,215</u>	<u>280,556</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,640</u>	<u>17,163</u>	<u>2,341</u>	<u>38,144</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,640</u>	<u>23,145</u>	<u>5,064</u>	<u>46,849</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**17. Heritage assets**

**Group and Charity**

**Assets recognised at cost**

	<b>Heritage assets 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
Carrying value at 1 April 2023	6,852,361	<b>6,852,361</b>
Additions	5,411	<b>5,411</b>
	6,857,772	<b>6,857,772</b>

The Society owns the Parsonage at Haworth which was the home of the Brontë family from 1820 to 1861 and which was gifted to the Society in 1928. The Parsonage houses a world class collection of artefacts and documents associated with the Brontë Family and their literary works. The collection is maintained in order to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family and consists of material which belonged to the Brontë family, their friends and associates. It includes books, manuscripts, letters, paintings, drawings, furniture, household items and personal possessions. The Research Library Collection, also housed within the Parsonage building, contains secondary source material and a wide range of biographical, critical, topographical and related works on the Brontë family. Today the Brontë Society continues to carry out its founding aim; collecting and exhibiting material relating to the Brontës' lives and works and making them known to the widest audience through display, online access, appointments to view and a lifelong learning programme.

Under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 and FRS30 Heritage Assets items purchased for the collection were capitalised and included at cost in the balance sheet and this has continued under the current SORP.

The Society maintains its collection for its historical and literary value. Any valuation is completed within the confines of the requirements of the management and preservation of the collection and for no other purpose. In accordance with the provisions of the SORP, no value has been attributed to items acquired prior to the implementation of the SORP 2005 due to the lack of reliable information regarding cost or valuation. Heritage asset acquisitions reported in the balance sheet totalled £5,411 in 2024, £4,559,934 in 2022/23, £19,500 in 2021, £2,050 in 2020, £676,239 in 2019, £10,800 in 2018, £32,852 in 2017, £60,137 in 2016, £857,146 in 2015, £28,770 in 2014, £89,366 in 2013, £245,665 in 2012, £43,900 in 2011 and £226,002 prior to this date. Additions in 2016 included the kind donation by the BBC of items used in the production of To Walk Invisible.

Access to the collection is promoted through educational workshops and tours as well as through general admissions to the Museum. The collection is detailed in the Society's online catalogue which can be accessed via the website at [www.bronte.org.uk](http://www.bronte.org.uk).

Included within the heritage assets value is £1.5m relating to some of the items donated from the Honresfield Library collection. The total value of these assets is £4.5m and is jointly owned between The Brontë Society, The British Library Board and The University of Leeds, and these assets cannot be sold unless all three parties agree.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**18. Fixed asset investments**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Listed investments £</b>	<b>Cash and settlements pending £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	146,362	7,548	153,910
Additions	72,706	(72,706)	-
Disposals	(73,205)	73,205	-
Revaluations	7,101	1,811	8,912
At 31 March 2024	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,858</u>	<u>162,822</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2024	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,858</u>	<u>162,822</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>146,362</u>	<u>7,548</u>	<u>153,910</u>

The historical cost of listed investments at 31 March 2024 was £140,750 (2023: £141,608).

<b>Charity</b>	<b>Investments in subsidiary companies £</b>	<b>Listed investments £</b>	<b>Cash and settlements pending £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	25,100	146,362	7,548	179,010
Additions	-	72,706	(72,706)	-
Disposals	-	(73,205)	73,205	-
Revaluations	-	7,101	1,811	8,912
At 31 March 2024	<u>25,100</u>	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,858</u>	<u>187,922</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>25,100</u>	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,858</u>	<u>187,922</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>25,100</u>	<u>146,362</u>	<u>7,548</u>	<u>179,010</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**18. Fixed asset investments (continued)**

**Principal subsidiaries**

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Principal activity
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	06504497	Brontë Parsonage Museum, Church Street, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8DR	The gift shop in the Brontë Parsonage Museum

Class of shares	Holding
Ordinary	100%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Profit/(Loss) for the period £	Net assets £
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	26,518	62,522

The profit for the period is after taking account of an interim donation to the parent company of £10,904 (2023: £20,777).

**19. Stocks**

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Charity 2024 £	Charity 2023 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>51,364</u>	<u>62,006</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>2,415</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**20. Debtors**

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	<b>Charity 2024 £</b>	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
<b>Due within one year</b>				
Trade debtors	7,803	4,727	7,803	4,727
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	64,032	62,677
Prepayments and accrued income	63,453	43,104	62,470	42,629
	<u>71,256</u>	<u>47,831</u>	<u>134,305</u>	<u>110,033</u>

**21. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	<b>Charity 2024 £</b>	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Trade creditors	31,027	50,876	30,473	50,140
Other taxation and social security	13,140	8,651	13,140	8,651
Other creditors	3,920	3,376	3,920	3,376
Accruals and deferred income	48,722	46,941	42,797	40,338
	<u>96,809</u>	<u>109,844</u>	<u>90,330</u>	<u>102,505</u>
	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	<b>Charity 2024 £</b>	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	17,069	3,104	17,069	3,104
Resources deferred during the year	17,648	17,069	17,648	17,069
Amounts released from previous periods	(17,069)	(3,104)	(17,069)	(3,104)
	<u>17,648</u>	<u>17,069</u>	<u>17,648</u>	<u>17,069</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**22. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	462,708	1,633,048	(1,229,075)	(326,061)	7,807	548,427
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fund-raising development	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
New Building Fund	39,119	-	(3,169)	-	-	35,950
Quinquennial Fund	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Conservation Fund	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Museum Acquisition Fund	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Digital Development Fund	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Capital Projects Fund	-	-	-	124,000	-	124,000
	<u>531,953</u>	<u>1,633,048</u>	<u>(1,232,244)</u>	<u>(2,061)</u>	<u>7,807</u>	<u>938,503</u>
<b>Heritage fixed assets funds</b>						
Heritage assets donations	6,852,361	3,350	-	2,061	-	6,857,772

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**22. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,572	48	-	-	-	3,620
Contemporary Arts	2,188	198	-	-	-	2,386
Education	14,182	2,931	-	-	-	17,113
Purchases	22,731	2,699	-	-	-	25,430
British Library	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Museum Redecoration	435	82	-	-	-	517
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	10,306	-	-	-	-	10,306
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	3,915	4,000	(500)	-	-	7,415
Garfield Weston	4,382	-	(2,808)	-	-	1,574
Foyle Foundation	12,758	-	(7,820)	-	-	4,938
	<u>91,631</u>	<u>9,958</u>	<u>(11,128)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,461</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>7,475,945</u></u>	<u><u>1,646,356</u></u>	<u><u>(1,243,372)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>7,807</u></u>	<u><u>7,886,736</u></u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**22. Statement of funds (continued)**

Unrestricted Funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated Funds are those funds designated by the Trustees for specific purposes. The allocations are reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. The designated funds are shown as unrestricted funds.

Designated Funds set up during the year are as follows:

Conservation Fund – to earmark funds to provide for future maintenance and conservation of the museum's collection;

Museum Acquisition Fund – to ensure the Society is able to respond to acquire additions to the collection when they become available;

Digital Development Fund – to provide funds to continue to update the museum's systems to futureproof them and facilitate wider access to the Parsonage and its collection;

Capital Projects Fund – to provide funding to support current and future capital outlay to further the fulfilment of the Society's charitable objectives

Restricted Funds are those funds where monies have been received for a specific purpose. The restrictions placed on the funds as shown above are as follows;

Sir Tresham Lever - monies are only to be used to purchase flowers for the local parish Church;

Top Withens fund - expenditure for the maintenance of the Top Withens site;

Collections Care - expenditure is restricted to cleaning, repairing and conserving the Collection;

Contemporary Arts - Donations are restricted to supporting the Contemporary Arts programme;

Education - expenditure is restricted to supporting the education programme;

Purchases - expenditure is restricted to funding acquisitions for the Collection;

British Library - expenditure is restricted to a "literature in context" project;

Museum Redecoration - donations received towards maintaining the decoration of the Parsonage;

Reception Furniture Fund - donations received for the refurbishment of the admissions area of the Museum;

Piano Maintenance Fund - donation from Society member John Hennessy for the future costs of maintaining the Brontë piano;

Taylor & Francis Prize Fund – consists of an annual donation from Taylor & Francis to fund the cost of a Brontë Society competition;

Garfield Weston - grant funding for outreach projects;

Foyle Foundation - monies received to cover core costs;

Transfers between funds:

Transfers between funds are discussed and approved by Trustees at Council Meetings. The principal transfers during the year concern the use of unrestricted funds.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**22. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	450,640	1,357,400	(1,332,414)	(200)	(12,718)	462,708
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fund-raising development	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
New Building Fund	50,887	-	(11,768)	-	-	39,119
Quinquennial Fund	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
	<u>531,653</u>	<u>1,357,400</u>	<u>(1,344,182)</u>	<u>(200)</u>	<u>(12,718)</u>	<u>531,953</u>
<b>Heritage fixed assets funds</b>						
Heritage assets donations	2,292,427	4,559,934	-	-	-	6,852,361

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**22. Statement of funds (continued)**

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023 £</i>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,462	110	-	-	-	3,572
Contemporary Arts	1,853	335	-	-	-	2,188
Education	10,168	4,014	-	-	-	14,182
Purchases	18,398	4,333	-	-	-	22,731
British Library	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Museum Redecoration	336	99	-	-	-	435
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	7,901	2,205	-	200	-	10,306
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	2,915	1,000	-	-	-	3,915
Garfield Weston	15,836	-	(11,454)	-	-	4,382
Foyle Foundation	22,500	-	(9,742)	-	-	12,758
	<u>100,531</u>	<u>12,096</u>	<u>(21,196)</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,631</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>2,924,611</u></u>	<u><u>5,929,430</u></u>	<u><u>(1,365,378)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(12,718)</u></u>	<u><u>7,475,945</u></u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**23. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Fixed assets funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	38,144	-	-	38,144
Fixed asset investments	152,964	9,858	-	162,822
Heritage assets	-	-	6,857,772	6,857,772
Current assets	844,204	80,603	-	924,807
Creditors due within one year	(96,809)	-	-	(96,809)
<b>Total</b>	<b>938,503</b>	<b>90,461</b>	<b>6,857,772</b>	<b>7,886,736</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Heritage fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	46,849	-	-	46,849
Fixed asset investments	146,362	7,548	-	153,910
Heritage assets	-	-	6,852,361	6,852,361
Current assets	448,586	84,083	-	532,669
Creditors due within one year	(109,844)	-	-	(109,844)
<b>Total</b>	<b>531,953</b>	<b>91,631</b>	<b>6,852,361</b>	<b>7,475,945</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**24. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>410,791</b>	<i>4,551,334</i>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>10,466</b>	<i>19,913</i>
Gains on investments	<b>244</b>	<i>2,540</i>
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>(15,043)</b>	<i>(5,018)</i>
Loss/(profit) on the sale of investments	<b>(743)</b>	<i>(6,708)</i>
Decrease in stocks	<b>10,642</b>	<i>7,149</i>
Increase in debtors	<b>(23,425)</b>	<i>49,121</i>
Decrease in creditors	<b>(13,035)</b>	<i>43,702</i>
Donated heritage assets	<b>(5,411)</b>	<i>(4,559,934)</i>
Revaluation of investments	<b>(8,912)</b>	<i>19,626</i>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>365,574</b>	<i>121,725</i>

**25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>
Cash in hand	<b>802,187</b>	<i>422,832</i>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>802,187</b>	<i>422,832</i>

**26. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 April 2023 £</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>422,832</b>	<b>379,355</b>	<b>802,187</b>
	<b>422,832</b>	<b>379,355</b>	<b>802,187</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**27. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 March 2024 the Group and the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	<b>Charity 2024 £</b>	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Not later than 1 year	7,736	636	7,736	636
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	29,354	1,590	29,354	1,590
	<u>37,090</u>	<u>2,226</u>	<u>37,090</u>	<u>2,226</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	<b>Charity 2024 £</b>	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Operating lease rentals	<u>5,676</u>	<u>7,085</u>	<u>5,676</u>	<u>7,085</u>

**28. Related party transactions**

The Charitable Group has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.