

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 2025**



The Brontë Society

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Trustees**

L G Powrie, Chair of The Board of Trustees  
S K Bari  
L J Beare  
C M Gallagher  
J R Gration (resigned 5 October 2024)  
T Hendry (appointed 5 October 2024)  
P A Jenkins  
E Keel (appointed 5 October 2024)  
H C Meller  
A J Midgley  
V R Sanders (resigned 5 October 2024)  
J M Sladdin  
L Watson (appointed 5 October 2024)

**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  
A Dinsdale  
G Price  
M Tomlinson  
C Dewhirst (resigned January 2025)

**Independent auditors**

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

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**(CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**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 2025**

The chair presents her statement for the year.

The report that follows details all that The Brontë Society achieved in the financial year ending 31 March 2025.

Our 2024-2025 financial year was defined by the completion of key capital infrastructure projects. In December 2024, we launched our new website, supported, too, by investment in our technological and operational infrastructure, including a new CRM system and improved WiFi coverage. Our fully accessible toilets and Changing Places facility, much needed for many years, opened in February 2025 and were made possible with funding from Bradford 2025's Cultural Capital Fund and Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme. It's our hope that both projects will significantly improve our visitor offer, increase accessibility, and ensure our relevance in a modern, digital age, and indeed, this is already reflected positively in visitor feedback.

As a National Portfolio Organisation, we continue to be grateful for the support of Arts Council England. Across all areas of the organisation, we embed our vision of creating an inclusive Brontë Society that remains relevant to our audience, is ambitious in scope, and committed to environmental responsibility. Through the shaping of our strategic aims, we aspire to deliver a quality programme that demonstrates our value to the communities we serve, both locally, nationally and digitally, while also fostering talent and ambition in our creative partners. The extension of the current NPO cycle to 2027, and potentially 2028, is welcome, and will allow us to plan and manage our budgets in a global climate of economic uncertainty.

Building on our status as a Designated collection, awarded in 2023, significant and meaningful additions to the collection were made during the 2024-25 financial year. In particular, the bequest we received during the last financial year of £325k has allowed us to designate further funds to collections acquisition, and as such, we were successful in our bid at auction for Emily Brontë's painting 'The North Wind', and also bought from a private collection a pencil drawing of Anne Brontë's. Among other donations, loans, and acquisitions, it remains a privilege to welcome back to the Museum items that belonged to, and were produced at the hands of, the Brontë family. In doing so, we cement not only their legacies, but ours as a Society, too.

In a year in which we celebrated the Brontës' childhood through our exhibition, 'The Brontës' Web of Childhood', receiving the Sandford Award from the Heritage Education Trust in 2024 was testament to the strength of our learning programme, encouraging the next generation to engage with the Brontës' lives and works. Our overall programme has continued to have a multi-generational focus, from the Brontë Babies sensory sessions to our 18-25-aimed 'Behind the Glass' podcast, and in the spirit of the Brontës, we have emphasised the development of up-and-coming talent through the Brontë Women's Writing Festival and the contemporary arts programme. So, too, has our outreach programme connected with local communities unfamiliar with the Museum, culminating in projects like the Brontë Stitching Group. All represent ongoing achievements, with the breadth of our offering over the past year an unwavering dedication to making the Brontës accessible to all.

We remain conscious of the cost of living crisis and its possible effect on visitor numbers, as well as the impact on visitors' secondary spend, and are focused on ensuring resilience across the organisation. As well as careful monitoring, we assess according to sector-wide trends and respond proactively to the need for budgetary adjustment. During 2024-25, we offered a six-day opening for a longer period of time than previously, and are working to diversify our income streams wherever possible. As we embark upon the next financial year, we take particular note of the opportunities that arise from Bradford UK City of Culture 2025 in raising our profile and fostering relationships with the local community, as well as the national cultural sector. We also look to establish a vision for the next stage of capital development, applying the lessons we have learned over the past year to look ahead in shaping the Society's future.

L G Powrie, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Date: July 2025

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2025. 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're 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 Designated as Outstanding and 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.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**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 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 our of Excellence, Inspiration and Creativity, 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 2024-25 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 Charity's activities and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further the Charity's charitable purposes for the public benefit. The trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to pay due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

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

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**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.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Strategic objectives**

During the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025, the following achievements were recorded against our strategic objectives:

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

Throughout 2024, the Parsonage held a new exhibition, 'The Brontës' Web of Childhood', which explored how the childhood of Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë shaped them as writers. Also on display was Charlotte Brontë's christening bonnet, on loan from a private collection for the period.

A new audio installation by writer and storyteller Sophia Hatfield, 'How to Build a Storyteller', was presented in the Servants' Room, and visitors were also treated with live performances of 'This House is Full of Stories' on a number of occasions during the year.

Our annual Brontë Festival of Women's Writing was held in September 2024. Programmed on the theme of writing for children and young adults, the event was headlined by Dame Jacqueline Wilson, who attracted an audience of almost 200 people. 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.

**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.

We continue to share our collections digitally via the Bloomberg Connects app, and thanks to significant investment in our IT infrastructure, including a new website and the implementation of Spektrix CRM and ticketing software, the online user experience has been much improved.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**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 2024 and 31 March 2025, we welcomed fifty-two 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 increasing access is considered in all areas of our work.

A significant barrier to access has been the lack of visitor toilet facilities at the Brontë Parsonage Museum. During 2024, thanks to Bradford Council's Cultural Capital Fund, administered by Bradford2025, and Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme, construction of accessible and inclusive facilities took place, and opened to the public in February 2025.

**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. Arts Council England have awarded 'Designated as Outstanding' status to the Brontë Parsonage Museum collection. 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' Web of Childhood' ran throughout 2024.

**Acquisitions**

Every year the collection grows through purchases and donations. The following items came as donations to the Museum collection between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025:

- An oil portrait of an unknown young woman, unsigned but believed to be by Branwell Brontë.
- An art work, 'Thornfield Hall', by Franklin. The work featured in the Imaginary Worlds exhibition, displayed in the Museum foyer from 1 February - 30 June 2025.
- A small green knitted purse with gold beads, believed to be the one mentioned in Charlotte's letter to Ellen Nussey, dated 22 August 1844: "Thank you for the very pretty little purse you have sent me." The donation also included a carte de visite of a portrait believed to be of Ellen Nussey as a young woman.
- John Walker's A Critical Pronouncing Dictionary (1832), inscribed by William Wood.

The Society purchased a small pencil drawing of a castle by Anne Brontë, dated 16 June 1836, from a private collector and Emily Brontë's watercolour painting, known as 'The North Wind' [1842], from the Forum Auctions sale held on Thursday 27 March 2025.

**Loans**

We were loaned a violin in a case, said to have belonged to Branwell Brontë; Anne Brontë's pencil drawing, 'Geneva', dated 15 June 1837, and Charlotte Brontë's christening bonnet.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***Conservation***

The movements for the two longcase clocks at the Parsonage underwent cleaning and conservation treatment during the January conservation period.

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

***Finance***

The museum opened to visitors for six days each week for a longer period during 2024-2025 and this contributed to an increase 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. During the autumn of 2024, 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 has been 'Behind the Glass: A Parsonage Podcast.' A second series of episodes with special guests was recorded during 2024 and broadcast commenced in spring 2025.

***Marketing***

During the period, the majority of marketing activity was digital. The development and launch of a new website, created by Supercool Ltd, was a focus for much of 2024. The design of a new museum logo and photography were commissioned as part of the website project.

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 March 2024 numbers.

***PR and media***

The Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum attracted high-profile media coverage throughout the year, especially in relation to the correction of the Brontë memorial at Westminster Abbey and the acquisition of Emily Brontë's painting 'The North Wind.' We continued to allocate budget to working with a PR agency, Anita Morris Associates, to support our media activity and this relationship offers a substantial return on investment.

During 2024-25, we also hosted several production crews including Wise Owl Films who made a Brontë documentary presented by Anita Rani for Sky Arts.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**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 financial period. Our organisation-wide Green Group continued to meet quarterly to discuss ecological initiatives and different ways to further reduce our carbon footprint, and our programme of Carbon Literacy training is ongoing.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**Learning and engagement**

Young people and children are a key focus. Our formal learning programme is praised by teachers and we experienced an increase in school groups during the period. While many of our school workshops are curriculum-linked, creativity is embedded throughout. We offer free workshops for local schools, forging stronger links and a sense of ownership of the Museum. The Museum was proud to receive the Sandford Award for Heritage Learning in December 2024.

**Publications**

The Brontë Society's journal, 'Brontë Studies' edited by Dr Claire O'Callaghan, was published three times during the period. During 2024 - 2025, the number of downloads was in the region of 50k. The journal has a global reach, with the UK, North America and China seeing the highest number of full text downloads.

**Building partnerships**

During 2024-2025, we collaborated with a number of other cultural organisations, including Elizabeth Gaskell's House, Bradford Museums and Galleries, and Ilkley Literature Festival (now Word Up North.) In addition, our position as a Bradford2025 cultural partner has enabled us to strengthen our relationships with the Local Authority and arts and heritage organisations across the wider district.

We are represented on the Bradford Place Marketing Board and our Director is a member of the West Yorkshire Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) Board.

**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 250 members in this category by 31 March 2025.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**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 are encouraged to seek out, and take advantage of, opportunities for Continued Professional Development, including free membership of the Museums Association.

All staff are paid at least the Real Living Wage and in August 2024 the Brontë Society achieved Mindful Employer status. 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 2025 was £1,773,122 compared to £1,646,356 in the 12 months to 31 March 2024. Income in 2024-25 included 12 months' worth of National Portfolio Organisation grant from Arts Council England and other grants, including grants of £315k and £100k from Bradford Council's Cultural Capital Fund and Arts Council England respectively to help fund the construction of our new visitor facilities, a grant of £5k from Bradford Council to support our outreach programme and an additional £5k to support the free street element of our Brontë Women's Writing Festival. Income from museum admissions for the year to 31 March 2025 totalled £608,204 compared to £585,854 for the period to 31 March 2024. Retail sales in the museum shop for the year ended 31 March 2025 totalled £296,212 compared with £314,674 for the 12 month period to 31 March 2024.

Total expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 was £1,355,324 compared with £1,243,372 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Overall, the net movement in funds for the year was £414,867 compared with £410,791 for the 12 months to 31 March 2024.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity 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**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)**

**Financial sustainability**

The Brontë Society welcomed 60,482 visitors in the 12 months from 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, compared with 64,069 for the 12 months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

During 2024 - 2025, 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 is now expected to continue until April 2028.

Being an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation yields benefits other than the immediately financial. It enables us to access networking opportunities, training and professional development, 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 Bronte 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 from January 2022 onwards. The existing overall risk level will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

During the year, net realised and unrealised losses on investments totalled £3,776 and the cost of managing the investments was £279.

**Reserves policy**

At 31 March 2025 the group held unrestricted reserves of £8,112,557, of which £6,950,582 were Heritage Assets, £411,629 were other tangible assets, £39,387 were intangible assets, and £160,829 were investments. Restricted reserves at the period-end amounted to £189,046. 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 £330,294. After allowing for this, at 31 March 2025, total readily available unrestricted reserves amounted to £556,964. These are funds in cash and investments that the Board of Trustees is able to designate for specific purposes.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

- Continued and increased analysis of data to set targets, monitor progress and support a culture of data driven decision making.
- Increased diversity in the workforce and our audiences.
- A review of our IT infrastructure and support to futureproof the organisation and ensure our data is stored securely and efficiently.
- Continued development of digital to a) widen access to our collection and our work and b) to diversify our income.
- Development of our retail and commercial offer.
- Producing a masterplan for future capital development, including the scoping of funding possibilities.

Recent achievements have provided the foundations for realising our ambitions for 2025 – 2028: growing our visitor offer, expanding our office space and increasing our collection storage as befits a museum marking its centenary 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 2025 was 1607 of whom 492 were Life Members.

**Appointment, induction of 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 trustees are supported with relevant induction information on appointment and undertake appropriate training during their period of office.

**Organisational structure**

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, responsible for board succession planning.

The leadership and day-to-day running of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum is delegated to the Director, a pr 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 thirty years' curatorial experience, an experienced HR and project manager, and a Head of Finance who is a chartered accountant with over twenty-five years' experience.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**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 across the sector.

**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 2025, the company made a loss of £23,605 compared with £26,518 profit in 2024.

**Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity 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 Annual General Meeting. (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 Annual General Meeting. to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Annual General Meeting. 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 Annual General Meeting. 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 Annual General Meeting. 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 2025**

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the persons who are Annual General Meeting. 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 & Co LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting..

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Annual General Meeting. on  
.....18 Feb 2025..... 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 2025 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 2025 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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: 23 July 2025

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

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Fixed assets funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	4	41,270	5,714	13,150	60,134	366,692
Charitable activities	5	1,277,464	100,000	-	1,377,464	931,564
Other trading activities	6	316,889	-	-	316,889	333,057
Investments	7	18,635	-	-	18,635	15,043
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>1,654,258</b>	<b>105,714</b>	<b>13,150</b>	<b>1,773,122</b>	<b>1,646,356</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	8,9	249,928	-	-	249,928	244,140
Charitable activities	10	1,098,267	7,129	-	1,105,396	999,232
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,348,195</b>	<b>7,129</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,355,324</b>	<b>1,243,372</b>
<b>Net income before net (losses)/gains on investments</b>		<b>306,063</b>	<b>98,585</b>	<b>13,150</b>	<b>417,798</b>	<b>402,984</b>
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments		(2,931)	-	-	(2,931)	7,807
<b>Net income</b>		<b>303,132</b>	<b>98,585</b>	<b>13,150</b>	<b>414,867</b>	<b>410,791</b>
Transfers between funds	22	(79,660)	-	79,660	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>223,472</b>	<b>98,585</b>	<b>92,810</b>	<b>414,867</b>	<b>410,791</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		938,503	90,461	6,857,772	7,886,736	7,475,945
Net movement in funds		223,472	98,585	92,810	414,867	410,791
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,161,975</b>	<b>189,046</b>	<b>6,950,582</b>	<b>8,301,603</b>	<b>7,886,736</b>

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

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Intangible assets	15	39,387	-
Tangible assets	16	511,629	38,144
Heritage assets	17	6,950,582	6,857,772
Investments	18	160,829	162,822
		7,662,427	7,058,738
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	44,666	51,364
Debtors	20	244,557	71,256
Cash at bank and in hand		502,212	802,187
		791,435	924,807
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(152,259)	(96,809)
		639,176	827,998
<b>Net current assets</b>		639,176	827,998
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		8,301,603	7,886,736
<b>Net assets</b>		8,301,603	7,886,736
<b>Total net assets</b>		8,301,603	7,886,736
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Heritage fixed assets funds	22	6,950,582	6,857,772
Restricted funds	22	189,046	90,461
Unrestricted funds	22	1,161,975	938,503
		8,301,603	7,886,736
<b>Total funds</b>		8,301,603	7,886,736

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 18 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



**A J Midgley**  
(Trustee)

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

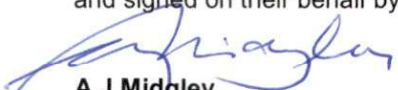
**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Intangible assets	15	39,387	-
Tangible assets	16	511,629	38,144
Heritage assets	17	6,950,582	6,857,772
Investments	18	185,929	187,922
		7,687,527	7,083,838
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	2,180	2,179
Debtors	20	289,497	134,305
Cash at bank and in hand		458,461	719,322
		750,138	855,806
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(149,879)	(90,330)
		600,259	765,476
<b>Net current assets</b>		600,259	765,476
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		8,287,786	7,849,314
<b>Net assets</b>		8,287,786	7,849,314
<b>Total net assets</b>		8,287,786	7,849,314
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Heritage fixed assets funds	22	6,950,582	6,857,772
Restricted funds	22	189,046	90,461
Unrestricted funds	22	1,148,158	901,081
<b>Total funds</b>		8,287,786	7,849,314

The Charity's net movement in funds for the year was £438,472 (2024 - £384,273).

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 18 JULY 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

  
**A J Midgley**  
 (Trustee)

The notes on pages 25 to 52 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 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>204,288</b>	365,574
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>18,635</b>	15,043
Purchase of intangible assets	<b>(39,387)</b>	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(478,704)</b>	(1,761)
Proceeds from sale of investments	<b>76,195</b>	73,205
Purchase of investments	<b>(81,002)</b>	(72,706)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>	<b>(504,263)</b>	<b>13,781</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
<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>(299,975)</b>	<b>379,355</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>802,187</b>	422,832
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>502,212</b>	<b>802,187</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 25 to 52 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 2025**

**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.

**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 2025**

**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.

Income from sales of goods is recognised at point of sale, at which the risks and rewards of the goods are transferred to the customer.

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**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.

**2.9 Intangible assets and amortisation**

Intangible 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.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, intangible assets are measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.9 Intangible assets and amortisation (continued)**

Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life. No amortisation is charged on the asset in the year of purchase.

Amortisation is provided on the following basis:

Website development	- 20 % on cost
---------------------	----------------

**2.10 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

**2.11 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.

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.12 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.

**2.13 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.

**2.14 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.

**2.15 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.

**2.16 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.

**2.17 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.

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.18 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.

**2.19 Irrecoverable VAT**

The charity was partially exempt for VAT purposes for the year ended 31 March 2025. Irrecoverable VAT has been included in the Statement of Financial Activities during the year within support costs.

**2.20 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.

**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 - the stock listing is reviewed by management on a quarterly basis to consider if there are any obsolete or slow-moving stock. A provision is then made within the financial statements.

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**4. Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed assets funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Donations</b>					
Bequests and donations	10,569	-	-	<b>10,569</b>	353,384
Contemporary arts donations	-	186	-	<b>186</b>	198
Collection care donations	-	110	-	<b>110</b>	48
Purchase fund donations	-	2,117	-	<b>2,117</b>	2,699
Museum redecoration scheme	-	62	-	<b>62</b>	82
New Building Fund donations	30,701	-	-	<b>30,701</b>	-
Education donations	-	2,139	-	<b>2,139</b>	2,931
Piano maintenance fund	-	100	-	<b>100</b>	-
Taylor & Francis Prize fund	-	1,000	-	<b>1,000</b>	4,000
Heritage assets donations	-	-	13,150	<b>13,150</b>	3,350
<b>Total 2025</b>	<u>41,270</u>	<u>5,714</u>	<u>13,150</u>	<u><b>60,134</b></u>	<u>366,692</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>353,384</u>	<u>9,958</u>	<u>3,350</u>	<u>366,692</u>	

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

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Museum admission donations	554,808	-	<b>554,808</b>	541,784
Museum admission gift aid tax	53,396	-	<b>53,396</b>	44,070
Grants receivable	236,778	-	<b>236,778</b>	238,038
Contemporary arts income	2,664	-	<b>2,664</b>	2,825
Education group admission	48,676	-	<b>48,676</b>	40,444
Events	16,669	-	<b>16,669</b>	13,607
Subscription from members	31,459	-	<b>31,459</b>	33,259
Conference	-	-	-	4,050
Exhibition tax refund	8,014	-	<b>8,014</b>	1,837
Bradford Council grant	325,000	-	<b>325,000</b>	11,650
Arts Council Capital Grant	-	100,000	<b>100,000</b>	-
<b>Total 2025</b>	<u>1,277,464</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u><b>1,377,464</b></u>	<u>931,564</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>931,564</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>931,564</u>	

**6. Income from other trading activities**

**Income from non charitable trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Royalties, licensing and repo fees	20,677	<b>20,677</b>	18,383
Income from sales	296,212	<b>296,212</b>	314,674
	<u>316,889</u>	<u><b>316,889</b></u>	<u>333,057</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>333,057</u>	<u>333,057</u>	

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**7. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Dividends receivable	3,956	<b>3,956</b>	3,875
Bank interest	14,679	<b>14,679</b>	11,168
	18,635	<b>18,635</b>	15,043
	15,043	<b>15,043</b>	
<i>Total 2024</i>			

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**8. Expenditure on raising funds**

**Expenditure on raising funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Purchases and direct costs	150,490	<b>150,490</b>	160,429
Wages and salaries	98,211	<b>98,211</b>	81,039
Pension costs	948	<b>948</b>	644
	<u>249,649</u>	<u><b>249,649</b></u>	<u>242,112</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>242,112</u>	<u>242,112</u>	

**9. Investment management costs**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Investment management fees	279	<b>279</b>	2,028
	<u>279</u>	<u><b>279</b></u>	<u>2,028</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>2,028</u>	<u>2,028</u>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>	<i>Total 2024 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	1,098,267	7,129	<b>1,105,396</b>	999,232
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>988,104</u>	<u>11,128</u>	<u>999,232</u>	

**11. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2025 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	668,553	436,843	<b>1,105,396</b>	999,232
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>570,417</u>	<u>428,815</u>	<u>999,232</u>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**11. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	533,919	<b>533,919</b>	424,039
Curatorial	28,346	<b>28,346</b>	35,991
Advertising and marketing	29,714	<b>29,714</b>	29,187
Exhibition and display	7,028	<b>7,028</b>	4,066
Education	11,083	<b>11,083</b>	4,802
Creative Programme costs	37,648	<b>37,648</b>	49,051
Travel and training	7,319	<b>7,319</b>	8,674
Events	9,566	<b>9,566</b>	7,602
Membership	3,430	<b>3,430</b>	2,025
Conference costs	-	-	4,480
Taylor & Francis awards	500	<b>500</b>	500
	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
	668,553	<b>668,553</b>	570,417
	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
	570,417	570,417	
	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	172,637	<b>172,637</b>	200,115
Depreciation	5,219	<b>5,219</b>	10,468
Curatorial	268	<b>268</b>	-
Travel and training	4,153	<b>4,153</b>	4,234
Rates and water	2,119	<b>2,119</b>	2,011
Insurance	16,838	<b>16,838</b>	14,783
Light and heat	13,911	<b>13,911</b>	19,783
Recruitment	415	<b>415</b>	250
Communications and technology	44,923	<b>44,923</b>	29,793
Security and fire safety	20,873	<b>20,873</b>	16,437
Cleaning	7,144	<b>7,144</b>	4,654
Garden	7,601	<b>7,601</b>	4,268
Property repairs	26,669	<b>26,669</b>	11,080
Input VAT not recoverable	21,801	<b>21,801</b>	19,172
Miscellaneous	858	<b>858</b>	1,298
Administration costs	22,333	<b>22,333</b>	18,696
Bank charges	17,454	<b>17,454</b>	17,849
Loss on disposal of investments	846	<b>846</b>	743
Governance costs	50,781	<b>50,781</b>	53,181
	<u>436,843</u>	<u><b>436,843</b></u>	<u>428,815</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>428,815</u>	<u>428,815</u>	

**12. Auditors' remuneration**

	<b>2025 £</b>	<i>2024 £</i>
Fees payable to the Charitable Group's auditor for the audit of the Charitable Group's annual accounts	<b>13,200</b>	19,325
Fees payable to the Charitable Group's auditor in respect of:		
All taxation advisory services not included above	<b>250</b>	725
All assurance services not included above	-	470
All non-audit services not included above	<b>2,200</b>	-
	<u><b>2,200</b></u>	<u>-</u>

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**13. Staff costs**

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	<b>Charity 2025 £</b>	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Wages and salaries	741,317	649,770	643,106	568,731
Social security costs	44,456	37,166	44,456	37,166
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	19,942	18,901	18,994	18,257
	<u>805,715</u>	<u>705,837</u>	<u>706,556</u>	<u>624,154</u>

Included within staff costs are redundancy payments totalling £nil (2024: £nil).

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

	<b>Group 2025 No.</b>	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2025 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2024 No.</i>
	<u>40</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>28</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>Group 2025 No.</b>	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2025 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2024 No.</i>
	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

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 £183,547 (2024: £175,375).

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**14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, expenses totalling £502 were reimbursed or paid directly to 4 Trustees (2024 - £653 to Trustees). Expenses reimbursements related to travel and subsistence and were repaid directly to Trustees.

**15. Intangible assets**

**Group and Charity**

	<b>Website £</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
Additions	<b>39,387</b>
At 31 March 2025	<b>39,387</b>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 March 2025	<b>39,387</b>
At 31 March 2024	-

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**16. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group and Charity**

	Freehold property £	Visitor facilities £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 April 2024	18,640	-	240,504	59,556	318,700
Additions	-	414,798	61,714	2,192	478,704
At 31 March 2025	<u>18,640</u>	<u>414,798</u>	<u>302,218</u>	<u>61,748</u>	<u>797,404</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 April 2024	-	-	223,341	57,215	280,556
Charge for the year	-	-	4,056	1,163	5,219
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>227,397</u>	<u>58,378</u>	<u>285,775</u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 March 2025	<u>18,640</u>	<u>414,798</u>	<u>74,821</u>	<u>3,370</u>	<u>511,629</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,163</u>	<u>2,341</u>	<u>38,144</u>

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**17. Heritage assets**

**Group and Charity**

**Assets recognised at cost**

	<b>Heritage assets 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>
Carrying value at 1 April 2024	6,857,772	<b>6,857,772</b>
Additions	92,810	<b>92,810</b>
	6,950,582	<b>6,950,582</b>
	6,950,582	<b>6,950,582</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 £92,810 in 2025, £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.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**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 2024	152,964	9,857	162,821
Additions	81,002	(81,002)	-
Disposals	(76,195)	76,195	-
Revaluations	(3,776)	1,784	(1,992)
At 31 March 2025	<u>153,995</u>	<u>6,834</u>	<u>160,829</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2025	<u>153,995</u>	<u>6,834</u>	<u>160,829</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,857</u>	<u>162,821</u>

The historical cost of listed investments at 31 March 2025 was £148,055 (2024: £140,750).

<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 2024	25,100	152,964	9,857	187,921
Additions	-	81,002	(81,002)	-
Disposals	-	(76,195)	76,195	-
Revaluations	-	(3,776)	1,784	(1,992)
At 31 March 2025	<u>25,100</u>	<u>153,995</u>	<u>6,834</u>	<u>185,929</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2025	<u>25,100</u>	<u>153,995</u>	<u>6,834</u>	<u>185,929</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>25,100</u>	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,857</u>	<u>187,921</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**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	(23,605)	38,917

The profit for the period is after taking account of an interim donation to the parent company of £37,422 (2024: £10,904).

**19. Stocks**

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>44,666</u>	<u>51,364</u>	<u>2,180</u>	<u>2,179</u>

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**20. Debtors**

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	<b>Charity 2025 £</b>	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
<b>Due within one year</b>				
Trade debtors	<b>34,968</b>	7,803	<b>34,968</b>	7,803
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	<b>45,734</b>	64,032
Other debtors	<b>9,617</b>	-	<b>9,617</b>	-
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>199,972</b>	63,453	<b>199,178</b>	62,470
	<b>244,557</b>	71,256	<b>289,497</b>	134,305

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

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	<b>Charity 2025 £</b>	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Trade creditors	<b>93,103</b>	31,027	<b>92,188</b>	30,473
Other taxation and social security	<b>13,269</b>	13,140	<b>13,269</b>	13,140
Other creditors	<b>2,580</b>	3,920	<b>2,580</b>	3,920
Accruals and deferred income	<b>43,307</b>	48,722	<b>41,842</b>	42,797
	<b>152,259</b>	96,809	<b>149,879</b>	90,330
	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	<b>Charity 2025 £</b>	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	<b>17,648</b>	17,069	<b>17,648</b>	17,069
Resources deferred during the year	<b>17,416</b>	17,648	<b>17,416</b>	17,648
Amounts released from previous periods	<b>(17,648)</b>	(17,069)	<b>(17,648)</b>	(17,069)
	<b>17,416</b>	17,648	<b>17,416</b>	17,648

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**22. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	548,427	1,308,557	(934,737)	(32,400)	(2,931)	886,916
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fundraising development	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
New Building Fund	35,950	345,701	(365,678)	-	-	15,973
Quinquennial Fund	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Conservation Fund	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
Museum Acquisition Fund	100,000	-	-	(45,040)	-	54,960
Digital Development Fund	50,000	-	(47,780)	(2,220)	-	-
Capital Projects Fund	124,000	-	-	-	-	124,000
	<u>938,503</u>	<u>1,654,258</u>	<u>(1,348,195)</u>	<u>(79,660)</u>	<u>(2,931)</u>	<u>1,161,975</u>
<b>Heritage fixed assets funds</b>						
Heritage assets	<u>6,857,772</u>	<u>13,150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,660</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,950,582</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,620	110	-	-	-	3,730
Contemporary Arts	2,386	186	-	-	-	2,572
Education	17,113	2,139	-	-	-	19,252
Purchases	25,430	2,117	(117)	-	-	27,430
British Library Museum	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Redecoration	517	62	-	-	-	579
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	10,306	100	-	-	-	10,406
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	7,415	1,000	(500)	-	-	7,915
Garfield Weston	1,574	-	(1,574)	-	-	-
Foyle Foundation	4,938	-	(4,938)	-	-	-
Restricted asset: Arts Council Capital Grant	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
	<u>90,461</u>	<u>105,714</u>	<u>(7,129)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>189,046</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>7,886,736</u></u>	<u><u>1,773,122</u></u>	<u><u>(1,355,324)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(2,931)</u></u>	<u><u>8,301,603</u></u>

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**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;

Arts Council Capital Grant - grant funding towards the construction of visitor facilities.

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.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2023</i> £	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Transfers in/out</i> £	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i> £	<i>Balance at 31 March 2024</i> £
<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
Fundraising 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	6,852,361	3,350	-	2,061	-	6,857,772

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2024</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<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**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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

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

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Heritage assets funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	411,629	100,000	-	<b>511,629</b>
Intangible fixed assets	39,387	-	-	<b>39,387</b>
Fixed asset investments	153,995	6,834	-	<b>160,829</b>
Heritage assets	-	-	6,950,582	<b>6,950,582</b>
Current assets	709,223	82,212	-	<b>791,435</b>
Creditors due within one year	(152,259)	-	-	<b>(152,259)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,161,975</b>	<b>189,046</b>	<b>6,950,582</b>	<b>8,301,603</b>

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

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Heritage assets funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
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>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>414,867</b>	410,791
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>5,219</b>	10,466
Loss/(gain) on investments	<b>3,961</b>	(1,242)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>(18,635)</b>	(15,043)
Loss on the sale of investments	<b>846</b>	743
Decrease in stocks	<b>6,698</b>	10,642
Increase in debtors	<b>(173,301)</b>	(23,425)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<b>55,451</b>	(13,035)
Donated heritage assets	<b>(92,810)</b>	(5,411)
Revaluation of investments	<b>1,992</b>	(8,912)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>204,288</b>	365,574

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

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>
Cash in hand	<b>502,212</b>	802,187
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>502,212</b>	802,187

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

	<b>At 1 April 2024 £</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2025 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>802,187</b>	<b>(299,975)</b>	<b>502,212</b>
	<b>802,187</b>	<b>(299,975)</b>	<b>502,212</b>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**27. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 March 2025 the Group and the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Group</b> <b>2025</b> £	<i>Group</i> <i>2024</i> £	<b>Charity</b> <b>2025</b> £	<i>Charity</i> <i>2024</i> £
Not later than 1 year	<b>7,736</b>	7,736	<b>7,736</b>	7,736
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<b>21,618</b>	29,354	<b>21,618</b>	29,354
	<u><b>29,354</b></u>	<u>37,090</u>	<u><b>29,354</b></u>	<u>37,090</u>

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

	<b>Group</b> <b>2025</b> £	<i>Group</i> <i>2024</i> £	<b>Charity</b> <b>2025</b> £	<i>Charity</i> <i>2024</i> £
Operating lease rentals	<b>7,265</b>	5,676	<b>7,265</b>	5,676

**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.