

Charity Number: 1084229  
Company Number: 03995521

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

Unaudited Trustees' Report and Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Contents**

---

|                                   | <b>Page</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Trustees' Annual Report           | 1-14        |
| Independent Examiner's Report     | 15          |
| Statement of Financial Activities | 16          |
| Balance Sheet                     | 17          |
| Notes to Financial Statements     | 18 - 29     |

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Trustee Report**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

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 year ended 31 March 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 1st January 2015).

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objects for which the Company is established are to advance education for the public benefit by providing facilities for the recreation and leisure time occupation of persons with learning difficulties in particular but not exclusively by the provision of plays and drama.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Company's objectives for the year, including the guidance 'Public Benefit: Running a Charity (PB2)'

**Main Activities**

The Lawnmowers is a producing theatre-arts company. Operating in Gateshead and the surrounding regions, The Lawnmowers is a company (Company Limited by Guarantee, Reg. Eng. & Wales, no. 3995521) and registered charity (no. 1084229) and is run by and for people with learning difficulties.

The Lawnmowers original actors were a community group who formed in 1986, who later set up and developed The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company to try and achieve community cohesion. The Company was registered in May 2000, with operations commencing in January 2001.

**Vision**

We believe people with learning difficulties have the right to participate in society as equal citizens with opportunities to succeed.

**Mission**

We believe the arts can unlock the talents and capacity of people with learning difficulties to take charge of their lives, as active citizens, visible artists and agents of change.

**Summary**

The Lawnmowers is a Gateshead-based charitable company which provides rich and varied cultural opportunities for people with learning difficulties. Our programmes provide opportunities for people with learning difficulties to co-produce and deliver high quality artistic activities at various venues regionally, nationally and occasionally internationally and also address social and educational issues, accessibility, sustainability, participation, enjoyment and building futures.

Since incorporation in 2001 The Lawnmowers has worked daily with up to 90 core/youth/evening club members with learning difficulties daily, brought our message of integration to over 158,500 beneficiaries, audiences and external participants and worked in partnership or given assistance to hundreds of organisations and related bodies.

The Company has expanded and added projects and new volunteering opportunities for people with learning difficulties to its portfolio. We have hosted many international groups at our current and former premises and have toured our work regionally and nationally. Internationally we have toured our work to Poland, Brazil, Canada, Spain, Southern Ireland, Brazil, France and Chile.

The Lawnmowers is a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), a status awarded by Arts Council England which has described its NPOs as taking a civic leadership role in the community.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Trustee Report**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**2022-2023 - The Story of Our Project This Year:**

Lawnmowers is a producing theatre-arts company that provides rich and varied cultural training for people with learning disabilities (PWLD). Our programmes provide opportunities for PWLD to co-produce and deliver high quality artistic activities at various venues regionally, nationally, and occasionally internationally. The programmes aim to increase confidence, self-esteem and aid wellbeing for members and communicate a positive and educational message to their community about the contribution PWLD can make.

We believe people with learning disabilities have the right to participate in society as equal citizens with opportunities to succeed. We believe the arts can unlock the talents and capacity of people with learning disabilities to take charge of their lives, as active citizens, visible artists, and agents of change.

This year we continued to develop the activities we offer to benefit PWLD from the community and to increase engagement on our current programmes. We started to develop our new community centre and create a colourful, lively, supportive environment for people to come to. We concentrated our efforts on our visibility and worked hard to begin promoting our work on social media. We have worked on organisational structures that simplify and streamline our work to increase efficiency.

This was the first full year post pandemic and through hard work and dedication we have been able to:

- Rebuild our organisation,
- Re-establish our identity,
- Revamp our Arts Centre,
- Create space-share opportunities for the community and local artists,
- Grow our membership,
- Develop our training packages through Theatre Outreach,
- Focus on the health and wellbeing of our members,
- Develop career and transition pathways for some of our members,
- Create a research strand to our work,
- Develop our digital reach and profile,
- Increase work with our partners and networks,
- Improve sustainability.
- Write a new show,
- Perform across the region,
- Create a dedicated Youth Outreach Programme.

**Activities: Overview**

• **Lawnmowers Theatre Ensemble (46 sessions p.a.):** A high quality professional touring ensemble of experienced actors with learning disabilities who train under an established Theatre Director. The actors connect with audiences across the region and the UK touring shows about the lives of people with learning disabilities in twenty first century Britain.

• **Lawnmowers Theatre Outreach: Training, Engagement and Awareness (92 sessions p.a.):** Learning disabled artists offer quality assured live and digital training workshops to higher educational establishments and local authorities. The workshops demonstrate some of the inequalities faced by PWLD. This group is dedicated to increasing engagement, reach and awareness which can influence policy, research, and legislation relevant to the lives of PWLD.





**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**Lawnmowers Youth Programme:**

- Youth Theatre (46 sessions p.a.): A dedicated weekend youth theatre that devise original theatre for local audiences and festivals.
- Ground Breakers Hip Hop Youth Dance (46 sessions p.a.): Young hip hop dancers with learning disabilities train, perform and inspire other young PWLD. The group deliver creative workshops, events and performances and plan to research career paths into the sector for young LD Creatives. The group have regional, national, and international networks and have worked with several international artists. We will continue to work to develop our European youth project and will work with peers in the region to develop the next generation of Northeast Hip Hop artists.
- Youth Outreach Programme: (10 sessions p.a.) The beginnings of creating a dedicated Youth Outreach Programme that links with local SEN schools and colleges to attract new members to our Youth Programme.
- Lawnmowers Beat This (46 sessions p.a.): A percussion music programme that focusses on developing participants with limited verbal skills to use rhythm to create music. The group perform at festivals and gigs in the region and aspire to negotiate performing at national festivals in the future.
- Lawnmowers Krocodile Krew (46 sessions p.a. and 10 nightclubs p.a.): The Krew is a music, technical and digital training group who deliver quality learning disabled-led nightclubs and workshops to other PWLD in the region.

**Lawnmowers Participation Strands:**

- Daytime: Hip Hop Academy 46 sessions p.a., Find Your Voice singing group 46 sessions p.a.
- Evening: Monday Club music group 46 sessions p.a., Focus Group drama 46 sessions p.a.
- This strand of our work offers opportunities to participate during the daytime through singing and songwriting and adult dance and in the evening through attendance at weekly drop-in clubs in music and drama.
- Lawnmowers Round Table and Research Forum (46 sessions p.a.) The Company's weekly meeting where members plan and talk about the day-to-day details of the company and discuss the bigger picture. The group receives important guests including researchers, policy makers and other project managers and members. There is also a rotational Chairperson, a group representatives programme and digital programme considerations within the meetings. This group has developed to create a research forum called 'Research Abilities' in partnership with the National Institute of Health Research. The group work with many national researchers and present at conferences helping to make research accessible.
- Lawnmowers Perma Culture Outdoor Project (46 sessions p.a.) The first phase of this project has now completed but continues to offer Lawnmowers an outdoor space surrounding The Lawnmowers' Arts Centre providing a welcome place of rest and recreation. Volunteers manage the productive food garden and encourage a biodiverse urban ecosystem, all to serve the wide community of members, staff, volunteers, guests, audience, and local residents that use the centre. As an equally weighted objective, it supports PWLD to learn skills in gardening and food production, gaining confidence through collective work and healthy outdoor activity. This function will allow us to develop further links with other likeminded local community groups and charities that share the need for an outdoor space in the future.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**Programme Highlights and Connecting Locally.**

a) Lawnmowers Theatre Ensemble:

*Retake, Remake* is The Lawnmowers learning-disabled led Theatre Ensemble's empowering show created 21/22 and performed across the region and Yorkshire in 22/23.

The Ensemble worked with Artistic Director Jan Willem van den Bosch (Dickie Beau's *Black Outs & Remember Me*) and Theatre Maker Melody Sproates (*Gender not included*) to co-create a cutting-edge lip-synching fest. *Retake Remake* sashays through a soundscape of songs, recorded voices, and snippets of films such as *Forrest Gump* and *I Am Sam*.

The show supports the Ensemble to explore blockbuster films which portray people with learning disabilities using actors without learning disabilities. Sometimes fun and sometimes profoundly moving, the actors question Hollywood's star-defining practice.

Described by Exeunt Magazine as '*Slyly funny, gloriously kitschy fun*', the comically brilliant and politically searing *Retake, Remake* will embark on a London tour 23/24.

The film had a successful run at Alphabetti Theatre in Newcastle, playing a part in them becoming the first theatre outside London to win Fringe Theatre of the year 2022/2023. The show played at Harrogate Pride Festival at Harrogate Theatre and audiences were appreciative that we brought awareness to the fact that people with learning difficulties can be part of the LGBTQ+ community too. We played at Live Theatre and their new Artistic Director has since vouched to endeavour to include people with learning difficulties in Live's programming in the future. Our new show *Without Us* will premiere at Live Theatre in June 2023.

ITV created a feature on our show acknowledging that there is still a huge discrepancy in representation of people with a learning difficulty in film and theatre. It was great to notice the immediate impact of this feature, as neighbours of our cast saw and positively commented on the news report.

The show has since opened the National Charity Awards 2023 and appeared at Queens Hall Hexham as part of the Quirky Show, a show created to bring awareness to mental health and suicide which is the biggest killer of under 35s in the UK.

To coincide with the show, we created a workshop that focused on choreography and lip-synching. This workshop allowed our members to grow as facilitators. Our members facilitated workshops with Curious Monkey, a theatre group that works with refugees. Curious Monkey was keen on the medium of lip-synching as it meant that their members (particularly those struggling the English language) can still have ownership of and play with their own stories.

Our members delivered workshops at Thomas Bewick school and continue to raise awareness that there are avenues open to explore for PWLD after formal education ends. Northumbria University brought us back for a workshop with their drama students. Many students were unaware of the issues raised within our film and theatre show. They loved the humorous way in which we presented these serious issues. Many students were unaware but welcomed the idea of working with companies like the Lawnmowers after their graduation. In 22/23 Lawnmowers Theatre Ensemble worked with 140 students.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

*Retake, Remake* allowed our ensemble actors to gain new skills, increase their confidence and to enhance their visibility as artists. It also enabled one of our younger members, CT to progress in his career. C was picked to become a representative for Young People in the Lead at the National Lottery Fund, of which he is immensely proud. In the past however C's learning difficulty stopped him from passing his GCSE exams Math and English and from progressing into further education. With the help, support, and confidence he has gained C has now started a drama degree at Newcastle college as a mature student and is set to pass his first year.

We are currently working on our next show which adapts the storyline of Bill and Ted. It focuses on bringing back people from the past who we now suspect might have had learning difficulties.

**b) Lawnmowers Theatre Outreach:**

Lawnmowers Theatre Outreach team use Forum Theatre and issue-based project work, which responds to and is shaped by current issues that PWLD face. The source of these issues or inequalities can come from personal lived experience, news articles, research findings, government reports or academic writing that supports recommendations for change. When responding to an issue the group see it as their call to action.

We use theatre making to create training tools that demonstrate these inequalities to professionals who may, now or in the future, have the ability to improve the experiences PWLD face. Our co-facilitation methods allow us to become the agents of change together. The group find the work very rewarding, their examples of lived experience constantly shape our ever-evolving plays to reflect the most up to date situations.

The work that Theatre Outreach does embraces both personal contribution and artistic output. Personal stories are handled sensitively and presented in a way that raises awareness and offers opportunities for change. The stories are executed artistically through a play, film or music and perfectly blend the group's skill set with their contribution to the wider community.

The work allows the group to feel they are making a difference and actively contributing to academic papers, research, teaching on degree courses and informing practice for a wider work force that engages with PWLD whether this be social workers, nurses, doctors, police or local authority officers. All of this contributes to creating a better tomorrow for PWLD.

Each of our plays are informed by a practising professional and lecturer to ensure we remain at the cutting edge of current changes to legislation, policy, and theory. Over 22/23 the group has learned how to act for screen and experienced being on a film set through having all our plays professionally filmed. The filming allowed us to adapt our plays and ensure they reflect a true version of lived experience, professional practice, and relevant policy changes.

We have taken the opportunities created in lockdown to deliver our training sessions through zoom and are expanding our offer to work digitally across the UK, and even internationally! It offers us a real opportunity for growth and additional revenue.

In creating this work the learning-disabled members of the group have learned to work independently to create workshop materials or to rehearse. They have built more confidence in the work they do and are empowered in the knowledge that their contributions are valid and relevant to the students and demonstrate how passionate we are about changing and improving the lives of PWLD.

Between the 14 actors, there is the equivalent to 327 years of acting experience. Last year we delivered 42 workshops, worked with 770 students, adapted, and filmed 3 of our plays, devised and wrote the script for a new dentistry film, created 5 iMovie's to explain the work the company does and took part in training in Legislative Theatre with world renowned practitioner Katy Rubin, founder of Theatre of the Oppressed, NYC.

We have recently been recognised for the training we provide to the students and for the partnership we have with Northumbria University as Finalists for *Partnership of the Year with the Student Nursing Times Awards*.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

c) Lawnmowers Youth Programme:

Ground Breakers Hip Hop Dance Crew: The group of young learning-disabled dancers has two young facilitators; they help steer the content of our weekly training sessions and guide the younger members of the group on decisions around our events. Our latest performance was created to combine their passion for theatre and dance into one performance.

In the past year the emergence of Ground Breakers as a recognised Hip Hop dance crew in the North East has been a huge confidence booster for our members. We have produced Crew t-shirts and hoodies which have given the group a stronger identity and helped foster a sense of uniqueness and of being a talented group that are recognised for their creativity.

The group are connected to the regional, national, and international Hip Hop dance community through our work. This is something the members feel very excited about. They follow their international friends online and talk to other creative young people from our European project regularly.

This year the group has performed at:

**Mean Teens, Customs House:** Two of our dancers made it past qualifications and competed against a group from Bradford. One of our dancers didn't want to compete because he didn't feel he was capable of winning. Another member talked him into it with the 'no excuses no limits motto' they learned from ILL-Abilities Crew, Holland. They went on to qualify for the main event.

**Freedom Moving, Dance City:** This platform led to us making further connections with the learning-disabled dance community and helped shape our new Youth Outreach Programme.

On past reputation we have been asked to perform at the **Breakin Convention 2023** tour at Customs House and share the same stage as Korean World champion Breakers as well as TikTok Sensations 'Ghetto Funk Collective'.

**Just Jam Intl 2023, Dance City:** Performing at this festival has further established Ground Breakers as a Hip Hop dance crew. A crew of talented young dancers not a young learning-disabled dance crew. They embrace getting recognised for their talent not their label.

**Breakability Jam, Pelaw:** The first inclusive event hosted by Ground Breakers at Lawnmowers Arts Centre. Our group took leadership roles in hosting a 70+ strong community of dancers from over 10 European countries. Our group assisted young people in workshops and the headliners, ILL- Abilities, Redo and Samuka with delivery.

**Firestone Films:** The filmmakers were so impressed by the groups' performance at Just Jam that they have been asked to star in a new movie. The group will perform as the super star dance crew who take the school Christmas nativity play by storm. This is due to be released on Amazon Prime in 2023.

**U-Dance, Sub Regional, Regional and National Competition:** The group competed in various legs of this national dance competition and have made it to the final to be held at Dance City in July 2023.

Youth Outreach Programme: We have already delivered 6 one-off tasters in local SEN schools and colleges to over 70 young PWLD to attract new members to our group. Our young learning-disabled facilitator N, travels with our choreographer to the schools, plans and co-facilitates these sessions. We will expand this function in 2023.

Youth Theatre: Our young theatre makers work to devise, write, and perform original shows to invited audiences. They are currently writing their next show 'The Last Game' which is inspired by Dungeons and Dragons. They have designed their own costumes, written the script, created the props and developed their own characters. This will be toured locally in 2023.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**d) Lawnmowers Beat This:**

Lawnmowers' 'Beat This' is a music project that primarily (but not exclusively) uses percussion instruments to make music. The focus of this group is to have fun, create fulfilling musical experiences, deliver public performances and music education workshops which are organised and delivered by musicians with learning disabilities.

We are lucky enough as a group to have access to a vast and varied collection of unique percussion instruments. Over many years, we have established a good reputation within the arts circuit in and around the Northeast. This means, as well as new performance opportunities, we often get asked to return to venues, festivals, and arts centres.

- We love drumming!
- We love rhythms.

We love massive great gongs, and subtle little bird calls

When we play our drums in public, we have rehearsed regularly beforehand. We know that 'A' happens followed by 'B' and so on. The performance is often very loud. It's a powerful statement. When the rhythm is grasped, and the rehearsed understanding of what is to come is shared, collectively we have a confidence to be able to cope with the future! A collective, safe, predictable, and exciting future.

Of course, this is not unique to just the Lawnmowers. Lots of music has the same incredible power to instill a safe, comfortable future with the people who are listening. At a Beat This public performance there is often a collective sense of comfort, safety, and celebration. These are fabulous building blocks for strong communities.

Over the past year Beat This has worked with Public Health to draw attention to their Melina Bus in Chopwell Woods, played at the Sage Gateshead, opened a Hip Hop festival at Dance City, played at Unity Festival, delivered workshops to families at Carnival House in Sunderland and played to over 9000 people at Stockton International Riverside Festival.

We have also created new music and are ready to create some promotional films for our website and look forward to increasing our public performances next year.

**e) Lawnmowers Krocodile Krew:**

The Krocodile Krew is a music, technical and digital training group of DJs with learning disabilities who deliver quality learning disabled-led nightclubs, workshops and events to other PWLD in the region.

Over the last year the group have learned many new skills. They have gained 3 new members who have learned how to use the decks for the first time. For everyone else, it's been about working together as a team and not giving up, even when, things go wrong technically! You learn to keep on going and not dwell on it.

Our DJs have learned new, and enhanced their existing, technical skills such as mixing songs together, beat-matching, audio recording, the use of digital workstations, how to add effects to the mixes and VJing. The group appreciate being taught by professional DJs who teach at university and run professional events themselves which pushes the group and gives the Klub's an edge and increased credibility.

This year the group have gained skills and confidence as DJs bringing dancing, performance, and costume to their events. They have also learned about different genres of music and that listening to music at home and listening to music at the Klub don't sound the same! We also learn as DJs how to deal with people not liking our set!

Through the Klubs, our members have made many new friends and treat it as a social event too, they get a lot out of performing at the klub and enjoy learning what styles other people like. Most of our DJs had not had the opportunity to DJ until the joined Lawnmowers. One new member had studied Music Design and Motion Graphics at university but had no outlet for those skills until he joined the company. He now enjoys applying those skills to making videos for social media, filming the Krew on his camera, and editing for green screen.



**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

Through the training and support the DJs have received at Lawnmowers many have gone on to DJing at other events and hosting their own Klubs in residential care homes or in the local area. One of our DJs runs the Star & Shadow Radio Show, playing his own mixes and taking requests from others. Others have provided morning raves to energise everyone and linked with other clubs around the country.

Over the last year the Krew have organised and hosted 10 Krocodile Klubs and 10 Radio Shows, delivered workshops to PWLD at Gala Theatre in Durham and played at an outdoor festival in Saltwell Park. They look forward to developing their skills and increasing the workshops and events that they play at next year.

**f) Lawnmowers Round Table and Research Forum:**

The Round Table is a place where members plan and talk about the day-to-day details of the company and discuss company plans. This group has since also developed to create a research forum called '**Research Abilities**' in partnership with the National Institute of Health Research. The group work with many national researchers and present at conferences helping to make research accessible.

The group offer their skills to researchers in many ways, it maybe they want to talk to the members to help them to frame a research question, to design a project aimed at PWLD or for the group to help them design accessible materials for their study. It may also be in disseminating the data they collect by creating easy read versions of traditional papers and finding other creative ways to roll out the information or in helping find participants by using our networks to create focus groups.

So far this year the group have informed 9 research projects ranging from trauma scales, poor oral hygiene, housing instability, the link between down syndrome and dementia, annual health checks, autism screening, PHD support and ethical considerations. The work has been varied and has increased our ability to think on different levels.

We have co-written and published a research paper with researcher Nicki Powers of Queen Mary University and the East London NHS, entitled "Unlabelling the Language" which focuses on the use of 'jargon' when working with PWLD. We have also been asked to speak at a number of conferences across the country. As we are able to charge for this new strand of our work we are able to create another income stream. We are very excited to develop this function further.

**g) Other Highlights & Connecting Locally:**

**Community Development and Space Share:** This year we have begun to hire out rooms at our new Arts Centre to local community groups that work with PWLD. It has opened our venue to others who can share the space with us and learn about the events and groups that we run. We are able to charge for the use of rooms which will help us to generate a small amount of income in the future. So far, we have reinvested what we have made to improve the Arts Centre and create a small theatre studio for our groups to use.

**Psychopath:** Over the last few years some of our actors have auditioned for parts in paid work with local (non-Lawnmowers) events. In 2022 we were told that our actors no longer need to audition and will be automatically offered parts and paid for their time. This is a great way for our actors to take the training they have had from Lawnmowers and go out into the world to earn their living doing what they love and be celebrated for it. There is much work to do here but this provides the beginnings of hopefully more opportunities for paid employment for PWLD.

**MECC and Public Health:** During the pandemic we teamed up with Public Health Gateshead to help ensure PWLD in Gateshead had access to the most up to date information and we helped Public Health make that information accessible. We have continued to work with Public Health linking them with PWLD through the MECC platform (Making Every Contact Count initiative). In the last year we have worked with PH (Public Health) to generate interest in the Health Bus (Melina) which promotes good health in Gateshead through local organisations. We have created, with VONNE, a video which saw PH (Covid Champions) recognised nationally as a model of good practice. Middlesbrough Council liked the model and asked for video to explain it so they could replicate it in their borough. We are also working with QE hospital to create a nurse training package about the Diamond Standards of care in the region which will roll out to 120 nurses.

**YPIL:** One of our younger members continues to be an active member of the Young People in the Lead (National Lottery Fund) initiative including young peoples voices in the work The National Lottery do across the country. He finds this role immensely satisfying.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**Northeast Theatre of the Oppressed (TOP) Network:** One of our Artistic Directors is an integral member of this network. This year we have hosted a regional TOP training event for our members and for regional practitioners with internationally renowned Katy Rubin, found of TOP New York. There are many international links and opportunities that yet need to be explored through this network and we are in talks at present to host regular (monthly) meetings at Lawnmowers making us the Northeast representatives for TOP network.

**New Members:** Since the start of this funding from The National Lottery we have increased our membership by 20 new people. 11 of these new members bring personal budgets which equate to an additional income stream of over 25K, the other members represent some young people to our youth programme and some new people to our participation strands. This is very encouraging, and we are now exploring ways in which other new people can join the company by increasing our opportunities which can add to our revenue.

**Youth Careers Development:** During this funding period, 5 of our young people have gained either paid employment or have transitioned into roles that are pathway to careers in the arts. NJ is now teaching on our programme; we intend to explore Access to Work funding to pay him. LJ is working in the region doing paid acting work for other agencies. CT is doing a performing arts degree and is on our most high-profile artistic ensemble. LH is a volunteer for the organisation in a technical support role. AF left the organisation but went onto train in filmmaking and is now getting paid for his skills by Tyne and Wear Museums. There is a lot more to do here but we feel we have started well and are excited to continue this work.

**Digital Investment:** More recently we have received some funding to invest in our digital infrastructure. We have new email accounts and access to 365, tech support and a super speed internet connection. This investment will help us to increase opportunities to enhance and more widely deliver our digital packages of work to universities, offering avenues to increase revenue and our capacity to be more organisationally efficient.

**Sustainability:** We are happy to report in the year ending March 2023 we have achieved 48% sustainability through earned income, and contracted services. Our remaining funding comes from Arts and Charitable Trust funding. With our new digital capability, we can increase our offer, opening new opportunities on our programme will increase our membership and thus personal budget income, we can increase our current fees and the number of workshops we offer and create new professional paid student placements we feel we are in a position to become even more sustainable over the next three years.

**Involving the Community:**

Lawnmowers is a company run by for and with PWLD, meaning in practice that our learning-disabled creative practitioners are at the heart of our decision-making processes, our planning, reporting and development work and creative process.

We operate a shadow board of PWLD. We have LD operational representation through nominated representation on each of our projects. Members form the Round Table function and work with senior staff to discuss the day-to-day operations of the company. Input of this type is a long and challenging process which requires time, space and commitment but is fundamental to the quality of our offer. It ensures our members maintain ownership, accountability, and power over their work and that we are serving the needs of PWLD and their community.

When the company formed, first as a community group (1986-2000), then as a company and registered charity (2000-present) the main aim was for the organisation to be collectively and inclusively run by its members with learning disabilities. Despite growth far greater than the scale of initial set-up, we have worked hard to ensure this aim remains at the heart of our work. Our members set targets, are heavily involved in the co-creation of our plans and make decisions concerning the day-to-day operation of the company. Members worked with us to set the targets for the next 5-year period.

Our programmes are co-created, respond to need and develop through evidence-based success. Lawnmowers has a unique style and has developed a participatory inclusive arts practice seen as outstanding by the arts and education sectors. Lawnmowers' members are experts in their stories and their creative interpretations. Their creative process and the execution of their work is stylish, developing their truth and often articulating it with brilliant use of humour. Other PWLD get to see themselves reflected in the quality of their performances. Our methods inspire and engage our members and our practice has had an impact by influencing attitudes and effecting social change.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

Health and Wellbeing and the Difference we are Making:

Lawnmowers offers its members access to opportunities to make friends and widen social circles, to feel a sense of belonging and community among like-minded people who share the same goals and aspirations. Members work together and develop skills which allow them to build resilience, confidence, and self-worth, promoting independence and inclusion within society. People report increased communication skills and the ability to have fun by expressing themselves through performance. Members feel empowered that the work they do is visible and celebrated and puts us a step closer to a more inclusive society.

What We Have learned and How We Are Changing What We Do:

When the pandemic hit we left our building in March 2020 thinking we would be away 2-3 weeks! As the time rolled on our members grew more and more anxious. We rallied together to create and run all our sessions online. This was a time of big learning, we needed to learn how to film, how to upload to media platforms, how to sing together on screen, how to deliver workshops digitally, how to pick each other up when zoom fatigue set in and how to engage a community that are typically not users of social media and technology to join us online.

For some laptops and iPads were not available, we took what we had and dropped it on people's doorsteps, we made CDs and posted them and where internet was not available, we used the good old telephone. It was a challenge, but we managed!

After more than a year of being away from the centre, although excited to reconnect, getting everyone back to the centre was almost as challenging. The community of learning-disabled people in general were hit especially hard by lockdowns many of them suffered from extreme isolation and crippling anxieties.

This is traditionally a community that suffers especially badly with increased physical and mental health problems which were hugely exacerbated by the pandemic. We learned how to make the transition back safely and slowly to our centre. Some took longer than others to return but now in 2023 with all of this behind us, we learned we are a very resilient organisation and community, that we can adapt and that we do not fear change.

What grew from those times has made us stronger and given us skills we didn't think we needed. It is from those skills and the ability to use technology that will help to make us more sustainable by offering our workshops across the UK instead of working only face to face in the region. This in turn will reduce our carbon footprint by allowing us to deliver high quality workshops directly from our centre. This will allow us to will seek funding to create a media group that will bring in more income and enhance our visibility in the world.

We have learned transparency and simplicity are key to running our organisation and have implemented new structures to ensure we all know what is going on day to day and what priorities we need to focus on, and we are more determined than ever to succeed.

We have learned that some organisations didn't survive leaving other PWLD isolated across the region. This has driven us to create a mapping exercise that will identify where our audiences and wider networks are across the North East.

We have learned that we are extremely proud of our achievements to date but learning disabled people are now, more than ever, desperate to connect and with our new skills, infrastructure, increased visibility, and the ability to increase our workshops, networks and membership we look forward to a bright future and more sustainable Lawnmowers.

**Our Approach to Risk**

Covid Compliance and Health Security

The organisation's covid policy and risk register is a live document and has been updated throughout the year.



**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

Risk – Other

In addition to the risk policy associated with Covid, the organisation has undertaken risk assessments and considered risk this year including:

1. Film Retake Remake
2. Risk Planning and Register and SWOT analysis future planning – Institute of Cultural Affairs
3. ARC Theatre Performance – Residential 1 week/Live Theatre Performance
4. Krocodile Klubs – Live Klubs
5. CHAT – UNN, Sunderland and Teesside Universities

This has certainly been a challenging year. We have learned that we are most definitely a very resilient organisation.

We have been very excited about a development of digital provision that will allow us to offer our work further afield than ever before.

We have fantastic plans for the year ahead to continue developing our programmes and are particularly excited about returning to full scale community provision.

Funding is always a tough challenge. We will continue to fundraise to help our future plans and develop our strategic work that will take us into the next four-year chapter.

**Structure, Governance and Management:**

**Recruitment and Appointment of the Board of Trustees**

The founding trustees of the charity were appointed by election to the Lawnmowers according to experience. Subsequent trustees were appointed by a majority vote of the trustees present at a normal trustees meeting. At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the members of the board for the time being, or if their number is not a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one third shall retire from office. The members of the board of directors to retire shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election or appointment. A retiring member of the board of directors shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting unless a resolution for the re-election of such a director shall have been put to the meeting and lost.

**Organisational Structure**

The Lawnmowers has a board of up to 10 members which is responsible for the longer-term planning and direction of the company. The board, which was made up of up to 6 members during the 22-23 accounting year, meets between four and six times each year and holds separate sub groups as required. The board members, who have a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity, are trustees for the purposes of charity law and directors for the purposes of company law. The board also has three core learning disabled shadow board members who attend meetings and disseminate information to other core members. A scheme of delegation is in place for the 22/23 period and day to day responsibility for the provision of services rests with the CEO/GM. The CEO/GM was responsible for ensuring that the charity delivered the services specified and that key performance indicators were met for the year as well as supervision and development of the staff team.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity's risk management and policies and procedures adequately address risks to the charity arising from its activities and where it operates.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**Trustee Induction and Training**

Most trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity having been encouraged to visit the premises and view work and activities that the projects deliver prior to expressing an interest in joining the board.

New trustees are invited to attend board meetings in advance of appointment to find out more about the role and expectations of trustees. Following recruitment new trustees receive:

- Company memorandum and articles of association
- Policies and procedures documents
- Latest accounts
- Current and future financial position
- Company business plan
- Trustee code of conduct
- Trustee role, duties and powers

The officers and members of the Trustee Board receive written information about roles, responsibilities and powers upon recruitment and attend a company induction. This is the responsibility of the existing board members and the process the company has for introducing a new employee, board member or volunteer to the environment and work. Ongoing trustee training is also the responsibility of the existing board.

**Trustees Code of Conduct**

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to set out the relevant standards expected of Trustees of the Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company in order to maintain the highest standards of integrity and stewardship; to ensure that the Lawnmowers Company is effective, open and accountable and to ensure good working relationships. The Code of Conduct is not a list of Trustee's legal duties, although many of the elements of the Code are based on legal principles. The conduct and practices recommended in this Code go beyond what the law requires in some respects, but are consistent with the law.

**Equal Opportunities**

Trustees, staff and volunteers, must affirm their commitment to The Lawnmowers' Equal Opportunities Policy when joining the company.

**Reserves Policy**

The company holds financial reserves in order to ensure that it can continue to operate and meet the needs of clients in the event of unforeseen and potentially damaging financial circumstances.

The company operates with only limited financial resources,

The calculation of free reserves is based on the definition included in the charity statement of recommended practice (SORP), which provides recommendations for accounting and reporting for charities. The trustees have examined the requirements of the charitable company to hold free reserves i.e. those reserves not invested in tangible fixed assets, excluding long term liabilities, or designated for a particular purpose.

This exercise considered both the normal requirements for working capital and the loss of income of a hypothetical but reasonable reduction in the scale of operations. Resulting from this, the trustees considered it is appropriate to hold the equivalent of six months' unrestricted running costs.

The trustees recognise that in the medium and longer term that the charity will need to continue to generate reserves in order to be in a position to meet future obligations. Furthermore, the need for the charity's services continue to grow and therefore the demand on future reserves will also be greater, hence the charity continues to require future funding and the support of its funding partners.

This reserves policy is monitored and reviewed by the trustees annually.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**Financial**

Aside from the relatively small amount of income generated from some of the company's cultural performances and DVD sales the principal funding sources for the charity are by way of grant income from Arts Council England, National Lottery and charitable trusts and personal budget service users. The company is looking to diversify funding streams going forward to reduce the reliance on grant funding wherever possible.

The charity does not raise funds from the public.

For the period of this report there were no serious incidents in the charity. The charity undertook no work outside the UK during 2022-23.

The charity regulates its expenditure using strict budget controls that are agreed under our financial controls policy.

**Investment Policy**

Aside from retaining a prudent amount of earned income in reserves each year the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are no funds available for long term investment.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Registered Charity Number | 1084229  |
| Company Number            | 3995521  |
| Registered Office         | Lawnmowers Arts Centre, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE10 0QD |

**Trustees**

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows;

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| C Thomas       | (Chair)                 |
| H Florek       |                         |
| S Gilroy       |                         |
| G Ling         | Resigned 15 August 2022 |
| V Sturrs       |                         |
| D Barber-Allen |                         |

**Management and Administration 2022-23**

During the 22/23 year there were up to seven members of staff who were responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the company and who helped with creative development:

Dawn Redhead - Chief Executive Officer (resigned October 2022)  
Wendy Patterson – Programme and Logistics Coordinator/General Manager  
Claire Hills-Wilson – Artistic Director (Job Share)  
Jan Willem Van Den Bosch – Artistic Director (Job Share)  
Ian Mackintosh – Finance and Development Officer  
Sally Keys – Company Assistant  
Eroy Chan – Communications Officer

Other staff and supporters during 2022-23 were:

Laura Patterson – support worker  
Sophie Atkinson – drama support worker  
Robin Dunn – musician and personal assistant to a core member  
Connor Gribben – emerging support worker  
Mael Thomas – emerging support worker

The company's regular sessional workers during 2022-23 were:

Brendan Murphy – percussion, glass orchestra and singing

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

Mariam Rezai – Krokodile Krew, DJing, composition  
Stewart Smith – Krokodile Krew, DJing, composition  
Conor O'Kane – Bad Taste Cru, hip hop  
Paul Allen – Bad Taste Cru, percussion  
Hannah Parsonage – drama, focus group

Staff and sessional artists work directly with young people and adults at risk with enhanced DBS checks carried out on all the individuals who are eligible to have them.

**Our advisors**

Independent

Examiners Haines Watts, 17 Queens Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RN

**Legal Status**

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. In the event of a winding up, every member (who is a trustee) undertakes to contribute to the payment of liabilities such amount as may be required not exceeding the total of £1.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Management Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

This report was approved by the Trustees on ..... 26/9/23

Signed on behalf of the Board



Dr C Thomas, Chair

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Independent Examiner's report to the members of The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**For the year ended 30 March 2023**

---

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 17 to 28.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

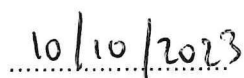
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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



**Craig Henderson ACCA**  
**Haines Watts Newcastle Limited**  
17 Queens Lane  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 1RN



**Date**

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

|                                    | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2022<br>£ |
|------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>                |       |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations and grants               | 4     | 19,346                     | 120,431                  | 139,777            | 230,728            |
| Charitable activities              | 5     | 105,343                    | -                        | 105,343            | 99,170             |
| Investment income                  | 6     | 158                        | -                        | 158                | -                  |
| <b>Total income</b>                |       | <u>124,847</u>             | <u>120,431</u>           | <u>245,278</u>     | <u>329,898</u>     |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>             |       |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| Raising Funds                      | 7     | 14,319                     | -                        | 14,319             | 9,714              |
| Charitable activities              | 8     | 106,469                    | 150,981                  | 257,450            | 331,791            |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>           |       | <u>120,788</u>             | <u>150,981</u>           | <u>271,769</u>     | <u>341,505</u>     |
| <b>Net Income/(expenditure)</b>    |       | 4,059                      | ( 30,550 )               | ( 26,491 )         | ( 11,607 )         |
| Transfers                          | 17    | -                          | -                        | -                  | -                  |
| <b>Net movements in funds</b>      |       | <u>4,059</u>               | <u>( 30,550 )</u>        | <u>( 26,491 )</u>  | <u>( 11,607 )</u>  |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>     |       |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| Total funds brought forward        |       | 261,312                    | 68,555                   | 329,867            | 341,474            |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b> |       | <u>265,371</u>             | <u>38,005</u>            | <u>303,376</u>     | <u>329,867</u>     |

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 31 March 2023**

|  | Notes | 2023<br>£             | 2022<br>£             |
|--|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                            |       |                       |                       |
| Tangible assets                                | 13    | 423                   | 633                   |
|  |       | <u>423</u>            | <u>633</u>            |
| <b>Current assets</b>                          |       |                       |                       |
| Debtors  | 14    | 47,013                | 19,804                |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       |       | 267,935               | 341,616               |
|  |       | <u>314,948</u>        | <u>361,420</u>        |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                             |       |                       |                       |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 15    | ( 11,995 )            | ( 32,186 )            |
|  |       | <u>302,953</u>        | <u>329,234</u>        |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                      |       |                       |                       |
|  |       | <u>303,376</u>        | <u>329,867</u>        |
| <b>Total assets less total liabilities</b>     |       |                       |                       |
|  |       | <u><u>303,376</u></u> | <u><u>329,867</u></u> |
| <b>Funds</b>                                   |       |                       |                       |
| Restricted funds                               |       | 38,005                | 68,555                |
| Unrestricted funds                             |       | 265,371               | 261,312               |
|  | 17    | <u>303,376</u>        | <u>329,867</u>        |
|  |       | <u><u>303,376</u></u> | <u><u>329,867</u></u> |

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 26/9/23 and signed on their behalf by:



Dr C Thomas  
Chair

**Company Number 03995521**



**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**1. Accounting Policies**

**1.1 Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) issued in October 2019, Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

**1.2 Going concern**

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed the annual budgets and considered relevant information in response to the external environment. Actual results are monitored against budget. Based on these assessments, given the measures that could be undertaken to mitigate any adverse conditions, and the current resources available, the Trustees have concluded that they can continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

**1.3 Funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charitable company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The cost 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.



**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**1.4 Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions and is recognised as earned. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income received to deliver services over a specific period covering more than one financial year is accounted for over the specific period; related expenditure is accounted when incurred.

Investment income relates to interest earned through holding assets on deposit.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

**1.5 Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the cost for which the expenditure arose.

**1.6 Support cost allocation**

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**1.7 Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

|                    |   |                      |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| Office Equipment   | - | 10% reducing balance |
| Computer Equipment | - | 20% straight line    |

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised, unless paid directly by a grant where capitalisation is not approved.

**1.8 Debtors**

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

**1.9 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash 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.

**1.10 Creditors and provisions**

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

**1.11 Financial instruments**

The charity 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.

**1.12 Pensions**

The charitable company contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company. The annual contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**1.13 Tax**

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and 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.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

**2. Legal status**

The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, (No 03995521) and not having a share capital. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

**3. Comparative statement of financial activities**

|                                    | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Total<br>2022<br>£ | Total<br>2021<br>£ |
|------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>                |       |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations                          | 4     | 52,163                     | 178,565                  | 230,728            | 210,586            |
| Charitable activities              | 5     | 99,170                     | -                        | 99,170             | 85,860             |
| Investment income                  | 6     | -                          | -                        | -                  | 15                 |
| <b>Total income</b>                |       | <u>151,333</u>             | <u>178,565</u>           | <u>329,898</u>     | <u>296,461</u>     |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>             |       |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| Raising Funds                      | 8     | 9,714                      | -                        | 9,714              | 9,368              |
| Charitable activities              | 9     | 148,584                    | 183,207                  | 331,791            | 619,144            |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>           |       | <u>158,298</u>             | <u>183,207</u>           | <u>341,505</u>     | <u>284,047</u>     |
| <b>Net income before transfers</b> |       | ( 6,965 )                  | ( 4,642 )                | ( 11,607 )         | 12,414             |
| Transfers                          | 17    | ( 84 )                     | 84                       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>Net movements in funds</b>      |       | <u>( 7,049 )</u>           | <u>( 4,558 )</u>         | <u>( 11,607 )</u>  | <u>12,414</u>      |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>     |       |                            |                          |                    |                    |
| Total funds brought forward        |       | 268,361                    | 73,113                   | 341,474            | 329,060            |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b> |       | <u>261,312</u>             | <u>68,555</u>            | <u>329,867</u>     | <u>341,474</u>     |

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

**4. Donations**

|                                 | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2022</b>    |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                 | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Grants                          | 127,413        | 216,332        |
| Donations                       | 1,114          | 3,146          |
| Donated services and facilities | 11,250         | 11,250         |
|                                 | <u>139,777</u> | <u>230,728</u> |

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

|  |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Arts Council England NPO Funding           | 62,120         | 62,120         |
| The Big Lottery Fund, Reaching Communities | 57,500         | 65,000         |
| Arts Council England: Film                 | -              | 8,261          |
| Northumbria Police                         | -              | 10,000         |
| Gateshead Council: Digital Fund            | -              | 8,356          |
| Erasmus Grant                              | -              | 6,144          |
| Esmee Fairbairn Foundation                 | -              | 30,000         |
| Alphabetti Theatre                         | -              | 2,000          |
| Northumbria University                     | -              | 2,350          |
| Community Foundation                       | -              | 6,500          |
| Newcastle University                       | -              | 3,000          |
| Stockton ARC                               | -              | 1,000          |
| Gateshead Council: Covid Support           | -              | 11,601         |
| Other                                      | 7,793          | -              |
|  | <u>127,413</u> | <u>216,332</u> |

**5. Income from charitable activities**

|                       | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2022</b>   |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                       | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>      |
| Provision of services | 105,343        | 99,170        |
|                       | <u>105,343</u> | <u>99,170</u> |

**6. Investment income**

|                     | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                     | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Interest receivable | 158         | -           |

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

**7. Analysis of expenditure**

|   | <b>2023</b>   | <b>2022</b>  |
|---|---------------|--------------|
|   | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>     |
| Expenditure on raising voluntary income | 14,319        | 9,174        |
|   | <u>14,319</u> | <u>9,174</u> |

**8. Analysis of expenditure charitable activities**

|                       | <b>Activities undertaken directly</b> | <b>Support costs</b> | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2022</b>    |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                       | <b>£</b>                              | <b>£</b>             | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Provision of services | 239,946                               | 17,504               | 257,450        | 331,791        |
|                       | <u>239,946</u>                        | <u>17,504</u>        | <u>257,450</u> | <u>331,791</u> |

**9. Support & Governance costs**

|  | <b>2023</b>   | <b>2022</b>   |
|--|---------------|---------------|
|  | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>      |
| Trustees' board expenses etc             | 818           | 352           |
| Insurance                                | 5,064         | 4,778         |
| Telephone                                | 6,328         | 6,600         |
| Accountancy, legal and professional fees | 5,084         | 5,040         |
| Depreciation                             | 210           | 210           |
|  | <u>17,504</u> | <u>16,980</u> |

**10. Net income/(expenditure) for the year**

This is stated after charging:

|                                | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Depreciation                   | 210         | 210         |
| Independent examiners fee      | 3,600       | 3,600       |
| Rentals under operating leases | 11,250      | 11,250      |
|                                | <u></u>     | <u></u>     |

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**12. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel**

Staff costs were as follows:

|                       | <b>2023</b>    | <b>2022</b>    |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                       | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Wages and salaries    | 131,229        | 140,830        |
| Social security costs | 10,768         | 7,146          |
| Other pension costs   | 6,311          | 7,024          |
|                       | <u>148,308</u> | <u>155,000</u> |

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

|  | <b>2023</b>   | <b>2022</b>   |
|--|---------------|---------------|
|  | <b>Number</b> | <b>Number</b> |
| Management, administration & fundraising | 3             | 3             |
| Charitable activities                    | 7             | 7             |
|  | <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> |

During the year no (2022 – none) employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment in the year (2022 - £nil). No trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year (2022 - £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022- £nil).

The total remuneration of key management included in wages including gross salaries, employers national insurance and other benefits was £65,054 (2022: £61,108)

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

**13. Tangible Fixed assets**

|                       | Improvements<br>in<br>property<br>£ | Fixtures,<br>fittings &<br>equipment<br>£ | Computer<br>equipment<br>£ | Total<br>£ |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>Cost</b>           |                                     |   |                            |            |
| At 1 April 2022       | 103,506                             | 7,001                                     | 24,239                     | 134,746    |
| At 31 March 2023      | 103,506                             | 7,001                                     | 24,239                     | 134,746    |
| <b>Depreciation</b>   |                                     |   |                            |            |
| At 1 April 2022       | 103,506                             | 7,001                                     | 23,606                     | 134,113    |
| Charge for the year   | -                                   | -   | 210                        | 210        |
| At 31 March 2023      | 103,506                             | 7,001                                     | 23,816                     | 134,323    |
| <b>Net book value</b> |                                     |   |                            |            |
| At 31 March 2023      | -                                   | -   | 423                        | 423        |
| At 31 March 2022      | -                                   | -   | 633                        | 633        |

**14. Debtors**

|                                | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Trade debtors                  | 6,845     | 8,064     |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 31,290    | 9,403     |
| Other debtors                  | 8,878     | 2,337     |
|                                | 47,013    | 19,804    |

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

|                 | 2023<br>£ | 2022<br>£ |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Trade creditors | 802       | 2,962     |
| Accruals        | 11,193    | 28,150    |
| Other creditors | -         | 1,074     |
|                 | 11,995    | 32,186    |

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

**16. Pension costs**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme, during the period contributions of £6,311 (2022 - £7,024) were paid into the scheme. At the year end, £nil was payable to the pension provider.

**17. Fund reconciliation**

Year ended 31 March 2023

|                                  | At 1 April<br>2022<br>£ | Income<br>£ | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | At 31 March<br>2023<br>£ |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>        | 166,326                 | 124,847     | ( 120,788 )      | 94,986         | 265,371                  |
| <b>Designated funds</b>          |                         |             |                  |                |                          |
| Personalisation agenda           | 94,986                  | -           | -                | ( 94,986 )     | -                        |
| <b>Total unrestricted funds</b>  | 261,312                 | 124,847     | ( 120,788 )      | -              | 265,371                  |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>          |                         |             |                  |                |                          |
| Restricted capital fund          | 633                     | -           | ( 210 )          | -              | 423                      |
| Big Lottery Reaching Communities | -                       | 57,500      | ( 57,500 )       | -              | -                        |
| Arts Council: Catalyst           | 39,944                  | 62,120      | ( 68,620 )       | -              | 33,444                   |
| Erasmus                          | 12,182                  | -           | ( 12,182 )       | -              | -                        |
| LCEP                             | 500                     | -           | -                | -              | 500                      |
| Arts Council: Film               | 302                     | 811         | -                | -              | 1,113                    |
| It's a Dead Good Life            | 2,525                   | -           | -                | -              | 2,525                    |
| UNN Film                         | 1,800                   | -           | ( 1,800 )        | -              | -                        |
| Digital Transformation Fund      | 8,356                   | -           | ( 8,356 )        | -              | -                        |
| DC Specific IB                   | 2,313                   | -           | ( 2,313 )        | -              | -                        |
|                                  | 68,555                  | 120,431     | ( 150,981 )      | -              | 38,005                   |
| <b>Total</b>                     | 329,867                 | 245,278     | ( 271,769 )      | -              | 303,376                  |



The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company  
(a company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2023

17. Fund reconciliation (Continued)

Year ended 31 March 2022

|  | At 1 April<br>2021<br>£ | Income<br>£ | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | At 31 March<br>2022<br>£ |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>              | 174,948                 | 70,969      | ( 79,507 )       | ( 84 )         | 166,326                  |
| <b>Designated funds</b>                |                         |             |                  |                |                          |
| Personalisation agenda                 | 93,413                  | 80,364      | ( 78,791 )       | -              | 94,986                   |
| <b>Total unrestricted funds</b>        | 268,361                 | 151,333     | ( 158,298 )      | ( 84 )         | 261,312                  |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>                |                         |             |                  |                |                          |
| Esmee Fairbairn                        | 825                     | -           | ( 825 )          | -              | -                        |
| TWEDP Included Communities – Liberdade | 22                      | -           | ( 22 )           | -              | -                        |
| CSDI                                   | 18                      | -           | ( 18 )           | -              | -                        |
| Restricted capital fund                | 759                     | -           | ( 210 )          | 84             | 633                      |
| Big Lottery Reaching Communities       | 1,396                   | 65,000      | ( 66,396 )       | -              | -                        |
| Ballinger Charitable Trust             | 3,554                   | -           | ( 3,554 )        | -              | -                        |
| Arts Council: Catalyst                 | 44,614                  | -           | ( 4,670 )        | -              | 39,944                   |
| Peoples Postcode Lottery               | 782                     | -           | ( 782 )          | -              | -                        |
| Erasmus Fund                           | 12,182                  | -           | -                | -              | -                        |
| LCEP                                   | 500                     | -           | -                | -              | 500                      |
| Arts Council: Film                     | 8,346                   | 10,326      | ( 18,370 )       | -              | 302                      |
| Northumbria Police                     | 115                     | 10,000      | ( 10,115 )       | -              | -                        |
| Arts Council: NPO                      | -                       | 62,120      | ( 62,120 )       | -              | -                        |
| It's a Dead Good Life                  | -                       | 3,000       | ( 475 )          | -              | 2,525                    |
| UNN Film                               | -                       | 2,000       | ( 200 )          | -              | 1,800                    |
| Digital Transformation Fund            | -                       | 8,356       | -                | -              | 8,356                    |
| Alphabetti                             | -                       | 2,000       | ( 2,000 )        | -              | -                        |
| Community Foundation                   | -                       | 6,500       | ( 6,500 )        | -              | -                        |
| DC Specific IB                         | -                       | 9,263       | ( 6,950 )        | -              | 2,313                    |
|  | 73,113                  | 178,565     | ( 183,207 )      | 84             | 68,555                   |
| <b>Total</b>                           | 341,474                 | 329,898     | ( 341,505 )      | -              | 329,867                  |

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**19. Fund reconciliation (continued)**

**Restricted funds**

TWEDP Included Communities - Liberdade

This fund is to help set up and run apprenticeship schemes for people with learning difficulties.

CSDI

Funds were received to explore procurement in the voluntary sector.

Restricted capital fund

Have been received towards the property improvements and computer equipment, where they are being amortised over their expected useful life.

The Big Lottery Reaching Communities

Funding exclusively towards the Revolution Programme. This has included an early payment of 20/21 grant which has been designated in 19/20 accounts.

Ballinger Charitable Trust

A small grant to set up a pilot scheme for the Lawnmowers new weekend youth theatre.

Arts Council England: Catalyst

A consortium grant. Lawnmowers will develop digital profile and explore and create a digital fundraising mechanism and an audience development website.

Erasmus

A significant grant award from Erasmus was to help us develop a European youth community. Together we will write, direct and host 2 large-scale theatrical dance performances (March 2019 - France, June 2020 - Poland) and put together a documentary with the help of Polish stakeholders. Students will attend a great variety of live performances, festivals and events in their home towns and abroad and learn how to review them, acquiring critical skills and greater artistic knowledge. Working with partners we will offer students an unprecedented insight into the diversity of Europe and a unique opportunity to travel, meet teenagers from other countries and for their counterparts to improve their English language skills.

**The Lawnmowers Independent Theatre Company**  
**(a company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

---

**LCEP**

Funding was received help with project management costs.

**Postcode Lottery Fund**

A fund to help develop the communal garden space at The Lawnmowers Arts Centre, using perma culture techniques.

**It's a dead good life**

A film highlighting the issue of growing old with a learning disability.

**UNN Film**

Scoping a research project into living with a learning disability.

**Digital Transformation Fund**

Improvements to IT infrastructure.

**Alphabetti**

Development of Retake, Remake.

**Northumbria Police Fund**

A fund to help develop a learning resource to highlight issues around hate crime.

**Community Foundation fund**

Has been received for delivery of arts projects.

**Arts Council England: NPO**

Funding towards the organisation arts programme and development.

**Arts Council England: Film**

A Project Grant towards the filming of Retake, Remake and part of the organisation Covid Recovery Response.

**DC Specific IB**

A personal budget administered through the organisation of a member.

**18. Related party transactions**

There have been no related party transactions in the year