



Annual Report

01.01.22– 31.12.22

Shropshire Bookfest aims to inspire, encourage and nurture in primary school-aged children a love of reading for pleasure and creative writing.

Reference and Administration Details:

Shropshire Bookfest Registered Charity Number: 1120177

Principal Address: Chaney Plough, Exfords Green, Longden, Shrewsbury, SY5 8HH

Constitution adopted: 21st May 2007

Trustees:

Sophie Peach (Chair), Jane Payton.(Acting Chair from Jan 2023) Sian Marshall (Treasurer), Elly Winter, Lucy Morris, Katy Rink, Annabel Warburg (Secretary), Paul Kirkbright

Officers nominated at Trustees' meeting (AGM) held 8th December 2022:

- Treasurer: Sian Marshall – term of office: up to 3 years with 6 months' notice (3 years have already now been served)
- Secretary: Annabel Warburg – for the next 12 months
- Chair: Sophie Peach – for the next 12 months

Katy Rink resigned March 2023

Paul Kirkbright resigned June 2022

Additional Committee Members:

Joanna Hughes (Co-ordinator for Book Award and Readers to Writers from 01.10.12), Alison McGowan (School Co-ordinator), Nelia Byers, Jo Prosser, Ann Spandrzyk, Jackie Hampson, Julie Holmwood, Jan Elms, and Val Green

Structure, Governance and Management:

The charity continues to be operated by an elected committee of 7 Trustees, with non-trustee members providing additional assistance and expertise.

A self-employed coordinator, Joanna Hughes, continued in her position as Project and Marketing Coordinator, responsible for the organisation and planning of school-based projects, with major decisions agreed by the Trustees.

Alison McGowan completed her fifth full year in the post of School Coordinator (self-employed) and continues to work alongside Joanna, providing child-centred materials suitable for use in the classroom.

The major operational risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to manage and mitigate those risks. A full Covid-19 policy to protect volunteers and schools was drawn up and circulated to all members of Bookfest.

All events/financial decisions are presented to the Board of Trustees for approval with estimated budgets.

Objectives:

In pursuit of the charity's aims and objectives, Shropshire Bookfest works with teachers, literacy coordinators, children, authors and specialists in reading, drama and art to support and enhance the literacy curriculum in primary schools by developing, running and promoting creative projects that support and extend children skills and enjoyment in reading and creative writing. These projects shall be open to all, irrespective of academic ability, nationality, religious opinion, political party, race, colour, gender or sexual orientation.

The main vehicle by which these objectives are achieved is through a structure of biennial classroom-based projects for Shropshire primary schools. In 2022 it was the turn of Book Award and Picture Book Award that aim to help and encourage all children to develop a love of reading and express their views on contemporary fiction - regardless of reading ability.

Key objectives for the year were:

- To complete the successful delivery of **Book Award 2022**.
- To continue with the roll out of '**Leading in Reading**' accreditation scheme.
- To launch **Readers to Writers 2023**.

Achievements and Performance:

Book Award 2022

"I wish everyone could do this, in counties all across the country. They could do worse than see what Shropshire Bookfest has achieved."

*Martin Brown,
Shropshire Bookfest Patron
April 2022*

"It brings together ...primary schools, their staff, children and families and engages them on this mass project..."

*Piers Torday,
Shropshire Bookfest Patron
April 2022*

Financial Summary:

- Total Costs: £42,000 • Total Income: £43,000

Project Timeline Overview:

- Invitation to schools to sign up: September 2021
- Big Book Award 2022 launch into schools: December 2021
- Art CPD for teachers: February 2022
- Pentabus Theatre workshops: February 2022
- Big Book Award 2022 competitions & voting: March 2022
- Big Book Award 2022 Awards Ceremony: April 2022
- Launch of Picture Book Award 2022 into schools: July 2022
- Picture Book Award 2022 competitions & voting: July 2022
- Announcement of winners of Picture Book Award 2022: July 2022

Key Statistics:

- Length of project: 8 months (Dec 2021* – July 2022)
- Number of paid Shrewsbury Bookfest project staff: 2
- Number of Shrewsbury Bookfest project volunteers: 12
- Total number of primary schools signed up: 46
- Total number of pupils involved: 3,066
- Number of children's authors involved: 6 (Big Book Award) 4 (Picture Book Award)
- Number of books by the shortlisted authors purchased by the project: 2,326
- Number of Creative Writing Competition entries: 600

*Schools signed up in September 2021, project was launched to teachers in December 2021

The Project:

Book Award is run every two years, in alternate years to the Readers to Writers project.

It is aimed at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin primary schools.

In September 2021, the Bookfest Book Award 2022 Steering Group contacted over 70 primary schools across Shropshire who either asked to be on the database or who have taken part in Bookfest projects before, including some from Telford & Wrekin, to invite them to take part in Book Award 2022.

The uptake in Book Award 2022 was the highest yet:

Year	Total Schools	Total Pupils
2010	15	600
2012	23	700
2014	27	964
2016	28	1076
2018	32	1876 (incl 17 schools - 633 pupils from Picture Book Award)
2020	40	2434 (incl 26 schools - 1002 pupils from Picture Book Award)
2022	46	3066 (including 26 schools - 1286 pupils from Picture Book Award 2022)

Governance/Management:

The project was overseen by Chair of Trustees, Sophie Peach, Ali McGowan (Bookfest School Co-ordinator - paid, freelance) and Joanna Hughes (Marketing Co-ordinator - paid, freelance) and also by Jane Payton (Trustee - volunteer) - these 4 people also had a number of schools each to manage as volunteer School Co-ordinators. There were an additional 4 volunteer School Co-ordinators who were assigned a number of schools each to manage throughout the delivery of the project. A further 5 volunteers provided advice, support and back up throughout the project.

New for Big Book Award 2022:

Following consultation with primary school teachers and with contacts at OFSTED who highlighted the focus on the spoken language within the national curriculum, Bookfest introduced a new strand to Big Book Award. In partnering up with Pentabus Theatre – the nation’s leading rural touring theatre company based in Shropshire - a wide-ranging competition was devised for children to encourage them onto a stage, behind a microphone or in front of the camera to talk about the Book Award 2022 shortlisted books for *The Creative Response Competition*. Bespoke workshops were produced by Pentabus for teachers and pupils to access and learn these new skills.

Big Book Award 2022 Cost Structure to Schools:

To ensure access to the Book Award 2022 project for any sized primary school was as fair and as accessible as possible, the cost to schools remained unchanged (at the same level for Book Award

Both cost levels for Big Book Award 2022 gave every school and their pupils:

- 4 copies of each of the 6 shortlist titles for their class/school library per class of 30.
- A full pack of classroom activities.
- Art competition.
- A creative writing competition.
- A creative response competition **NEW**.
- Access to bespoke digital drama workshops by Pentabus Theatre Company **NEW**.

2018) with two levels of investment: **£10** per pupil which included attendance at the Awards Ceremony at Theatre Severn or **£4** per pupil not including awards ceremony attendance. Each school was charged a one-off school registration fee of £150.

Picture Book Award 2022 Cost Structure to Schools:

Again keeping costs unchanged since 2018, each school signing up to Picture Book Award 2022 paid a one-off school registration fee of £125 plus £4 for every pupil. This provided:

- 4 copies of each of the 4 shortlist picture book titles for their class/school library per class of 30 pupils.
- A full pack of classroom activities based on the shortlist books.
- An art competition with a prize winner for each school.
- A platform for pupils to share their views about the books through the Bookfest website.

Big Book Award 2022 Project Launch:

Owing to the ongoing uncertainty and anxiety surrounding Covid-19 relating to public safety within large gatherings of people, government restrictions on seating and safe spaces in venues such as theatres, cinemas and lecture halls in 2021, it was decided not to run the conference for teachers in November 2021 at the University Centre Shrewsbury to launch the project and distribute the materials to the teachers.

Instead, Ali McGowan – Schools Co-ordinator – delivered two films in December 2021 for teachers to access and prepare for the start of term in January 2022:



How to Make the Most Out of Book Award 2022

launch FOR TEACHERS and *Big Book Award 2022 launch FOR PUPILS*, to launch the project, reveal the shortlisted books and highlight the support and expertise readily on hand from Bookfest throughout the following months.

In December 2021, the volunteers from the Book Award Steering Group took to the road and personally delivered over 1,300 copies of the shortlisted books and all the support materials for the teachers to every one of the 42 primary schools across the county who were taking part in Big Book Award 2022. Together with the launch films, this enabled teachers to prepare lesson plans based on the project ahead of the start of term in January 2022.

‘Bites’ Films

Based on the successful and positive feedback from schools during Schools’ Week 2021 where communication and motivation to teachers and pupils was conveyed by a series of short and informative and fun films called ‘Bookfest Bites’, it was decided to repeat the format for Big Book Award 2022.

Again, Ali McGowan put together a series of films throughout January to March to share the work, displays, comments, thoughts of pupils as they moved through the project. Together with the Teacher Pack, this resource helped keep teachers and pupils fully immersed in the project and developed a county-wide community spirit to the project. The films can be viewed on the Shropshire Bookfest YouTube Channel - Shropshire Bookfest – YouTube

Art CPD:

Reflecting on the effectiveness and positive feedback from previous Art CPD sessions delivered by Bookfest, this was again made available for teachers. Covid-19 infections sadly prevented full attendance. However, those that were able to attend found the 2-hour session from 4pm on 15th February 2022 led by Sasha Morris-Bhatia offered teachers support, encouragement and practical ideas to take back to the classroom for children to implement when preparing their art competition entries.

Pentabus Theatre Workshops:

Thanks to some energetic fundraising, Bookfest was able to offer support to teachers and their pupils by way of specially designed drama workshops by Pentabus Theatre. These filmed, bite-sized workshops were devised by industry-leading theatre practitioners, which provided a range of ideas to help children improvise, devise and script drama in response to the six shortlisted books and enter their work into the 'Creative Response Competition'. Schools were able to access this resource throughout the Spring Term.

The films, which can be accessed here [Bookfest \(shropshirebookfest.co.uk\)](https://shropshirebookfest.co.uk), by Pentabus Theatre covered:

- How to write and perform a soliloquy inspired by a book.
- Condensing a book into a three-minute whistle-stop narrative.
- Adapting for radio drama.
- Creating a film trailer.
- Scriptwriting and performing dialogue inspired by two characters from the book.

Pentabus Theatre also offered all Book Award 2022 participating schools the opportunity for one of their industry professionals to come into the classroom to deliver a choice of bespoke, 1 - hour workshops with their pupils. These sessions were offered exclusively to Book Award 2022 schools at £150 per session.



We paid for a Pentabus workshop in school which the children absolutely loved and proved extremely helpful with regards to our creative response movie trailer.

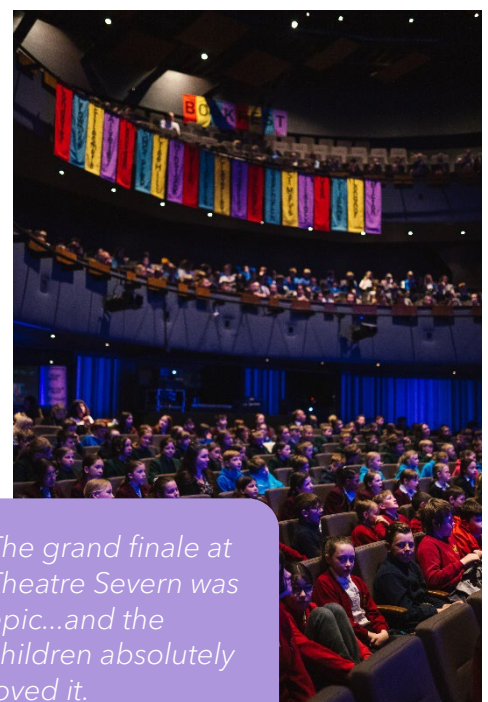
Hinstock Primary School.

Big Book Award Awards Ceremony:

560 pupils and 42 teachers from 17 of the 42 schools taking part in Big Book Award 2022 attended the Awards Ceremony at Theatre Severn on Thursday 28th April 2022. The whole event was live streamed to **all** schools, with many classes choosing to make the morning into an Oscars-styled event with popcorn and balloons.

Bookfest volunteers, led by Trustee Lucy Morris, produced a banner for every one of the 42 schools that took part which were hung around the auditorium, giving the space a very welcoming feel to all the schools attending and watching online.

Mari Izzard, who had delivered one of the Pentabus online drama workshops, was co-presenter on stage with Bookfest's Ali McGowan and together they formed a formidable, high energy and slick presenting team during the two-hour event. Mari also delivered six short pieces of drama linked to each of



The grand finale at Theatre Severn was epic...and the children absolutely loved it.

the six shortlisted books, some with audience participation and props.

Sadly, due to immovable prior engagements, illness and unforeseen circumstances, three of the shortlisted authors were unable to be present on stage at the event. However, two of them (Nizrana Farook – *The Boy Who Met a Whale* and Lisa Thompson – *The Small Things*) managed in a very short space of time to submit excellently executed pre-recorded pieces to camera, including answers to questions that had been sent from pupils. This gave a welcome change of pace during the event.

Patron Martin Brown was guest presenter on stage to hand out the prizes to the Art Competition and gave a hugely positive and joyful speech about the importance of illustration in stories:

<https://youtu.be/jQshBC2vUNg>

Creative Response Competition:

Linking with the Pentabus Theatre online drama workshops, the criteria for this competition had evolved from previously simply a film trailer competition to a piece of work in the form of any one of the following based on any one of the six shortlisted books:

1. A soliloquy
2. A three-minute whistle-stop narrative
3. A radio drama
4. A dialogue
5. An additional scene

Whilst several classes did venture into the newer forms of creative responses, it was clear that pupils felt most comfortable producing film trailer entries. Nevertheless, the quality of all the entries (33 entries from 13 schools) was extremely high. Drama professionals from Pentabus Theatre made the final judging decision and the company's Artistic Director, Elle While, awarded the prizes as follows:

Winner: Indigo Exham, Carly Stewart and Isla Metliss from Longden CE Primary School: *The Small Things*

Runner Up #1: Class 3 from Cheswardine Primary School: *SkyWake Invasion*

Runner Up #2: Hay-Yee Hilton from Packwood Haugh School: *Twitch*

Runner Up #3: Jack Kinnersley, Lottie Frith, Emily Wootton and Laila Beech from Castlefields Primary School, Bridgnorth: *The Boy Who Met a Whale*



These films can be viewed here: [Bookfest \(shropshirebookfest.co.uk\)](http://shropshirebookfest.co.uk)

Letter Writing Competition:

22 schools sent nearly 600 entries into this competition where children wrote a letter giving a piece of advice from/to a character in any one



of the shortlisted titles. Every school that entered had a school winner and six 'top' winners were then selected from these. The winning letter, by Erin Hogan, was read out by author Tim Tilley, much to the obvious joy of the winner! The winning letters were:

Overall Winner: Erin Hogan from St Winefride's School based on *Harklights*

Runners Up: Nathaniel Hale from Lilleshall based on *The Boy who Met a Whale*
Grace Fellowes from St John's Catholic Primary School based on *The Small Things*
Rosie Cashmore from Rushbury CE Primary School based on *SkyWake Invasion*
Georgia Davison from Shrewsbury High Prep School based on *No Country*
Edie Bell from Prestfelde School based on *Twitch*

Art Competition:

24 schools submitted entries to this, where children had been asked to produce a picture illustrating a scene from one of the shortlisted books. The judging panel included Sasha Morris-Bhatia, Art CPD instructor.

Overall Winner: Emily Wootton from Castlefields Primary School Bridgnorth – *Twitch*

2nd Place: Indigo Exham from Longden CE Primary School – *Harklights*

3rd Place: Erin Jones from St Winefride's School – *The Small Things*

4th Place: Libby Drury-Scott from Lilleshall Primary School – *SkyWake Invasion*

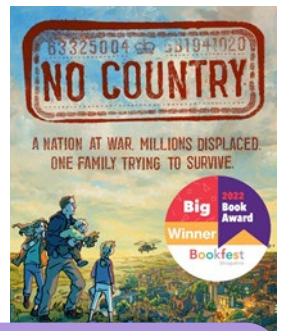


Voting:

With children having cast their votes in March, the overall winner of the Big Book Award 2022 was *No Country* by Joe Brady and Patrice Aggs. This was a first for Shropshire Bookfest in that a graphic novel not only featured in the shortlist but also won. *No Country* is set in a future Britain where civil war rages and democracy is dead, with a powerful message as it follows one family as they try to find safety and a new home. It is clear that the children have been and continue to be touched by crisis situations raging in areas of conflict across the world such as Ukraine, and this book has offered them a channel to express their understanding of this.

Joe Brady gave an impassioned acceptance speech at the Awards Ceremony, acknowledging the empathy, understanding and creativity shown by all the children who took part in the project. The speech can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/wODGHQegEv8>



...it's like Ukraine so we can support the book (really well done). Henry Bell, Longnor CE Primary School

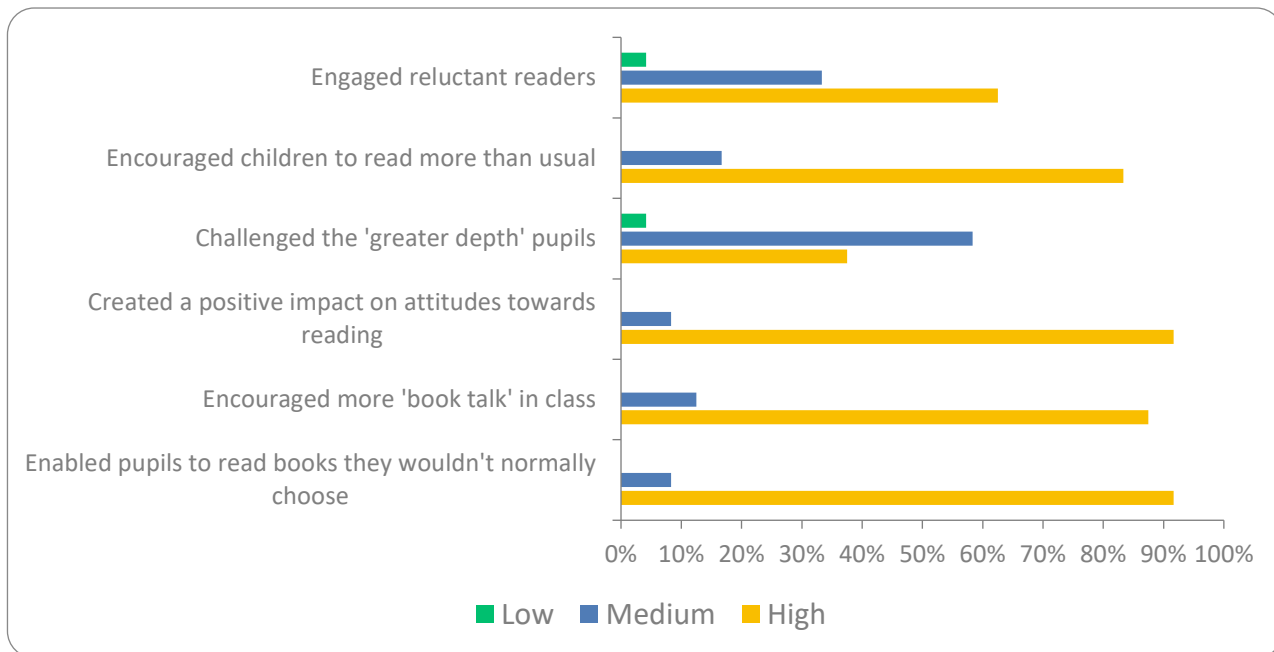
No Country is an incredible story full of heart stopping moments. I was dragged into it and I could not stop reading it. Arabella Windsor - Packwood Haugh School



Big Book Award Post-Project Feedback:

During the last week of April 2022, all 42 schools who took part in Big Book Award 2022 were sent a short feedback survey to complete using Survey Monkey. 24 schools responded, giving an excellent source of feedback data on the effectiveness of the project.

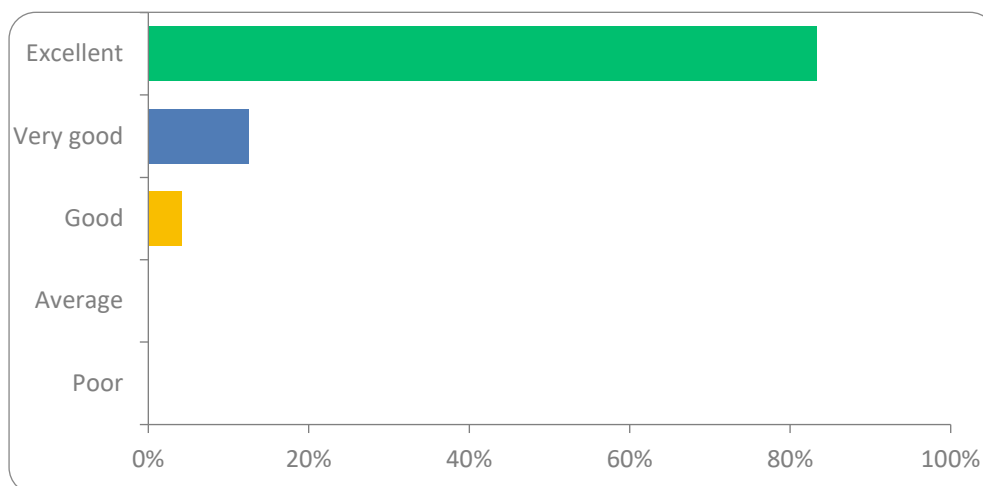
1. Please indicate the general effect the Big Book Award 2022 had on your pupils:



2. Would you recommend Big Book Award to other primary school teachers?

- **Yes** 23
- **Maybe** 1

3. Overall how would you rate the Big Book Award project for your pupils



Picture Book Award:

At the beginning of March 2022, 46 picture books submitted by publishers to the longlist were shared between 8 primary schools, who were tasked with selecting a shortlist of 4 books:

Art Competition:

Pupils were invited to submit a picture illustrating a scene/character from one of the shortlisted books, using any medium including collage.



424 entries from 12 schools were received. A winner was chosen from each school that entered. Their prize was an art box, certificate and their artwork presented back to them in a frame. Bookfest coordinators visited all these schools to help present the prizes to the pupils.

Class Response Competition:

Schools were encouraged to submit a response to any one of the shortlisted titles. This could take any format such as a class display, scrapbook, a collective piece of artwork, a song or a poem, a film or even a re-enactment of the story using puppets or themselves.



Longnor CE Primary School class display

Voting:

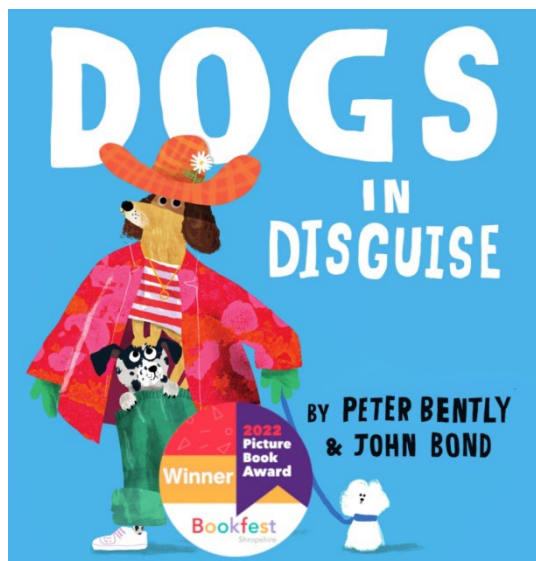
Pupils were given clear and easy to use voting forms asking them to choose their favourite book from the shortlist.



Picture Book Award 2022 Winner

With over 1000 pupils from the 26 schools taking part casting their votes on 1st July, the winning book was announced on 6th July. The author and illustrator sent in a gently chaotic and grateful acceptance speech:

<https://youtu.be/sIpIIA64HdM>



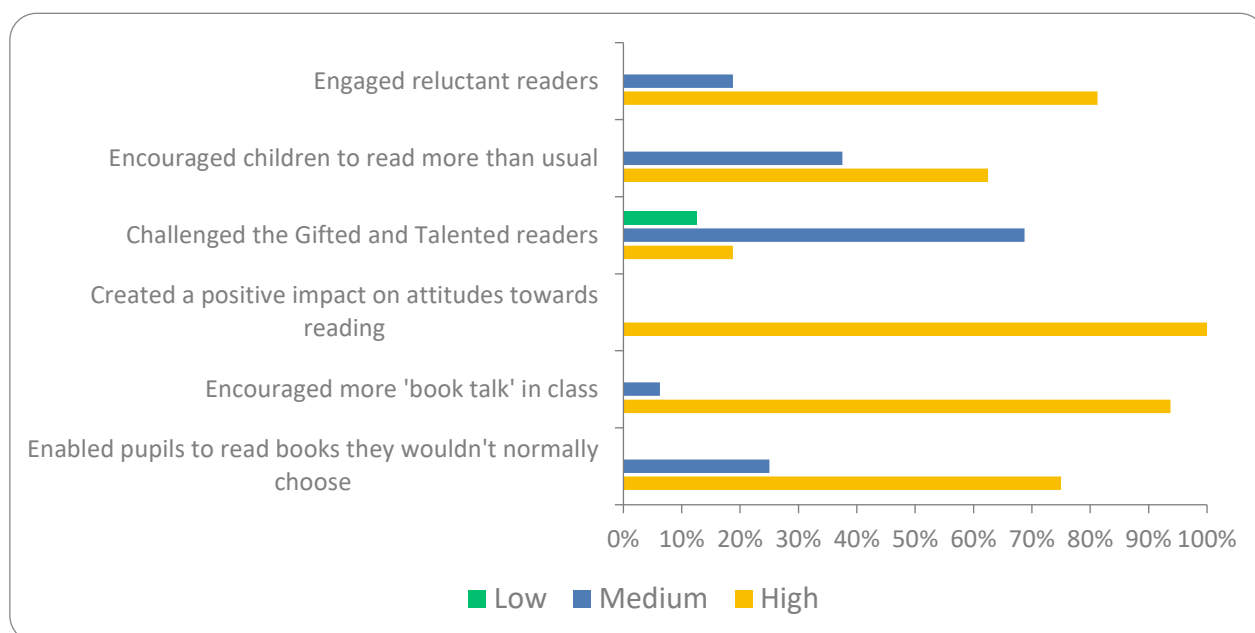
It was lovely for the children to see both the author and illustrator in person, to be able to put a face to the name.

We really liked hearing from the author and there was much excitement when waiting for the big reveal.

Picture Book Award Post-Project Feedback

At the close of the Picture Book Award project, all 26 schools who took part in Picture Book Award 2022 were sent a short feedback survey to complete, with 16 responding.

1. Please indicate the effect that Picture Book Award 2022 had on your pupils:



2. Would your school consider taking part again in Picture Book Award (2024)?

Yes – 100%

Full list of participating schools in Book Award 2022

	School	Big Book Award (Years 5, 6)	Picture Book Award (R, Years 1, 2)
1	Adderley C/E Primary School	✓	
2	Alveley Primary School	✓	
3	Baschurch C/E Primary School	✓	✓
4	Bicton C/E Primary School	✓	
5	Castlefields Primary School, Bridgnorth	✓	✓
6	Cheswardine Primary School	✓	✓
7	Claverley C/E Primary School	✓	
8	Clee Hill Academy	✓	
9	Condober C/E Primary School	✓	
10	Crowmoor Primary School	✓	✓
11	Ellesmere Primary School	✓	
12	Gobowen Primary School		✓
13	Greenacres Primary School	✓	✓
14	Greenfields Primary School	✓	✓
15	Harlescott Junior School	✓	
16	Hinstock Primary School	✓	✓
17	Lilleshall Primary School	✓	✓
18	Longden C/E Primary School	✓	✓
19	Longnor C/E Primary School	✓	✓
20	Lower Heath C/E Primary School	✓	✓
21	Martin Wilson Primary School	✓	✓
22	Meole Brace C/E Primary School	✓	✓
23	Mereside C/E Primary School		✓
24	Moreton Say C/E Primary School	✓	
25	Mount Pleasant Primary School	✓	✓
26	Muxton Primary School	✓	
27	Norton-in-Hales C/E Primary School		✓
28	Oxon C/E Primary School	✓	
29	Packwood Haugh School	✓	
30	Prestfelde School	✓	✓
31	Priorslee Academy	✓	✓
32	Rushbury C/E Primary School	✓	✓
33	Shrewsbury High Prep School	✓	
34	St Andrew's C/E Primary School, Nesscliffe	✓	
35	St Edward's C/E Primary School	✓	
36	St John's Catholic Primary School, Bridgnorth	✓	
37	St Laurence's C/E Primary School Ludlow	✓	✓
38	St Lawrence C/E Primary School Church Stretton	✓	✓
39	St Leonards C/E Primary School, Bridgnorth	✓	
40	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Madeley	✓	✓
41	St Mary's C/E Primary School (Shawbury)		✓

42	St. Winefride's School	✓	
43	Tilstock C/E Primary School	✓	
44	The Wilfred Owen School	✓	✓
45	West Felton C/E Primary School	✓	
46	Severndale Specialist Academy	✓	✓

Leading in Reading:

Leading in Reading is an ambassador scheme designed by Shropshire Bookfest, in partnership with the University Centre Shrewsbury. The aim of the scheme is to recognise and showcase primary schools who embrace Shropshire Bookfest's school-based projects and demonstrate creativity, imagination and success in harnessing a culture of reading for pleasure in their pupils. Three more primary schools were accredited as Leading in Reading schools in 2022. They were awarded their accreditation by Patron Piers Torday during the Big Book Award 2022 awards ceremony. Piers also gave a thought-provoking speech - <https://youtu.be/o5-8P-2wAW0>



The three schools who had been successful in their applications earlier in the year for the accreditation were:

[Hinstock Primary School](#)

[Mount Pleasant Primary School](#)

[Packwood Haugh School](#)

Readers to Writers 2023:

Budget Summary:

- Total Costs: £51,300
- Total Income: £54,670

Project Timeline Overview:

- Invitation to schools to sign up: September 2022
- Teacher Conference & Project Launch: November 2022
- *In-school author-led creative writing workshops: January/February 2023*
- *Entry deadline for creative writing competition: End March 2023*
- *Announcement of school winners and overall winners: Early May 2023*
- *Publication of narrated and filmed winning entries on website: May 2023*

Key Statistics:

- Length of project: months (Nov 2022 – June 2023) (schools signed up in September 2022)

- Number of paid Shrewsbury Bookfest project staff: 2
- Number of Shrewsbury Bookfest project volunteers: 9
- Total number of primary schools signed up: 29
- Total number of pupils involved: 1,442
- Number of children's authors delivering in-school workshops: 9
- Number of in-school creative writing workshops: 58
- Number of books by workshop authors purchased by the project: 1,442
- Number of Creative Writing Competition entries: TBC

The Project:

Previously known as Schools' Week, Readers to Writers is run every two years, in alternate years to Book Award.

Readers to Writers is an eight-month long project taking place between November and June and is aimed at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin primary schools. Drawing on the unique skills, experience and insight of children's authors, who deliver special writing workshops to each class taking part, the project focuses on helping teachers support children in the classroom with their creative writing skills. By the end of the project, every pupil will have written their very own book! Everyone is encouraged to enter their book into a Shropshire-wide creative writing competition.

Governance/Management:

The project is being overseen by Chair of Trustees, Sophie Peach and acting Chair of Trustees, Jane Payton), Ali McGowan (Bookfest School Co-ordinator - paid, freelance) and Joanna Hughes (Marketing Co-ordinator - paid, freelance); these 4 people also had a number of schools each to manage as volunteer School Co-ordinators. There were an additional 4 volunteer School Co-ordinators who were assigned a number of schools each to manage throughout the delivery of the project. A further 5 volunteers provided advice, support and back-up throughout the project.

Cost Structure to Schools:

- **£180** school registration fee, plus **£14 per pupil**.
- For example: For **one** class of 30 pupils, the total cost would be: **£600**.
- For **two** classes of 30 pupils each, the total cost would be: **£1,020** (each class receives an author workshop).

This provides schools with:

- A bespoke author workshop on creative writing, specific to age - KS1, KS2 - Years 3 & 4 and KS2 - Years 5 & 6;
- A new book for every pupil by the class's assigned workshop author;
- Access to the Bookfest online resource centre;
- A blank writing book for every pupil and entry to the county-wide creative writing competition.

The Workshop Authors:

Publishers, authors and agents were contacted in July 2022 and asked to submit their proposals to deliver one-hour creative writing workshops for their preferred age group (KS1, KS2 - Years 3 & 4 and/or KS2 - Years 5 & 6) together with two or three suggested titles to support their content and on-going mentorship. It was made very clear that the focus of the workshops that would be delivered during the week 30th January – 3rd February 2023 was to be on giving pupils the relevant skills and inspiration to help them prepare and create their own story for the competition. Authors were guaranteed at least

two days' work at a fee equivalent to a standard three in-school workshops per day structure - whether the workshops would be in the classroom, live via Zoom or pre-recorded.

The extensive longlist of submissions was carefully reviewed and researched by Joanna, Ali and Jane and an eventual panel of nine children's authors were placed on the project, their skills and styles having been carefully matched with schools and classes. It was useful that Bookfest has a good understanding of so many schools in the county, which allows for such bespoke and personal management of this aspect of the project, and that the authors responded to their brief with clarity and honesty. The nine authors selected were:

Peter Bently

Tracey Corderoy

Gareth P Jones

Josh Lacey

Jenny McLachlan

Jack Meggitt-Phillips

Ross Montgomery

Sam Sedgman

Eloise Williams

Project Launch – Teachers' Conference:

Every school that signed up to the project could send one teacher from every class that was booked to do the project to a whole-day conference/CPD.

This conference is the only one of its kind in Shropshire for primary school teachers and brings the county's teaching community together with a panel of nationally renowned speakers. The day focused on:

- Inspiring, informing and empowering teaching staff to develop their own creative writing teaching practice
- How teachers could be encouraged to immerse themselves and their pupils in Readers to Writers 2023
- Working as a community and to share ideas and experiences.

The conference was held on 16th November 2022 and was generously hosted by the University Centre Shrewsbury.

The following three leaders in children's literature led workshops throughout the day which meant that every delegate could attend each session, giving them a wholly rounded day of pedagogy:

MARTIN BROWN:

Patron of Shropshire Bookfest, Martin Brown is probably best known for being the illustrator of the phenomenally successful Horrible Histories series – still going after nearly 30 years, it has sold over 30 million copies.

In Martin's workshops he talked about how the distinction between text and image is an artificial one and how images can be used to write stories, not just illustrate them. He shared how illustrators 'author' their pictures – or rather, how everybody does. How imagery alone has been used as the storyteller for centuries. How today some narrative books have no text at all. And how editorial cartoons use imagery as a way to avoid spelling out those thousand long-winded words. Then he guided teachers in investigating how kids use pictures to tell stories and how they might use the pictures in their heads to write a narrative in sentences and how to use those pictures in their heads as illustrations for those written narratives.

"Good to refresh one's ideas and network - other teachers also have experience one can learn from and have good contacts. It has become increasingly difficult with train strikes and increased fuel prices to meet authors and others who are interested in fostering creative writing."
Conference delegate

NICOLA DAVIES:

Nicola Davies is the author of more than 80 books for children, picture books, fiction, non-fiction and poetry, many of which have been published in more than 12 different languages. Her work focuses on the natural world and our relationship to it.

In Nicola's workshop, delegates took part in tasks that encouraged a playful approach to words. They were asked to put ideas of right and wrong, of good grammar and good sense, to one side. No-one could say what the 'outcomes' of this were going to be, because that's another feature of creative work: its results are, and should be, entirely unpredictable. Poems were written, collaborations made with a neighbour and shared pieces that celebrated the value of play, invention and pleasure – key components of any creative endeavour – were produced.

ADAM GUILLAIN:

Adam started his teaching career working in primary schools in London before travelling to Tanzania to work on a teacher training programme with Voluntary Services Overseas. On returning to the UK, he started writing and has gone on to write over 200 books for children. Adam is a former writer-in-residence at The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre and is the co-founder of Storytelling Schools.

In this session, Adam got the whole room moving about, collaborating on a shared story and offered a wealth of ideas, top tips, prompts and practical activities that teachers were thrilled that they could use in classrooms across all the age ranges.

The day offered plenty of opportunity for peer-to-peer chat and discussions with the speakers. Hinstock Primary School (a Leading in Reading school) showcased examples of how this project had in the past transformed the attitudes to writing for pleasure in their pupils. Ali McGowan gave inspirational motivation to the teachers about how Bookfest could support them and their pupils, together with the upcoming programme of in-school author-led workshops throughout the project.

School Bookings:

It was hugely exciting to realise that any concerns about schools being able to embrace this project due to post-Covid fatigue and pressure on budgets were quickly dispelled, as 29 primary schools signed up to the project well ahead of the deadline of October 2022. The project has a limited capacity based on the number of workshops/classes Bookfest is able to service during the five days in January/February 2023, given the large geographical size of the county. These are the primary schools who are taking part:

	R/Year1/Year 2	Years 3/4	Years 5/6
1. Alveley Primary School			√
2. Baschurch CE Primary School			√
3. Castlefields Primary School, Bridgnorth			√
4. Cheswardine Primary & Nursery School	√	√	√
5. Conover CE Primary School		√	
6. Gobowen Primary School	√	√	

7. Greenfields Primary School		✓	
8. Hadnall CE Primary School		✓	
9. Hinstock Primary School	✓	✓	✓
10. Hodnet Primary School			✓
11. John Wilkinson Primary & Nursery School		✓	
12. Lilleshall Primary School	✓		✓
13. Longden CE Primary School		✓	✓
14. Mount Pleasant Primary School		✓	
15. Muxton Primary School			✓
16. Norton in Hales Primary School		✓	✓
17. Oxon Primary School			✓
18. Packwood Haugh School			✓
19. Prees CE Primary School		✓	
20. Priorslee Academy		✓	
21. Rushbury CE Primary School	✓	✓	✓
22. Shortwood Primary School		✓	✓
23. Shrewsbury High Junior School			✓
24. St Lawrence Primary School Ch Stretton	✓		
25. St Leonard's Primary School, Bridgnorth			✓
26. St Mary's Catholic Primary School		✓	
27. St Winefride's School		✓	
28. Weston Rhyn Primary School	✓	✓	
29. Whixall CE Primary School	✓		

Materials into Schools:

In December 2022, Bookfest volunteers personally delivered all the books for every pupil by the authors assigned to the classes, background information on the format of the author workshops, the blank books for the competition entries and printed Teacher Pack booklets, thus giving teachers a head start in preparing their pupils ahead of the author-led workshops in January/February 2023.

Teacher Resource Centre:

This facility on the website was set up and ready in December 2022 and holds the following information for teachers to access throughout the duration of the project:

- Teacher Pack: Downloadable step-by-step guide on how Readers to Writers works – competition guidelines, tips, advice
- Teacher Forum: Place where teachers could share class displays, discussions, ideas
- Resource Guides & Films: Short, fun and engaging films for pupils and teachers alike on...

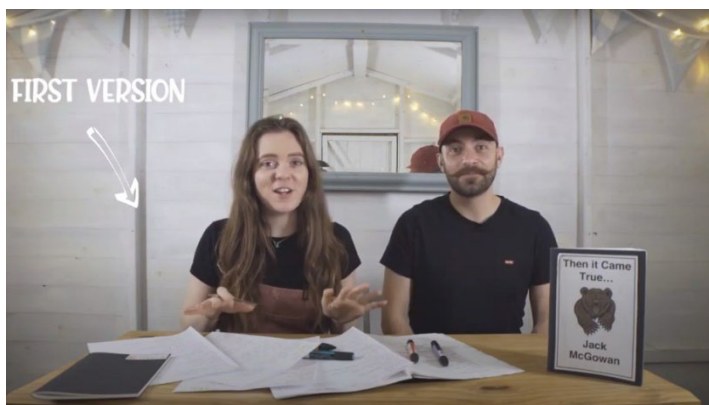
[Planning](#)

[Settings](#)

[Characters](#)

[Illustrations](#)

[Editing](#)



Finance

All financial decisions are presented to the Trustees for approval with detailed and accurate budgets being prepared for all elements of the year's events.

Shropshire Bookfest completed the year with a total balance of £52,679.

Ring-fenced for a reserve account that had been applied for with CAF Bank was the amount of £11,000. This had been set aside to cover the costs of a five-yearly website upgrade and to cover budgeted cancellation costs in the event that a project had to be cancelled part-way through delivery.

The accounts for 2022 will be submitted to a registered independent Financial Examiner.

Reserves Policy

Shropshire Bookfest is a registered charity set up in 2007. It operates across the county of Shropshire and has an annual income of around £52,000. Of this £52,000, approximately £25,000 comes from local primary schools. The charity has no fixed assets and all projects are overseen by two part-time, self-employed coordinators who work on an annual rolling 'agreement'. Each year the charity provides one significant project for Shropshire primary schools focused on providing a creative initiative to help support teachers in encouraging children to develop a love of reading and writing for pleasure. Shropshire Bookfest has reserves of £11,000.

The Trustees discussed the following factors in arriving at their reserves policy:

- Money should only be kept in reserve for specific reasons. Trustees acknowledge that money should not be hoarded; it is also clear that sensible planning for known events should be catered for.
- The Board of Trustees agreed that the main investment that recurs every five years is the revamp of the website. Therefore £5k has been set aside for this cost. The idea of a website redesign was discussed in 2022 and it was decided that no major overhaul was necessary. This will be revisited on an annual basis.
- Shropshire Bookfest has no fixed overheads, but based on an average month it was felt appropriate to keep two months' running costs in reserve (£6k)

Policy: it is the policy of Shropshire Bookfest to keep the five-yearly website update costs and two months' running costs in reserve to cover unforeseen emergencies. Therefore the reserves account now has a balance of £11k.

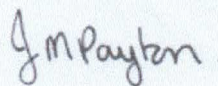
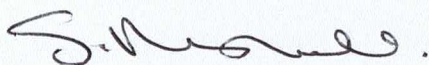
The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

NAME SIAN MARSHALL

JANE PAYTON

SIGNATURE



Original signed

24.3.2023.

Original Signed

23/3/2023

POSITION

Treasurer

Acting Chair



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/01/2022

To

31/12/2022

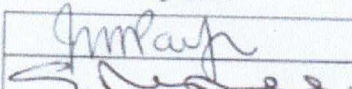
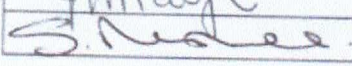
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	25,000	-	-	25,000	8,000
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-	-
Ticket sales	185	-	-	185	-
Schools Income - Readers to Writers	25,366	-	-	25,366	-
Schools Income - Book Award	1,536	-	-	1,536	23,118
Income from Fundraising Activities	-	-	-	-	3,261
Interest / other	-	-	-	-	3
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	52,087	-	-	52,087	34,382
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	52,087	-	-	52,087	34,382
A3 Payments					
Fees artist	2,410	-	-	2,410	8,910
Fees coordinator	15,848	-	-	15,848	11,712
Venue hire	2,391	-	-	2,391	-
Travel/Entertainment/Accommodation	3,281	-	-	3,281	60
Publicity/advertising	638	-	-	638	94
Publicity long term investment	-	-	-	-	-
Checks / insurance	477	-	-	477	477
Postage	27	-	-	27	20
Stationery	33	-	-	33	5
Events materials	638	-	-	638	2,687
IT	1,694	-	-	1,694	8,580
Film	2,225	-	-	2,225	-
Book purchases	12,632	-	-	12,632	7,637
Prizes/Sundry	7,931	-	-	7,931	1,185
Sub total	50,225	-	-	50,225	41,367
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	50,225	-	-	50,225	41,367
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,862	-	-	1,862	6,985
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	50,817	-	-	50,817	57,802
Cash funds this year end	52,679	-	-	52,679	50,817

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Main account	41,679	-	-
	Reserve account	11,000	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	52,679	-	-
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	JANE PAYTON	15.3.23
	SIAN MARSHALL	15.3.23



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Shropshire Bookfest

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1120177

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: C Moelwyn-Williams

Date: 17/4/2023

Name: C Moelwyn-Williams

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

BSc FCA

Address:

TCA Accountants, Third Floor, 21 St Mary's Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1ED