

Company Registration Number - 4369668

The Charity Registration Number is :- 1121276

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Report and Accounts

31 March 2025



Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Manchester Literature Festival Limited

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Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended March 31st 2025

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

Reference and administrative details

The charity name.

The legal name of the charity is:- Manchester Literature Festival Limited.

The charity's areas operation and UK charitable registration.

The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with charity number 1121276.

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law all trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The principal operating address, telephone number, email and web addresses of the charity are:-

The Department Store
5 Oak Street
Manchester M4 6JD
Telephone 0161 832 5502

The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is the same as the operating address shown above.

The Trustees in office on the date the report was approved were:-

Karl Jackson
Christopher Graham Jeffries (Treasurer)
Peter Mearns (CHAIR)
Anne-Marie Nugnes
Gwen Louise Oakden
Rebecca Louise Parkinson
Erinn Kelly Roocroft
Jo Somerset
Bonnie Julia Turnbull
Benjamin James Ward
Andrew Peter Westle

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The following persons served as Trustees during the year ended 31 March 2025:-

The trustees who served as a trustee in the reporting period, and, if applicable, their dates of appointment or resignation during the year were:-

Name	Appointed	Resigned/Retired
Karl Jackson		
Christopher Graham Jeffries (Treasurer)		
Peter Mearns (CHAIR)		
Anne-Marie Nugnes		
Gwen Louise Oakden		
Rebecca Louise Parkinson		
Erinn Kelly Roocroft		
Jo Somerset		
Bonnie Julia Turnbull		
Benjamin James Ward		
Andrew Peter Westle		
Afshan Tania D'Souza-Lodhi		17/06/2024

Objectives and Activities of the Charity

A summary of the objectives of the charity as set out in its governing document

Manchester Literature Festival's charitable objectives are:

"To promote arts and, in particular, literature in society for the benefit of the inhabitants of the North West Area of England and elsewhere by developing public appreciation of literature and by improving public access to and the quality of literature."

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

In Autumn 2024, we delivered the 19th iteration of Manchester Literature Festival 4 – 20 October, featuring 48 live events including four poetry workshops, two walking tours and the Northern Publishers' Fair. We attracted a total audience of 7847 to Festival events in the autumn and a further 761 people to our four Spring events with high profile authors Percival Everett, David Nicholls, Olivia Laing and David Mitchell in April/May 2024. Overall attendance at events was 76% of capacity. The results of our Audience Survey revealed high levels of audience satisfaction. 95% of the audience rated the Festival for giving them a good quality experience as very good (59%) or good (36%) and 88% said they would be very likely to recommend the Festival to a friend.

A total of 123 writers and other artists took part in MLF events including 44 Global Majority writers. 24 events/workshops in total featured Global Majority artists (representing 50% of the festival programme). A total of 13 international artists participated in live events, joining us from Japan, Netherlands, Ukraine and the USA.

The programme showcased the rising stars of literature alongside award-winning writers and featured special conversations with leading national and international novelists, poets, musicians, actors and other cultural figures. Programme strand highlights included:

Culture

- Our sold-out, opening night event featured iconic Swedish singer-songwriter Neneh Cherry in conversation with Bernardine Evaristo about her new memoir *A Thousand Threads*.
- Foreign correspondent Lindsey Hilsum shared poems and stories from the frontline featured in her new book *I Brought the War with Me*, hosted by poet John McAuliffe.
- Leading designer Thomas Heatherwick discussed his new book *Humanise* and his campaign for greener, bolder, healthier, more imaginative buildings with Allah P. Wakatama.
- Bestselling food writer Meera Sodha shared recipes, family stories and the joy of food with Erica Wagner.

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- George Monbiot and Jeanette Winterson had a lively discussion about capitalism, community, neoliberalism and the challenges facing us globally.
- Former Green Party leader Caroline Lucas shared her passion for the British countryside, literature and culture and the need for narratives that unite and bring people together.
- Esteemed actor Harriet Walter discussed her reimagining of Shakespeare's women with Katie Popperwell and shared some daring new sonnets.

Fiction

- Bestselling author Matt Haig discussed his new novel *The Life Impossible*, writing, neurodiversity and mental health with broadcaster Nihal Arthanayake.
- David Peace discussed his gripping new novel *Munichs*, the airline disaster that killed Manchester United's Busby Babes and the importance of writing working class narratives with Katy Shaw.
- Japanese author Asako Yuzuki discussed her bestselling novel *Butter*, true crime, journalism and her love of writing at a packed event supported by the Japan Foundation.
- We celebrated the twentieth anniversary of Susannah Clarke's ground-breaking novel *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* and the publication of a new novella *The Wood at Midwinter*.
- Scottish author Andrew O'Hagan discussed his new state-of-the-nation novel *Caledonian Road*, class, culture, complicity and male friendship with Dave Haslam.
- Prominent LGBTQ+ author Juno Dawson discussed fiction, scriptwriting, Northern identity and LGBTQ+ culture with fellow author Andrew McMillan.
- Rebecca F. Kuang discussed her multi-award-winning novel *Yellowface*, the craft of writing and the repercussions of empire at a sold-out event at the RNCM.
- Turkish-British author Elif Shafak brought this year's MLF to a fitting close with a discussion about her new novel *There Are Rivers in the Sky*, how fiction can build bridges in an age of division and the importance of festivals in providing crucial democratic spaces.
- Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Powers discussed the inspiration for his new novel *Playground*, his passion for our oceans and trees, the rise of AI, and the importance of play, at a special bookend event hosted by Alex Clark.

Poetry

- Jackie Kay discussed her new poetry collection *May Day* and a life of protest with actor Julie Hesmondhalgh.
- Former National Poet of Wales, Gillian Clarke gave this year's annual Rylands Poetry Reading.
- Imtiaz Dharker and Romalyn Ante treated us to a performance of their stunning, poignant and deeply lyrical poetry.
- Raymond Antrobus, Theresa Lola and Caleb Femi gave exhilarating performances from their new collections in front of a buzzing audience at Manchester Poetry Library.
- Former Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy performed poems inspired by the eco-crisis accompanied by musician John Sampson.
- This year's Cabaret for Freedom celebrated the legendary poet and musician Gil Scott Heron with rousing performances from soul singer Yemi Bolatiwa supported by a string quartet from the Untold Orchestra and poetry from Sukina Noor and Young Identity.
- We also presented a newly commissioned poem by Francesca Beard responding to the Arena documentary *A Day in The Afterlife* about cult author Philip K Dick.

Children and Families

- Waterstones Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho presented two lively interactive poetry shows for families at Central Library, followed by a *Spooky Poems Aloud* Activity Trail and craft workshop designed by community artist Emma Martin.
- International storyteller Jan Blake, djembe player Yahaël Onono and musicians from the BBC Philharmonic gave interactive performances of *Ananse and the Monkeys* as part of our Musical Storyland LIVE! events at Rochdale and Oldham libraries.
- Comic artist Ed Syder ran two Skateboard Drawing Clubs at Projekts Skatepark for children aged 7+.
- Award-winning author and illustrator Rob Biddulph introduced a very excited audience at Z-arts to his latest picture book *I Follow the Fox* featuring one of his famous Draw-alongs.
- We also co-promoted the 100 Story Hotel at Z-arts, an interactive world of play and storytelling created by Rob Biddulph and Discover Children's Story Centre.

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Workshops and Walking Tours

- Writer Tania Hershman and tour guide Emma Fox delivered two Writing and Walking Tours celebrating Manchester and the rich cultural contribution made by four brilliant women residents during the first half of the twentieth century: painters Annie Swynnerton and Isabel Dacre, theatre impresario Annie Horniman and scientist Kathleen Drew-Baker.
- Festival guests Gillian Clarke, Inua Ellams, Raymond Antrobus and Francesca Beard each delivered excellent poetry workshops with themes spanning self-expression, music, nature, poetic truth and how to channel life experience.

The Festival continued to deliver a year-round creative learning programme encouraging children and young people to develop a passion for reading and creative writing. Activities included:

Little Reads: fun, interactive workshops using drama, dance, songs and craft to animate stories for under 5s and their parents/carers in partnership with GM libraries. Delivered monthly in Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport and Trafford attracting a total of 3311 attendances across 108 sessions.

Media Cubs: 12 children participated in 5 media training sessions delivered in Beswick Library in October. Media Cubs reporter Sonny produced a video report from our Skateboard Drawing Club:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qk-fxYd8vnU>

Story Explorers: 132 children aged 8-11 participated in our HAF supported Story Explorers sessions during the Easter and Summer holidays in Sale West Community Centre and Old Trafford (Limelight). 58 children participated in our Story Explorers After School Clubs at Limelight. 1000 primary school children participated in creative activity days at Lancashire Country Cricket Club in May.

National Play Day: we ran an activity stall in partnership with the Blue Peter Club in Platt Fields Park on 7 July engaging 75 families.

World Book Day: we presented two Musical Storyland events for schools on 3 March at Z-arts. 418 pupils from 11 local primary schools and Home Education groups attended the events. 75 GM primary schools also accessed free online teaching resources to support their own classroom activities, benefitting 11516 pupils.

In Spring 2024 we appointed Field Studio to design and build a new CMS website for us and we were delighted with the results. As briefed, they created a stylish, engaging and easy to navigate portal for our various audiences and stakeholders to access content and information about our events, new commissions and projects. They also created an exciting, warm and engaging interface to showcase our year-round creative learning activities for children and families. As part of the process, they produced a series of bright and playful new graphics and animations that represent different elements of our work including writing, reading, playing and performing. We were able to use these dynamic graphics across all our digital and print assets, creating a strong, consistent brand for the 2024 Festival. Since the launch of the new website in mid-June web traffic has increased by over 25% and feedback from audiences, partners and volunteers about the new branding has been extremely positive.

We produced a 20-page Festival Programme (20,000 print run) and a separate flyer to promote our Events and Activities for Children and Families (7,500) which were posted out to our mailing list and distributed to key cultural venues across the region using Culture Calling. We commissioned a large eye-catching banner outside Central Library which was displayed 16 September – 21 and also ran digital screen adverts at several sites across the city.

This year's programme was featured in The Bookseller, Lancashire Life, Creative Tourist, I Love Manchester, Prolific North, The Mill, Manchester Confidential, About Manchester, Manchester Wire, Manchester's Finest, The Art Shelf, GM Chambers, The Business Desk, Oxford Road Corridor, Canal Street, Jadar and Mancunian Matters. There were several positive reviews of Festival events on Northern Soul (Percival Everett, David Peace, Joe Boyd, Ekow Eshun and Richard Powers) and Mancunian Matters (David Peace, Juno Dawson, Rebecca F Kuang, Carol Ann Duffy and André Aciman). Poets Raymond Antrobus and Theresa Lola appeared on Craig Charles' *BBC 6 Music Fight Club* and the Festival was given plugs by Stuart Maconie on his *Radcliffe and Maconie* and *Freakzone* shows.

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Public Benefit

Manchester Literature Festival's activities in the year were designed to provide the following public benefits in accordance with the Charities Act 2006:

The advancement of the arts: MLF provided a unique and diverse programme of activities designed to appeal to readers of all ages and literary tastes.

The advancement of education: MLF provided an imaginative programme of events and creative learning activities for children and young people and supported local writers through commissioning and showcasing opportunities, enabling them to reach a broader audience and advance their careers.

The year ahead

We plan to curate a live programme of 40+ events and workshops as part of the main Festival in October 2025 as well as Spring events with award-winning authors Kevin Barry, Robert Macfarlane, Laura Bates, Colm Tóibín, Attica Locke and Rebecca F Kuang.

We will continue to deliver a year-round Creative Learning programme of activities for children and families across Greater Manchester including our Little Reads, Story Explorers and Media Cubs Mini Reporters projects.

As part of our twentieth anniversary celebrations, we will be curating a photography exhibition at Central Library, featuring intimate green room and on-stage portraits of authors who have appeared at Manchester Literature Festival and publishing a souvenir pamphlet of poems that we have commissioned over the years.

We will be investing some reserves in the appointment of a part-time Marketing and Audience Development Manager to help the Festival expand its audience and increase the organisation's long-term resilience as we celebrate our 20th year.

The trustees bankers and advisers

Bankers	HSBC 780 Wilmslow Road, Manchester M20 0DP
Accountants	RWF Rubinstein, Chartered Accountants 171 Bury New Road, Manchester M45 6AB

Financial review

The charity's financial position at the year ended March 31st 2025

The financial position of the charity at 31 March 2025 and comparatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:-

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income	10,948	20,798
<hr/>		
Unrestricted Revenue Funds available for the general purposes of the charity	132,274	121,326
<hr/>		
Total Funds	132,274	121,326
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Financial review of the position at the reporting date at March 31st 2025 and Policies on reserves

The Festival currently holds £132,274 in reserves, all of which are unrestricted. This includes £60K ring fenced budget to cover potential wind-up costs including payment of notice periods, statutory redundancy pay and fulfilment of any freelance obligations. We are working to build a further £60K of free reserves to help smooth out peaks and troughs in funding, sponsorship and box office income to cover any one-off additional expenditure. The trustees may choose to invest any excess reserves in activities that will help to secure the continued growth of the festival, such as fundraising or marketing, or to seek out low risk investment banking options.

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund

Details of The Independent Examiner

Michael J Rubinstein
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants
Brentwood
171 Bury New Road
Whitefield
Manchester
M45 6AB

Statement of the Directors Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the Trustees determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in October 2018 and applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP).

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to :-

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law);"
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

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The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no material inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

Method of preparation of accounts - Small company provisions

The financial statements are set out on pages 12 to 26.

The financial statements have been prepared implementing the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in October 2018 and applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016)

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006. applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on January 19th, 2026



Christopher Graham Jeffries

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charitable company on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the charitable company on pages 10 to 24 for the year ended 31 March 2025 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) as modified by FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW), and under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 15.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner and the basis of the report

As described on page 6, you, the charitable company's Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Company for the purposes of Company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and all other applicable law and with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, applicable to smaller entities, and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the memorandum and articles of the charity for the conducting of an audit, and that the accounts do not require an audit in accordance with Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. As a consequence, the Trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements are not required to be audited under any legal provision, or otherwise, and are eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- a) examine the financial statements of the charity under section 145 of the Act;
- b) follow the applicable procedures in the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement and scope of work undertaken

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under s145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act setting out the duties of an independent examiner in relation to the conducting of an independent examination. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable company and of the accounting systems employed by the charitable company and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of charity legislation and that, on a test basis of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures made, the financial statements comply with the SORP.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the Trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries and does not cover all the matters that an auditor would consider in arriving at an opinion. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the independent examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, I have completed my examination: and can confirm that:-

The accounts of this charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006;

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Act and in accordance with Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act which may be applicable;

and that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:-

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and Section 130 of The Charities Act 2011;

the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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;

have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP).

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

Signed:-



Michael J Rubinstein BA FCA - Independent Examiner

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Brentwood
171 Bury New Road
Whitefield
Manchester
M45 6AB

This report was signed on January 19th 2026

Manchester Literature Festival Limited - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025, as required by the Companies Act 2006)

	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
Income & Endowments from:			
Donations & Legacies	175,338	175,338	206,018
Charitable activities	71,259	71,259	61,899
Investments	1,575	1,575	1,395
Total income	248,172	248,172	269,312
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	8,500	8,500	8,500
Charitable activities	228,724	228,724	240,014
Total expenditure	237,224	237,224	248,514
Net income for the year	10,948	10,948	20,798
Net income after transfers	10,948	10,948	20,798
Net movement In funds	10,948	10,948	20,798
Reconciliation of funds:-			
Total funds brought forward	121,327	121,327	88,012
Total funds carried forward	132,275	132,275	108,810

The 'SORP Ref' indicated above is the classification of income set out in the formal SORP documents. As required by paragraph 4.60 of the SORP, the brought forward and carried forward funds above have been agreed to the Balance Sheet.

A separate Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is not required as this statement includes all recognised gains and losses.

All the prior year transactions were unrestricted items, and no further analysis is required

All activities derive from continuing operations

All activities derive from continuing operations

The notes attached on pages 15 to 24 form an integral part of these accounts.

Manchester Literature Festival Limited - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

Movements in revenue and capital funds for the year ended 31 March 2025

Revenue accumulated funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Last year Total Funds 2024 £
Accumulated funds brought forward	121,327	121,327	88,012
Recognised gains before transfers	<u>10,948</u>	<u>10,948</u>	<u>20,798</u>
	132,275	132,275	108,810
 Closing revenue funds	 <u>132,275</u>	 <u>132,275</u>	 <u>108,810</u>

Summary of funds

	Unrestricted and Designated funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Last Year Total Funds 2024 £
Revenue accumulated funds	132,275	132,275	108,810
Total funds	<u>132,275</u>	<u>132,275</u>	<u>108,810</u>

The notes attached on pages 15 to 24 form an integral part of these accounts.

Manchester Literature Festival Limited - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the Companies Act 2006

	2025 £	2024 £
Income		
Income from operations	246,596	267,917
Investment income		
Interest receivable	1,576	1,395
Gross income in the year before exceptional items	248,172	269,312
Gross income in the year including exceptional items	248,172	269,312
Expenditure		
Charitable expenditure, excluding depreciation and amortisation	224,594	234,949
Depreciation and amortisation	500	650
Fundraising costs	8,500	8,500
Governance costs	3,630	4,415
Realised losses on disposals of social investments which are programme related	-	-
Total expenditure in the year	237,224	248,514
Net income before tax in the financial year	10,948	20,798
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	-	-
Net income after tax in the financial year	10,948	20,798
Retained surplus for the financial year	10,948	20,798
All activities derive from continuing operations		

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, the headings and subheadings used in the Income and Expenditure account have been adapted to reflect the special nature of the charity's activities.

The notes attached on pages 15 to 24 form an integral part of these accounts.

Manchester Literature Festival Limited
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	1,510	2,010
Total fixed assets		<u>1,510</u>	<u>2,010</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		139,712	130,037
Total current assets		<u>139,712</u>	<u>130,037</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(8,947)</u>	<u>(10,720)</u>
Net current assets		130,765	119,317
The total net assets of the charity		<u>132,275</u>	<u>121,327</u>
The total net assets of the charity are funded by the funds of the charity, as follows:-			
Restricted funds		-	-
Unrestricted Funds			
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	12	<u>132,275</u>	<u>121,327</u>
		132,275	121,327
Designated Funds		-	-
Total charity funds		<u>132,275</u>	<u>121,327</u>

The notes attached on pages 15 to 24 form an integral part of these accounts.

Manchester Literature Festival Limited
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

The 'SORP Ref' indicated above is the classification of Balance Sheet items as set out in the formal SORP documents. As required by paragraph 4.60 of the SORP, the brought forward and carried forward funds above have been agreed to the SOFA.

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The charity is subject to Independent Examination under charity legislation, and the report of the Independent Examiner is on page 9.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.



Christopher Graham Jeffries

Trustee

Approved by the board of trustees on January 19th 2026

The notes attached on pages 15 to 24 form an integral part of these accounts.

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Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Policies relating to the production of the accounts.

Basis of preparation and accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) and 'FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW), and in accordance with all applicable law in the charity's jurisdiction of registration, except that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2019, applicable to all accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January 2019), (The SORP), in preference to the previous SORP, the SORP 2005, which has been withdrawn, notwithstanding the fact that the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 refer explicitly to the SORP 2005. This has been done to accord with current best practice.

Going Concern

The charitable activities are entirely dependent on continuing grant aid and voluntary donations as well as trading revenues. As a consequence, the going concern basis is dependent on the future flow of these uncertain funding streams. Accordingly, the Trustees have obtained forecasts and, after reviewing the financial forecasts for future periods to 31 December 2023, the Trustees are satisfied that, at the time of approving the financial statements, it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Other than these matters, the Trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Risks and future assumptions

Policies relating to categories of income and income recognition.

Nature of income

Gross income represents the value, net of value added tax and discounts, of goods provided to customers and work carried out in respect of services provided to customers.

Accounting for deferred income and income received in advance

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

Any grant that is subject to performance-related conditions received in advance of delivering the goods and services required by that condition, or is subject to unmet conditions wholly outside the control of the recipient charity, is accounted for as a liability and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income. Deferred income is released to income in the reporting period in which the performance-related or other conditions that limit recognition are met.

When income from a grant or donation has not been recognised due to the conditions applying to the gift not being wholly within the control of the recipient charity, it is disclosed as a contingent asset if receipt of the grant or donation is probable once those conditions are met.

Where time related conditions are imposed or implied by a funder, then the income is apportioned to the time periods concerned, and, where applicable, is accounted for as a liability and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income. When grants are received in advance of the expenditure on the activity funded by them, but there are no specific time related conditions, then the income is not deferred.

Any condition that allows for the recovery by the donor of any unexpended part of a grant does not prevent recognition of the income concerned, but a liability to any repayment is recognised when repayment becomes probable.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at their original cost value, or subsequent revaluation, or if donated, as described above. Cost value includes all costs expended in bringing the asset into its intended working condition.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets to their anticipated residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Plant and machinery

20 % straight line

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are measured at their payable amounts at the balance sheet date

Financial instruments including cash and bank balances

Cash held by the charity is included at the amount actually held and counted at the year end. Bank balances, whether in credit or overdrawn, are shown at the amounts properly reconciled to the bank statements.

2 Liability to taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

3 Winding up or dissolution of the charity

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having similar objects to the charity.

4 Significance of financial instruments to the charity's position

There are no significant implications relating to the charity's financial position.

5 Net surplus before tax in the financial year

	2025 £	2024 £
The net surplus before tax in the financial year is stated after charging:-		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	500	650
Pension costs	2,815	2,805

6 Staff costs and emoluments

Salary costs	2025 £	2024 £
Gross Salaries excluding trustees and key management personnel	93,816	93,484
Employer's National Insurance for all staff	4,181	5,135
Employer's operating costs of defined contribution pension schemes	2,815	2,805
Total salaries, wages and related costs	100,812	101,424

The average number of full time staff employed in the year was	3	3
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The estimated equivalent number of full time staff deployed in different activities in the year was:-

Engaged on charitable activities	1	1
Engaged on publicity activities	1	1
Engaged on fundraising activities	1	1
The estimated full time equivalent number of all staff employed as above	3	3

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

7 Deferred income - Unrestricted and Designated funds

<i>Current Year</i>	Opening Deferrals	Released from prior years	Received less released in year	Deferred at year end
	£	£	£	£
Amounts less than £1,000	1,627	(1,627)	-	700
Total	<u>1,627</u>	<u>(1,627)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>700</u>

	2025 £	2024 £
These deferrals are included in creditors	<u>700</u>	<u>1,627</u>

<i>Prior Year</i>	Opening Deferrals	Released from prior years	Received less released in year	Deferred at year end
	£	£	£	£
Amounts less than £1,000	-	-	-	1,627
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,627</u>

	2024 £
These deferrals are included in creditors	<u>1,627</u>

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

8 Tangible fixed assets

<i>Current Year</i>	Land and Buildings	Plant & Machinery	Motor Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2024	-	15,666	-	15,666
At 31 March 2025	-	15,666	-	15,666
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	-	13,656	-	13,656
Charge for the year	-	500	-	500
At 31 March 2025	-	14,156	-	14,156
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	-	1,510	-	1,510
At 31 March 2024	-	2,010	-	2,010

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	4,015	4,400
Payment received on account for contracts or performance related grants	-	-
Deferred Income - Unrestricted & designated funds	700	1,627
Deferred Income - Restricted funds	-	-
PAYE, NIC VAT and other taxes	3,883	4,361
Other creditors	348	333
	8,946	10,721

10 Income and Expenditure account summary

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 April 2024	20,798	-
At 1 April 2024	20,798	-
Surplus after tax for the year	10,948	20,798
At 31 March 2025	31,746	20,798

11 Particulars of how particular funds are represented by assets and liabilities

At 31 March 2025	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,510	-	-	1,510
Current Assets	139,712	-	-	139,712
Current Liabilities	(8,947)	-	-	(8,947)
	132,275	-	-	132,275

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

At 1 April 2024	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	2,010	-	-	2,010
Fixed asset investments				
Programme related investments				
Current Assets	130,037	-	-	130,037
Current Liabilities	(10,720)	-	-	(10,720)
	<u>121,327</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>121,327</u>

12 Change in total funds over the year as shown in Note 11 , analysed by individual funds

	Funds brought forward from 2024	Movement in funds in 2025	Transfers between funds in 2025	Funds carried forward to 2026
	£	£	£	£
<i>Unrestricted and designated funds:-</i>				
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	121,327	10,948	-	132,275
Total unrestricted and designated funds	<u>121,327</u>	<u>10,948</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,275</u>
Total charity funds	<u>121,327</u>	<u>10,948</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,275</u>

13 Analysis of movements in funds over the year as shown in Note 12

	Income	Expenditure	Other Gains & Losses	Movement in funds
	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£	£
<i>Unrestricted and designated funds:-</i>				
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	248,172	(237,224)	-	10,948
	<u>248,172</u>	<u>(237,224)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,948</u>

14 The purposes for which the funds as detailed in note 13 are held by the charity are:-

Unrestricted and designated funds:-

Unrestricted revenue funds	These funds are held for the meeting the objectives of the charity, and to provide reserves for future activities, and , subject to charity legislation, are free from all restrictions on their use.
Restricted Revenue Funds	These funds are held for the meeting the objectives of the charity, and to provide reserves for future activities. They are held for specific restricted purposes as detailed in Note 7

15 Ultimate controlling party

The charity is under the control of its legal members.

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

17 Donations, Grants and Legacies

	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Revenue grants from government and public bodies				
Small grants individually less than £1000	3,427	-	3,427	999
Manchester City Council - Other Funding	-	-	-	2,500
Manchester City Council - Cultural Partnership Funding	12,500	-	12,500	12,500
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	44,000	-	44,000	22,000
Cities Untold	-	-	-	30,129
MMU	-	-	-	2,267
NL Community Fund	-	-	-	8,620
We Love Manchester	-	-	-	2,000
Total public sector revenue grants	137,999	-	137,999	159,087

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Revenue grants and donations from non public bodies				
Small grants individually less than £1000	1,758	-	1,758	4,936
Gift Aid Donations from subsidiaries	-	-	-	-
Granada Foundation	-	-	-	-
Waterstones	2,048	-	2,048	1,935
Contact Theatre	-	-	-	1,272
Lowry	3,033	-	3,033	2,288
Total private sector revenue grants	6,839	-	6,839	10,431

Revenue grants and donations from non public bodies (Include Gift Aid donations from subsidiaries) - Prior Year analysis

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2024 £
Sponsorship				
Sponsorship Income	30,500	-	30,500	36,500
Total sponsorship income	30,500	-	30,500	36,500
Total Donations, Grants and Legacies				
Total Donations, Grants and Legacies	175,338	-	175,338	206,018

18 Income from charitable activities - Trading Activities

Current year

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2025 £	Current year Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Year Total funds 2024 £
Primary purpose and ancillary trading				
Sale of goods and services in accordance with the charity's objects	71,261	-	71,261	61,899
Total Primary purpose and ancillary trading	71,261	-	71,261	61,899

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

19 Total Income from charitable activities

<i>Current year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Total income from charitable trading	71,261	-	71,261	61,899
Total from charitable activities	71,261	-	71,261	61,899

20 Investment income

	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Receivable	1,576	-	1,576	1,395
Total investment income	1,576	-	1,576	1,395

21 Expenditure on charitable activities - Direct spending

<i>Current Year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities	93,816	-	93,816	93,484
Employers' NI - Charitable activities	4,181	-	4,181	5,135
Defined contribution pension costs - charitable activities	2,815	-	2,815	2,805
Travel and Subsistence - Charitable Activities	2,479	-	2,479	1,670
Marketing and advertising of charitable services	21,774	-	21,774	23,628
Artists Costs	34,304	-	34,304	55,773
Venue and production costs	8,151	-	8,151	9,502
Total direct spending	167,520	-	167,520	191,997

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

22 Support costs for charitable activities

<i>Current Year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>Employee costs not included in direct costs</i>				
Training and welfare - staff	1,906	-	1,906	991
Travel and subsistence - staff	2,512	-	2,512	2,922
<i>Premises Expenses</i>				
Rent payable under operating leases	8,080	-	8,080	7,153
Rates and water charges	583	-	583	298
<i>Administrative overheads</i>				
Telephone, fax and internet	1,789	-	1,789	2,075
Postage	3,486	-	3,486	3,022
Stationery and printing	1,015	-	1,015	315
Subscriptions to periodicals	2,012	-	2,012	1,811
Health and safety costs	-	-	-	-
Liability and contents insurance	1,209	-	1,209	1,378
Sundry expenses	134	-	134	88
<i>Professional fees paid to advisors other than the auditor or examiner</i>				
Consultancy fees	24,794	-	24,794	22,477
<i>Financial costs</i>				
Bank charges	251	-	251	422
Depreciation & Amortisation in total for	500	-	500	650
Support costs before reallocation	57,574	-	57,574	43,602
Total support costs - Current Year	57,574	-	57,574	43,602

<i>Current Year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees	3,630	-	3,630	4,415
Total Governance costs	3,630	-	3,630	4,415

All the expenditure in the prior year was unrestricted.

Manchester Literature Festival Limited

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 as required by the SORP 2015

23 Total Charitable expenditure

<i>Current Year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Total direct spending	167,520	-	167,520	191,997
Total charitable trading costs	-	-	-	-
Total grantmaking costs	-	-	-	-
Total support costs	57,574	-	57,574	43,602
Total Governance costs	3,630	-	3,630	4,415
Total charitable expenditure	228,724	-	228,724	240,014

All the expenditure in the prior year was unrestricted.

<i>Prior Year</i>	Prior Year Unrestricted Funds	Prior Year Restricted Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
Total direct spending	191,997	-	191,997
Total charitable trading costs	-	-	-
Total grantmaking costs	-	-	-
Total support costs	43,602	-	43,602
Total Governance costs	4,415	-	4,415
Total charitable expenditure	240,014	-	240,014

24 Expenditure on raising funds and costs of investment management

<i>Current Year</i>	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Agent's costs for fundraising	8,500	-	8,500	8,500
Total fundraising costs	8,500	-	8,500	8,500

All the expenditure in the prior year was unrestricted.