



Celebrating books by the sea

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON LITERARY FESTIVAL

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Registered Charity No. 1127885.
Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.**

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31 December 2024 to be read in conjunction with the attached Financial Statements.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The charitable objectives of the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival are:

The advancement of education for the benefit of the public in East Devon by the promotion of the arts of Literature, poetry, the written and spoken word and related arts. In particular by fostering and supporting the work of the Budleigh Salterton Literary festival.

The Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

MAIN ACTIVITY AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

The main activity is the funding, organisation, and promotion of the annual Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival held in September each year and a smaller weekend festival held in March. Each festival contains a range of events fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comedy and workshops which are open to and attended by members of the public from across the community. The BSLF trustees strive to maintain affordable ticket prices. The Budleigh Salterton Festival celebrates books and their authors and promotes the art of reading and the enjoyment of writing in our East Devon community and in our local schools.

The BSLF Trustees decided to continue the initiative of the past 2 festivals and subsidise the costs of events and workshops for children and families in addition to offering free activities. The 2024 programme included the popular author/illustrator Rob Biddulph, Clare Helen Walsh and Yuval Zommer and 7 workshops (Aardman modelling, Manga and music) as well as free activities in the mini marquee and a very successful spoken word workshop and presentation for partner secondary schools. The education team also arranged a very successful event for GCSE students with Simon Armitage, poet laureate.

The BSLF charity agreed to contribute to the Libraries Unlimited project run in Littleham school to promote greater awareness of literacy and encourage more use of Exmouth library. Early signs are encouraging.

During 2024 the BSLF charity worked with 1787 children and students in 20 local primary and secondary schools doubling the number of participating schools. Schools received copies of authors' books for their libraries.

Free books in the Litfest beach hut were once again available during the September festival. Very few books remaining once the festival was over.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the relevant Charity Commission guidance and consider that the activities outlined in this report meet the public benefit requirement for charities and will continue to look for local opportunities to expand on the charity's objectives.



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REVIEW OF THE YEAR

This is the fourth review since the status of the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival (BSLF) was changed from a Company Limited by guarantee to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the approval of the Charities commission. The BSLF Spring festival weekend went ahead with 6 events in St Peter's Church on 1st & 2nd March 2024. Tickets sold well for all events which covered a broad range of non-fiction topics and a special event from Simon Armitage, poet laureate. The most popular event was Clive Myrie with his memoir 'Everything is Everything'

A team of BSLF Trustees rose to the challenge of recruiting a new Artistic director due to Annie Ashworth's resignation taking effect after the September 2024 festival. They were overwhelmed with the number of applicants for the post, short listed for interview 6 and chose Kate Abbey for her breadth of festival programming experience, cultural insight, and fresh approach. The committee team felt that Kate would represent a more southwestern focus and look forward to working with her from November 2024. Cathy Renzenbrink continues as the BSLF president.

The BSLF committee planned a joint event in June collaborating the Budleigh Music festival within their programme of events. Sir Michael Morpurgo was due to read from his latest book 'Carnival of the Animals' with music accompaniment and signing for those children with hearing impairment from the Exmouth Deaf Academy. Sadly, this event was postponed due to ill health and will now occur in June 2025.

The main festival programme went ahead in September 2024 with a full programme of 74 events - the highest number so far including 10 events for children and families and free activities in the mini marquee. The delivery of such a large number of events over 5 days would not be possible without a vast team of willing and capable volunteers led by an experienced, efficient and dedicated committee team each with their own area of responsibility and adapting gracefully and cheerfully to changes and challenges. The marquee festival hub had extended open hours designed to expand the attraction of a literary festival within the community, this was popular and will be repeated. Despite rising costs in every area, the 2024 festival made a profit of **£10,000** over budget predictions. Grateful thanks to Annie Ashworth, BSLF artistic director for ensuring her last Bud LitFest was profitable.

The BSLF Trustees plan to run a recruitment process for a new Artistic director in March 2024 and have allocated £5,000 from reserves to facilitate this process.

The BSLF Trustees together with the committee look forward to planning both a Spring festival in March and a full September in 2025 aiming to continue working with local schools, the local library and making partnership arrangements with groups in the community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW



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Total income, net of VAT, amounted to £158,386 (2023 £162,274), expenditure amounted to £147,207 (2023 £1172,267) This resulted in a leaving an excess of Income over Expenses of £11,179 (deficit £9,993 in 2023) taken from Reserves.

RESERVES

The BSLF Trustees continue to be fortunate that the accumulation of reasonable previous years' Reserves allowed them to fund the five-day festival, consistent with the objects of the charity. All Trustees are assiduously monitoring costs which have risen over the past 3 years and will continue to act prudently to maintain sufficient reserves in order to secure the sustainability of the charity.

RISK POLICY

The Trustees have considered all risks to which the Charity might be exposed to in 2024 with specific focus on continuing train strikes and the need to protect the ongoing financial security of the charity and pursue local sponsorship to continue to fund education and outreach projects assiduously.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Trustees as at 31 December 2024 were

Chairman	Sue Briggs	Deputy-Chairman	Carol Ackroyd
Treasurer	Ruth Jones		
Trustee	Jane Burton		
Trustee	Gareth Thomas		
Trustee	Mags Milne		
Trustee	David Marston		
Trustee	Hilary Shiels		

David Cornes died on 6.9.2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023	
	£	£	
Income from Donations			
Sponsors and Advertising	15,550	15,000	
Donations	21,804	16,572	
Grants	2,180	0	Viscount Amory £500, EDDC £1680
Friends	8,580	8,153	
Income Tax Recovered	0	0	
Charitable Activities			
Ticket Sales	104,811	116,985	
Book Sales and Other Sundry Income	5,461	5,564	
Total Income	158,386	162,274	
Less Expenditure on			
Raising Funds			
Administration and Printing	7,727	9,921	
Advertising and Publicity	20,830	31,016	
Commission on Ticket Sales	1,073	6,250	
Exceptional expenses	4,799	0	
Other Expenses	4,924	10,140	
Charitable Activities			
Speakers Fees	23,596	24,670	
Purchase Books	1,605	5,510	
Venue Expenses	33,891	37,451	
Hospitality	11,870	12,832	
Outreach Education	10,361	6,996	
Consultancy Fees	26,530	27,481	
Total Expenditure	147,207	172,267	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	11,179	-9,993	
Total Funds brought forward	-18,518	-8,525	
Total Funds carried forward	-7,339	-18,518	

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Current Assets		
Debtors and Prepayments	2,730	2,460
Prepayments	4,000	4,000
Balance at Bank	74,149	75,944
Total Current Assets	80,879	82,404
Less Current Liabilities		
Creditors and Accruals	4,686	17,390
Net Assets	76,193	65,014
Total Funds (unrestricted)	76,193	65,014

Approved by the Trustees on 20th August 2025

Signed by Ruth Jones on behalf of the Board of Trustees.



BUDLEIGH SALTERTON LITERARY FESTIVAL
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered charity no 1127885

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF BUDLEIGH SALTERTON LITERARY FESTIVAL**

I report on the accounts of the charitable organisation for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on page 2 of this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under it, and for keeping proper accounting records.

The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission, and
- state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable organisation and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view", and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

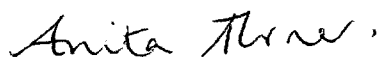
In connection with my examination, I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require me to report to you if, in my opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' Report; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations required.

Use of Independent examiners report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

Signed:



Anita Turner, Holcombe, Teignmouth

Date: 20.8.25