OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1130148

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06829975
Registered	2009-06-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Rise Whittox Lane Frome Somerset BA11 3BY
Phone	01373454099
Email	info@openstorytellers.org.uk
Website	www.openstorytellers.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (1) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AND PRESERVE AND PROTECTTHE HEALTH OF PERSONS WHO HAVE LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION DISABILITIES,THEIR FAMILIES AND CARERS BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP STORIES ANDSTORYTELLING.(2) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ART,PRACTICE AND VALUE OF ORAL STORYTELLING AND IN KNOWLEDGE OF THE FORM ANDCONTENT OF THE ORAL TRADITIONAL OF PEOPLE AND CULTURES.

Activities: We are a team of professional storytellers with & without learning disabilities who inspire people through the sharing of personal & traditional stories. We aim to enrich the lives of people with learning disabilities & those who live & work with them. We seek a world where everyone,regardless of their disability, finds a voice to tell their story & listeners are able to hear & support the telling

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, NATIONAL
- Dorset
- Somerset
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£406,762	£341,060	-	-
2024-03-31	£253,907	£228,772	-	-
2023-03-31	£211,452	£229,520	-	-
2022-02-28	£178,371	£200,644	-	-
2021-02-28	£231,639	£151,925	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Benjamin Banks		2022-10-27
Elanor Steel		2023-11-16
Emma May Mee		2025-01-27
Sally Elizabeth Davenport		2024-06-20

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OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED

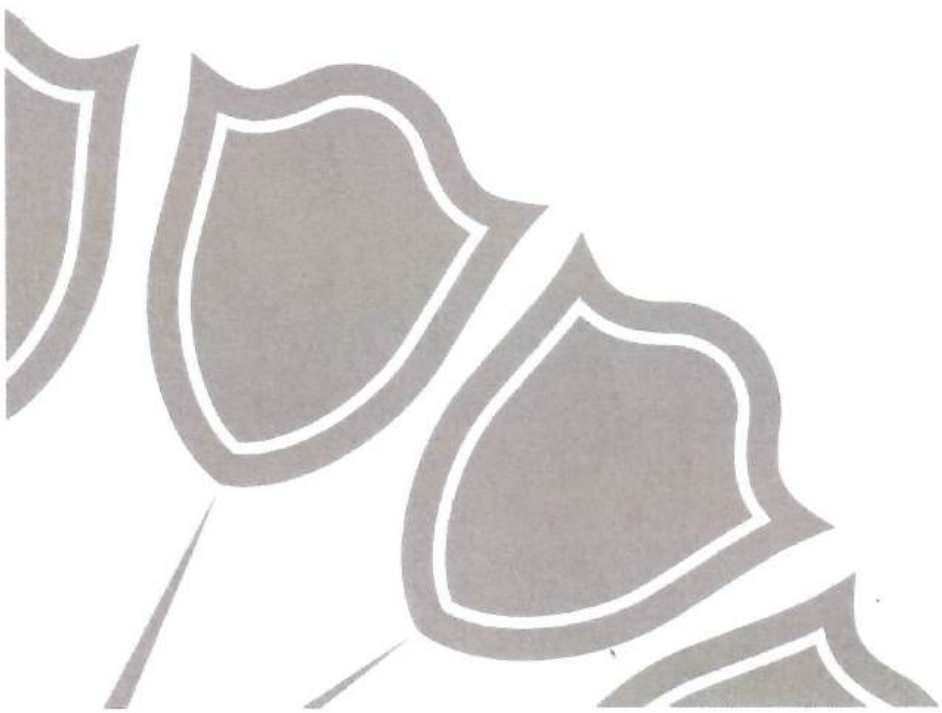
England & Wales - Charity number 1130148

Accounts

Open Story Tellers

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025 OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER 06829975
CHARITY NUMBER 1130148



Open Story Tellers

Our Objectives

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The structure and content of this report is designed to reflect the requirement to explain how the charity has operated within that guidance.

The objects of the charity are

To advance the education for the public benefit and preserve and protect the health of persons who have learning and communication disabilities, their families and carers by providing opportunities to develop stories and storytelling.

To advance the education of the public in the knowledge of the art, practice and value of oral storytelling and in knowledge of the form and content of the oral tradition of people and cultures.

Message from the Chair



It is a pleasure to write my first message to you as the new Chair of the Trustees. And I must start by paying tribute to Sarah Talbot-Williams, who stepped down in January of this year – for much of this reporting period she was at the helm!

Sarah's departure after 4 years amazing service rounded off a year of change with our board of trustees. We bade a deeply fond farewell to Jane Flood who has long been an important fellow storyteller carrying the torch for this artform amongst other board members for many years. Claire Edgar and Jackie Lucas also stepped down as their careers took impressive upturns with Jackie making a welcome return to the workplace and Claire taking up a senior position at Surrey council – our loss is their gain. I am delighted to introduce Emma Mee who we welcomed in January and will be supporting the leadership team with her extensive experience of project management and delivery for the National Trust. We are indebted to existing trustees; Ben Banks for stepping into the treasurer role and Elanor Steele for taking on a safeguarding lead. Trustees are the unsung heroes of all charities and we are grateful for their time and expertise so freely given.

You will see from the image I've chosen for this message that our National Lottery Heritage Fund funded project, Through the Front Door, has been a key focus this year. Fellow Fromies will recognise the iconic Memorial Theatre yellow posters that we see around our town. It was a touching moment when artists arrived at the theatre for rehearsals and saw this. More than a few audible gulps were heard! This was the most ambitious project we have ever delivered – a show and a film researched, devised and performed across all our

companies of artists, including those who had never met until performance day. It was a scale of ambition merited by the extraordinary, forgotten stories we uncovered.

Despite the sheer amount of work that went into this project – our year has also been full of other accomplishments as well as a tentative venture into a whole new area of work. It was a year where we challenged ourselves to be better as an organization – innovating our inclusive governance processes, building on inclusive employment and co-creating our new 5-year strategy alongside all our artists and other stakeholders.

As ever, I send a huge vote of thanks to our funders and donors who have supported us to deliver these outstanding projects and continue to partner with us to deliver our vision of a world where every voice is heard. In particular, I want to acknowledge and thank The Edward Gostling Foundation for choosing us as a legacy partner earlier this year. We are thrilled to have their continued support.

It has been an exciting time to jump aboard and I look forward to what the coming years will hold.



Sally Davenport

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Arts and Expression

Creative arts and expression are the 'engine room' of what happens at OpenStoryTellers. Each week, 4 companies of artists (about 30 people each week) and a Wellbeing company (about 8 people) come together to create and to connect artistically at our base in Frome.

Here are some words and pictures to give you a flavour of that work in 2024-2025.

Through the Front Door – research, devising and production



The purpose of this major National Lottery Heritage Fund funded project was to raise awareness of people with learning disabilities in the local area, to preserve the heritage of stories and places belonging to that community, and promote inclusion and diversity. We shared hidden histories and stories were created and told **about** people with a learning disability **by** people with a learning disability.

The creative phase was underpinned by a research board created by our small inclusive research team that could be accessed by all everyone. It included tactile and visual resources to help bring the fragments of history to life.

27 artists explored common themes of language, community and place, investigating the relationship between the past and the present and how understanding the past can help us change attitudes today.

We displayed the information we had gathered following the timeline of learning disability history and then looked at the national level at laws and care acts that influenced people's



lives, and at a local level what was happening in our chosen areas of Bristol, Wells, Taunton and Frome.

We looked at every aspect of the research from the places we found that people with learning disabilities lived in, the clothes they wore, the food they ate and the laws which governed their lives during the period.

The next phase was taking this research and working inclusively and creatively with our groups to devise a theatre performance with original score and a film. There were 30 devisers and 27 cast members.



Artists worked with our musical director to create an original body of work inspired by the research. This has now been recorded to provide a legacy of their work together. Each artist now has a cd with all the music created and devised by themselves for the performance and original artwork. Each song title was taken from the 'record of entertainments' - books which we found in the SouthWest Heritage archives.



The artists worked with costumier Dulcie Best on historically accurate clothing, which included hand-crocheted collars lovingly made by our community volunteers, a nod to the collars worn by the woman in the asylums who were allowed that small bit of personalisation into their uniform.

The artists also collaborated on props, stage sets, programmes and posters as activity and rehearsals ramped up ahead of our theatre performance.

Performance and Sharing

In January 2025 the results of everyone's hard work came together in a one night only performance at the Frome Memorial Theatre for an audience of 305 people. 26 staff, volunteers and supporters of OpenStoryTellers were working on the night in addition to theatre staff to ensure, the wellbeing and access needs of our cast were met. The cast included 27 people with learning disabilities who delivered a truly original and inspirational performance.

"Entertaining, informative, powerful, creative, inspiring, ambitious and really impressive." Audience feedback.

The show was followed by a 'meet the cast' event and an exhibition of the research that inspired the performance. We were also able to showcase some of our amazing project partners at the event including Bath Spa University's 'We are the People' project and the wonderful work of the Mendip Cemetery Volunteers.

We worked with Suited and Booted Originals (filmmakers) to capture the parts of the live show that would be used in our film. We then shot additional material on location in the buildings and places we had researched. This beautiful, unique piece of art is now available for everyone to view and has been submitted to the Oska Bright film festival. Click on the picture below to watch the film:



https://vimeo.com/1095657776

We also worked with local friend and filmmaker, Julian Hight, to document the behind-the-scenes process of our research and creative phase of the project. This accessible film is an important part of the digital journal we have created throughout the project which includes podcasts, blogs, photos and film. Click on the picture below to watch the film:



https://vimeo.com/1060814236

We have forged new and ongoing working relationships, throughout this project, including:



- Frome Museum
- Bath Spa university
- Mendip Hospital cemetery volunteers
- Wells and Mendip Museum
- Frome Memorial theatre

... all new partnerships which are already bringing richness and new ideas. Special thanks to the team of volunteers at the Memorial Theatre who responded with energy and creativity as artists grappled with the newness of stage lights and a less than accessible old beautiful building, not to mention a surprisingly steep rake on the stage which tested the strength of wheelchair brakes! The generosity of their time and their passion for making our show work was a testament to their commitment to the power of theatre made by and for the community.

Our local MP, Anna Sabine came to see the show and took the time to write to us. In her letter she said:

"I am so glad I was able to see the performance, to find out about what you all think about the history of how we treat people with mental illness or learning disabilities. It gave me a lot to think about."



After the show...

In early February we celebrated with each other. Each day, artists talked about the show and shared their experiences through conversation, voice recordings, on-camera interviews, artwork and movement. We were even sent an Oscar(!) from the custodians of Mendip Hospital Cemetery. Every artist presented and received the Oscar naming and valuing what they saw in each other.

Artistically, *Through The Front Door* elevated OpenStoryTellers to a new established "basecamp" from which future work can be created at a variety of scales.

New understandings and vocabulary entered our world. Having had lived and vivid experiences of chorus work, devising, ensemble, these practices have become even more readily available in people's repertoires.

After a period of reflection (which would be picked up again in March) we continued to create day to day work. Artists have been creating original work – individually and collaboratively - which has seen fruition daily:

- We have explored such themes from outer space to the longing for the forest from the finding of fossils
- An original devised piece on the subject of story itself called Psamathe (a goddess of stories invented by the group).
- We play music together and continue to explore improvisation (with one artist designing and leading two workshops on spontaneity).
- On the 27th March Joe and Simon attended an event at Frome Town Hall by invitation from Anna Sabine and hosted by her team. This was a round table meeting with other local arts organisations and the Arts Council officer for the South West.

South-West Learning Disability Theatre Network

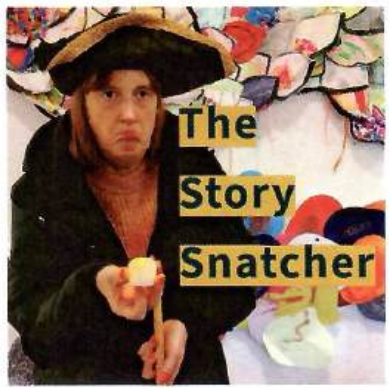
In March, Simon, Alex, Meghan and Corrie met 5 other southwest theatre / creative organisations and artists at an event at the Watershed. It was convened by Blue Apple (Winchester) on behalf of Arts Council England to explore whether working together more would be a good idea. Other groups were:

- Firebird (Bristol)
- TwoCan (Cheltenham)
- Blue Apple (Winchester)
- Shallal (Cornwall)
- Reach Inclusive Arts (Swindon)

It is very early days but it was clear immediately that artists and performers are very keen to meet up more often and share work with each other. Organisationally, we are working out the best way forward and we have enthusiastically agreed to stay part of this collaboration while we all work that out.

Frome Festival

We continued our new tradition of premiering a new devised piece, performed at our base at RISE. This year we showed The Story Snatchers and welcomed over 40 people to watch these performances.



Pigeon Productions

Pigeon productions is the social enterprise wing of our organisation. We take on commissions from external clients which in turn allow us to provide jobs for any artist who comes to OpenStoryTellers. We started Pigeon productions to help raise money for OpenStoryTellers, but over the years this has changed. Pigeon productions is now an important way we tackle social inequalities facing people with a learning disability. This has clearest impact in the area of employment with 8 artists working as creative consultants, 1 who chooses to volunteer as a creative consultant, and 1 freelance artist – Robin Meader. But the topics we work on also address inequality in health, employment and other areas. Here's a selection of our work from this year.

Vaccines films – your choice: A commission from Somerset NHS for films to help people decide about vaccines. Click on the picture to play one of the films:



Supported Internship film: Pigeon consultants worked with Devon Council to create a film promoting supported internships. Click on the picture to play the film:



Other Pigeon projects:

Southampton University: We ran consultancy sessions for the university on the topic of Artificial Intelligence and its impact on easy read materials.

A2I: We continue to support A2I by consulting and checking their easy read materials.

Go Easy Read: Our partnership with Katy Brickly at Go Easy Read continued this year with a range of projects. 2 of these projects required some particularly careful thought as the topics covered serious safeguarding issues. This raised some important ethical issues and our work on separate projects with Bath Spa Uni helped us to navigate this, with the outcome that each consultant had from a wellbeing session run by Becky Abiyah, our extraordinary wellbeing coordinator.

Hate and Mate Crime: Following Pigeon's films from last year, we have run 4 workshops using the films to raise awareness and answer questions in colleges and gateway clubs, Frome Police station and other learning disability services.

Frome Town Council: We are supporting them with a small piece of work to help explain their new engagement strategy. This was part of a larger, really useful conversation where the engagement lead expressed real interest in working with us an engagement experts for the town. We will keep developing this working relationship.

An all-round Hullaballoo – Green and Healthy Frome

*A **"Hullabaloo"** – a noise or fuss made by people who are angry or excited about something.*



Sometimes our Pigeon work allows for larger scale artistic projects across OpenStoryTellers. In collaboration with Green & Healthy Frome, we bought together four local creative practitioners to work alongside our collective of talented artists with learning disabilities, to explore how the changing environment impacts on their world.

In November 2024, we took over the Black Swan Gallery in Frome for an exhibition telling the story our community alongside the anxiety and anger evoked by waste and global warming. Over 500 people visited the exhibition.

There were 5 parts to the project, each led by an external local artist.

We Return to Earth - Becky Abhaya with **Elani, Hannah, Fiona, Andrew & Paula** We shared how being in nature makes us feel and explored the cycles of life; birth, life, aging, decaying, death and again life. We created art at Heaven's Gate, Welshmill River Walk and in OpenStoryTellers over the following months, using both plants and waste rubbish and recording how all that we created slowly returned to the earth.

We emphasised the importance of our connection to nature. We offer a gentle reminder of the impact that microplastics are having.





The Wool Influencers - Jade Ogden with **Peter, Stuart, Lucy, Megan, Ellie, Jacob, Mark, Lauren & Paul** We looked at locally grown fibres and how we could use them for fashion. We explored the issues around fast fashion and plastic based clothing and how we could make something different and good for the planet. Wool fleece is playful and it inspires creativity because of its shape and the way it feels. We talked about the story of the Emperor's New Clothes and thought about how they could become 'influencers' in their local community by making locally grown, biodegradable accessories.





Joyful Feast - Mel Day with **Charlotte, Sarah, Alice, Brandon, Dan, Clemma, Fiona, Jacob, Ellie, Robin & Tim**

The making of Joyful Feast certainly made us happy. Food brings people together, it gives us comfort when we are sad and weary. We show we care by making food, giving to strangers and loved ones alike. While we made the food for our joyful feast we shared our happy food memories, everyone had a story. Some came out almost as verse, ready to pass on to you.





Journeys Through Time and Climate - Howard Vause with Tim, Clemma, Robin & Charlotte We explored how the everyday can become extraordinary when seen through the lens of nature, climate, and time. What might seem like a routine bus trip becomes something far more—an exploration of how climate change will impact future travel, and how nature shapes their experience through the changing seasons. Stories were woven into every ride, where the mundane is magical, where the journey is more than just a destination





The Story of a Stone Thrown in the River – OpenStorytellers' creative facilitators and artists: Kat, Dora, Kate, Dan, Hayley, Ellie, Stuart, Ruth, Robert, William, M, A, C This piece is a creative response to the river Frome; a place that we often frequent, appreciating the flow and the ripples created as we go. We explored our relationship with the river from blue skies and whistling birds to deep below where the bubbles burst. We are inviting you to listen and see the water from a new perspective.



OST & Me

The National Lottery Community Fund is supporting us to take a deep dive into our own practice and governance to explore what it truly means to be a 'user-led' organisation where everyone has a voice when not all of us use words to speak.

What we did:

- Inclusive team and board away day
- Created a new accessible feedback tool called a Thoughts board and held 4 feedback sessions at team meetings
- New Articles of association embedding the views of artists into Trustee decision making
- 4 new Artist Advocate roles - they will be each company's link person with a named trustee - 4 meetings have already happened
- New inclusive strategy (vision, mission, values and strategic outcomes)
- The new strategy has been the subject of a creative audit led by Terrestrial CIC
- New theory of change, impact indicators and measures
- Inclusive employment resources shared with 3 national learning disability organisations
- Inclusive governance learning shared with 4 other learning disability arts organisations

How we changed what we do:

- Our 2 supported interns are now permanent positions
- People with a learning disability are now a core part of team meetings, away days and staff messaging
- We work across all of Somerset (the OurSelf Advocacy project), expanding our potential impact to the more than 3000 people who have a learning disability.
- We are a key partner with Somerset Council in re-establishing their partnership boards
- A fully inclusive creative survey about how well our building works for people - leading to new refurbishment plans and design
- A new, updated website with a strong focus on active allyship
- Trustees building relationships with artists and staff to support their decision making and bringing us closer to a 'user-led' ideal.

How it has changed how we will work in the future

- New 5 year plan, visionary, co-produced, evaluated and bold!
- Framework for inclusive governance that embeds voices of OST learning disabled artists at every level of the organisation - a truly inclusive form of a 'user led' organisation.
- A board of trustees more embedded into day-to-day business and the lives and voices of LD artists.

See our website and our learning for fuller expression of our commitment to active allyship and why that is such a crucial part of being as 'user-led' as we can be.



The team strategy day highlighted impact on inclusive governance of having employees with a learning disability. Whilst employment will not be for everyone, it is another essential strand in ensuring that we elevate people's voices at all levels of decision making.

As this project nears its end, we found a truly unique and creative way to end exactly where we began - with the views of our artists. We partnered with local community arts organisation, Terrestrial and they had a residency with us for 4 weeks. Here is an excerpt of their report:

Terrestrial artists spent time with Open Storytellers over the course of four weeks in Spring 2025. We each visited on a different day of the week so that between us we could collaborate with all the current regular Open Storytellers artists.
Our approach was rooted in being 'active listeners and observers'. The goal was to discover and explore from within the groups of Open Storytellers artists, rather than sitting outside the activities. So we didn't bring any pre-determined questions or provocations to the group – we simply joined in as fellow artists with the day-to-day creative work.

Over the course of our time working with Open Storytellers, each Terrestrial artist became involved in supporting a distinct small creative project – these emerged organically from conversations and explorations amongst the groups.



- Still from Thursday group's film, which can be seen at OST

At several points during the residency, Terrestrial artists gathered to reflect on our experiences – and we were in regular communication with the Open Storytellers staff team about the best ways to support the groups. We were fortunate that two public Open Storytellers events also took place within this period: a screening of OST regular Robin Meader' s latest professionally produced artist film, and the premiere of 'Through the Front Door' (the film version of OST' s major theatre production from earlier this year). Attending these events allowed us to consider the wider impact of the organisation's work.

...

Open Storytellers Artists evidently feel deeply connected to the organisation. Every conversation we witnessed was threaded with references to previous projects, memories of fellow artists past and present, experiences shared as a group. While they are united as Open Storytellers and sometimes come together for specific projects – such as their recent large-scale theatre piece 'Through the Front Door' – a different collection of artists attends each day of the week. Some people have been involved for many years and contribute greatly as artistic elders; others are relatively new to OST.



- **'Baby Dragons', an audio adventure, is available to listen to at Open Storytellers.**

Within each group there are hugely varied artistic interests: some people love noisy group work – big dances, acting and singing – while others prefer gentler solitary tasks such as research and crafts. There are also very different communication styles, physical needs and sensitivities amongst the groups. We all noticed how readily the artists made space for one another – listening carefully, adjusting their activities to include anyone who wanted to join.

OpenStorytellers Staff are incredibly skilful at combining bold creative provocations with flexibility and care. Time and again through our time with OST, Terrestrial's artists marvelled at the myriad levels of communication at play in the room and the Lead Creative Facilitators' ability to stay in the loop with all of them. In any given moment, a staff member might be addressing the group, giving space to an individual who needs to interrupt, and simultaneously gesturing to a colleague. This allows for each artist's interests and needs to be met while the group remains in a creative flow.

All this, and more in their report, assures us that our new strategy and purpose reflects the priorities of the artists who come here – whether those artists use words to speak or not. By approaching this final phase in a creative, non-linear way, we have put out learning into practice about how to approach our whole community in an equal and engaging way.

Self-Advocacy and Camerados:

The project's purpose is to research and reinvigorate self-advocacy in Somerset. Since July 2024 we have been exploring, networking and learning about what is already happening, where we have gaps and how it works in other parts of the country.

Somerset Community Foundation funded this project. Click on this link to find out more. https://vimeo.com/1072180961



We want to make sure people can speak up **but** we also want to make sure they are heard. We have plans to work with the 'audiences' in Somerset too – especially the statutory bodies and providers.

So far we have mapped over 40 Somerset organisations and are now heading out on visits to encourage groups and individuals to come together and speak up together.

Good mental health and young people with learning disabilities: We also had success with a £10,000 grant from Frome Town Council. This grant is aimed towards supporting the mental health of young people with a learning disability in Frome. Clemma supported Alex with our presentation to the communities' team at the council. Our proposal includes the Camerados model of pop-up community living rooms. You can find out more about the Camerados approach by following this link and watching the wonderful short animation on their homepage. https://camerados.org

Ben, Joe and Ellie (and supported by Clemma) are driving both these projects forward.

Hugo & Co

In 2023, a Frome family approached OpenStoryTellers to ask for help. They wanted to find a place like OpenStoryTellers where their son could carry on with education when he left school. We could not find a place that would be right for him. We decided to test out whether we could become an education and care provider. At the beginning of this year, the board of trustees approved a pilot project to research and develop a brand-new area of work for OpenStoryTellers.

With other families also coming to us and articulating problems with further education and support services, we think there could be a better way of providing care and support and further education. We think we could be the right people to do it.

Where are we now?

Hugo now has a personal budget for his education and funding for his care and support. This is being managed like an individual service fund so that there is transparency and control over how the money is spent.

We are partnering with Beyond Limits in Plymouth to employ a team of 4, specifically for Hugo (support staff and team leader). Beyond Limits have huge expertise around CQC registration and are supporting the development of our service – we would be lost without their support and knowledge.

We have engaged 4 people to work as specialist tutors. All 4 have particular skills in areas that matter to Hugo (music, performance, movement, nature) and they have begun teaching on a weekly basis in various community locations.

What next?

We plan to set up a new company called The Allyship. It will be a trading arm for OpenStoryTellers. It will need to be CQC registered – we have more research to do before we know exactly what the new company will look like. Solicitors are helping us with the legal trading agreement between OpenStoryTellers and The Allyship.

We will need to secure some social investment funding to set up our new company. We have learned that we need more infrastructure than we thought to do this properly and well for more people than Hugo.

For Hugo – we need to find more warm and welcoming places where his tutoring can happen. Hugo teaches us lots every single day. It has been a lot of new stuff all very quickly for him. We need to give him time to get used to his new reality.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The

trustees who served during the period and up to the date the accounts were approved are as follows:

Sally Davenport (joined June 20th 2024, elected chair from January 1st 2025)
Benjamin Banks (Treasurer)
Elanor Steel (Safeguarding lead)
Emma Mee (joined January 27th 2025)
Sarah Talbot-Williams (Chair – stepped down 31st Dec 2025)
Jane Flood (stepped down – 18th Feb 2025)
Claire Edgar (stepped down – 22nd Oct 2024)
Jackie Lucas (stepped down – 10th Feb 2025)

Four trustees stepped down this year, two new trustees were appointed.

The registered office is RISE, Whittox Lane, Frome BA11 3BY.
The bankers are HSBC plc, 24 Market Place, Frome BA11 1AJ
The Independent Examiner is Tim Green
The patrons are Nick Hennessey, Storyteller and Taffy Thomas MBE.
The full name of the Charity is Openstorytellers Limited. Charity number 1130148, Company number 0682997

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was incorporated on the 23rd September 2009 as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Charity registered with the Charity Commission on 12th June 2009.

The Directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The Board meets four times a year. The three longest serving trustees retire each year but are subject to re-election.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the overall policy direction of the charity, for fixing and reviewing its annual budget, and for approving annual accounts. The Charity Director is responsible for day-to-day management in accordance with determined policies.

Financial Review

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2025. Reference and administrative details set out on pages 23 & 24 form part of this report. For financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Reserves Policy and Risk Management

The charity's reserves policy aims to maintain a level of free reserves that will provide a buffer against unexpected events, bridge gaps in funding and will enable the charity to respond to new opportunities. It also covers our key liabilities should the charity no longer be able to continue.

The reserve policy has been reviewed and in response to the current unpredictable economic, political and fundraising climate, the trustees have agreed a free reserves target of £72,223 which is equivalent to six months' core operating expenditure.

At the end of the reporting period, the charity held £149,184 in total funds, of which £34,447 was restricted, £54,737 was unrestricted, and £60,000 was designated as an endowment. After accounting for these, the charity's free reserves were £50,205. The Trustees are confident that the long-term financial plans generate sufficient free reserves to satisfy its reserves policy over the coming 12 months and beyond.

The Trustees have examined and addressed the financial risks to which the Charity is exposed and in association with its insurers, has mitigated those risks to the best of its ability.

Transactions and Financial Position

During the year the Charity incurred total expenditure of £341,060 of which £307,237 was directly charitable.
Over the year the Charity received income of £406,762 leading to an overall surplus of £65,702. The Balance sheet shows total reserves on 31st March 2024 of £149,184.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the Company's state of affairs at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for that year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply these consistently
Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company and

to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.
They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Sally E Davenport

SALLY E DAVENPORT

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the company for the 12 months ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 27 to 32

RESPECTIVE REPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to;

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER's REPORT

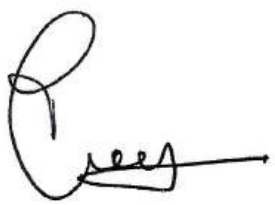
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes a consideration of any unusual issues or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met.

No other matter has come to my attention in accordance with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Timothy Green FCMA

Date: 16th July 2025

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH 2025
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Endowment £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM;						
Donations & Legacies	2 & 3	2,984	60,000	61,824	124,808	68,088
Charitable Activities	4	174,366	-	104,247	278,613	184,912
Other Trading	5	3,341	-	-	3,341	907
Investments		-	-	-	-	-
Other Income		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		180,691	60,000	166,071	406,762	253,907
EXPENDITURE ON;						
Raising Funds		33,823	-	-	33,823	20,196
Charitable Activities	6 & 7	158,442	-	148,795	307,237	208,576
Other Expenditure		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		192,265	-	148,795	341,060	228,772
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE TRANSFERS		(11,574)	60,000	17,276	65,702	25,135
Gross Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(11,574)	60,000	17,276	65,702	25,135
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARDS		66,311	-	17,171	83,482	58,347
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARDS	9	54,737	60,000	34,447	149,184	83,482

All activities derive from continuing operations
The notes on pages 29 to 32 form part of the financial statements

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		4,532		6,275
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	26,112		16,289	
Cash at bank and in hand		135,839		95,842	
		161,951		112,131	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	17,299		34,924	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			144,652		77,207
NET ASSETS			149,184		83,482
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds			54,737		66,311
Restricted funds			34,447		17,171
Endowment funds			60,000		-
TOTAL FUNDS			149,184		83,482

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102

The company has taken advantage of the exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the 12 months ended 31st March 2025

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the 12 months ended 31st March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for;

ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and

preparing Accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the year in accordance with the requirement of Section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 21/8/25 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee  

The notes on pages 29 to 32 form part of these accounts

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and following the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and are in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (effective January 2015 and updated by Bulletin 1 effective February 2016) and the Companies Act 2006

a Going Concern

The acounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue.

b The Charity

Tha Charity is a public benefit entity.

c Income

Income from donations, grants and subscriptions is taken to the Statement of Financial Activity on receipt unless there is a Service Level Agreement or Contract in which case it is taken into account in the period to which it relates.

d Resources Expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Costs are allocated on the basis of usage on each project..

e Operating Leases

The costs of operating leases are charged as they accrue.

f Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assetst at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life;

Equipment (including IT items)	20% pa straight line

g Funds

Fund designations are formally approved and minuted by the Trustees. Separate accounting records are kept for restricted funds.

2 Income from Donations & Legacies

	2025 £	2024 £
Donations	2,984	3,357
Other Grants	-	500
Endowments	60,000	-
Restricted Grants	61,824	64,231
	124,808	68,088

3 Analysis of Donations

	2025 £	2024 £
Monetary Donations	2,984	3,357
	2,984	3,357

4 Income from Charitable Activities

	Fee for Service £	Restricted Grant £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fee for Service				
Day Services	119,369	-	119,369	115,764
Pigeon Productions	36,193	1,728	37,921	19,485
Herbie & Co	18,285	9,303	27,588	-
Community Hub	6	12,211	12,217	23,413
Advocacy	-	21,768	21,768	-
Camerados	-	8,388	8,388	-
Bookclubs	450	-	450	5,102
Heritage Project	-	47,649	47,649	12,558
Wellbeing	14	3,200	3,214	8,590
Other	49	-	49	-
	174,366	104,247	278,613	184,912

5 Income from Other Trading

	2025 £	2024 £
Room hire	120	226
Merchandice sales	-	248
Other trading	3,221	433
	3,341	907

6 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Day Services	120,032	25,447	145,479	125,996
Pigeon Productions	41,798	5,106	46,904	31,561
Herbie & Co	14,409	2,127	16,536	-
Community Hub	18,484	3,435	21,919	28,020
Advocacy	15,795	2,662	18,457	-
Camerados	7,639	1,396	9,035	-
Bookclubs	139	-	139	2,925
Heritage Project	40,124	3,396	43,520	14,262
Wellbeing	5,248	-	5,248	5,685
Other	-	-	-	127
	263,668	43,569	307,237	208,576

7 Allocation of Support Costs

	Staff Costs £	Office Costs £	Total 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Day Services	15,045	10,402	25,447	22,955
Pigeon Productions	3,019	2,087	5,106	5,864
Herbie & Co	1,258	869	2,127	-
Community Hub	2,031	1,404	3,435	4,624
Advocacy	1,574	1,088	2,662	-
Camerados	825	571	1,396	-
Bookclubs	-	-	-	235
Heritage Project	2,008	1,388	3,396	1,150
Fundraising	3,875	2,679	6,554	4,099
Wellbeing	-	-	-	77
Other	-	-	-	-
	29,635	20,488	50,123	39,004

Staff Costs have been allocated on Actual Hours spent
Office Costs have been allocated based on specific project contributions and the remainder on Total Staff and Freelance Cost

8 Trustees Remuneration & Benefits

During the year no trustee received expenses in respect of delivering courses (2024 - £0).

During the year no trustee donated services (2024 - £0)

There were no related party transactions with trustees in the year

9 Independent Examination

The independent examiner was paid £800 (2024 - £800) to prepare and examine these accounts

10 Staff Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages & Salaries	223,363	168,505
Social Security Payments	9,898	5,350
Employer Pension Contributions	4,484	2,946
	237,745	176,801

The average number of employees during the year was 27 (2024 - 17)
No employee received remuneration of over £60,000

11 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Equpiment £	Total £
Cost		
As at 1 March 2024	18,507	18,507
Additions		-
As at 31st March 2025	18,507	18,507
Depreciation		
As at 1 March 2024	12,232	12,232
Charge for the period	1,743	1,743
As at 31st March 2025	13,975	13,975
Net Book Value		
As at 1 March 2024	6,275	6,275
As at 31st March 2025	4,532	4,532

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	22,037	10,843
Other Debtors	2,933	2,933
Prepayments & Accrued Income	1,142	2,513
	26,112	16,289

13	Creditors	2025 £	2024 £
	Trade Creditors	-	-
	Accruals	1,781	1,475
	PAYE/NI	2,730	922
	Other Creditors	1,138	546
	Deferred Income	11,650	31,981
		17,299	34,924

Deferred Income relates to the The Weinstock Fund, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, The Garfield Weston Foundation and Somerset Community Foundation all of which extend into the 2024-25 financial year.

14	Fund Accounts	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
	Unrestricted Funds	66,311	180,691	192,265	-	54,737
	Restricted Funds					
	Day Services - D'Oyly Carte Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-	-
	Day Services - Music For All	1,410	7,303	8,713	-	-
	Heritage - Historic England	-	47,649	37,952	-	9,697
	Bookclubs - D'Oyly Carte Trust	1,701	-	1,701	-	-
	Bookclubs - Leonard Laity Stoate Trust	800	-	800	-	-
	Community Hub - National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All	-	6,666	6,666	-	-
	Community Hub - Weinstock Foundation	-	250	250	-	-
	Community Hub - SCF	-	5,295	5,295	-	-
	Community Hub - National Grid	1,315	-	1,315	-	-
	Pigeon Productions - National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	1,728	228	-	1,500
	Pigeon Productions - Bailey Thomas	2,450	-	2,450	-	-
	Wellbeing - Souter Charitable Trust	-	2,200	2,200	-	-
	Wellbeing - HDH Will Charitable Trust	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
	Wellbeing - Frome Town Council	1,995	-	1,995	-	-
	Advocacy - SCF	-	21,768	14,104	-	7,664
	Camerados - Frome Town Council	-	8,388	6,752	-	1,636
	Core - Frome Town Council	-	555	555	-	-
	Core - SCF	-	3,232	3,232	-	-
	Core - Bosher Hinton Foundation	-	1,950	1,950	-	-
	Core - Garfield Weston	7,500	7,500	15,000	-	-
	Core - National Lottery Community Fund	-	23,798	21,068	-	2,730
	Core - National Heritage	-	1,569	1,569	-	-
	Core - Sir Jules Thorn Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-	-
	Core - Reach Fund	-	11,220	-	-	11,220
	Core - Will Charitable Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
	Total Restricted Funds	17,171	166,071	148,795	-	34,447
	Edward Gostling Foundation	-	60,000	-	-	60,000
	Total Endowment Funds	-	60,000	-	-	60,000
	Total Funds	83,482	406,762	341,060	-	149,184

Fund Purposes
Day Services - A commissioned service providing arts based, progressive day service support
Heritage Project - A creative research project exploring the hidden histories of people with learning difficulties
Bookclubs - Sensort storytelling for people with learning difficulties and complex needs
Community Hub - No cost, social and community foccussd activities, accessible to all
Pigeon Productions - Our creative enterprise producing accessible resources for and by people with learning difficulties
Wellbeing - Gently therapeutic sessions supporting positive mental and physical wellbeing
Advocacy - Introducing self-advocacy by adults with learning difficiulties and autism
Camerados - Community living room to support mental health in young people
Core - Supporting the core charity operations

Edward Gostling Foundation - An expendable endowment to support the charity

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	4,532	-	0	4,532	5,144
Current Assets					
Debtors	26,112	-	0	26,112	16,289
Bank	29,742	46,097	60,000	135,839	95,842
	55,854	46,097	60,000	161,951	82,626
Current Liabilities					
Creditors	5,649	11,650	0	17,299	34,924
Net Current Assets	50,205	34,447	60,000	144,652	55,087
Net Assets	54,737	34,447	60,000	149,184	59,057

15 Members' Liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation. As at the 31st March 2025 there were 15 members.

16 Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED

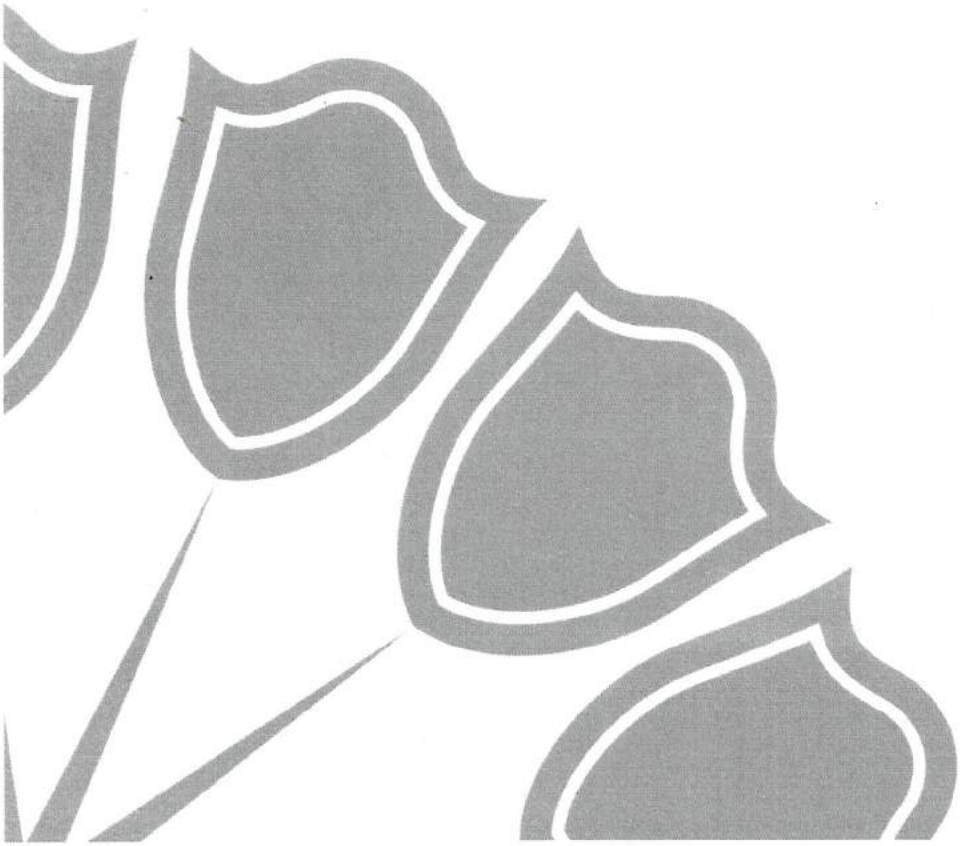
England & Wales - Charity number 1130148

Accounts

Open Story Tellers

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024 OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER 06829975
CHARITY NUMBER 1130148



Open Story Tellers

Our Objectives

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The structure and content of this report is designed to reflect the requirement to explain how the charity has operated within that guidance.

The objects of the charity are:

To advance the education for the public benefit and preserve and protect the health of persons who have learning and communication disabilities, their families and carers by providing opportunities to develop stories and storytelling.

To advance the education of the public in the knowledge of the art, practice and value of oral storytelling and in knowledge of the form and content of the oral tradition of people and cultures.

Message from the Chair

In my message to you all last year, we made a commitment to be a progressive provider. We said:

'we will demonstrate **active-allyship** in all aspects of our work; equally value the quality of the service we deliver with the responsibility to fight for wider change; use our limited resources to further the lives of people with a learning disability not just by providing a service but by embedding real jobs and paid work into our structure.'

I am delighted to report that we have made real strides with this and have exceeded our own expectations in terms of paid work becoming an intrinsic part of our offer. In its simplest terms, anyone who is an artist at OpenStoryTellers can now also work for us if that is the right thing for them. We are still refining our offer and learning as we go, but I am particularly pleased to commend the section of this report called **Proper Jobs** to you.

Employment remains one of the areas of inequality that faces the learning disability community, and our success in addressing this for our own corner of this community has emboldened us to think more widely about how our day to day operations might address other areas of stark inequality. Our motto has become 'social justice, not social care'.

The amazing companies of artists have begun a major new devised performance project (Through the Front Door), and an examination of our own internal governance and practice, making sure we are listening to every voice and that the way we govern OpenStoryTellers is inclusive and innovative (OST & Me). I would like to thank them and my fellow trustees for their dedication and heartfelt commitment to making OpenStoryTellers the best we can be.

We felt the loss of a longstanding volunteer and trustee for the organisation. Ruth Read died shortly before I sat to write this. It feels important now to honour her amazing work alongside artists at OpenStoryTellers . She is missed by everyone whose stories were enlivened and brightened by her careful and compassionate listening and encouragement. On behalf of all of us, thank you Ruth.



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OST & Me	16
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Arts and Expression

Creative arts and expression are the 'engine room' of what happens at OpenStoryTellers. Here are some words and pictures to give you a flavour of that work in 2023 -2024.

More than a Provider Conference May 2023

A group of 10 of us met new people and learned about new organisations at the More Than a Provider Conference at the M-Shed in Bristol. We had our own exhibition space, we ran a workshop about Active Allyship and we even ended up opening the whole event in a surprise performance from our show Peter the Wild Boy in front of over 150 people.



Frome Festival performances Jun 2023

Our Frome Festival 2023 performances were a great success. We found new ways of enabling artists who don't usually work together (because they come on different days) to collaborate in a meaningful, creative and dynamic way.

This was the first time we used our rooms at OpenStoryTellers as a performance space and we devised and performed with no additional project funding. It our first public performance done in this way and proved to us how resourceful we can be.



The performances were well attended and we received some great feedback not least from Wise Children director, Emma Rice, who attended along with her producer.

The Creation of the Tree Room Studio



Our Frome Festival show and Remembering Tree projects saw the collective creation of a life sized, enormous paper machè tree in one of our rooms. In the days and weeks after the performances, we followed threads of inspirations from our artists, and built on the almost ceremonial atmosphere held by the tree.

People identified a need for a studio space where the focus could be on non-verbal exploration and creative expression. A space to move in; a space to be absorbed in a liminal quality; a space to understand sensory storytelling. Over time we set about designing and setting up The Tree Room Studio.

This space and some new technology has given birth to a whole new style and format of creativity which every artist has benefitted from.



Through the Front Door Sept 2023...

We were overjoyed to be successful in our application to the Heritage Fund for our large scale project Through The Front Door, telling stories about the heritage of people with learning disabilities, through the lens of the historical buildings that have housed them.
The autumn and winter of 2023 saw us recruit a project researcher who has lived experience of learning disabilities, and a project assistant.

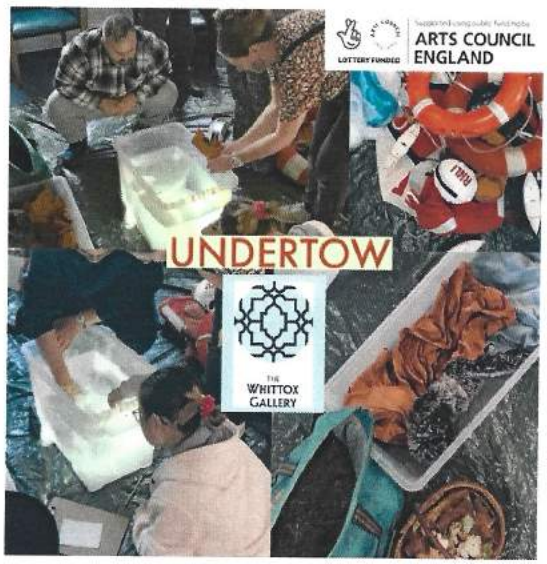
The research phase has taken us to Taunton Archives, Mendip Hospital Cemetery, Bristol Archives, Norah Fry Hospital, Frome Union Workhouse, and the further reaches of the internet, uncovering stories and systems that are by turns full of joy and sadness in equal measure.



A group of nine artist/researchers visited The Rural Life Museum to glean an understanding of some aspect of life in the time period we are looking at.

This research material is now finding its way into the creative practice of our day to day work, as we devise our performance for The Merlin Theatre on November 29th 2024. We are also making a short feature film (to be submitted to Oska Bright film festival), working alongside long term collaborators, Suited and Booted.

Undertow (visiting artists) October 2023



At Openstorytellers we revel in collaborating with other companies and artists. In early 2023, we were approached by artists Pauline Scott-Garrett and Emma Kerr as we work in the building RISE where Pauline was to research and create work for an exhibition called "Undertow" (for The Whittox Gallery also in the same building).

They ran workshops with our artists, using sensory objects so the artists could to explore the themes for themselves, creating their own unique work.

The effects of the work continue to resonate and ripple throughout our organisation and we always look forward to see where we will be taken to next.

For the full story: openstorytellers.org.uk/2024/02/13/undertow/

Bradford on Avon Dec 2023

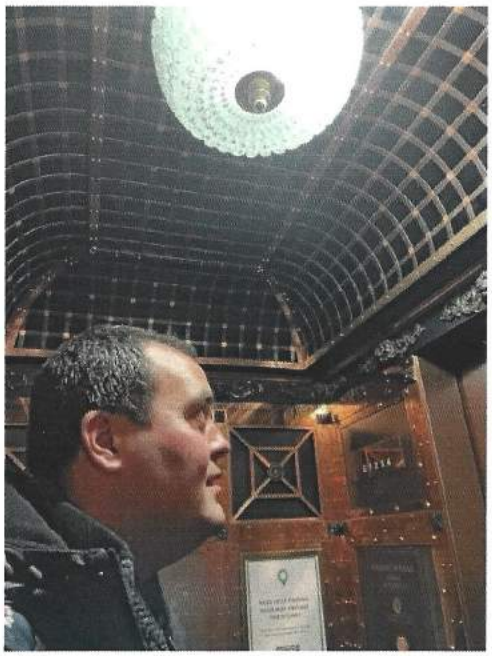


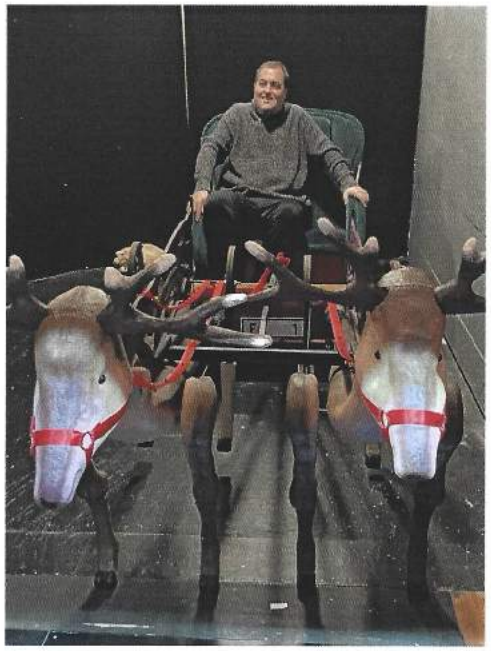
A trip was organised to Bradford-On Avon by a couple of our Friday artists. 7 of us went and visited the Tythe Barn. The excursion was a great exercise in hunting and gathering and much creative inspiration was brought back to

OpenStoryTellers on the topics of: acoustics and soundscapes; pattern-making; riverflow and more.

Paul's trip to London Dec 2023

Paul undertook a personally important journey to London with our director Alex. Trips are already very significant for Paul, and this one held a special mission – entirely led and initiated by Paul – to eat at Harrods Foodhall.
Kate Adams (one of our lead creative facilitators) was appearing and musically directing Raymond Briggs 'Father Christmas at the Lyric Hammersmith. In the afternoon Alex and Paul were thrilled to represent the OpenStoryTellers community





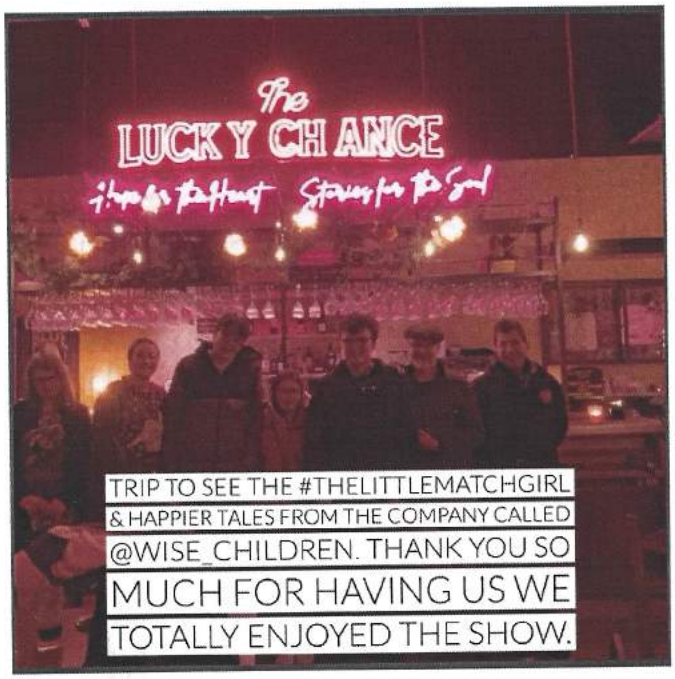
and show our support for Kate at a performance of the show. They were treated to a backstage tour - it was a day to remember.

Wise Children and OpenStoryTellers

It's quite a thing to have a world class theatre company in our community and we have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the company and their work, and sharing our work with them too.

In March, 13 of us were given free tickets to see Bluebeard at the Theatre Royal Bath as part of Wise Children's commitment to sharing their work with our artists. Simon worked with Wise Children to help them understand all the barriers around access and they funded all travel costs and overtime for Ben, Kate and Simon. It's a rare thing for people to take the time to fully understand what it means financially to support access to something like this and is an indicator of how serious they are about equalising access to their work.

We have also been invited to performances at their space in Frome, The Lucky Chance.



Bath Spa/Frome Museum co-production

Making museum spaces inclusive and accessible: From January to March, we worked in partnership with Bath Spa University co-producing access awareness in the cultural heritage sector for people with learning disabilities.

The aim of our project was to raise awareness of the access needs of people with learning disabilities in heritage spaces, such as museums. This has involved researchers coming to us at OpenStoryTellers and our artists heading out with them to Frome Museum which was used as a research and learning site.





Developing our own creative process

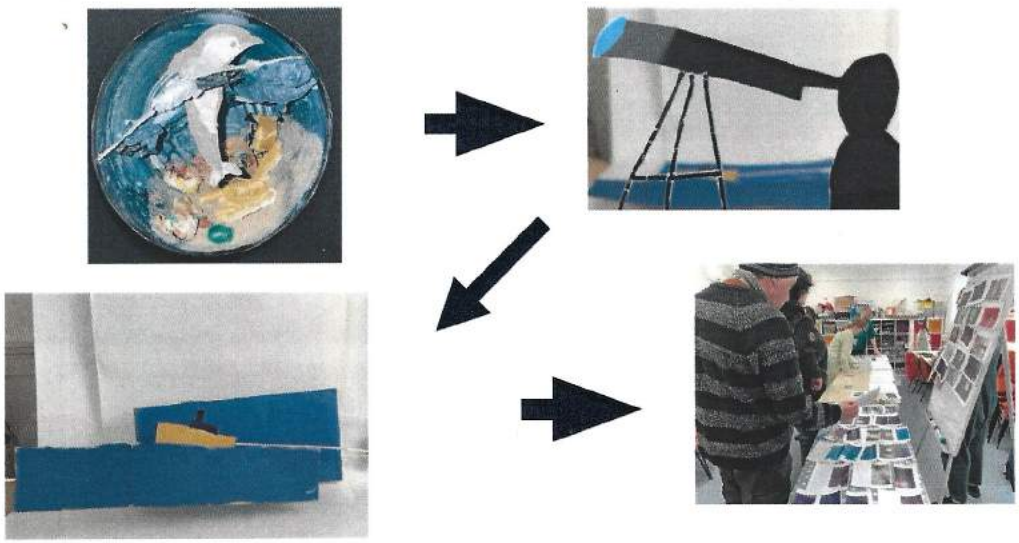
This year we found new ways to bridge the gap between artists who don't usually meet. The Fragment process supports building larger pieces of devised and collaborative work from the amazing minutiae of our everyday work.



Whether it's via our 'Fragments-to-Constellations' magnetic wall or in people's own art journals, every large scale project and exhibited piece is a construction, built upon a myriad of spontaneous moments that have been held carefully by artist and facilitator alike. This is our wall of fragments.
Each time an artist creates something they want to build on, they make a small round fragment to represent that work. It is added to our magnetic fragments wall.

Other artists can then include any number of creative fragments to add to their own or build something new...

The creative journey you see above resulted in work that is currently earmarked for inclusion in our Merlin performance in November 2024. All because of a tiny dolphin fragment!



Pigeon Productions

Pigeon productions is the commercial enterprise wing of our organisation. We take on commissions from external clients which in turn allow us to provide proper jobs for any artist who comes to OpenStoryTellers. Here is a taster of our work for clients this year. Easy read services:





A2i Workshops – 8 creative consultants provide an easy read checking service for A2i 3 or 4 times a year.
Spark Somerset - 2 creative consultants provided a one off easy read checking service on an information leaflet for the Open Mental Health Community Engagement Team.
Go Easy Read - Research project funded by the **British Journal for Learning Disabilities**. Looking at how artificial intelligence can support easy read. 5 creative consultants took part in the research in a series of workshops.



Frome Museum 'Top Tips' – with Bath Spa University. We produced an illustrated poster, leaflet & invitation, to the launch of their project, which informed staff how to be an accessible service

Somerset Mortality Review Team Inclusion work - Building on our work developing a workshop to support inclusion around loss and bereavement, 8 creative consultants went on to run 4 workshops. We used creative tools to help people with learning disabilities talk about death.





Hate Crime Workshops – We ran 3 training sessions with a team of 6 creative consultants, to plan and prepare for the workshops. We delivered 4 workshops for groups with learning disabilities across Mendip and the police service.



Proper jobs

2023-2024 has been our year of creating proper jobs! We pride ourselves on providing real jobs, not 'opportunities', not 'training' in the hopes that someone else will one day employ people. We believe responsibility lies with all organisations to receive money to provide support to also lead the way in showing other organisations what they are missing.

OpenStoryTellers now has a team of 14 salaried people. 4 of these have a learning disability which is a 100% increase on the previous year. These roles are:

- 2x supported internships (initially a 6 month contract, extended to 12 months and recently extended to 24 months), each role works 6 hours each week.
- 1x resources officer, permanent contract 1.5 hours a week.
- 1x peer mentor, permanent contract, 3 hours a week.

We currently have a bank of 7 creative consultants, all of whom have a learning disability. These roles are contracted on a freelance type basis. Hours vary and are available when commissioned.

Robin Meader, artist: We are honoured to continue to work with Robin on a regular basis as our preferred freelance artist.



Clemma Lewis (Special projects advisor and creative consultant) describes below what a proper job means to her:

It's nice to
Be
Apart of each
Work and workshop
It helps me
Feel
Important and heard
People at
Openstorytellers
Give good feedback
Makes me
Feel
Part of a team
I help people
With
Learning difficulties
We all
Help
One another
That's why we
Do this
Everyone
Is part of
A team
And good
Friends
In deed

Clemma Lewis 2024

OST & Me

The National Lottery Community Fund is supporting us to take a deep dive into our own practice and governance to explore what it truly means to be a 'user-led' organisation when everyone has a voice.

There are particular challenges and opportunities for a learning disability organisation and we got off to a flying start by employing 2 supported interns to take on the design and delivery of our initial survey.

We completed the first 6 months of this project. OST & Me will find out exactly what people who come to OpenStoryTellers think about what we do and how they would like the next 5 years to develop. This is what has happened so far!

- We recruited out 2 project workers, Joe and Ellie, both of whom have a learning disability.
- They spent time learning about governance in charities
- They have had 2 meetings with trustees to discuss how the trustees can be closer to the views of OST artists
- They have worked with Katy Brickley, and amazing volunteer who has experience as a researcher at universities
- Together with Katy they designed and implemented consent forms for this research
- They designed the questions and recording formats

We are very excited to find out what they discover and, with our board of trustees, find the best ways of including people's voices in the running of OpenStoryTellers.

Here is a quote from Joe:

"My best achievement at work has been your work on OST & Me. I have helped people express their thoughts and feelings about OpenStoryTellers"

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The trustees who served during the period and up to the date the accounts were approved are as follows:

Sarah Talbot-Williams (Chair)
Jane Flood
Claire Edgar
Benjamin Banks
Jackie Lucas (joined 01 March 2024)
Elanor Steel (joined 16 November 2023)
Bill Palmer - resigned at our AGM August 2023
Judith Beresford - resigned 20th November 2023

Two trustees stepped down this year and two new trustees were appointed.

The registered office is RISE, Whittox Lane, Frome BA11 3BY.
The bankers are HSBC plc, 24 Market Place, Frome BA11 1AJ
The Independent Examiner is Tim Green
The patrons are Nick Hennessey, Storyteller and Taffy Thomas MBE.
The full name of the Charity is Openstorytellers Limited. Charity number 1130148, Company number 0682997

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was incorporated on the 23rd September 2009 as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Charity registered with the Charity Commission on 12th June 2009.

The Directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The Board meets four times a year. The three longest serving trustees retire each year, but are subject to re-election.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the overall policy direction of the charity, for fixing and reviewing its annual budget, and for approving annual accounts. The Charity Director is responsible for day-to-day management in accordance with determined policies.

Financial Review

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2024. Reference and administrative details set out on page 17 form part of this report. For financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Reserves Policy and Risk Management

It is the intention of the Trustees that the freely available reserves of the charity should be sufficient to ensure the continuance of its activities, should there be an unexpected short-term adverse fluctuation in income. The Trustees consider that an appropriate level of free reserves is approximately six months' normal expenditure. This equates to approximately £51,500. At 31st of March 2024 there was a total of £60,036 of funding freely available for general purposes. The Trustees are satisfied that the long-term financial plans generate sufficient free reserves to satisfy its reserves policy over the coming 12 months and beyond.

The Trustees have examined and addressed the financial risks to which the Charity is exposed and in association with its insurers, has mitigated those risks to the best of its ability.

Transactions and Financial Position

During the year the Charity incurred total expenditure of £228,772 of which £208,576 was directly charitable.
Over the year the Charity received income of £253,907 leading to an overall surplus of £25,135. The Balance sheet shows total reserves on 28th February 2022 of £83,482.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the Company's state of affairs at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for that year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply these consistently

- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business

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

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the company for the 12 months ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 21 to 26

RESPECTIVE REPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to;

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER's REPORT

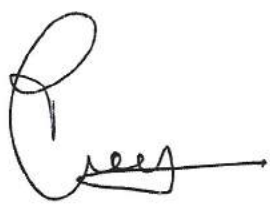
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes a consideration of any unusual issues or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met.

No other matter has come to my attention in accordance with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Timothy Green FCMA

Date: 29th July 2024

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH 2024
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM;					
Donations & Legacies	2 & 3	3,857	64,231	68,088	37,376
Charitable Activities	4	112,740	72,172	184,912	172,087
Other Trading	5	907	-	907	1,989
Investments		-	-	-	-
Other Income		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		117,504	136,403	253,907	211,452
EXPENDITURE ON;					
Raising Funds		20,196	-	20,196	18,549
Charitable Activities	6 & 7	83,344	125,232	208,576	210,971
Other Expenditure		-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		103,540	125,232	228,772	229,520
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE TRANSFERS		13,964	11,171	25,135	(18,068)
Gross Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		13,964	11,171	25,135	(18,068)
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARDS		52,347	6,000	58,347	76,415
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARDS	9	66,311	17,171	83,482	58,347

All activities derive from continuing operations
The notes on pages 23 to 26 form part of the financial statements

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		6,275		3,260
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	16,289		15,912	
Cash at bank and in hand		95,842		66,714	
		112,131		82,626	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	34,924		27,539	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			77,207		55,087
NET ASSETS			83,482		58,347
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds			66,311		52,347
Restricted funds			17,171		6,000
TOTAL FUNDS			83,482		58,347

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102

The company has taken advantage of the exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the 12 months ended 31st March 2024

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the 12 months ended 31st March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for;

ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and

preparing Accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the year in accordance with the requirement of Section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee

SARAH TALBOT-WILLIAMS
9.08.2024

JACKIE LUCAS
9.08.2024

The notes on pages 23 to 26 form part of these accounts

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and following the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and are in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (effective January 2015 and updated by Bulletin 1 effective February 2016) and the Companies Act 2006

a Going Concern

The acounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue.

b The Charity

Tha Charity is a public benefit entity.

c Income

Income from donations, grants and subscriptions is taken to the Statement of Financial Activity on receipt unless there is a Service Level Agreement or Contract in which case it is taken into account in the period to which it relates.

d Resources Expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Costs are allocated on the basis of usage on each project..

e Operating Leases

The costs of operating leases are charged as they accrue.

f Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assetst at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life;

Equipment (including IT items)	20% pa straight line

g Funds

Fund designations are formally approved and minuted by the Trustees. Separate accounting records are kept for restricted funds.

2 Income from Donations & Legacies

	2024 £	2023 £
Donations	3,357	3,636
Other Grants	500	-
Restricted Grants	64,231	33,740
	68,088	37,376

3 Analysis of Donations

	2024 £	2023 £
Monetary Donations	3,357	3,636
	3,357	3,636

4 Income from Charitable Activities

	Fee for Service £	Restricted Grant £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fee for Service				
Day Services	99,163	16,601	115,764	88,577
Pigeon Productions	10,440	9,045	19,485	29,579
Community Hub	1,125	22,288	23,413	21,869
Memory People	-	-	-	15,354
Performances & Events	-	-	-	10,582
Bookclubs	182	4,920	5,102	3,126
Heritage Project	1,655	10,903	12,558	3,000
Wellbeing	175	8,415	8,590	-
Other	-	-	-	-
	112,740	72,172	184,912	172,087

5 Income from Other Trading

	2024 £	2023 £
Room hire	226	1,898
Merchandice sales	248	-
Other trading	433	91
	907	1,989

6 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2024 £
Day Services	103,041	22,955	125,996
Pigeon Productions	25,697	5,864	31,561
Community Hub	23,396	4,624	28,020
Bookclubs	2,690	235	2,925
Heritage Project	13,112	1,150	14,262
Wellbeing	5,608	77	5,685
Other	127	-	127
	173,671	34,905	208,576

7 Allocation of Support Costs

	Staff Costs £	Office Costs £	Total 2024 £
Day Services	14,007	8,948	22,955
Pigeon Productions	3,578	2,286	5,864
Community Hub	2,822	1,802	4,624
Bookclubs	143	92	235
Heritage Project	702	448	1,150
Fundraising	2,501	1,598	4,099
Wellbeing	47	30	77
Other	-	-	-
	23,800	15,204	39,004

Staff Costs have been allocated on Actual Hours spent
Office Costs have been allocated based on specific project contributions and the remainder on Total Staff and Freelance Cost

8 Trustees Remuneration & Benefits

During the year no trustee received expenses in respect of delivering courses (2023 - £0).

During the year no trustee donated services (2023 - £0)

There were no related party transactions with trustees in the year

9 Independent Examination

The independent examiner was paid £800 (2023 - £750) to prepare and examine these accounts

10 Staff Costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages & Salaries	168,505	159,865
Social Security Payments	5,350	5,308
Employer Pension Contributions	2,946	2,847
	176,801	168,020

The average number of employees during the year was 17 (2023 - 13)
No employee received remuneration of over £60,000

11 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Equpiment £	Total £
Cost		
As at 1 March 2023	14,361	14,361
Additions	4,146	4,146
As at 31st March 2024	18,507	18,507
Depreciation		
As at 1 March 2023	11,101	11,101
Charge for the period	1,131	1,131
As at 31st March 2024	12,232	12,232
Net Book Value		
As at 1 March 2023	3,260	3,260
As at 31st March 2024	6,275	6,275

12 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Debtors	10,843	11,751
Other Debtors	2,933	2,933
Prepayments & Accrued Income	2,513	1,228
	16,289	15,912

13 Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Creditors	-	239
Accruals	1,475	1,825
PAYE/NI	922	2,178
Other Creditors	546	498
Deferred Income	31,981	22,799
	34,924	27,539

Deferred Income relates to the Heritage Lottery Fund and National Lottery Award for All which extend into the 2023-24 financial year.

14 Fund Accounts

	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted Funds	52,347	117,504	103,540	-	66,311
Restricted Funds					
Day Services - The Will Charitable Trust	-	7,000	7,000	-	-
Day Services - Music For All	-	1,410	-	-	1,410
Heritage - Historic England	3,000	15,852	18,852	-	-
Bookclubs - Frome Town Council	-	1,120	1,120	-	-
Bookclubs - D'Oyly Carte Trust	-	3,000	1,299	-	1,701
Bookclubs - Leonard Laity Stoate Trust	-	800	-	-	800
Community Hub - National Lottery Awards for All	-	3,334	3,334	-	-
Community Hub - Sorbell Foundation	-	4,000	4,000	-	-
Community Hub - Weinstock Fund	-	3,000	3,000	-	-
Community Hub - Mercers Company	-	8,850	8,850	-	-
Community Hub - SCF	-	2,829	2,829	-	-
Community Hub - National Grid	-	1,500	185	-	1,315
Pigeon Productions - SCF OCCF	-	3,145	3,145	-	-
Pigeon Productions - Bailey Thomas	-	5,000	2,550	-	2,450
Wellbeing/ Hub - Groundworks/Comic Relief	-	9,815	9,815	-	-
Wellbeing/ Hub - Local Giving, Magic Little Grant	-	500	500	-	-
Wellbeing/ Hub - Frome Town Council	-	1,995	-	-	1,995
Core - The Neighbourly Fund	-	500	500	-	-
Core - National Lottery Cost of Living Fund	-	34,869	34,869	-	-
Core - Woodroffe Benton Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Core - Garfield Weston	-	15,000	7,500	-	7,500
Core - National Lottery Community Fund	-	11,884	11,884	-	-
Core - Hedley Foundation	3,000	-	3,000	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	6,000	136,403	125,232	-	17,171
Total Funds	58,347	253,907	228,772	-	83,482

Fund Purposes

Day Services - A commissioned service providing arts based, progressive day service support
Heritage Project - A creative researcg project exploring the hidden histories of people with learning difficulties
Bookclubs - Sensort storytelling for people with learning difficulties and complex needs
Community Hub - No cost, social and community foccussd activities, accessible to all
Pigeon Productions - Our creative enterprise producing accessible resources for and by people with learning difficulties
Wellbeing - Gently therapeutic sessions supporting positive mental and physical wellbeing
Core - Supporting the core charity operations

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	6,275	-	6,275	3,970
Current Assets				
Debtors	15,307	982	16,289	15,912
Bank	47,672	48,170	95,842	66,714
	62,979	49,152	112,131	82,626
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	2,943	31,981	34,924	27,539
Net Current Assets	60,036	17,171	77,207	55,087
Net Assets	66,311	17,171	83,482	59,057

15 Members' Liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation. As at the 31st March 2024 there were 15 members.

16 Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1130148

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER 06829975

CHARITY NUMBER 1130148

Message from Sarah Talbot-Williams, Chair of Trustees

As I sat down to write this message, I opened an email from Learning Disability England concerning the recent inquest into the death of Sally Lewis, a woman with a learning disabilities who loved music and dancing. The coroner found multiple failings in care and neglect contributed to her death in 2017 aged 55. Another avoidable death. Another family grieving. Another provider left examining what went wrong. Our hearts go out to Sally's family, and everyone who has been affected.

It feels fitting therefore that my message this year not only recognises the year that OpenStoryTellers has just had, but also the intention we are setting for the future. We commit to establishing ourselves as a progressive provider. This means we will demonstrate active-allyship in all aspects of our work; equally valuing the quality of the service with deliver with our responsibility to fight for wider change; using our limited resources to further the lives of people with a learning disability not just by providing a service but by embedding real jobs and paid work into our structure.

Everyone at OpenStoryTellers has good reason to be proud of the last year. Both artistically and through social enterprise, our role has 'the tellers of stories that matter' is growing. Stories have always been at the heart of social justice – history's bards and minstrels were often the people who could speak truth to power and bring important truths into the light. Last year has shown that OpenStoryTellers continues to do that both on a personal and a political level. We are now open 5 days a week, with our new Friday service up and running. We have almost an entirely new creative delivery team which has reinvented and reinvigorated our creative processes. My thanks go out to them for their passion and inspiration.

I want to also thank my fellow Trustees for donating their time, expertise and energy and to our other volunteers who have continued to support us.



It is a challenge not to feel helpless hearing the inquest into Sally's death. At OpenStoryTellers, we choose action over apathy. It's time to push forward and fight for a more balanced future. We look forward to you holding us to account.

Sarah

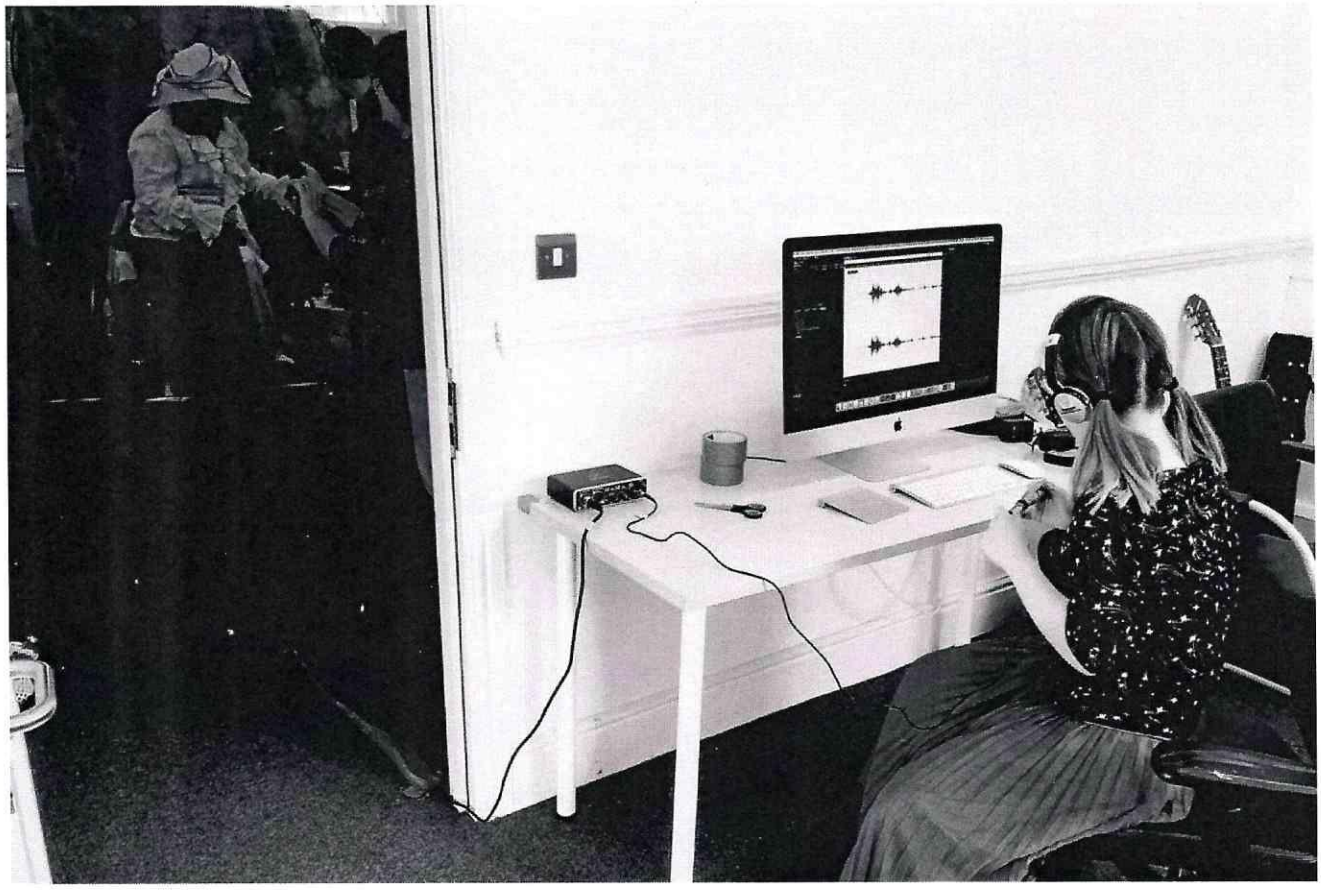


Our Objectives

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The structure and content of this report is designed to reflect the requirement to explain how the charity has operated within that guidance.

The objects of the charity are:

- To advance the education for the public benefit and preserve and protect the health of persons who have learning and communication disabilities, their families and carers by providing opportunities to develop stories and storytelling.
- To advance the education of the public in the knowledge of the art, practice and value of oral storytelling and in knowledge of the form and content of the oral tradition of people and cultures.



Our Year in Numbers

157 DAYS OF WORKSHOPS IN OUR DAY SERVICE : **47** OPEN ACCESS GET CONNECTED SESSIONS : **42** OPEN ACCESS WELLBEING SESSIONS : **19** OPEN ACCESS SENSORY BOOK-CLUBS IN LIBRARIES : **4** SENSORY MUSIC WORKSHOPS : **6** MEN'S GROUP SESSIONS : **3** NEW TEAM MEMBERS : **2** NEW TRUSTEES: **1** CONFERENCE ADDRESS : **64** PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY TOLD THEIR STORIES : **25** PAID JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY: **4** FAMILIES SUPPORTEDWITH INFORMATION AND ADVICE DURING A CRISIS

Our Artistic Achievements

The last year saw significant progress in the development of our creative process. In Sept 2022, Simon (our artistic Director) attended a workshop with the theatre director, David Glass, which helped us to articulate the methodology and approaches that the team has been working hard on since 2019. Creativity has a problem in the wider world, where it is often viewed as a 'nice to have' rather that something that is key to our identity, which gives us dignity and purpose. To the uniformed, ableist eye, dropping in on one of our sessions it could appear that nothing is happening, or that chaos reigns. It is one thing to 'know' our way of working, quite another to be able to articulate it!

We have the Lottery Community Fund to thank for this important development. The Memory People project that ended this year has been the key to developing and implementing this method across all our week. This has been a 'legacy' project in its truest sense. Memory People has acted as catalyst for much of the work we currently do - making people's inner worlds visible through storytelling. Everyone has benefitted from an increase in artistic collaborations. It has been a real honour to see how one artist's work inspires another artist to get involved. We have seen significantly more collaboration with our storytellers who do not use words to tell their stories. This was a challenge we set ourselves last year – how to stay true to our roots as a storytelling company, but also include people for whom oral storytelling is not available to them. Look at Dan's Memory Dragon to see the originator of this method: https://vimeo.com/718485025

How did the MP project change you?
Dan: It definitely changed me.
Des (Dan's dad): Dan, you are definitely more creative now.
Dan: That was really good I think. [on the Memory Dragon] It was actually nice having people work on something that I started.
Des: Is there companionship?
Dan: Yes
Des: Like a home away from home this place is...I think he's really come out of his shell since coming here. Previously his only interactions at the other place was through work... not a great experience. Coming here was a lot more humane. An environment he's clearly thriving in. He's been in films, made poems. He's basically been involved in arts activities that he never would have been otherwise.

In addition to our day-to-day creative output, last year we had a series of specific projects:



We worked with our old friends **The Devil's Violin,** a storytelling company. They performed two deep-dive master classes on bringing together word, music, and ensemble in storytelling. This inspired Stories in the Pagoda – as series of free, open-air performances by our Tuesday team.



Clemma - Tell me what impact working with the Devil's. Violin had on you as an artist?
I thought their story was brilliant for a start. I have adopted it and I made my own version with poetry. I'm telling it now as one of my stories. The workshops I just thought they were fantastic with their music and storytelling.

Words Can Change The World – an 8 week project working with professional poets Liv Torc and Chris Redmond, as well as tree guide Julian Hight and video company Suited and Booted. We created a series of filmed poems exploring creativity, space and identity.

Do you remember the poem that you made? What impact did that have on you?
Robin: It got me into doing more and more poetry agenda that go well with stories. One story I'm doing (now) for the Frome festival has a poem with it. It brought me out of my cloud.

Tim: I enjoyed that – I had not really done poetry before it was fairly new to me. It was useful. It was teaching me a new skill. In the future, I'd write a poem about something in my life.



A collection of these filmed poems can be found below:

https://vimeo.com/837505251?share=copy
https://vimeo.com/733990842?share=copy
https://vimeo.com/733990559/6ecfa874df?share=copy
https://vimeo.com/733990071/1080839a96?share=copy

https://vimeo.com/807920232?share=copy
https://vimeo.com/837503301?share=copy
https://vimeo.com/837509281?share=copy

Frome The Children's Festival: We made two Banruku style puppets – the Holly King and Oak King as well as various additional props and puppets for our devised piece, The Two Kings. Over 20 people were involved in making the puppets and 4 people performed twice at the Festival itself.



The bardic chair: As hosts of the annual Bardic Chair, we explored and adapted the story of The Buried Moon (involving making a physical moon and sundry bog creature masks). We developed the story with dramatic elements into an ensemble piece with music, chorus and both verbal and non-verbal storytelling. Storytellers and musicians from around the county came to perform, listen and entertain at the Bardic Chair. We presented The Buried Moon as a centrepiece to the event.

Clemma: I told my seven crows story. The day was brilliant. I enjoyed listening to everyone's stories.

The Burns Supper events were lively and exciting in-house celebrations. We learned lots about the structure of traditional Burns Suppers and how that template can be applied to future public performances (which we are currently modelling for our up-coming performances for the Frome Festival)

Memory People was completed and the time capsule (made as one of the first Memory People activities) was brought back into the light.

Sheena (Brandon's PA): I get the sense he feels comfortable and that he belongs here. It's nice seeing how others interact with him. He's very non-verbal and others seem to be really aware of his needs. He's taught other people a lot. (OST has) Massive impact for Brandon. He can tell me what days of the week we go to OST. He's aware of the different activities on each day – wellbeing, music, making etc. Also he's started recognising friends when I ask him – who are your friends? And I name them, he shows recognition. And he shows lots of enthusiasm. Before at college it was just well, it had to be done. But now he marches up the path can't wait to get in. I get the sense he feels comfortable and that he belongs here. It's nice seeing how others interact with him. He's very non-verbal and others seem to be really aware of his needs. He's taught other people a lot.



Our social enterprise



Pigeon productions is our social enterprise. It creates information **by** and **for** people with a learning disability. We also act as an informal agent for our artists whose talents are needed by other organisations and we offer consultancy. In the longer term we want Pigeon to generate income that supports the wider service. Every job we do provides work for our artists who have a learning disability. This has been our first full year of operations and our little pigeon toes have barely touched the ground.

We have overhauled our employment processes for people undertaking paid work for Pigeon. We have established worker contracts that provide a 'zero hours' style contract for all Pigeon work at a very competitive hourly rate. We support people and their families / carers on an individual basis to make sure that the information about this is accessible and each worker has a special worker's support plan.

NHS Somerset: Learning from Lives and Deaths Team, Inclusion work

This was a successful tender to support the team to integrate inclusion into their work. OST artists created a new story called The Remembering Tree and designed a workshop to support people to explore death and dying and loss. Our research and development included new partnerships with several other Somerset day services who are keen to get involved. After feedback we agreed with the Learning from Lives and Deaths Team that we would run the workshops at OST as a pilot before going out to the wider community. We are delighted to report that the team has agreed another year's funding for this important project.

Somerset CC: Disability Hate Crime films

This project is our first to tackle issues facing the wider community of disabled people. We made 4 films explaining hate crime and mate crime to increase awareness and promote more reporting of these distressing crimes. We partnered with local community police, support services and other disabled people to make these films which were featured on the BBC news website and via the link below:

https://vimeo.com/755527062?share=copy



Also:

- Zing Health Booklet - SCC Health Promotions Team - Checking service (for easy read material)
- Frome media Arts - Narration work for external film
- Go Easy Read - Checking service for Abilitynet documents

Pigeon also provides business support to Robin Meader Artist which this year included:

- Frome Children's Festival - Art Workshops at Critchill School and T-Shirt designs for the festival
- Keith Bates & Robin Meader Artist - Employment Film - Funding by Bristol City Council/ Mutually Inclusive
- Community Living Magazine - 4 cartoon spreads
- Robin Meader Artist - research visit to York - Photosymbols

Added value

Being a community arts organisation is at the heart of what we do. However, there are times when it is right to respond in other ways. Below are some of the ways we play our part in alleviating structural inequalities and addressing important gaps that exist for people with a learning disability and their networks:



Men's group: In response to a community safeguarding situation that affected several of our storytellers, we have started a monthly Men's group. This provides a space to understand masculinity, sexuality and identity as well as a space to ask any questions. The team have worked with a specialist in these topics to ensure that they we are well equipped to run these important sessions.

Supporting the supporters: We know that for learning-disabled adults, families often play an essential and overlooked role. We prioritise making sure that any of 'our' families know they can turn to us for emotional, practical and technical advice about anything relating to the care and support of their loved one. This year we supported 4 families who benefitted from advice about their rights under the care act, support to navigate the labyrinthine processes in adult social care and sometimes just a shoulder to cry on.

A family member told us:

Thank you so much for taking the time to write such a great letter, I feel you really understand him and want to genuinely help... I hope very soon he will be having an enriched and happy life.

Open access

We are grateful to the many funders without whom these sessions would be impossible to maintain. The Wellbeing sessions on a Tuesday morning have benefitted a passionately committed group of about 10 people each week.

Tuesday afternoons are for people to drop in a decide what they want to do. The focus is on friendship and connection – a place where you can be yourself and know you will be welcome.

Sensory Bookclub made a welcome return to real life after migrating online during Covid. We delivered 16 sessions in partnership with Frome and Midsomer Norton libraries. We struggled initially to establish a new audience in Midsomer Norton but learned lots about the local demand and where to advertise in the future. Frome was predictably oversubscribed, and we thoroughly enjoyed being back in libraries which is where it all began.

Joe - What does OpenStorytellers mean to you?
A safe place where you can join in different activities, meet friends and be able to create stuff.

Peter: What does OpenStorytellers mean to you?
Enjoy it. Get on with the people. Have a bit of fun. Do different stories. Everybody is doing their own stories for the group. Helping people to focus on what we're talking about.

Clemma: I read my poem POWER at the conference in Bristol. I got everyone's eyes and ears listening. I thought it was good... I was one of the Openstorytellers family on that day.



Our ambitions

In our last annual report, we set ourselves the following ambitions:

- **Have our day services running Mon – Fri:** We did this! We are now open 5 days a week.
- **Increase the number of day service placements from 30 per week to 60:** We changed this! We increased our capacity from 30 to 48, having decided to retain Tuesday's capacity as open access for people who do not have funding for our day services.
- **Have 10 people with a learning disability on a workers casual contract with us:** We are nearly there! (6 people signed up at the time of writing)
- **Have an apprentice Hub Host in place who will have a learning disability:** We were unable to recruit to this post, despite making an offer. We reflected that the Taunton learning element was unreasonable for a Fromie and instead will be offering a supported internship from Sept 2023.
- **Have 4 weekly inclusive governance sessions to ensure people have a say in strategic decision making:** We tried this! We learned that it was not an effective way of elevating the voices of people with a learning disability in our governance. The business agenda did not reflect what people wanted to talk about. So we continue to proactively involve people in areas that they are interested in whilst we evaluate new ways of more structured inclusion. Watch this space!
- **Implement the continuous evaluation and impact measures we co-developed alongside the people who come to Openstorytellers:** We need to be better at this! We are good at getting feedback on a daily basis, but we need to make time this year to put processes in place for quantative, not just qualitative evaluation.

Our Team

The year has seen significant changes to our creative delivery team. We said goodbye to 4 of the team, 2 of whom have been integral to the organisation almost from the beginning, all of whom were valued as extraordinary storytellers.



With our talented new team of creative lead facilitators, we have charged our days with an energised focus on developing many ways to tell stories – puppetry, sensory theatre, music, verbal storytelling, visual arts. We opened up on Fridays giving us the opportunity to build, from the ground up, an approach that centres around shared creativity leading to devised work. This influence has been felt throughout the week.

Our artistic team continues to be enhanced by our 2 permanent posts ringfenced for people who have a learning disability; peer advocate and resources officer.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.
The trustees who served during the period and up to the date the accounts were approved are as follows:

Sarah Talbot-Williams (Chair)
Ruth Read (resigned 3rd November 2022)
Bill Palmer
Juliet Solomon (resigned 3rd November 2022)
Jane Flood
Judith Beresford
Claire Edgar (joined 15th Dec 2022)
Benjamin Banks (joined 27th Oct 2022)

Two trustees stepped down this year and two new trustees were appointed.

The registered office is RISE (formerly The HUBnub Centre), Whittox Lane, Frome BA11 3BY.
The bankers are HSBC plc, 24 Market Place, Frome BA11 1AJ
The Independent Examiner is Tim Green
The patrons are Nick Hennessey, Storyteller and Taffy Thomas MBE, the first Laureate for Storytelling
The full name of the Charity is Openstorytellers Limited. Charity number 1130148, Company number 0682997

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was incorporated on the 23rd September 2009 as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Charity registered with the Charity Commission on 12th June 2009.

The Directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The Board meets four times a year. The three longest serving trustees retire each year, but are subject to re-election.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the overall policy direction of the charity, for fixing and reviewing its annual budget, and for approving annual accounts. The Charity Director is responsible for day-to-day management in accordance with determined policies.

Financial Review

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the 13 months ending 31st March 2023. Reference and administrative details set out on this page form part of this report. Our financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Reserves Policy and Risk Management

The Trustees believe that the freely available reserves of the charity should be sufficient to ensure the continuance of its activities, should there be an unexpected short-term adverse fluctuation in income. The Trustees consider that an appropriate level of free reserves is approximately six months' normal expenditure.

This equates to approximately £47,000. At 31st March 2023 there was a total of £49,087 of funding freely available for general purposes. The Trustees are satisfied that the long-term financial plans generate sufficient free reserves to satisfy its reserves policy over the coming 12 months and beyond.
The Trustees have examined and addressed the financial risks to which the Charity is exposed and in association with its insurers, has mitigated those risks to the best of its ability.

Transactions and Financial Position

During the 13 months the Charity incurred total expenditure of £229,520 of which £210,971 was directly charitable.
Over the 13 months the Charity received income of £211,452 leading to an overall deficit of £18,068. The Balance sheet shows total reserves on 31st March 2023 of £58,347.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the Company's state of affairs at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for that year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply these consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the company for the 13 months ended 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 14 to 19

RESPECTIVE REPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to;

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER's REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes a consideration of any unusual issues or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met.

No other matter has come to my attention in accordance with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Timothy Green FCMA

Date: 20th July 2023

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE 13 MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH 2023
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM;					
Donations & Legacies	2 & 3	3,636	33,740	37,376	29,264
Charitable Activities	4	120,992	51,095	172,087	146,336
Other Trading	5	1,989	-	1,989	2,771
Investments		-	-	-	-
Other Income		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		126,617	84,835	211,452	178,371
EXPENDITURE ON;					
Raising Funds		18,549	-	18,549	13,573
Charitable Activities	6 & 7	114,114	96,857	210,971	187,091
Other Expenditure		-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		132,663	96,857	229,520	200,664
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE TRANSFERS		(6,046)	(12,022)	(18,068)	(22,293)
Gross Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(6,046)	(12,022)	(18,068)	(22,293)
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARDS		58,393	18,022	76,415	98,708
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARDS	9	52,347	6,000	58,347	76,415

All activities derive from continuing operations
The notes on pages 16 to 19 form part of the financial statements

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		3,260		2,550
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	15,912		14,089	
Cash at bank and in hand		66,714		82,223	
		82,626		96,312	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	27,539		22,447	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			55,087		73,865
NET ASSETS			58,347		76,415
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds			52,347		58,393
Restricted funds			6,000		18,022
TOTAL FUNDS			58,347		76,415

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102

The company has taken advantage of the exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the 13 months ended 31st March 2023

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the 13 months ended 31st March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for;

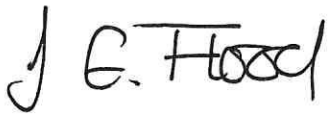
ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and

preparing Accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the year in accordance with the requirement of Section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee





The notes on pages 16 to 19 form part of these accounts

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE 13 MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH 2023

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and following the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and are in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (effective January 2015 and updated by Bulletin 1 effective February 2016) and the Companies Act 2006

a Going Concern

The acounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue.

b The Charity

Tha Charity is a public benefit entity.

c Income

Income from donations, grants and subscriptions is taken to the Statement of Financial Activity on receipt unless there is a Service Level Agreement or Contract in which case it is taken into account in the period to which it relates.

d Resources Expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Costs are allocated on the basis of usage on each project..

e Operating Leases

The costs of operating leases are charged as they accrue.

f Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assetst at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life;

Equipment (including IT items)	20% pa straight line

g Funds

Fund designations are formally approved and minuted by the Trustees. Separate accounting records are kept for restricted funds.

2 Income from Donations & Legacies

	2023 £	2022 £
Donations	3,636	8,832
Other Grants	-	1,006
Restricted Grants	33,740	19,426
	37,376	29,264

3 Analysis of Donations

	2023 £	2022 £
Monetary Donations	3,636	8,832
	3,636	8,832

4 Income from Charitable Activities

	Fee for Service £	Restricted Grant £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fee for Service				
Day Services	88,208	369	88,577	53,990
Pigeon Productions	29,579	-	29,579	11,827
Community Hub	2,459	19,410	21,869	21,938
Memory People	-	15,354	15,354	17,728
Performances & Events	500	10,082	10,582	-
Bookclubs	246	2,880	3,126	4,312
Heritage Project	-	3,000	3,000	-
ACE - Lift Off	-	-	-	36,541
Other	-	-	-	-
	120,992	51,095	172,087	146,336

5 Income from Other Trading

	2023 £	2022 £
Room hire	1,898	2,205
Merchandice sales	-	261
Other trading	91	305
	1,989	2,771

6 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2023 £
Day Services	93,328	17,667	110,995
Pigeon Productions	25,404	5,652	31,056
Community Hub	27,310	5,229	32,539
Memory People	17,759	3,110	20,869
Performances & Events	9,173	1,875	11,048
Bookclubs	3,579	802	4,381
ACE - Lift Off	57	22	79
Other	4	-	4
	176,614	34,357	210,971

7 Allocation of Support Costs

	Staff Costs £	Office Costs £	Total 2023 £
Day Services	13,444	4,223	17,667
Pigeon Productions	4,301	1,351	5,652
Community Hub	3,979	1,250	5,229
Memory People	2,367	743	3,110
Performances & Events	1,427	448	1,875
Bookclubs	610	192	802
ACE - Lift Off	17	5	22
Fundraising	2,783	874	3,657
Other	-	-	-
	28,928	9,086	38,014

Staff Costs have been allocated on Actual Hours spent
Office Costs have been allocated based on specific project contributions and the remainder on Total Staff and Freelance Cost

8 Trustees Remuneration & Benefits

During the year no trustee received expenses in respect of delivering courses (2022 - £0).

During the year no trustee donated services (2022 - £0)

There were no related party transactions with trustees in the year

9 Independent Examination

The independent examiner was paid £750 (2022 - £750) to prepare and examine these accounts

10 Staff Costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages & Salaries	159,865	129,816
Social Security Payments	5,308	2,213
Employer Pension Contributions	2,847	2,313
	168,020	134,342

The average number of employees during the year was 13 (2022 - 11)
No employee received remuneration of over £60,000

11 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Equpiment £	Total £
Cost		
As at 1 March 2022	12,462	12,462
Additions	1,899	1,899
As at 31st March 2023	14,361	14,361
Depreciation		
As at 1 March 2022	9,912	9,912
Charge for the period	1,189	1,189
As at 31st March 2023	11,101	11,101
Net Book Value		
As at 1 March 2022	2,550	2,550
As at 31st March 2023	3,260	3,260

12	Debtors	2023	2022
		£	£
	Trade Debtors	11,751	10,145
	Other Debtors	2,933	2,933
	Prepayments & Accrued Income	1,228	1,011
		15,912	14,089

13	Creditors	2023	2022
		£	£
	Trade Creditors	239	524
	Accruals	1,825	1,212
	PAYE/NI	2,178	2,582
	Other Creditors	498	1,521
	Deferred Income	22,799	16,608
		27,539	22,447

Deferred Income relates to the D'Oyly Carte Trust, Frome Town Council, The Sorbell Foundation, Weinstock Fund, Mercers Company and Somerset Community Foundtion all of which extend into the 2023-24 financial year.

14	Fund Accounts	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
		£	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	58,393	126,617	132,663	-	52,347
	Restricted Funds					
	Memory People - National Lottery Community Fund	14,439	15,354	29,793	-	-
	Day Services - Somerset Community Foundation	-	369	369	-	-
	Events - National Lottery Community Fund	-	9,667	9,667	-	-
	Events - Small Sparks	-	415	415	-	-
	Heritage - Historic England	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
	Arts Council - Lift Off	3,400	-	3,400	-	-
	Bookclubs - Sobell Foundation	183	1,258	1,441	-	-
	Bookclubs - Barchester Charitable Foundation	-	500	500	-	-
	Bookclubs - Frome Town Council	-	1,122	1,122	-	-
	Community Hub - National Lottery Community Fund	-	9,950	9,950	-	-
	Community Hub - SCC Reconditioning Grant	-	4,460	4,460	-	-
	Community Hub - SSE Fund Get Connected	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
	Core - SSE Fund	-	15,000	15,000	-	-
	Core - Small Good Stuff	-	500	500	-	-
	Core - Mencap Fund	-	240	240	-	-
	Core - Edward Gosling Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
	Core - SCF	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
	Core - Hedley Foundation	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
	Total Restricted Funds	18,022	84,835	96,857	-	6,000
	Total Funds	76,415	211,452	229,520	-	58,347

Fund Purposes

National Lottery Memory People – A multi-year grant to support our Memory People Programme
Somerset Community Foundation - Support for Day Dervices
National Lottery Community Fund - Community Hub, Get Connected
Small Sparks - Event Support
Historic England - Heritage Schools understand local heritage
Arts Council - Lift Off - Development of a Storytelling Company
Sorbell Foundation -Sensory bookclub funding
Barchester Charitable Foundation -Sensory bookclub funding
Frome Town Council -Sensory bookclub funding
National Lottery Community Fund - Community Hub, Get Connected
Somerset County Council - Community Hub, Reconditioning Grant
SSE - Community Hub Get Connected
SEE - Core Support
Small Good Stuff - Core Support
Mencap Fund - Core Support
Edward Gosling Foundation - Core Support
Somerset Community Foundation - Core Support
Hedley Foundation - Core Support

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	3,260	-	3,260	2,550
Current Assets				
Debtors	15,632	280	15,912	14,089
Bank	38,080	28,634	66,714	82,223
	53,712	28,914	82,626	96,312
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	4,625	22,914	27,539	22,447
Net Current Assets	49,087	6,000	55,087	73,865
Net Assets	52,347	6,000	58,347	76,415

15 Members' Liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation. As at the 31st March 2023 there were 15 members.

16 Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1130148

Accounts

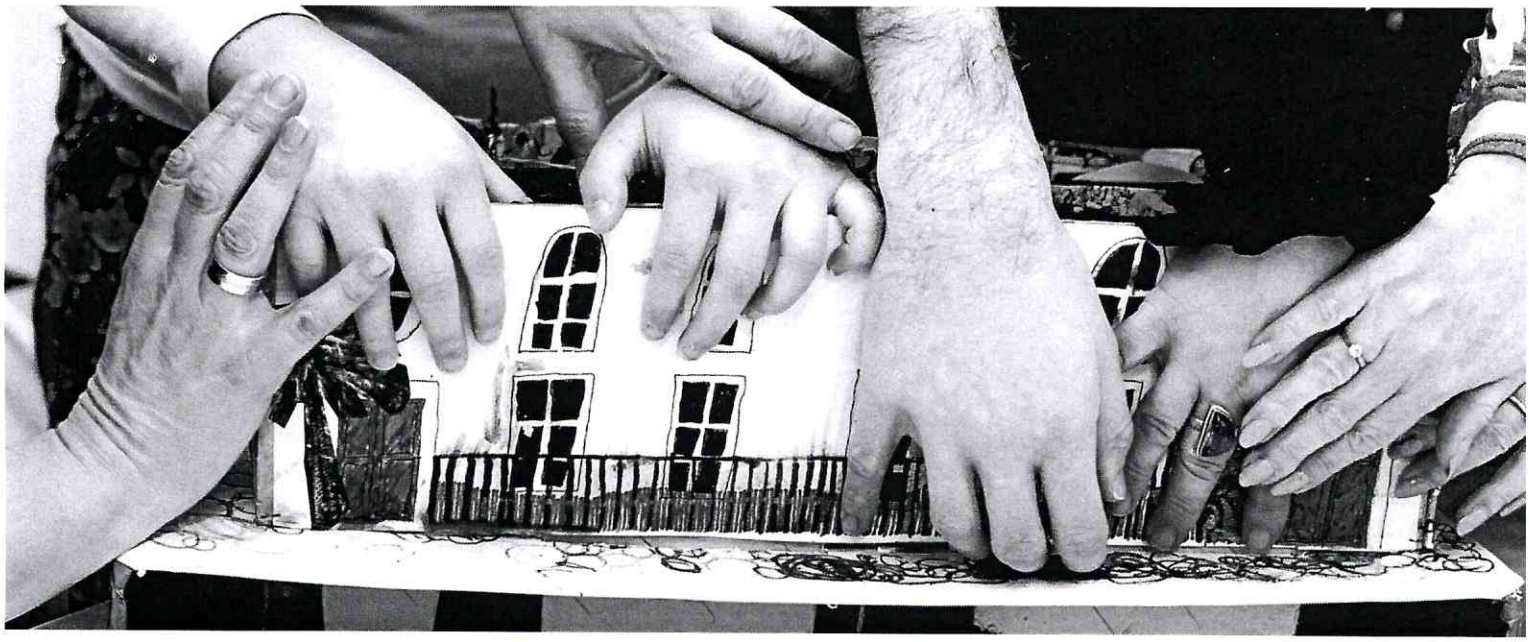
ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 28TH FEBRUARY 2022

OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY NUMBER 06829975

CHARITY NUMBER 1130148



Message from Sarah Talbot-Williams, Chair of Trustees

After the whirlwind of 2020/2021 Openstorytellers has found itself in a period of consolidation and steady growth despite the world becoming a more uncertain place.

We noticed a distinct change in grant funders as demand continues to outstrip supply in this area. However, we are pleased to report that our success rate of bid writing stands at 46% against an average of 10%. Any concerns around the diminishing availability of grants and project funding has been so far offset by strong growth in the number of day service placements we are offering, and more new clients for Pigeon Productions. It continues to be important to develop diverse funding streams to ensure the long-term financial viability of the charity.

We are grateful to be able to report that we are emerging from lock downs stronger than we were pre-covid. This is down to the dedication and vision of the team and the energy and passion of everyone who comes to Openstorytellers. However, it is also down to luck and we are under no illusions about the challenges yet to come.

Research on the impact of Covid on charities by the Charity Commission shows:

*Perhaps the most striking finding is that nearly all charities were impacted by the pandemic – over **90%** told us that they have experienced some negative impact from Covid-19, whether on their service delivery, finances, staff, or indeed on staff morale, resulting from the months of frustration and uncertainty. The majority (**60%**) saw a loss of income, and a third (**32%**) said they experienced a shortage of volunteers. Given these findings, it is perhaps surprising that we haven't seen a significant number of charities fold since March 2021… Looking ahead, the picture is again complicated, with grounds for concern as well as optimism. On the one hand, over half (**62%**) of those asked anticipate some level of threat to their charity's financial viability in the next 12 months.*



If you like what you read in this report, I urge you to consider becoming a regular monthly donor visit our Local Giving link www.localgiving.org/charity/openstorytellersfrome. I am not entirely sure how becoming it is for a Chair to appeal quite so directly in their annual report! However, we are rightly proud of the extraordinary output and impact of our organisation and want it to continue long into the future.

Sarah

Our Objectives

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The structure and content of this report is designed to reflect the requirement to explain how the charity has operated within that guidance.

The objects of the charity are:

- ***To advance the education for the public benefit and preserve and protect the health of persons who have learning and communication disabilities, their families and carers by providing opportunities to develop stories and storytelling.***
- ***To advance the education of the public in the knowledge of the art, practice and value of oral storytelling and in knowledge of the form and content of the oral tradition of people and cultures.***

Our Achievements

Over the last year we have continued to deliver our organizational mission to support people with a learning disability to find their voice through creativity and story, and to provide a range of platforms for those voices to be heard. We have expanded our day services in response to an increased level of demand. Some of our members, new and old, are still living with the ongoing challenges of the Covid pandemic and have lost some of the independence, routine, and opportunities they had previously. We now provide 30 day service placements, this represents an increase of 87% on last year.

Our day services offer a safe, supportive, creative environment, where people can explore the arts – drawing, movement, film and spoken word. We work with people as collaborators to discover their preferred forms of expression so they can share stories that are important to them.

We are proud of being more than just a day service. We are a place where community arts support personal progression and freedom of expression. Our Arts Council England funded project, Peter, The Wild Boy, is an example of how we supplement our day service provision with innovative, arts practice.

We researched, developed, and rehearsed this true, eighteenth-century story that still resonates today. However, due to ongoing Covid restrictions, face-to-face performance was not possible, so our team innovated new ways of performing that blended live performance with recordings in a live streamed, pay for view event. A first for OpenStoryTellers! It has helped us establish ourselves as digital performers and was enjoyed by an audience of over 100.

https://www.openstorytellers.org.uk/storytelling-company

Employment for people with learning disabilities is one of our key strategic objectives and through our creative enterprise, Pigeon Productions, we are continuing to develop and increase our flexible work options and jobs for our members. This includes permanent contracts, consultancy work, and project-

based short-term contracts. Crucial to this is building support for these roles into our infrastructure and this year we have been able to develop the role of Employment and Inclusion Director to do this.

Our ethos at Pigeon Productions is helping people to tell stories that are important to them, this might be to educate, to challenge, to bring about change or to celebrate neurodiversity and inclusion. This year we have produced a series of 'This is Me' films, supported by a Somerset Equality Innovation grant. These powerful personal stories can be found here:

https://www.openstorytellers.org.uk/pigeon-productions-creative-media

Memory People, our innovative project supported by National Lottery Community Fund has entered its final year. The project helps people explore memory and create resources that support personal and collective memories. We are excited about the clear intersections developing between Memory People and Pigeon Productions and the employment possibilities for our team of workers specializing in personal history and memory.

https://vimeo.com/718485025

Our low cost and no cost activities have continued over the last year and have proved to be vital in supporting our members' reconnection with each other and their wider community after the isolation felt by many during the Covid pandemic.

Get Connected Tuesdays have run throughout the year. These fun, low pressure sessions are open to everyone, regardless of budget, and have become a lifeline for those struggling with limited support. People have freedom to work on projects individually or collectively, to use art, craft and music to express themselves. Community connection remains an important part of everything we do, and our members have collaborated on community events and worked with community partners this year to share their stories.

Our wellbeing sessions, led by an experienced yoga therapist, have a subtle therapeutic aspect, a safe space where members can share and express feelings, learn skills to calm themselves and ease feelings of anxiety and worry.

We continue to be responsive to the needs of our members and our blended offer of support that emerged during the pandemic, continues. With support from our local community, we have been able to continue with our outreach work, connecting with people who are not able to join us at our Hub, are particularly isolated, or those who are new to OpenStoryTellers.

Finally, our sensory book clubs have continued online this year. The nature of this activity and the vulnerability of these members have informed the decision to maintain our online delivery, although in person sessions are due to resume this year. Engagement in our digital sessions has been mixed, but it has allowed us to reach new audiences. These sessions provide access to great works of literature for everyone. *The Secret Garden, Animal Farm* and *Frenchman's Creek* have all been enthusiastically enjoyed with storytelling, poetry, and music, with each member receiving their own individual sensory resource pack to accompany the sessions.

Impact and Value

Our strategic objectives are designed to nurture and promote learning disabled voices, and to give those voices a platform to be heard, whether that be through inclusive, professional performance, campaigning about what matters to them, or through just sharing stories. We co-create stories that support celebration of neurodiversity and inclusion that influence, educate, and entertain so that people have the tools to bring about change.

We work in creative collaboration with the people who to come to Openstorytellers. By working this way, people develop a concrete sense of their own importance in the process and as communication, self-confidence and collaboration develops, so do the opportunities for expression, empathy, positive choice-making, and advocacy. This has a real-world ripple effect.

By prioritizing employment for people with learning disabilities in our strategic objectives and building an organizational infrastructure that supports this, we are on our way to becoming a beacon of good practice, a model that other learning disability organizations can follow. With less than 6% of adults with learning disabilities in employment across the UK, this is vital in addressing the inequality, especially financial inequality. At Openstorytellers, 2 of our 11 permanent posts are filled by people with a learning disability; in the last year, Pigeon has provided 8 for people with a learning disability as graphic artists and experts by experience. We were unable to fill our Mencap supported apprenticeship post but, unthwarted, we will learn from our experience and advertise it again next year.

Our Year in Numbers

53 individuals with learning disabilities were supported across all our activities.

Pigeon Productions started to fly with **4** amazing ***'This is Me'*** films celebrating diversity.

OpenStoryTellers employed **2** individuals with lived experience of learning disability and created **16** freelance jobs for artists with a learning disability, all supported by our new ***Employment Support Advisor.***

Over **141** *day service sessions were delivered* over **49** *weeks.*

1 Memory Dragon was created, **875** miles were Trekked to Taffy and **1** presentation was delivered at the ***Learning Disability England*** conference.

We got connected **48** *times*. The Tempest, Animal Farm, The Secret Garden and Alice in Wonderland were brought to life in **29** Sensory book club sessions and **40** wellbeing sessions gave us calm and relaxation. And breathe .....

Finally, **1** magnificent live streamed performance of ***Peter the Wild Boy*** was enjoyed by an audience of over **100!**

Increase ***employment***

Develop our **artistic** *identity*

***Grow** our Service*

***Include**, listen, respond*

Champion learning disabled ***voices***

***Evaluate** together*

Our Ambitions

Over the last year we have embedded organisational and artistic strategic roles that have given direction and provided stability. We now plan to build on this stability to expand our core service to meet growing demand, it is the bedrock upon which our exciting, artistic endeavours rest. We will continue to develop our unique artistic identity and establish ourselves as performers, building on the success of our previous shows Peter, the Wild Boy and Fanny Fust.

We will continue to develop Pigeon Productions, our creative, multi-media enterprise as not only a vehicle for employment but also a way to champion learning disabled voices as a force for change.

We have already begun to develop a new inclusive governance framework and we will continue to embed this over the coming year, to ensure that learning disabled voices inform our organisational decision making across all aspects of our charity operations. Our strategic objectives are due to be reviewed during 2022 and we will work with our inclusive governance groups to do this.

By our next annual report, we are aiming to:

- Have our day services running Monday - Friday
- Increase the number of day service placements from 30 per week to 60
- Have 10 people with a learning disability on a workers casual contract with us
- Have an apprentice Hub Host in place who will have a learning disability
- Have regular governance sessions to ensure people have a say in strategic decision making
- Implement the continuous evaluation and impact measures we co-developed alongside the people who come to Openstorytellers

Our Team

We now work in a new organisational structure with the development of a senior leadership group to better support our delivery roles (who are the beating heart of the organisation). We are benefitting from better infrastructure all round, from HR to IT. Whilst this is not the most exciting thing to report, it makes the team much more efficient and ensures that the organisation grows in the right way.



The Charity Director, Alex MacNeil, has overall responsibility for the Charity operations, she is supported by the Senior Leadership Team; Emma Wilson – Director of Finance and Fundraising, Simon Blakeman – Artistic Director and Emma Lacey-Williams – Employment and Inclusion Director. The delivery team includes 6 experienced facilitators who deliver our day-to-day activities and projects. Our team includes 2 employees with learning disabilities. All posts are part-time.

The team were supported by 2 regular volunteer who is resolute and intrepid in her support of the organisation. We are deeply grateful to her.

Patrons

The patrons are Nick Hennessey, Storyteller and Taffy Thomas MBE, the first Laureate for Storytelling

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.

The trustees who served during the period and up to the date the accounts were approved are as follows:

Sarah Talbot-Williams (Chair)
Ruth Read
Sue Paxton (resigned 12.08.21)
Bill Palmer
Juliet Solomon
Gill Levy (resigned 12.08.21)
Jane Flood
Judith Beresford (appointed 01/03/2021)

Two trustees stepped down this year and one new trustee was appointed.

The registered office is RISE (formerly The HUBnub Centre), Whittox Lane, Frome BA11 3BY.
The bankers are HSBC plc, 24 Market Place, Frome BA11 1AJ
The Independent Examiner is Tim Green
The patrons are Nick Hennessey, Storyteller and Taffy Thomas MBE, the first Laureate for Storytelling
The full name of the Charity is Openstorytellers Limited. Charity number 1130148, Company number 0682997

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was incorporated on the 23rd September 2009 as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Charity registered with the Charity Commission on 12th June 2009.

The Directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The Board meets four times a year. The three longest serving trustees retire each year, but are subject to re-election.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the overall policy direction of the charity, for fixing and reviewing its annual budget, and for approving annual accounts. The Charity Director is responsible for day-to-day management in accordance with determined policies.

Financial Review

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 28th February 2021. Reference and administrative details set out on page 2 form part of this report. For financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Reserves Policy and Risk Management

The Trustees believe that the freely available reserves of the charity should be sufficient to ensure the continuance of its activities, should there be an unexpected short-term adverse fluctuation in income. The Trustees consider that an appropriate level of free reserves is approximately six months' normal expenditure. This equates to approximately £42,000. At 28th February 2022 there was a total of £55,843 of funding freely available for general purposes. The Trustees are satisfied that the long-term financial plans generate sufficient free reserves to satisfy its reserves policy over the coming 12 months and beyond.

The Trustees have examined and addressed the financial risks to which the Charity is exposed and in association with its insurers, has mitigated those risks to the best of its ability.

Transactions and Financial Position

During the year the Charity incurred total expenditure of £200,644 of which £187,091 was directly charitable.

Over the year the Charity received income of £178,371 leading to an overall deficit of £22,293. The Balance sheet shows total reserves on 28th February 2022 of £76,415.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the Company's state of affairs at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for that year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply these consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business

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



Sarah Talbot-Williams, Chair of Trustees

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 28th February 2022 which are set out on pages 11 to 16

RESPECTIVE REPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to;

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER's REPORT

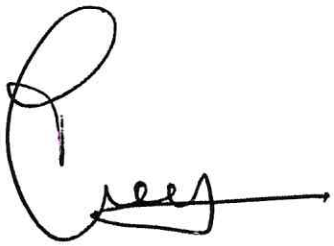
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes a consideration of any unusual issues or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met.

No other matter has come to my attention in accordance with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Timothy Green FCMA

Date: 19th August 2022

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 28th FEBRUARY 2022
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM;					
Donations & Legacies	2 & 3	9,838	19,426	29,264	128,359
Charitable Activities	4	64,758	81,578	146,336	102,294
Other Trading	5	2,771	-	2,771	986
Investments		-	-	-	-
Other Income		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		77,367	101,004	178,371	231,639
EXPENDITURE ON;					
Raising Funds		5,817	7,756	13,573	19,646
Charitable Activities	6 & 7	76,432	110,659	187,091	132,279
Other Expenditure		-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		82,249	118,415	200,664	151,925
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE TRANSFERS		(4,882)	(17,411)	(22,293)	79,714
Gross Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(4,882)	(17,411)	(22,293)	79,714
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARDS		63,275	35,433	98,708	18,994
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARDS	9	58,393	18,022	76,415	98,708

All activities derive from continuing operations
The notes on pages 13 to 16 form part of the financial statements

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 28th FEBRUARY 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		2,550		2,671
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	14,089		13,546	
Cash at bank and in hand		82,223		156,671	
		96,312		170,217	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	22,447		74,180	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			73,865		96,037
NET ASSETS			76,415		98,708
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds			58,393		63,275
Restricted funds			18,022		35,433
TOTAL FUNDS			76,415		98,708

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102

The company has taken advantage of the exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 28th February 2022

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year ended 28th February 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for;

ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and

preparing Accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the year in accordance with the requirement of Section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 27.10.2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee

William Palmer

Sarah Talbot-Williams

The notes on pages 13 to 16 form part of these accounts

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 28th FEBRUARY 2022

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and following the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and are in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (effective January 2015 and updated by Bulletin 1 effective February 2016) and the Companies Act 2006

a Going Concern

The acounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue.

b The Charity

Tha Charity is a public benefit entity.

c Income

Income from donations, grants and subscriptions is taken to the Statement of Financial Activity on receipt unless there is a Service Level Agreement or Contract in which case it is taken into account in the period to which it relates.

d Resources Expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Costs are allocated on the basis of usage on each project..

e Operating Leases

The costs of operating leases are charged as they accrue.

f Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assetst at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life;

Equipment (including IT items) 20% pa straight line

g Funds

Fund designations are formally approved and minuted by the Trustees. Separate accounting records are kept for restricted funds.

2 Income from Donations & Legacies

	2022 £	2021 £
Donations	8,832	2,629
Other Grants	1,006	25,399
Restricted Grants	19,426	100,331
	29,264	128,359

3 Analysis of Donations

	2022 £	2021 £
Monetary Donations	8,832	2,629
Donated Services - Consultancy	-	-
Donated Services - Travel	-	-
	8,832	2,629

4 Income from Charitable Activities

	Fee for Service £	Restricted Grant £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fee for Service				
Day Services	53,990	0	53,990	36,187
Memory People	0	17,728	17,728	24,520
ACE - Lift Off	809	35,732	36,541	23,085
Bookclubs	150	4,162	4,312	4,815
Advocacy Project	0	0	0	431
Pigeon Productions	8,827	3,000	11,827	12,956
Community Hub	982	20,956	21,938	-
Performances & Events	0	0	0	300
Other	0	0	0	-
	64,758	81,578	146,336	102,294

5 Income from Other Trading

	2022 £	2021 £
Room hire	2,205	767
Easy Read Services	-	-
Merchandice sales	261	20
Other trading	305	199
	2,771	986

6	Expenditure on Charitable Activities	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2022 £
	Day Services	44,780	5,719	50,499
	Community Hub	35,984	4,374	40,358
	ACE - Lift Off	36,105	4,428	40,533
	Memory People	19,815	2,392	22,207
	Bookclubs	5,716	834	6,550
	Advocacy Project	-	-	-
	Performances & Events	-	-	-
	Community Hub	-	-	-
	Pigeon Productions	22,958	3,645	26,603
	Other	341	-	341
		165,699	21,392	187,091

7	Allocation of Support Costs	Staff Costs £	Office Costs £	Total 2022 £
	Day Services	5,305	414	5,719
	Community Hub	4,058	316	4,374
	ACE - Lift Off	4,108	320	4,428
	Memory People	2,219	173	2,392
	Bookclubs	774	60	834
	Advocacy Project	-	-	-
	Performances & Events	-	-	-
	Community Hub	-	-	-
	Pigeon Productions	3,381	264	3,645
	Fundraising	13,070	141	13,211
	Other	-	-	-
		32,915	1,688	34,603

Staff Costs have been allocated on Actual Hours spent
Office Costs have been allocated based on specific project contributions and the remainder on Total Staff and Freelance Cost

8 Trustees Remuneration & Benefits

During the year no trustee received expenses in respect of delivering courses (2021 - £0).

During the year no trustee donated services (2021 - £0)

There were no related party transactions with trustees in the year

9 Independent Examination

The independent examiner was paid £750 (2021 - £750) to prepare and examine these accounts

10	Staff Costs	2022 £	2021 £
	Wages & Salaries	129,816	103,448
	Social Security Payments	2,213	2,731
	Employer Pension Contributions	2,313	1,741
		134,342	107,920

The average number of employees during the year was 11 (2021 - 11)
No employee received remuneration of over £60,000

11	Tangible Fixed Assets	Equpiment £	Total £
	Cost		
	As at 1 March 2021	11,824	11,824
	Additions	638	638
	As at 28th February 2022	12,462	12,462
	Depreciation		
	As at 1 March 2021	9,153	9,153
	Charge for the period	759	759
	As at 28th February 2022	9,912	9,912
	Net Book Value		
	As at 1 March 2021	2,671	2,671
	As at 28th February 2022	2,550	2,550

12	Debtors	2022	2021
		£	£
	Trade Debtors	10,145	9,597
	Other Debtors	2,933	2,933
	Prepayments & Accrued Income	1,011	1,016
		14,089	13,546

13	Creditors	2022	2021
		£	£
	Trade Creditors	524	778
	Accruals	1,212	3,174
	PAYE/NI	2,582	3,365
	Other Creditors	1,521	297
	Deferred Income	16,608	66,566
		22,447	74,180

Deferred Income relates to the Sobell Foundation and Memory People all of which extend into the 2021-22 financial year.

14	Fund Accounts	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
	Unrestricted Funds	63,275	77,367	82,249	-	58,393
	Restricted Funds					
	National Lottery Memory People	14,439	17,728	17,728	-	14,439
	Somerset Diversities & Equalities	3,000	3,000	6,000	-	-
	National Lottery - Community Hub	6,375	14,806	21,181	-	-
	Frome Town Council - Community Hub	-	3,000	3,000	-	-
	Asda - Community Hub	-	650	650	-	-
	SCF Adult Wellbeing - Community Hub	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
	Arts Council - Lift Off	2,003	35,732	34,335	-	3,400
	SCC - Peer Support Group	266	-	266	-	-
	Bookclubs - Sobell Foundation	3,877	4,162	7,856	-	183
	National Lottery Community Fund	5,473	-	5,473	-	-
	Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	-	19,426	19,426	-	-
	Total Restricted Funds	35,433	101,004	118,415	-	18,022
	Total Funds	98,708	178,371	200,664	-	76,415

Fund Purposes
Natioanl Lotter Memory People – A multi-year grant to support our Memory People Programme
Somerset Diversities & Equalities - Support to develop Pideon Productions
National Lottery Community Hub - Community Hub
Frome Town Council - Community Hub
Asda - Community Hub
SCF Adult Wellbeing - Community Hub
Arts Council - Lift Off - Development of a Storytelling Company
SCC - Peer Support Group for adults with learning difficulties
Bookclubs - Sensory bookclub funding
National Lottery Community Fund - Covid Support
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust - Charity Survival Fund

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	2,550	-	2,550	2,671
Current Assets				
Debtors	13,998	91	14,089	13,546
Bank	47,684	34,539	82,223	156,671
	61,682	34,630	96,312	170,217
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	5,839	16,608	22,447	74,180
Net Current Assets	55,843	18,022	73,865	96,037
Net Assets	58,393	18,022	76,415	98,708

15 Members' Liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation. As at the 28th of February 2022 there were 15 members.

16 Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1130148

Accounts

OPENSTORYTELLERS LIMITED
(a company limited by guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 2021

COMPANY NUMBER 06829975

CHARITY NUMBER 1130148

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 2021

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Open StoryTellers
living through story



"I must say that OpenStoryTellers have been a lifeline in every sense of the word, without amazing organisations like yourselves, many young adults like Charlotte wouldn't have been given the opportunities to learn, progress and become remarkable young people that they are! All thanks to you guys"



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
28th FEBRUARY 2021

Message from our Chair of Trustees

As my first year at OpenStoryTellers has come to an end, I have been deeply impressed and delighted by the work that has continued to be done by the staff and members through the pandemic. It is a testament to their character, grit and commitment. Not only were the team able to keep connected with members throughout the year, find new ways to effectively communicate digitally (thank you to Arts Council England, the National Lottery Community Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Somerset Community Foundation, The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, The Edward Gostling Foundation for the financial support to build our ability to research and deliver new ways of working), but they were also able to come together to deliver an amazing performance of Peter the Wild Boy – such determination. It demonstrates why OpenStoryTellers has such a vital role in driving the use of the arts to enable understanding, communication, and a sense of self-worth. We support every person to find their voice and give that voice a place to be heard.

And this last year has thrown into focus the structural inequalities that our members face, including experiencing significantly more severe health outcomes. This has led us to further strengthen our resolve to be a force for positive change in all areas of our work.

I hope that as we progress into our new financial year with renewed vigour and a more robust foundation both strategically and financially, we will be able to grow further benefitting from what we have learnt about ourselves and others through this most difficult year.

This year saw so many changes, but one in particular, was very important to us. We said goodbye to Dr Nicola Grove, our very well loved and respected founder and trustee. Nicola has been central to the development of the charity and much respected by staff and members alike. I want to thank her for guiding the charity for so many years and look forward to keeping her as a true friend to the charity.

Finally I want to thank my fellow trustees who have given their time to support the charity. Ensuring good governance is vital and we will be continuing to develop our governance to ensure that we reflect our community and embed an inclusive culture in every part of our organisation.

Sarah
Sarah Talbot-Williams
Chair of Trustees

Our Year

It's tempting to subtitle this report "Our Covid year". It brought us huge challenges; as an organisation; for our staff and volunteer team; but the most significant challenges have been for the people we support. In that context, we are especially proud to be able to report that it has also been a time of consolidation, of growth and a deepening understanding of who we are as an organisation and where we want to go next. We have risen to the challenges and seized opportunities.

Lockdowns saw the closure of our vibrant and busy Hub. A place that was once filled with people, voices, music, and laughter was now empty and silent. OpenStoryTellers is a piece of many people's lives, and has been for many, many years. Important bonds, friendships and experiences suddenly stopped.

Not only has Covid-19 had a disproportionate effect on individuals with learning disabilities but so have the measures and restrictions put in place to keep them safe. We have members who live in care homes where strict lockdown has lasted over a year; members who live alone with minimal support who have found themselves completely isolated dealing with a new level of anxiety and fears; we have members who have returned to their family home where frustrations and antagonism can remain unchecked or unexpressed.

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living through story

I feel proud to work at OpenStoryTellers... What I experience is a team who are working hard to transform care and support into a world of diverse professionalism. It's important to me that we place individuals' artistic practice at front and centre so that the creative output is lead by curiosity, authenticity and celebration.





Some of our members have struggled to understand the basic concept of social distancing or lack the motor or cognitive control to be able to socially distance or effectively wear facemasks. The structural inequalities that existed prior to Covid became steeper and sharper overnight.

Organisational change

Despite (and in some part because of) the upheaval of the last year, there have been considerable organisational changes.

It has been the first full year of the new Director being in post, and our new Chair began immediately after lockdown was announced. We have established our mission and strategic objectives and restructured the team to support our operations to deliver against those objectives. They are:

Mission: For every person to find their voice and for that voice to have a place to be heard.

Our vision is to help learning disabled and autistic people to find their voice and use it because stories make us human.

Finance	Organisation	Social Impact	Artistic future
• Develop our earned income • Grow our grant funding • Increase charitable donations	• Create an effective organisational structure • Elevate learning disabled and autistic voices in our decision making • Develop our team	• Maintain a reliable core service • Nurture and promote learning disabled and autistic stories • Develop a range of paid work opportunities for people with a learning disability	• Establish ourselves as digital performers • Develop our unique artistic identity • Share important stories

Our restructure included the following new roles which we are trialing on a short-term basis in the first instance:
Community fundraising and communications manager
Artistic Director
Social Enterprise Manager

Our emergency support

OpenStoryTellers has continued to support our members in creative and new ways. An initial skeleton 'lockdown' support service was convened to ensure that those who had access to technology could come to brand new online sessions. Whilst the rest of the team were furloughed, a tiny team of staff (and a quite magnificent volunteer) supported foodbank applications, safeguarding concerns and much higher than usual levels of distress and anxiety.

As the crisis deepened, we successfully applied for emergency funding and were soon distributing tablets and Wi-Fi hubs to those members who were digitally excluded. This required a huge amount of dedication and patience, liaising with care providers, family carers and members to try and ensure every single one of our members could access our support if they chose to. As a result, people who would never previously have considered themselves able to use technology are now proficient 'Zoom-ers'.

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"A fantastic show, so amazing to hear a hidden history about a learning disabled person, told by learning disabled people."





This service grew into a blended offer of support as restrictions and needs changed; online sessions, online social catch ups, phone support, doorstop visits, welfare checks, activity packs and outdoor activities. Our face-to-face activities resumed when restrictions allowed, in a covid secure way. We embraced new technologies and new ways of working, which will continue long after restrictions end.

With restrictions easing, our challenges are changing. Many of our members are re-entering their communities again, re-building their confidence after being isolated for so long. We are here to help them as our day-to-day business resumes.

The OpenStoryTellers Storytelling Company

With support from Arts Council England, our Storytelling company was due to tour the Southwest this year. Our two shows 'The Adventures and Mis-Adventures of Miss Fanny Fust' and 'Peter, the Wild Boy', were booked into theatres and tickets were already on sale when the pandemic hit. It was a devasting blow for our company who had worked so hard on the productions. As the year wore on and uncertainty remained, we looked for a different approach. The company embraced new technology, adapting their performance to a digital production which culminated in a live streamed performance in the Spring of 2021. The plan to take to the road again and tour these two amazing shows remains as the thrill and impact of live performance is so important to our storytellers.

Day Services

Openstorytellers provides creative day opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. Activities are programmed by our group leads in close consultation with the people to attend, with their passions and needs at the centre. Members fund places on these sessions through personal budgets, direct payments or private funding.

One to One Micro Enterprise Support

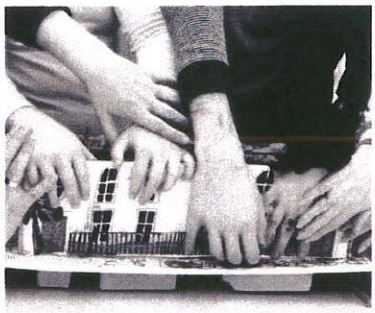
Openstorytellers has provided weekly one-to-one work support for 1 individual during this period. This support has allowed the individual to develop and manage their own micro-enterprise businesses.

Get Connected

These flexible weekly sessions are easy to access and not dependent on an individual's social care funding or support. They feature some structured activities as well as some unstructured time where people can work on personal projects, look for work or share hobbies. The focus is on finding your voice through social connection, mental and physical wellbeing and being part of the community. We have a regular Wellbeing Session, Storysharing circles along with regular craft and making sessions. The group has regular visitors, and we are able to signpost members to new opportunities or to additional avenues of support.

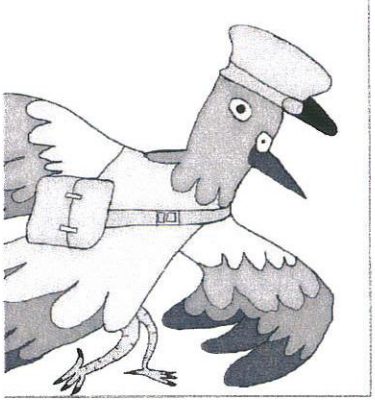
They have proved to be a vital lifeline, a safe place to come where you are known, where your behaviour is not judged, but instead is understood as a form of communication, and you can re-group and get help to understand whatever is troubling you. A place of compassionate attunement lacking in other community spaces. As our Hub closed, we moved these sessions online. We had regular wellbeing sessions on Zoom, online social meet ups, a closed social media page for people to chat and share, and outdoor walks and activities when restrictions allowed.

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'We think OpenStoryTellers's gift of tapping into and enthusing a diverse group of people with learning disabilities to creativity, is admirable. Dan, our son of 27 years and coping with severe learning disabilities relates to us that being part of OpenStoryTellers is interesting and fun. He looks forward to the inclusion and participation every week.'

D says memories are important "Because they bring out Joy "



Sensory Book Clubs

Our Sensory Book Clubs explore classic works of literature using multisensory techniques i.e. sights, sounds, taste, touch and the spoken word, providing cultural access to individuals who might otherwise be excluded. These sessions were very well supported pre-pandemic with two established multi-generational groups with a diverse range of ability. Members of these groups travel from across Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire reflecting the unique nature of this activity.

Due to the extreme vulnerability of these members, we have not been able to run these groups at our Hub this year. Most of our members have complex needs which has meant that they have been shielding for a large proportion of the pandemic. Most also live in residential care where lockdown restrictions have meant that they have not been able to access activities and services outside of their homes.

We have piloted and continue to deliver an online book club, sending out weekly resource packs. For some members this has worked well, others have struggled to engage. We understand that this approach does not deliver the same sensory experience and we look forward to delivering our face-to-face group sessions when restrictions allow.

K says:
I feel less lonely - Agree
I feel more connected to my friends, family and community - Agree
I feel my digital skills are better - Agree

K's mum said how happy they were with the tablet and that they never thought it would be something that would be accessible for K, but in fact she has engaged with it really well. Not only has she enjoyed the Sensory Book Club but she's also done lots on drawing apps and spoken to family on video calls for the first time. They were so grateful for our support.

Memory People

Supported by The National Lottery Community Fund, the Memory People project aims to develop a co-user led social enterprise to help people to own and give voice to their personal histories through the development and use of tangible creative resources (such as memory boxes). The beneficiaries of the project will be people who have difficulty recalling memories that are significant to their sense of identity or people who have difficulty communicating those memories.

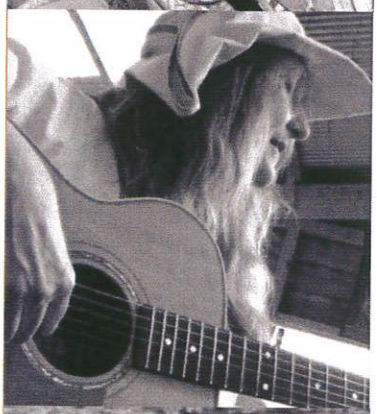
The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the delivery of this project. Although much of the face-to-face delivery was paused during this time, the sharing of stories and memories continued. We have all lived through something unprecedented, and this shared global experience will be part of all our personal histories. We are expanding the reach of Memory People so we can introduce memory, personal history, and sense of identity across OpenStoryTellers. Sharing stories and memories, help us make sense of the world, help us understand our feelings, and help us connect to each other. This is something that is needed more now, than ever. The other major development for Memory People, is the launch of our social enterprise, Pigeon Productions which will be a vehicle for employment for our expert team of memory workers.

Pigeon Productions

At OpenStoryTellers we have always offered services around inclusion and accessibility. Co-production lies at the heart of these, and we previously provided training, audits, and easy read translation services. This year we were able to build on this and launch Pigeon Productions, a new social enterprise that focuses on making complex information accessible to all. Pigeon provides employment opportunities for a hugely talented team of artists, film makers, trainers, easy read experts, all with lived experience of learning disability. Their experience, insight and empathy help deliver a product that is unique, powerful and a catalyst for change. Our launch project was a collaboration with BILD and Public Health England delivering the Oliver MacGowan Mandatory Training for Health and Social Care staff. Other clients this year include Somerset CCG and AbilityNet.

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Our Year in Numbers

50 *individuals with learning disabilities were supported*

OpenStoryTellers employed **2** *individuals with lived experience of learning disability and freelance employment for* **2** *graphic artists with a learning disability or autism*

Over **101** *Zoom sessions delivered and* **52** *face to face sessions delivered.*

To the digitally excluded: **14** *digital devices,* **12** *sets of headphones and* **1** *wi-fi mini hub were distributed.*

1 *media studio was created at OpenStoryTellers,* **1** *social enterprise established,* **1** *new Chair of Trustees welcomed and the* **1st** *online Bardic Chair Storytelling Competition was hosted by The Storytelling Company*

3 *new posts created; Social Enterprise Manager, Artistic Director and Community Fundraising and Communications Manager*

Our People

"The lockdown bought about some real creativity and people wanting to connect and share their experiences. People shared their stories using Zoom and this enabled us to make 21 amazing films (for BILD's Oliver MacGowan training). I really don't think Pigeon Productions would have hatched so quickly if R had not made his lockdown film. ..this was the springboard. It was heart-breaking at times to see the impact this (lockdown) had on people. I have really missed the group work aspect and have found sitting at home on a computer hard at times… Despite all this, I think Openstorytellers has been a fantastic employer and an essential service to our members. Staff have and been so positive, resourceful and supportive and we should be so proud of what we have achieved."

Trustees

Two trustees stepped down this year and one new trustee was appointed. We appointed a new Chair of Trustees.

Staff & Volunteers

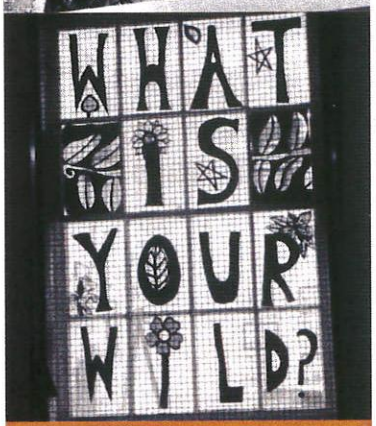
The Charity Director, Alex MacNeil, has overall responsibility for the Charity operations, she is supported by the Charity Manager. All posts are part time. The delivery team includes 9 experienced facilitators who deliver activities, group sessions, and training. The team are currently supported by 3 regular volunteers. We have been able to provide 2 paid peer mentor posts for individuals with Learning Disabilities during this period.

Patrons

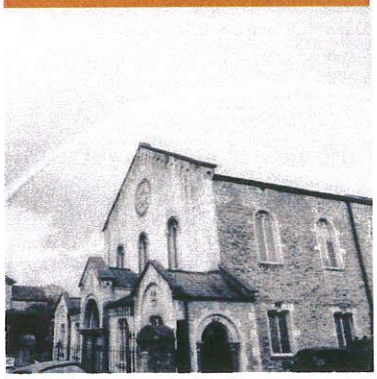
The patrons are Nick Hennessey, Storyteller and Taffy Thomas MBE, the first Laureate for Storytelling

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"I don't know how we can thank you enough. I can't believe that we can get this kind of support from you. It is something very special and unique that you are doing."



Our Governance

Objects of the Charity and Principle Activity

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The structure and content of this report is designed to reflect the requirement to explain how the charity has operated within that guidance.

The objects of the charity are:

(1) To advance the education for the public benefit and preserve and protect the health of persons who have learning and communication disabilities, their families and carers by providing opportunities to develop stories and storytelling.

(2) To advance the education of the public in the knowledge of the art, practice and value of oral storytelling and in knowledge of the form and content of the oral traditional of people and cultures.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.

The trustees who served during the period and up to the date the accounts were approved are as follows:

Tracy Rose (Chair)	resigned 27/03/2021
Sarah Talbot-Williams (Chair)	appointed 30/03/2020
Ruth Read	
Dr Nicola Grove	resigned 06/07/2020
Sue Paxton	
Bill Palmer	
Juliet Solomon	
Gill Levy	
Jane Flood	

The registered office is RISE (formerly The HUBnub Centre), Whittox Lane, Frome BA11 3BY.
The bankers are HSBC plc, 24 Market Place, Frome BA11 1AJ
The Independent Examiner is Tim Green
The patrons are Nick Hennessey, Storyteller and Taffy Thomas MBE, the first Laureate for Storytelling
The full name of the Charity is Openstorytellers Limited. Charity number 1130148, Company number 06829975.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was incorporated on the 23rd September 2009 as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Charity registered with the Charity Commission on 12th June 2009.
The Directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The Board meets four times a year. The three longest serving trustees retire each year, but are subject to re-election.
The Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the overall policy direction of the charity, for fixing and reviewing its annual budget, and for approving annual accounts. The Charity Director is responsible for day-to-day management in accordance with determined policies.

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Financial Review

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 28th February 2021. Reference and administrative details set out here form part of this report. For financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Reserves Policy and Risk Management

It is the intention of the Trustees that the freely available reserves of the charity should be sufficient to ensure the continuance of its activities, should there be an unexpected short-term adverse fluctuation in income. The Trustees consider that an appropriate level of free reserves is approximately three months' normal expenditure. This equates to approximately **£30107.00**. At 28th February 2021 there was a total of **£60,604.00** of funding freely available for general purposes. Considering the uncertainty caused by the pandemic over the last year, the trustees feel that it is prudent to increase our reserves to safeguard the charity's operations and staff team. The Trustees are satisfied that the long-term financial plans generate sufficient free reserves to satisfy its reserves policy over the coming 12 months and beyond.

The Trustees have examined and addressed the financial risks to which the Charity is exposed and in association with its insurers, has mitigated those risks to the best of its ability.

Transactions and Financial Position

During the year the Charity incurred total expenditure of **£151,925.00** of which **£132,279.00** was directly charitable.

Over the year the Charity received income of **£231,639.00** leading to an overall surplus of **£79,714.00**. The Balance sheet shows total reserves on 28th February 2021 of **£98,708.00**.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the Company's state of affairs at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for that year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply these consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

We will work together with our members to deliver exemplary and creative activities and services for our community. We are focussed on further developing our employment offer and becoming a beacon of good practice in that area. We will continue to use the arts to support people with learning disabilities to have their voices heard and re-launch our membership offer to ensure we listen to and include people in the best possible way.

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 28th February 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 14

RESPECTIVE REPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to;

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER's REPORT

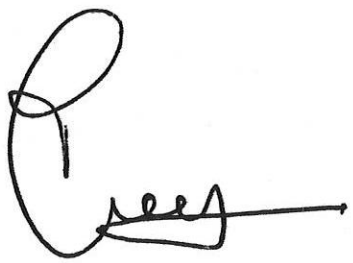
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes a consideration of any unusual issues or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met.

No other matter has come to my attention in accordance with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Timothy Green FCMA

Date: 21st July 2021

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 28th FEBRUARY 2021
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM;					
Donations & Legacies	2 & 3	28,028	100,331	128,359	65,623
Charitable Activities	4	46,336	55,958	102,294	78,318
Other Trading	5	986	-	986	5,399
Investments		-	-	-	-
Other Income		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		75,350	156,289	231,639	149,340
EXPENDITURE ON;					
Raising Funds		-	19,646	19,646	22,241
Charitable Activities	6 & 7	13,854	118,425	132,279	136,498
Other Expenditure		-	-	-	859
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		13,854	138,071	151,925	159,598
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE TRANSFERS		61,496	18,218	79,714	(10,258)
Gross Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		61,496	18,218	79,714	(10,258)
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARDS		1,779	17,215	18,994	29,252
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARDS	9	63,275	35,433	98,708	18,994

All activities derive from continuing operations
The notes on pages 11 to 14 form part of the financial statements

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 28th FEBRUARY 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		2,671		1,061
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	13,546		11,813	
Cash at bank and in hand		156,671		22,950	
		170,217		34,763	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	74,180		16,830	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			96,037		17,933
NET ASSETS			98,708		18,994
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds			63,275		1,779
Restricted funds			35,433		17,215
TOTAL FUNDS			98,708		18,994

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102

The company has taken advantage of the exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 28th February 2021

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year ended 29th February 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for;

ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and

preparing Accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the year in accordance with the requirement of Section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 12.8.2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee

SARAH TALBOT-WILLIAMS RUTH READ

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form part of these accounts

OPENSTORYTELLERS LTD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 28th FEBRUARY 2021

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and following the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and are in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (effective January 2015 and updated by Bulletin 1 effective February 2016) and the Companies Act 2006

a Going Concern

The acounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue.

b The Charity

Tha Charity is a public benefit entity.

c Income

Income from donations, grants and subscriptions is taken to the Statement of Financial Activity on receipt unless there is a Service Level Agreement or Contract in which case it is taken into account in the period to which it relates.

d Resources Expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. Costs are allocated on the basis of usage on each project..

e Operating Leases

The costs of operating leases are charged as they accrue.

f Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assetst at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life;

Equipment (including IT items)	20% pa straight line

g Funds

Fund designations are formally approved and minuted by the Trustees. Separate accounting records are kept for restricted funds.

2 Income from Donations & Legacies

	2021 £	2020 £
Donations	2,629	8,634
Other Grants	25,399	-
Restricted Grants	100,331	56,989
	128,359	65,623

3 Analysis of Donations

	2021 £	2020 £
Monatary Donations	2,629	4,914
Donated Services - Consultancy	-	3,720
Donated Services - Travel	-	-
	2,629	8,634

4 Income from Charitable Activities

	Fee for Service £	Restricted Grant £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Fee for Service				
Day Services	36,187	0	36,187	34,989
Memory People	0	24,520	24,520	15,327
ACE - Lift Off	28	23,057	23,085	12,141
Bookclubs	165	4,650	4,815	8,190
Advocacy Project	0	431	431	4,332
Pigeon Productions	9,956	3,000	12,956	1,337
Living Stories	0	0	0	1,070
Performances & Events	0	300	300	633
Other	0	0	0	299
	46,336	55,958	102,294	78,318

5 Income from Other Trading

	2021 £	2020 £
Room hire	767	3,965
Easy Read Services	-	805
Merchandice sales	20	195
Other trading	199	434
	986	5,399

6	Expenditure on Charitable Activities	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2021 £
	Day Services	19,693	15,165	34,858
	Community Hub	23,386	15,904	39,290
	ACE - Lift Off	15,159	12,475	27,634
	Memory People	9,811	6,976	16,787
	Bookclubs	938	369	1,307
	Advocacy Project	135	67	202
	Performances & Events	40	-	40
	Living Stories	-	-	-
	Pigeon Productions	8,762	3,398	12,160
	Other	1	-	1
		77,925	54,354	132,279

7	Allocation of Support Costs	Staff Costs £	Office Costs £	Total 2021 £
	Day Services	7,559	7,606	15,165
	Community Hub	8,290	7,614	15,904
	ACE - Lift Off	4,566	7,909	12,475
	Memory People	3,831	3,145	6,976
	Bookclubs	367	2	369
	Advocacy Project	37	30	67
	Performances & Events	-	-	-
	Living Stories	-	-	-
	Pigeon Productions	3,383	15	3,398
	Fundraising	19,126	25	19,151
	Other	-	-	-
		47,159	26,346	73,505

Staff Costs have been allocated on Actual Hours spent
Office Costs have been allocated based on specific project contributions and the remainder on Total Staff and Freelance Cost

8 Trustees Remuneration & Benefits

During the year no trustee received expenses in respect of delivering courses (2020 - £300).

During the year no trustee donated services (2020 - £1,800)

There were no related party transactions with trustees in the year

9 Independent Examination

The independent examiner was paid £750 (2020 - £750) to prepare and examine these accounts

10	Staff Costs	2021 £	2020 £
	Wages & Salaries	103,448	78,512
	Social Security Payments	2,731	2,340
	Employer Pension Contributions	1,741	1,428
		107,920	82,280

The average number of employees during the year was 11 (2020 - 6)
No employee received remuneration of over £60,000

11	Tangible Fixed Assets	Equpiment £	Total £
	Cost		
	As at 1 March 2020	9,791	9,791
	Additions	2,033	2,033
	As at 28th February 2021	11,824	11,824
	Depreciation		
	As at 1 March 2020	8,730	8,730
	Charge for the period	423	423
	As at 28th February 2021	9,153	9,153
	Net Book Value		
	As at 1 March 2020	1,061	1,061
	As at 28th February 2021	2,671	2,671

12	Debtors	2021	2020
		£	£
	Trade Debtors	9,597	8,271
	Other Debtors	2,933	2,933
	Prepayments & Accrued Income	1,016	609
		13,546	11,813

13	Creditors	2021	2020
		£	£
	Trade Creditors	778	92
	Accruals	3,174	1,385
	PAYE/NI	3,365	1,579
	Other Creditors	297	252
	Deferred Income	66,566	13,522
		74,180	16,830

Deferred Income relates to the Sobell Foundation, Memory People, the Arts Council - Lift Off Project, Frome Town Council, Reaching Communities, SCF Discovery, Julia & Hans Rausing Trust, Somerset Diversitis & Equalities and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation all of which extend into the 2021-22 financial year.

14	Fund Accounts	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
		£	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	1,779	75,350	13,854	-	63,275
	Restricted Funds					
	National Lottery Memory People	2,876	24,520	12,957	-	14,439
	Somerset Diversities & Equalities	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
	National Lottery - Community Hub	12,479	12,698	18,802	-	6,375
	Frome Town Council - Community Hub	-	3,751	3,751	-	-
	Arts Council England - Community Hub	-	4,599	4,599	-	-
	Reaching Communities - Community Hub	-	2,988	2,988	-	-
	Local Giving - Community Hub	-	500	500	-	-
	SCF Discovery - Community Hub	-	7,621	7,621	-	-
	SCC - Holiday Activity Grant Funding	-	300	300	-	-
	Arts Council - Lift Off	-	23,058	21,055	-	2,003
	SCC - Peer Support Group	1,023	431	1,188	-	266
	Bookclubs - Sobell Foundation	837	3,700	660	-	3,877
	Bookclubs - Reaching Communities	-	949	949	-	-
	Edward Gosling Core Funding	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
	Arts Council - Covid Support	-	1,856	1,856	-	-
	Explore Grant	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
	National Lottery Community Fund	-	23,780	18,307	-	5,473
	Somerset Community Foundation	-	7,609	7,609	-	-
	Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	-	20,379	20,379	-	-
	Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	4,550	4,550	-	-
	Total Restricted Funds	17,215	156,289	138,071	-	35,433
	Total Funds	18,994	231,639	151,925	-	98,708

Fund Purposes

Natioanl Lotter Memory People – A multi-year grant to support our Memory People Programme
Somerset Diversities & Equalities - Support to develop Pideon Productions
National Lottery Community Hub - Community Hub
Frome Town Council - Community Hub
Arts Council England - Community Hub
Reaching Communities - Community Hub
Local Giving - Community Hub
SCF Discovery - Community Hub
SCC - Holiday Activity Grant Funding
Arts Council - Lift Off - Development of a Storytelling Company
SCC - Peer Support Group for adults with learning difficulties
Bookclubs - Sensory bookclub funding
Edward Gosling Foundation - Core Funding
Arts Council - Covid Support
Explore Grant - Core Funding
National Lottery Community Fund - Covid Support
Somerset Community Foundation - Covid Support
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust - Charity Survival Fund
Paul Hamlyn Foundation - Core Funding

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	2,671	-	2,671	1,061
Current Assets				
Debtors	13,546	-	13,546	11,813
Bank	52,707	103,964	156,671	22,950
	66,253	103,964	170,217	34,763
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	5,649	68,531	74,180	16,830
Net Current Assets	60,604	35,433	96,037	17,933
Net Assets	63,275	35,433	98,708	18,994

15 Members' Liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation. As at the 28th of February 2021 there were 18 members.

16 Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.