

OBLIQUE ARTS

Trustees' Annual Report for the period From 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Charity name: Oblique Arts

Charity registration number: 1142653

This year the charity has income of £132,217 Funds were carried forward from previous year. Expenditure £150,834. Accounts have been externally audited.

Objectives and Activities

Oblique Arts works with communities to deliver innovative arts-based outcomes. We provide unique creative workshops with communities and individuals (often young people) to inspire and educate. We use the arts to explore important questions around sustainable futures and encourage critical thinking and creative action.

We work with hard-to-reach communities (including GRT), which would not usually have access to arts engagement. We consider the arts in the broadest sense, including creative thinking and new methodologies to address problems. The projects allow for empowerment of the communities we work with, giving them a “voice” where once they had none. We support up to 12 freelance artists, a coordinator and have 8 to 12 volunteers. We work on partnership projects, both nationally and internationally. We offer training for our artist/tutors.

Objects:

To deliver arts projects for the benefit of communities, particularly those who are disadvantaged and lack access to the arts.

To curate exhibitions, shows and events.

To manage community projects with a view to sustainability and environmental awareness.

To raise funding for the charity.

To raise awareness about the practice & innovation of art and related activities in the community.

To access training and development for the benefit of artists and volunteers. To work in partnership with related interest organisations to benefit communities and artists.

To promote accessibility and inclusivity in events, activities, exhibitions and workshops.

Reporting Public Benefit

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Our annual report details activities that further the charity's purposes for the public benefit. In particular, the annual report also addresses the two key principles by which we will assess public benefit:

- 1) There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits which have been evaluated.
- 2) Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public, particularly the disadvantaged communities that we work with.

Achievements and Performance

This year we continue to benefit from being Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation. This gives us stability and support with further funding, commissions and donations being received. We have seen growth of our charity and deliver projects to: teenagers facing economic and other hardships, older participants facing isolation and our Neuro-diverse community. New areas of work include Migrant communities with new peer partners. Our 'Creative Curiosity Walks' in the countryside around Cambridge have continued to be popular. Our 'Music for Wellbeing' groups have expanded into Newmarket and are very popular. The band has performed this year at events, including Wisbech Castle and Edge Café, Cambridge. Exhibitions included a popular show Beat Bobbing in Granchester, with the band, a big audience and good press coverage and artist's exhibition with Prism new venue partners in north Cambridge.

Our Advocacy Project with the GRT community has continued supporting Travellers facing a range of issues from evictions to schooling and discrimination. We continued work with the GRT research group at Essex University. Our 'Community of Practice' around Traveller health is having an impact with posters that we have designed, and related Cultural Competency training in 114 surgeries and hospitals across north London. This year we have begun to support families who are Home Schooling with one-to-one teaching.

We planted 400 trees again this year, with the support of volunteers, Red Hare Farm and the Woodland Trust. We continue our commitment to environmental responsibility and carbon neutrality.

Financial Review

Income for this period: £132,217. Grant funding of £60,815 and Commissions/Donations of £71,402.

The Accounts

The accounts include a Statement of Financial Activities, a Balance Sheet and notes to the accounts. The Statement of Financial Activities distinguishes between the unrestricted and restricted funds

Statement on Reserves Policy:

The large portion of our income is 'Restricted' and is therefore applied only to set-aside projects. As a general rule, 10% of this restricted income is used to pay unrestricted running costs (as listed in the accounts expenditure above) so that the charity can function.

Some of the income we receive is as a commission or unrestricted grant to carry out a particular project(s), and on occasions we are able to complete the project(s) with money in hand. This enables us to build up a modest unrestricted reserve which can help with running costs and also any potential overspend on projects in the future or other unanticipated costs or opportunities eg where we have to provide unrestricted contributions in order to access grant monies.

We aim to keep at least £10,000 in unrestricted funds therefore.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description:

Oblique Arts is a charity registered with the Charity Commission in 2011.

Registration number **1142653**.

It is governed by a deed of trust.

Organisational structure

The charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity. The trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

The trustees are responsible for all decisions taken in relation to running of Oblique Arts and the activities provided by the charity. The management committee, comprising Chair, Secretary and Treasurer manage the smooth running of the charity. The Co-ordinator is responsible for administration, fundraising and project organisation. A bookkeeper oversees day-to-day finance. A media manager oversees publicity and marketing for the charity and for projects.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees:

The existing trustees are responsible for the recruitment of new trustees in consultation with management and other members of the charity. In selecting new trustees, we seek to identify people who regularly attend events and take an active interest in the work organised by the charity and have skills to share. They demonstrate that they are willing to volunteer to help in our broader work with communities. Potential trustees are invited to attend events and activities. They are appointed at the AGM.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out here.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity's principal address: 14 Cockburn Street, Cambridge. CB1 3NB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Peter Torak appointed 10th June 2020. Amanda Gawthroe and Julian Pickles appointed June 2022.

Management committee 2022/3

Chair: Penny Sobr

Secretary: Jane Norman

Treasurer: Emma Lister

Name of Coordinator: Beverley Carpenter

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees Signature (s)

Full Name Julian Pickles

Position Date Trustee 11th December 2025

OBLIQUE ARTS

Charity Number 1142653

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Contents

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2025

OBLIQUE ARTS (Charity Number 1142653)

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

	2025		2024
	£		£
<u>Income (restricted)</u>			
Grant Income	9,580		24,820
Commissions/Earned Income	4,972		413
Donations	62,500		300
Camb City Council funding included			
Total income (restricted)	77,052		25,533
<u>Income (unrestricted)</u>			
Grant Income	51,235		51,960
Donations	1,918		226
Commissions/Earned income	2,012		1,906
Total income (unrestricted)	55,165		54,092
OVERALL TOTAL INCOME	132,217		79,625
<u>Expenditure (restricted)</u>			
Wages (Co-ordinator & Media Officer)	£4,050.00		15,370
Administrative materials & expenses			2,542
Project artist/filmmaker fees	£65,720.00		21,006
Artist materials	£828.57		3,915
Artist expenses	£588.00		5,720
Camb City Council funding spent			
Total expenditure (restricted)	71,187		48,553

OBLIQUE ARTS (Charity Number 1142653)

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

	2025		2024
	£		£
<u>Expenditure (unrestricted)</u>			
Wages (Co-ordinator & other)	£26,540.22		11,635
Administrative materials & expenses			
Stationery, printing & travel			
Insurance, accountancy, storage etc			
Total admin	£19,798.16		2,692
Project artist/fimmaker fees	£19,148.43		3,400
Artist materials	£3,577.42		64
Artist expenses	£10,583.52		2,167
Total expenditure (unrestricted)	79,648		19,958
OVERALL TOTAL EXPENDITURE	150,834		68,511

RETAINED SURPLUS			
	2025		2024
	£		£
<u>Restricted funds</u>			
(deficit)/surplus for the period	5,865		(23,020)
Surplus brought forward	(1,934)		21,086
Restricted surplus carried forward	3,932		(1,934)

OBLIQUE ARTS (Charity Number 1142653)

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Unrestricted funds			
(deficit)/surplus for the period	(24,483)		34,134
Surplus brought forward	35,804		1,670
Transfer to restricted funds			
Unrestricted surplus carried forward	11,321		35,804
TOTAL FUNDS			
(deficit)/surplus for the period	(18,618)		11,114
Surplus brought forward	33,870		22,756
Total surplus carried forward	15,253		33,870

The organisation has no recognised gains and losses other than those represented in the surplus above and therefore no separate statement of total gains and losses has been presented.

All activities are continuing, there have been no acquisitions or disposals during the year.

OBLIQUE ARTS (Charity Number 1142653)

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

			2025	2025	2024	2024
			Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
			£	£	£	£
Cash at bank			15,433	4,191	35,804	(41)
Chequest paid out but not cleared at year end			(4,111)	(256)	-	(1,893)
Total Funds at 31 March			11,322	3,935	35,804	(1,934)

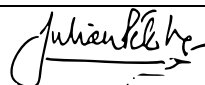
Statement on Reserves Policy:

Oblique Arts is now funded as part of the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. This provides a 4 year core funding which can be used to continue the work of the charity and to build a modest unrestricted reserve which can help with running costs and also any potential over-spend on projects in the future or other unanticipated costs or opportunities ie where we have to provide unrestricted contributions in order to access grant monies.

The remainder of our income is 'Restricted' and is therefore applied only to set-aside projects. As a rule, 10% of this restricted income is used to pay unrestricted running costs (as listed in the accounts expenditure above) so that the charity can function. Some of the income we receive is as a commission or unrestricted grant to carry out a particular project(s), and on occasions we are able to complete the project(s) with money in hand. This enables us to further build up a modest unrestricted reserve.

The financial statements were signed by trustee:

OBLIQUE ARTS



OBLIQUE ARTS

Charity Number 1142653

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Contents

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2025

OBLIQUE ARTS (Charity Number 1142653)

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

	2025		2024
	£		£
<u>Income (restricted)</u>			
Grant Income	9,580		24,820
Commissions/Earned Income	4,972		413
Donations	62,500		300
Total income (restricted)	77,052		25,533
<u>Income (unrestricted)</u>			
Grant Income	51,235		51,960
Donations	1,918		226
Commissions/Earned income	2,012		1,906
Total income (unrestricted)	55,165		54,092
OVERALL TOTAL INCOME	132,217		79,625
<u>Expenditure (restricted)</u>			
Wages (Co-ordinator & Media Officer)	£4,050.00		15,370
Administrative materials & expenses			2,542
Project artist/filmmaker fees	£65,720.00		21,006
Artist materials	£828.57		3,915
Artist expenses	£588.00		5,720
Total expenditure (restricted)	71,187		48,553

OBLIQUE ARTS (Charity Number 1142653)

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

	2025		2024
	£		£
<u>Expenditure (unrestricted)</u>			
Wages (Co-ordinator & other)	£26,540.22		11,635
Administrative materials & expenses			
Stationery, printing & travel			
Insurance, accountancy, storage etc			
Total admin	£19,798.16		2,692
Project artist/fimmaker fees	£19,148.43		3,400
Artist materials	£3,577.42		64
Artist expenses	£10,583.52		2,167
Total expenditure (unrestricted)	79,648		19,958
OVERALL TOTAL EXPENDITURE	150,834		68,511

RETAINED SURPLUS			
	2025		2024
	£		£
<u>Restricted funds</u>			
(deficit)/surplus for the period	5,865		(23,020)
Surplus brought forward	(1,934)		21,086
Restricted surplus carried forward	3,932		(1,934)

OBLIQUE ARTS (Charity Number 1142653)

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Unrestricted funds			
(deficit)/surplus for the period	(24,483)		34,134
Surplus brought forward	35,804		1,670
Transfer to restricted funds			
Unrestricted surplus carried forward	11,321		35,804
TOTAL FUNDS			
(deficit)/surplus for the period	(18,618)		11,114
Surplus brought forward	33,870		22,756
Total surplus carried forward	15,253		33,870

The organisation has no recognised gains and losses other than those represented in the surplus above and therefore no separate statement of total gains and losses has been presented.

All activities are continuing, there have been no acquisitions or disposals during the year.

OBLIQUE ARTS (Charity Number 1142653)

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

			2025	2025	2024	2024
			Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
			£	£	£	£
Cash at bank			15,433	4,191	35,804	(41)
Chequest paid out but not cleared at year end			(4,111)	(256)	-	(1,893)
Total Funds at 31 March			11,322	3,935	35,804	(1,934)

Statement on Reserves Policy:

Oblique Arts is now funded as part of the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. This provides a 4 year core funding which can be used to continue the work of the charity and to build a modest unrestricted reserve which can help with running costs and also any potential over-spend on projects in the future or other unanticipated costs or opportunities ie where we have to provide unrestricted contributions in order to access grant monies.

The remainder of our income is 'Restricted' and is therefore applied only to set-aside projects. As a rule, 10% of this restricted income is used to pay unrestricted running costs (as listed in the accounts expenditure above) so that the charity can function. Some of the income we receive is as a commission or unrestricted grant to carry out a particular project(s), and on occasions we are able to complete the project(s) with money in hand. This enables us to further build up a modest unrestricted reserve.

The financial statements were signed by trustee

OBLIQUE ARTS

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Oblique Arts

I report on the accounts of Oblique Arts (Charity Number 1142653)

for the year ended 31/03/2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that an audit is not required (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts following the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 consideration of any unusual items 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's unqualified 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 130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Annemie Philips (ACCA 3199855)

9 Linden Road, Hampton, TW12 2JG

Signed



Date:

.....

4th September 2025