

Registered number: 07962217

Charity number: 1146276

Assisted Reading for Children

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Prepared By:
Barnes4Business Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
12 Murdock Road
Bicester
Oxfordshire
OX26 4PP

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

TRUSTEES

Saira Ali (resigned 12 November 2024)
Ian Hudspeth
Susan Hine (resigned 12 November 2024)
Honor Somerset (resigned 11 March 2025)
Margaret Stevens
Jane Williamson
Derek Thornhill (resigned 15 March 2025)
Benjamin Morel-Allen
Curtis Leung (appointed 9 July 2024)

REGISTERED OFFICE

Gobles Court
7 Market Square
Bicester
Oxfordshire
OX26 6AA

COMPANY NUMBER

07962217

CHARITY NUMBER

1146276

ACCOUNTANTS

Barnes4Business Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
12 Murdock Road
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OX26 4PP

**ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE MANAGEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

FORM OF THE CHARITY

Assisted Reading for Children (ARCh) is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The trustees are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

PRINCIPAL AIM

ARCh is an educational charity whose aim is to help primary school children achieve a confident level of literacy by imparting a love of reading through regular, personalised, mentoring support from trained volunteers.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

About half of our income comes from subscriptions paid by schools for the services of our unpaid volunteers. The level of the subscription is kept as low as possible. This source of income is linked directly to the number of our volunteers in schools, and therefore relates in a relatively stable way to the overall level of activity of the charity. Following a period during which, in recognition of school budgetary pressures, the subscription was not increased in line with the costs of supporting the volunteers, the trustees agreed a plan to bring it back into line. It was raised this year, and we expect to raise it again in the following two years. The remaining income comes from grants and donations. These are a more irregular source of income, but grants or donations from a number of sources are repeated from year to year.

About 75% of our expenditure goes on staff costs, for the central office staff and for the fieldworkers who directly service our volunteers.

RESERVES POLICY

As a charity ARCh is regulated by the Charities Commission which asks us to state our reserves policy. It is our aim to hold unrestricted reserves so that we can be confident of our financial position and meet all obligations for at least 6-12 months. Some specific funds from donations or grants are held in a Designated Fund, and used to support the objective requested by the donor(s). The balance of our reserves are held as unrestricted general funds and can be spent on anything in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

In exercising their powers and duties the trustees have had regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission, in particular in relation to the enhancement of education.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

OPERATIONS REPORT 2024-2025

Overview

We began the year with around 200 active volunteer reading helpers in April 2024.

Working with schools and volunteers

We increased the financial contribution we ask schools to make towards the ARCh service to £480 per volunteer per year, to be reviewed annually.

Demand for ARCh support continued to increase. The effects of disrupted schooling and reduced social interactions on young children caused by the Covid pandemic continue to be felt, as the babies and pre-schoolers from 2020 start school.

We conducted our usual annual schools' survey to measure impact of ARCh support over the year, in association with Research Oxford. We launched a new format Impact Report, to complement our usual Annual Report.

Volunteer recruitment and training

We continued to work towards our target of a net gain of 90 new volunteers, funded by Oxfordshire Community Foundation's Step Change grant. Despite considerable success in recruitment, progress has been slower than expected, partly as a result of high turnover. A decision was made to extend the Recruitment Officer's contract for a further year, until January 2026.

We continued to hold interviews and training for the majority of new volunteers via Zoom, but also provided in-person training options. We also conducted face to face Recall and Refresher training in Safeguarding, and Phonics workshops.

By April 2025 there were 270 volunteers on our database, 242 of them active.

Other initiatives and collaboration

Our successful Company Volunteer scheme with Oxford University Press continued into its 13th year, with a visit to their offices for children supported via the scheme in July 2024.

It has proved hard to engage other organisations in our employer-supported volunteering scheme. Disappointingly, a number of companies who had pledged support via the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership did not follow through.

We have succeeded in extending the diversity of our volunteer workforce, particularly through new employee volunteers, and 6th form and student volunteers.

Thanks to funding, we were able to buy an extended range of books and games to reflect the diversity of the children we support.

Recognition and awards

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

ARCh was Highly Commended in OCVA's Volunteer Organisation of the Year and one of the three finalists in the Cherwell Business Awards Charity and Community category.

At the July 2024 meeting we welcomed guest speaker Caroline Derby from Oxford University Press who spoke about the Raise a Reader project which, in conjunction with the National Literacy Trust, has installed libraries into schools in deprived areas. We were honoured that Deputy Lieutenant for Oxfordshire Robert Buckeldee presented awards marking the long service of a number of volunteers.

In December 2024 everyone at our volunteer meeting was entertained by three speakers – Korky Paul, Chip Colquhoun and Mario Coelho. Our three speakers and some of our reading helpers kindly agreed to talk to about the importance of reading and their ARCh experience on film, shared via social media.

At our Spring 2025 volunteer meeting on the theme of oracy, our Recruitment Officer Emma Orton explained how oracy is now being developed in schools, and presented practical ideas for volunteers to try in their sessions.

Presentations and media presence

On several occasions ARCh was featured on BBC Radio Oxford and Greatest Hits Radio, and in the local press.

Staffing

We welcomed three new Field Workers: Caroline Carpenter (Bicester & Thame) in June, Cathy Penny (Oxford) in December and Kathryn Schmidt (West Oxfordshire) in February 2025.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

The report was prepared in accordance with the special provisions within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 September 2025



Margaret Stevens
Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASSISTED READING FOR CHILDREN

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 .

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES 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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants .

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 Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 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 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
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) 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; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....

Date: 23 September 2025

Kelvin Barnes FCCA
Barnes4Business Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
12 Murdock Road
Bicester
Oxfordshire
OX26 4PP

Barnes4Business Ltd
K Barnes

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Income from generated funds				
Donations and legacies	102,739	-	102,739	76,702
Income from Investments	4,577	-	4,577	4,303
Income from charitable activities	91,603	-	91,603	77,175
Total Income and endowments	198,919	-	198,919	158,180
Expenses				
Costs of generating funds				
Expenditure on Charitable activities	210,470	-	210,470	176,766
Total Expenses	210,470	-	210,470	176,766
Net gains on investments				
Net Income	(11,551)	-	(11,551)	(18,586)
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets				
Net movement in funds:				
Net income for the year	(11,551)	-	(11,551)	(18,586)
Total funds brought forward	162,090	-	162,090	180,676
Net funds carried forward	150,539	-	150,539	162,090

This statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	2	2,319	3,354
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors (amounts falling due within one year)	3	6,504	4,590
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>143,568</u>	<u>160,677</u>
		150,072	165,267
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>1,852</u>	<u>6,531</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>148,220</u>	<u>158,736</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>150,539</u>	<u>162,090</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Unrestricted funds	6		
General fund		70,383	119,064
Designated funds		<u>80,156</u>	<u>43,026</u>
		<u>150,539</u>	<u>162,090</u>

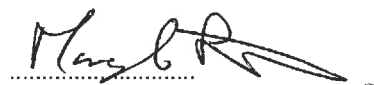
For the year ending 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the board of trustees on 23 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Margaret Stevens
Trustee

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a. Basis Of Accounting FRS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2016 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK FRS 102 (Charities SORP FRS 102 as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

Assisted Reading for Children meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1b. Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy, and any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or fully within the control of the charitable company.

1c. Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1d. Allocation And Apportionment Of Costs

All costs relate to the single activity of the charitable company and are recognised accordingly.

1e. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

1f. Depreciation

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

Equipment straight line 33%

1g. Pension Costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	40,986	40,986
Additions	301	301
At 31 March 2025	<u>41,287</u>	<u>41,287</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	37,632	37,632
For the year	1,336	1,336
At 31 March 2025	<u>38,968</u>	<u>38,968</u>
Net Book Amounts		
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,319</u>	<u>2,319</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,354</u>	<u>3,354</u>

3. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	6,504	4,590
	<u>6,504</u>	<u>4,590</u>

4. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	1,852	6,531
	<u>1,852</u>	<u>6,531</u>

5. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Each member gives a guarantee to contribute a sum not exceeding £1, to the company should it be wound up. At 31 March 2025 there were 5 members.

6. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	119,064	133,167	(181,848)	-	70,383
Designated Fund - ARCh Development Fund	21,910	2,240	(5,334)	-	18,816
Designated Fund - Step Change	11,618	34,000	(17,388)	-	28,230
Designated Fund - ARCh Area-Specific Support Fund	9,498	29,512	(5,900)	-	33,110
	<u>162,090</u>	<u>198,919</u>	<u>(210,470)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150,539</u>

Designated Fund - ARCh Development Fund

Funds allocated for working on expanding our work with the most disadvantaged children in the county.

Designated Fund - Step Change

Funds received to introduce and support the new post of Recruitment Officer.

Designated Fund - ARCh Area-Specific Support Fund

Grants and donations designated for recruiting and training volunteers for specific geographical areas are held in the Area-Specific Support Fund until the volunteers have been successfully placed in schools. We aim to ensure that this is achieved within two years of receipt.

7. COMMITMENTS AND GUARANTEES

At 31 March 2025 the charitable company was committed to making payments of £117,142 under non-cancellable operating leases for the remainder of the applicable lease terms (2024 : £129,712) in respect of office rent and office equipment hire.

8. AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

The average number of employees during the accounting period was 12 (2024 : 10).

9. TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS

No directors were reimbursed expenses during the accounting period (2024 : 1 director for £36).

Assisted Reading for Children

Incoming Resources for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary Income		
Corporate Donations	3,150	778
Private Donations	14,439	14,889
Grants	<u>85,150</u>	<u>61,035</u>
	102,739	76,702
	<u>102,739</u>	<u>76,702</u>
Investment income		
Interest received	<u>4,577</u>	<u>4,303</u>
	4,577	4,303
	<u>4,577</u>	<u>4,303</u>
Charitable Activity		
School Subscriptions	<u>91,603</u>	<u>77,175</u>
	91,603	77,175
	<u>91,603</u>	<u>77,175</u>
	<u>198,919</u>	<u>158,180</u>

Assisted Reading for Children

Expenses for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Expenses		
Costs of generating funds		
Charitable Activities		
Donations for school subscriptions	11,234	4,400
Advertising and Marketing	506	1,097
Bad debts	180	-
Heat and light	2,762	4,315
Rent	15,172	15,026
Salaries	146,830	117,728
NIC employer (wages and salaries)	4,613	2,329
Pension contributions	3,180	2,348
Staff Expenses and Training	5,001	4,569
Volunteer Expenses and Training	2,817	1,951
Equipment leasing and maintenance	718	1,294
Computer costs	3,448	3,759
Professional fees	3,598	3,695
Insurance	1,575	1,478
Event and Fundraising Expenses	-	688
Stationery & office supplies	4,042	3,621
Telephone	943	963
Bank charges	120	121
Other interest	7	-
Sundry expenses	2,388	2,203
Depreciation of equipment	1,336	5,181
	<u>210,470</u>	<u>176,766</u>
	<u>210,470</u>	<u>176,766</u>