

**SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Registered Company Number: 07289310 (England & Wales)**

**Registered Charity Number: 1156526**

# **SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND**

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

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# **SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND**

## **CHARITY INFORMATION**

Company Registration Number 07289310

Charity Registration Number 1156526

### **Management Committee Trustees**

Nitasha Kapoor	Chair
Mara Bodis-Wollner	Treasurer
Ariane Hanman	Secretary
Chiara Farina	Trustee
Katherine Mengardon	Trustee

Registered Office 69 Shakespeare Walk  
London  
N16 8TB

Accountants Moore Green  
22 Friars Street  
Sudbury  
Suffolk CO10 2AA

Service Address 69 Shakespeare Walk  
London  
N16 8TB

# SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

### CHAIR REPORT

*"I can't believe this place even exists! I'll definitely be making use of it this summer... it's a lifeline!" - Parent, young person 10 years old*

Shakespeare Walk is a beloved 45-year-old Adventure Playground in the heart of Stoke Newington, Hackney and we create the best play spaces for young people, aged 6-16, to develop key life skills, for free.

The 2024/25 annual report is a chance to not only look back on the year that we've had but celebrate a longer-term snapshot of SWAPA's recent history. Since becoming Chair of Trustees in 2019, we've worked hard to build on SWAPA's legacy of community development for over 45 years. My background is in Anthropology, and over the last five years I have had to deep dive into everything from health, safety and safeguarding to fundraising, playwork and board governance. In the process I've marvelled at the deep roots SWAPA holds as a space for community building and the sheer power of being a consistent and trusted presence in our community, championing play, diversity and being a truly child-led environment.

Our aim is to connect the dots between schools, youth clubs, sports groups and mental health services, so they work together instead of separately. We also want local businesses and community leaders to feel like true partners in our work, not just funders, and to celebrate and protect the impact of play, we're building an "Impact Archive" that records the voices, experiences, and stories of young people today, while also honouring over 45 years of SWAPA's history.

Our bi-annual Summer Open Day in July and Bonfire Party in November remain two of SWAPA's biggest highlights, and this year we welcomed record numbers of visitors (over 300 on each occasion) – many discovering the playground for the first time. These events give us a chance to throw open our doors, connect with families, and share more about everything SWAPA has to offer.

Our weekly home education sessions have grown into a dedicated community of families, and to brighten the colder months we introduced Friday bonfires – creating a welcoming space where families could come together, connect, and spark new friendships. This year we also hosted a record number of private hire birthday parties, a clear sign of the trust our community places in us to provide the best play experiences. We're deeply grateful for this support, which helps keep the playground thriving.

Creative partnerships have flourished, such as an art and dance workshop with Ekleido, and ongoing collaborations with Stoke Newington School and monthly experimental sound explorations with the Free Youth Orchestra. Together, these

## SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

connections strengthen SWAPA's role as a hub of creativity, community, and collaboration.

Behind the scenes, SWAPA runs on strong foundations—good governance, clear planning, and proper safeguarding and safety measures. But what really makes the difference is our belief that with trust and consistency, play can transform lives.

We are pleased to continue our work with Tilly Hawthorne as Senior Playworker, and George van de Byl as Office Manager, both having worked at SWAPA for over five years. Justice Pierre-Fearon has been promoted from playworker to Deputy Playworker and Jake Milne continues as Lead Builder and Site Manager. We said farewell to Sarah Wilson who has gone on to help build an Adventure Playground in Sheffield.

A huge thank you to their commitment, alongside our Playworkers Joel, Ebony, Tom, Jess, Kirsty, Kayann, Fern, Mark and Sebastian, who continue to be trusted and friendly faces for our young people.

Thank you to Stephen White and Simeon Marriott Dixon at Young Hackney for funding and supporting our activities at SWAPA. The reality is that we must fundraise double that amount to meet core costs, most of which go towards staff salaries and overheads. We're pleased to have increased our private hires and corporate team days, and have launched a £10/month community fundraiser to further meet these needs: <https://www.justgiving.com/charity/shakespearewalkadventure>

We've had some wonderfully thoughtful donations from our community this year, a few of which I'd like to highlight...

- In 2024, Tomos Parry, head chef at Michelin-starred BRAT, hosted a beautiful cooking lesson and lunch for SWAPA's young people for a second time, building on their interest in cooking. This led to their parent restaurant group, Super 8, to choose SWAPA as a charity to champion in their £1/receipt initiative, raising £13K in one month towards building an outdoor kitchen on our site, with plans to have their chefs coming by to work with our young people and helping with fundraising.
- ARUP design and engineers donated a large snail-shaped playable structure, in partnership with Morag Myerscough and Hooke Park.
- East London Waterworks Project is an action-oriented group of volunteers dedicated to creating vibrant public spaces. We are pleased to be working with them to help us design and build our new structures, and rethink how SWAPA can become more sustainable and future focused for generations to come.
- A £45K donation from a family with children who used to play at SWAPA...

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*"You gave me so many compelling reasons why SWAPA deserves all the support and funding it needs to take it to another level, and your vision and reach in the community is so impressive ."- Local parent*

We were successful in our bid to win £40K over two years from Go! London, a Mayor of London initiative to encourage young people to become more physically active. This funding is crucial as it covers our core costs for one day/week, supports training and recruitment of more playworkers in our sessional pool as well as fund specialised workshops that our young people want to develop their skills in further. Based on initial research, we've organised kickboxing at the Martial Arts Place, acrobatics with Mimbire, Parkour with a local expert, Mahesh and dance workshops with local dance company Ekleido at the new Sadler's Wells East.

We welcome local parents and community members to join our mailing list ([swapa.org.uk](http://swapa.org.uk)), WhatsApp channel (07988 571 232), Instagram ([swapa\\_n16](https://www.instagram.com/swapa_n16)) or Twitter (SwapaAdventure) to keep up with news and volunteer opportunities. If you would like to join as a trustee, please email [trustees@swapa.org.uk](mailto:trustees@swapa.org.uk) for more information.

Kind regards,  
Nitasha Kapoor  
Chair of Trustees  
Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground

### **Mission statement**

We create the best play spaces for young people, aged 6-16, to develop key life skills, for free.

We use play to turn community challenges into solutions, fostering resilience, creativity, and wellbeing by providing a safe and collaborative space where young people can experiment, take measured risks, and build essential life skills, to supplement the pressures of structured education and adult-driven agendas.

We run our adventure playground for all young people, with a focus on welcoming underserved groups, including girls, neurodiverse children, and those aged 11+.

With over 45 years of experience, we champion intergenerational connections, bridging different parts of the community to create a more inclusive and sustainable future.

We adhere to the Play Principles and relevant legislation, our Trustees, staff, and stakeholders commit to a shared vision of a child-led approach that supports physical and mental health, nurtures independence, and empowers young people to shape their own growth and development.

We assert that play is essential to every child's life, a biological need which is vital for children's development as well as a right enshrined in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

# SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

## Structure, Governance and Management

Recruitment and appointment of trustees is administered by a Trustee Board who meet at least four times a year. Trustees who served during the 24/25 year:

Nitasha Kapoor - Chair of Trustees  
Mara Bodis-Wollner - Treasurer  
Ariane Hanman - Secretary  
Katherine Mengardon - Trustee  
Chiara Farina - Trustee

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) manage the day-to-day operations at SWAPA:

Teleasha Hawthorne - Senior Playworker  
Justice Fearon - Deputy Playworker  
George van de Byl - Office Manager  
Jake Milne - Site Manager

## Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with general applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom General Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to;

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safekeeping the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Accountants

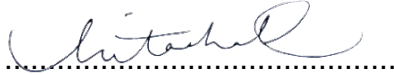
The Management Committee will not seek out other options for accountants at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the trustees on

26/11/2025  
.....

## SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

And signed on its behalf by



Nitasha Kapoor

Chair



Mara Bodis-Wollner

Treasurer



# **SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND**

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground**

I report on the accounts of the company for the Year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 11 to 13.

### **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 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject the 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
- 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 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 prove 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 next statement.

### **Independent examiner's 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 the 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

## SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

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 accounts to be reached.
- (3) After further examination, I concluded that the charity made the necessary steps to avoid significant changes in the funds and the services and managed the risk well.

The financial statements comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Vincent Chandler FCA FCCA  
Moore Green  
22 Friars Street  
Sudbury  
Suffolk CO10 2AA

.....27.11.2025.....

# SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

## Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground Association Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
Grants and awards		7,683	71,447	79,130	88,519
<i>Voluntary Income</i>					
Donations/Fundraising		61,426	33,120	94,546	51,636
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>69,109</b>	<b>104,567</b>	<b>173,676</b>	<b>140,155</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Charitable activities	3	14,217	117,825	132,042	146,037
Fundraising activities	3	-	-	-	-
Governance costs	3	2,000	-	2,000	1,313
Other Expenses - Staff expenses	3	-	-	-	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>16,217</b>	<b>117,825</b>	<b>134,042</b>	<b>147,350</b>
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>		52,892	(13,258)	39,634	(7,195)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		23,129	6,539	29,668	36,863
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		(41,602)	41,602	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>34,419</b>	<b>34,883</b>	<b>69,302</b>	<b>29,668</b>

All activities relate to continuing operations.

The notes on page 13 form part of these financial statements

# SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

## Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground Association Balance Sheet for the Year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets		-	-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	5	2,817	1,142
Cash at bank		69,431	34,836
		<u>72,248</u>	<u>35,978</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(2,946)	(6,310)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>69,302</u>	<u>29,668</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		69,302	29,668
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>69,302</u>	<u>29,668</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	7		
Restricted funds		34,883	6,539
Unrestricted funds		34,419	23,129
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>69,302</u>	<u>29,668</u>

The notes on page 13 form part of these financial statements

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question 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 for the preparation of accounts.

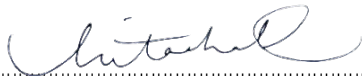
These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.


The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 26/11/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

  
.....  
Nitasha Kapoor (Chair)

  
.....  
Mara Bodis-Wollner (Treasurer)

# SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

## Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground

### Notes to the financial statements for the Year ended 31 March 2025

#### 1. Accounting policies

##### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with 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 and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)(effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)) Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and to the Companies Act 2006.

Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground is an incorporated charity domiciled and registered in England, which constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially reassigned at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

##### **Reconciliation with Previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice**

In preparing the accounts, the Trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS102 and the Charities SORP FRS102 the reinstatement of comparative items was required. At the date of transition the Trustees consider that no statement is required.

##### **Income**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is recognised when it is due under terms of funding agreements.

##### **Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Expenditure is allocated between;

- Expenditure incurred directly in the fulfilment of the charity's objectives (charitable expenditure),
- Expenditure incurred directly in the effort to raise voluntary contributions (costs of fundraising)

##### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

##### **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.

##### **Cash-flow Statement**

The Trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

# SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

## Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground Notes to the financial statements for the Year ended 31 March 2025

### 2. Legal Status

The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, and is also a registered charity; it is not liable to corporation tax. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the limited liability company.

### 3. Expenditure

	Charitable activities	Fund'ing activities	Gov'nance costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£		£
Salaries / ENIC	100,948	-	-	100,948	91,201
Other Staffing Costs	97	-	-	97	2,738
Play Activities / Materials etc	11,974	-	-	11,974	11,098
Premises Costs	10,860	-	-	10,860	18,096
Operational Costs	5,020	-	-	5,020	5,704
Trustee Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Accountancy Fees	-	-	2,000	2,000	1,313
Other - Staff expenses	3,143	-	-	3,143	17,200
	<b>132,042</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>134,042</b>	<b>147,350</b>

### 4. Trustees

No Trustee received remuneration in the year, directly or indirectly, from the charity.

No expenses were reimbursed to the Trustees during the year.

In the prior year Other Staff expenses include £9,100 paid to Katherine Mengardon (Trustee) for project management services provided to the organisation.

### 5. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Debtors	1,450	1,142
Prepayments and accrued income	1,367	-
	<b>2,817</b>	<b>1,142</b>

### 6. Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	2,500	4,162
Other creditors	196	1,813
Pension liabilities	250	335
	<b>2,946</b>	<b>6,310</b>

# SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

## Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground

Notes to the financial statements for the Year ended 31 March 2025

### 7. Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Amount received in year £	Amount expended in year £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
LB Hackney Play Session	-	64,900	(103,383)	38,483	-
Hot Lunches	-	3,530	(6,649)	3,119	-
GoLondon	-	3,017	(88)	-	2,929
Donations	6,539	33,120	(7,705)	-	31,954
Arts Council	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>6,539</b>	<b>104,567</b>	<b>(117,825)</b>	<b>41,602</b>	<b>34,883</b>

### 8. Capital Commitments

The charity had £nil capital commitments at 31 March 2025 (2024 - £nil).

### 9. Contingent Liabilities

In the opinion of the Trustees there were no contingent liabilities at 31 March 2024 (2023 - £nil).

### 10. Related Party Transactions

Aside from the payments referred to in Note 4, there were no related party transactions during the financial year.