

# THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1161020

## Details

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Other names	THE ATKINSON FUNDRAISING DEVELOPMENT TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2015-03-23
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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**Address**  
The Atkinson  
Cambridge Hall  
Lord Street  
Southport  
PR8 1DB

**Phone** 01704 533333

**Email** [hello@atkinsontrust.org.uk](mailto:hello@atkinsontrust.org.uk)

**Website** [www.theatkinson.co.uk](http://www.theatkinson.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST ARE:• TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC (PARTICULARLY, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AREA OF SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL) BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN AND CONTRIBUTE TO ARTS, CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ACTIVITIES SERVICE MANAGED FOR SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE ATKINSON COMPLEX, TO VALUE THEM FOR THE POSITIVE IMPACT THAT IT MAKES UPON THEIR LIVES AND WELLBEING;• TO PROMOTE ART, CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT BY SUPPORTING CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGED FOR SEFTON PARTICULARLY THE ATKINSON, AND PROMOTING HIGH QUALITY ARTS, CULTURAL AND HERITAGE SERVICE THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE AND ENLIGHTENING

**Activities:** The Atkinson Development Trust exists to support fundraising that enables The Atkinson and its partners to change the lives of Sefton residents and visitors through ambitious, creative and inspiring engagement with the arts, with heritage and with literature.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Sefton

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£16,815	£15,034	-	-
2024-03-31	£13,777	£11,230	-	-
2023-03-31	£12,687	£11,515	-	-
2022-03-31	£6,727	£9,401	-	-
2021-03-31	£2,841	£4,834	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Alice Elizabeth Clark</b>	Chair	2023-07-17
Bernadette Christine Reynolds		2024-05-17
Gemma Louise Grady Hill		2023-07-17
Jill Sarah Carruthers		2024-06-16
Laura Bell		2021-10-12
Luke Edward Barnes		2024-07-08
Matthew Hunter Smith		2024-05-15
Robert Kenneth Schooler		2024-10-24

**THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

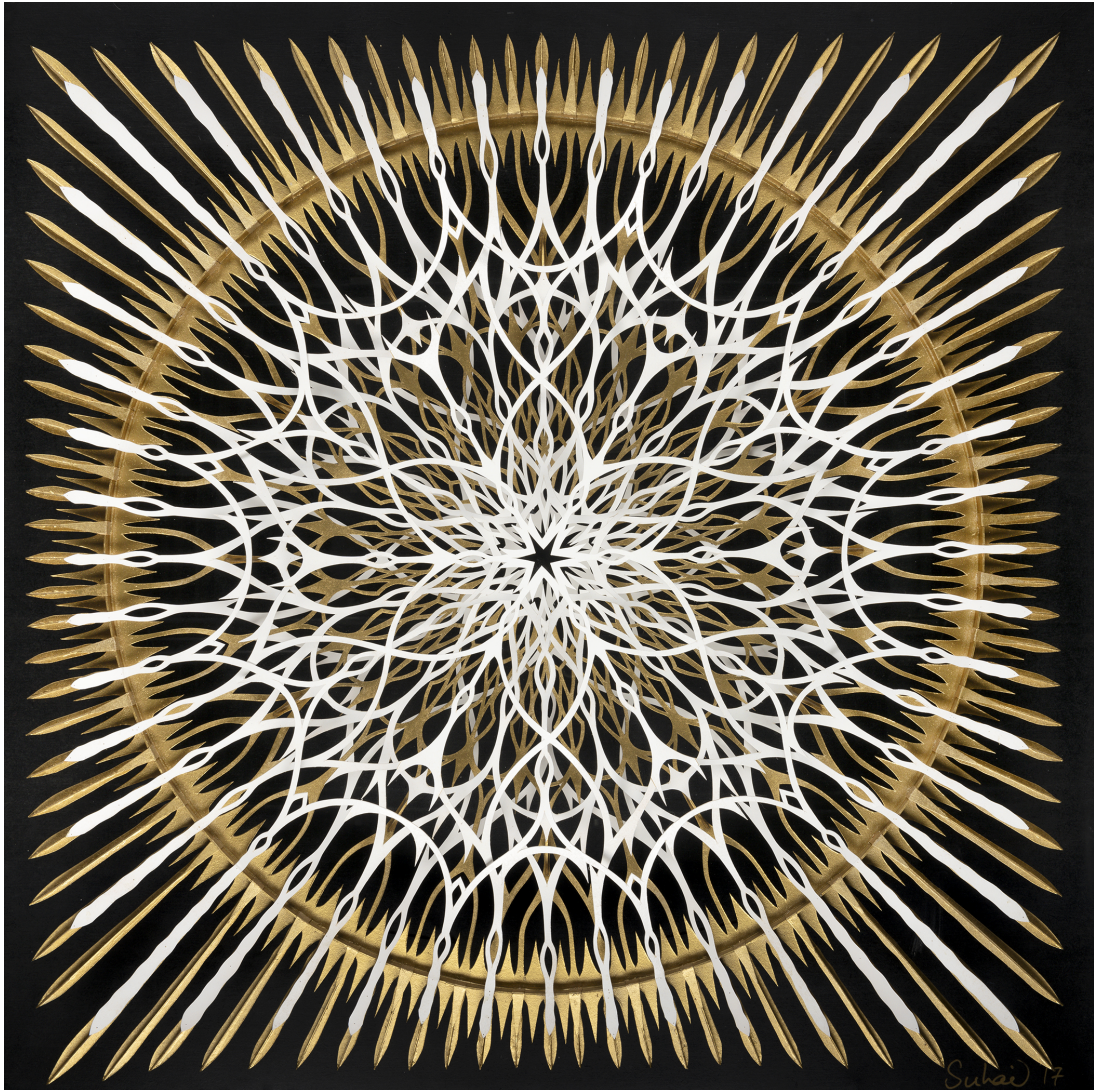
England & Wales - Charity number 1161020

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# Accounts

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THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST  
IMPROVING LOCAL PEOPLE'S LIVES THROUGH ART AND  
HERITAGE



*'Mandala'*, a three-dimensional paper sculpture by Suhail Shaikh. Acquired for the permanent collection at The Atkinson with support from The Atkinson Development Trust.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

# THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

### Reference and Administrative Details:

Charity name: The Atkinson Development Trust

Registered charity number: 1161020

Principal address:

The Atkinson

Lord Street

Southport

MERSEYSIDE

PR8 1DB

### Trustees:

Alice Clark (Chair)

Robert Schooler (Treasurer)

Luke Barnes

Laura Bell

Jill Carruthers

Gemma Grady-Hill

Bernadette Reynolds

Matthew Smith

# THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST – ANNUAL REPORT

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2024/25 has been a challenging and reflective year for the Trust, shaped by both external events and significant organisational change. In July 2024, Southport experienced a tragic and deeply distressing event that profoundly affected the whole town. In the weeks and months that followed, there was a necessary period of collective pause and recovery, during which the focus of charities, cultural organisations and community groups shifted towards support, respect and healing. The Atkinson became a central place for remembrance and community gathering, with tributes laid outside by the fountains and people coming together to support one another. The emotional impact on local residents, many of whom are integral to both the Trust and The Atkinson, and the longer-term recovery for the town remains significant.

Against this backdrop, planned and scheduled activity across the year was inevitably affected. While the Trust's governance structure remained unchanged, there was major transition within The Atkinson team. Stephen Whittle retired in February 2025 after many years of dedicated service, with David Tetlow taking up the role in summer 2025. This period of change, combined with wider pressures across the town, reduced organisational capacity and meant that fewer additional projects were delivered than would normally be hoped for. Nevertheless, core activities continued, including regular meetings, strategic planning and forward thinking.

Despite the challenges, several key activities continued to deliver positive outcomes. The Ukulele Project expanded into Formby, an area with evidence of social isolation and loneliness among older adults. The Trust also supported activity around the Sefton Open exhibition and provided inclusion tickets for the Christmas pantomime, enabling people who would not normally attend theatre to access and enjoy live performance.

## ABOUT THE TRUST

The Atkinson Development Trust (TADT) is a small charity run by a committed Board of skilled volunteers with a shared love of The Atkinson and Sefton. We believe in the transformative power of art, and that communities thrive best when they have civic pride, a sense of place and a feeling of connection and heritage within a community. The Atkinson Development Trust was established to help The Atkinson use its collections and building to make a positive impact on local people's lives and to tell Sefton's stories.

The Atkinson is a council-owned arts centre in the heart of Southport, which serves the whole borough of Sefton. The Atkinson houses free-to-access galleries, a museum, and Southport's main library, plus a main fixed-seating theatre and smaller flexible seating Studio used for ticketed events spanning all types of performing arts, talks and film. Added to this there is a gift shop as well as a social enterprise café which is run by Autism Initiatives.

## WHAT WE DO AND OUR AIMS

The Atkinson Development Trust exists to support The Atkinson in using art, heritage and culture to make a positive difference to people's lives across Sefton.

Working in partnership with The Atkinson, the Trust raises funds from individuals, businesses and other supporters to enhance access to collections, exhibitions, performances and learning opportunities. The Trust does not deliver programmes directly or influence artistic programming; instead, it supports projects that align with its charitable objectives and enable The Atkinson to reach and engage wider and more diverse audiences.

We aim to:

**To connect people with local stories and cultural activity:** The Trust supports initiatives that encourage people to participate in, contribute to and engage with arts, culture and heritage. By helping to share local stories alongside national and international perspectives, the Trust aims to foster civic pride, a sense of place and meaningful connection within the community.

**To improve access to and engagement with The Atkinson's collections and building:** The Trust works to remove barriers, physical, social or economic, that prevent people from accessing culture. This may include supporting conservation, acquisitions, digitisation or interpretation projects that unlock new ways for audiences to experience collections and the building.

**To have a positive impact on local people's lives:** Social impact is central to the Trust's work. Particular priority is given to projects that support the wellbeing of people who are under-represented in arts and cultural activity, including children in areas of economic deprivation, disabled people and their families, and older people at risk of loneliness and isolation.

The Trust operates within the geographic area of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, with its work primarily focused on benefiting local communities while welcoming wider audiences. By complementing The Atkinson's public-sector role, the Trust is able to seek alternative funding opportunities and maximise public donations, including through the effective use of Gift Aid.

**Statutory declaration: The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.**

## FORMAT AND FUNCTION OF THE TRUST

The Atkinson Development Trust (TADT) is a charitable incorporated organisation which was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 23 March 2015.

The Trust is governed by a Board who are Trustees of the charity. TADT supports equal opportunities, and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation, or age. Within those guidelines, prospective Trustees are targeted according to the skills needed by the Board. After recruitment and vetting, Trustee applicants are invited to attend a meeting as a guest,

after which they are formally invited to become a Trustee. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role and guidance documents are issued as part of an induction process. They have individual and collective responsibility for the management of the charity and its funds.

## BOARD RECRUITMENT AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024/25 has been a year of significant change for the Trust's Board, marked by both transition and reflection.

In October 2024, Treasurer Ian Bryden stepped down after many years of dedicated service to the Board. Ian's contribution to the financial stewardship and stability of the Trust has been substantial, and his departure represents a loss of experience and knowledge. The Board extends its sincere thanks to Ian for his commitment and support over many years. Robert Schooler was appointed as Treasurer, and the Board is grateful for his willingness to take on this important role.

During the year, Trustee Dom Potter also stepped down due to other commitments, and in February 2025 Lindsey Holding left the Trust due to family circumstances. Lindsey's involvement with the Trust spanned several roles, including Trustee, Interim Chair, and Administrator, and she gave a great deal of time, energy and care to the organisation during periods of change and transition. The Board records its heartfelt thanks to Lindsey for her significant contribution and service.

As a result of these departures, the Board has begun recruitment for additional Trustees to strengthen capacity, broaden skills and ensure resilience moving forward.

In terms of organisational development, the Trust has reviewed its internal administration and ways of working. During the year, the Board made a conscious decision to move away from Trello, recognising that while it is an effective project management tool, it was not best suited to streamlining overall administration. The focus has shifted towards simplifying processes in order to allow Trustees to spend more time on strategic thinking and maximising community impact.

The Trust has not replaced the paid Administrator role at this time. The Board considers this to be a values-led decision, reflecting a commitment to ensuring that income from donors and memberships is directed primarily towards supporting community benefit and programming rather than Trust salaries. When capacity allows, the Board intends to recruit a volunteer administrator to support essential functions.

Overall, the year has involved difficult but necessary decisions, alongside a renewed focus on accountability and impact, positioning the Trust for future growth and sustainability.

## GOVERNANCE

During 2024/25, the following Trustees stepped down:

- Ian Bryden (Trustee and Treasurer) ceased: October 2024
- Lindsey Holding (Trustee and Administrator) ceased: February 2025
- Dominic Potter (Trustee) ceased: November 2024

The Trustees hold meetings every 4-6 weeks to discuss ideas and make decisions.

Day-to-day running of the Trust is delegated to The Chair in the current absences of an Administrator, and all financial transactions are overseen by the Treasurer.

## MANAGEMENT

It is the Trustees' duty to identify and regularly review the risks to which the charity may be exposed, and to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud, error and mismanagement.

The Trust does not currently employ any paid staff. Administrative functions are undertaken by Trustees, with responsibilities clearly defined to maintain appropriate separation of duties. No individual involved in administration has sole authority over financial transactions.

The Treasurer oversees financial management and reporting, with authorisation of payments subject to agreed controls and Trustee oversight. The current Treasurer, who is also an established volunteer at The Atkinson, brings both financial expertise and an in-depth understanding of the organisation, strengthening governance and continuity.

Responsibility for data protection and GDPR compliance sits with the designated Data Manager, who controls access to all data held by the Trust and ensures that appropriate policies and safeguards are in place.

## OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES 2024/25

The Trust's accounts are prepared on a cash-basis. As a result, there can be timing differences between when projects are delivered and when related expenditure is recorded, particularly where invoices are received after the end of the financial year.

All income received during 2024/25 arose from memberships, donations and sponsorship, and no restricted funds were held during the year. Trustees approve support for specific projects in line with the Trust's charitable aims, and expenditure may fall in a different financial year to project delivery where invoices are delayed.

### PROJECTS DELIVERED IN 2023/24, AND FUNDED IN 2024/25

Due to the Trust's cash-basis accounting, some expenditure recorded during 2024/25 relates to projects that were delivered or substantially developed in earlier financial years.

#### **Kevin Laycock Exhibition Support (£1,000)**

The Trust supported the exhibition *Quilt | Grid | Pattern*. While the activity took place in 2023/24, expenditure fell within 2024/25.

#### **Suhail Shaikh Exhibition Support (£4,300)**

The Trust supported activities around Suhail Shaikh's *Paper My Wishes* exhibition, delivered in 2023/24, with final costs settled during 2024/25.

#### **Strategic Development Work (£1,700)**

The Trust supported The Atkinson in commissioning an independent consultant to develop a Case for Support for a proposed immersive, interactive space for young people. The work brought together consultation findings, demographic evidence and sector research to assess the potential need, impact and feasibility of such a space.

The report highlighted significant unmet need among young people across Sefton, particularly in areas of high deprivation, and identified strong interest in immersive and interactive approaches to engaging with art, heritage and contemporary issues such as mental health and climate change. It also set out a detailed vision for how an immersive space could support skills development, wellbeing and long-term engagement with culture, aligned with The Atkinson's Youth Engagement Strategy.

Following changes in senior staffing and in light of programme priorities for 2026, the development of an immersive experience is not currently being progressed. However, the consultancy work has provided a valuable evidence base and strategic resource that can inform future planning. The Trustees recognise that whether an immersive experience is required or appropriate will need to be explored further by The Atkinson as part of longer-term programme and capacity considerations.

### PROJECTS DELIVERED AND FUNDED IN 2024/25

### **Philip Connard Exhibition Catalogue (£1,000)**

The Trust initially provided £3,000 to support the production of the exhibition catalogue accompanying *Eternal Summer: Paintings by Philip Connard*. The exhibition in Summer 2024 brought together works by the Southport-born artist from national collections and was accompanied by a new publication authored by Stephen Whittle. During 2024/25, The Atkinson confirmed that the full amount was not required. With Trustee approval, £2,000 of the original allocation was reallocated to support the acquisition of photographic works by Eon Flanders, with all decisions and expenditure taking place during the year. This approach ensured that funds continued to be used effectively in support of collections development and public benefit.

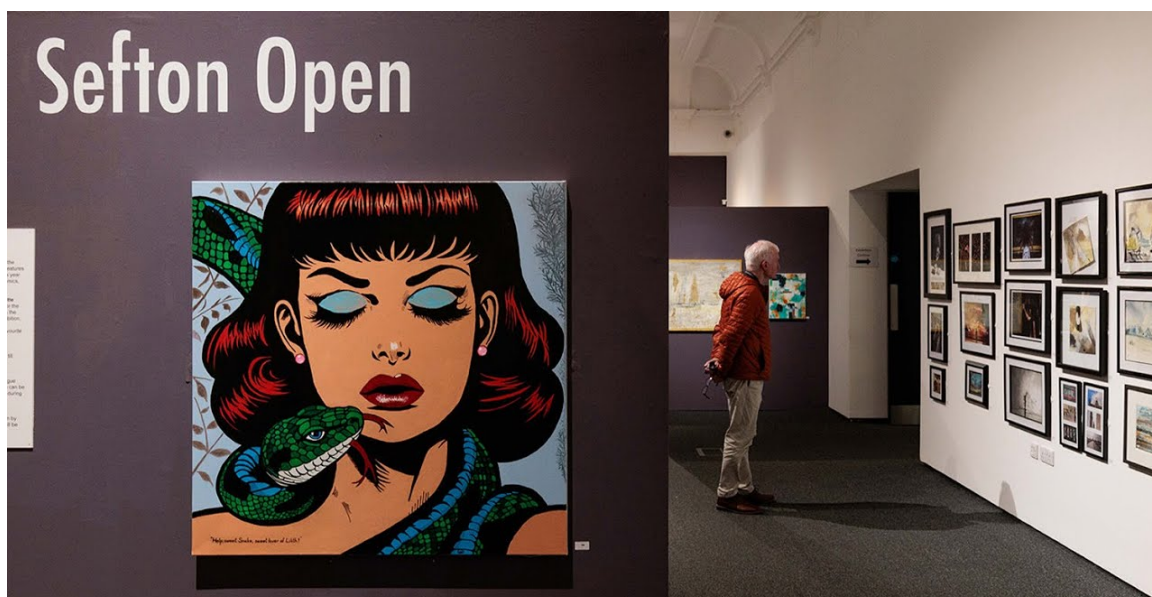
### **Ukulele Lending Library and Community Music (£1,310)**

Building on the successful launch of Southport's Ukulele Lending Library, the Trust gave £1,310 to support the continuation and expansion of the project during 2024/25. The scheme enables adults to borrow ukuleles free of charge via local libraries, reducing financial barriers to music-making and encouraging social connection. During the year, the project expanded beyond Southport into Formby, an area with evidence of social isolation and loneliness among older adults.



### **Sefton Open Exhibition – Associated Activity (£1,200)**

The Trust supported activity linked to the Sefton Open exhibition, helping to enhance opportunities for local people to engage with contemporary visual art. The Sefton Open provides an important platform for artists across the borough and supports public engagement with creative practice.



## PROJECTS DELIVERED IN 2024/25, AND AWAITING INVOICE

### **Social Inclusion Tickets - Christmas Pantomime 2024 (£1,896)**

During 2024/25, the Trust supported Social Inclusion Tickets for the Christmas pantomime *Cinderella*, enabling individuals and families who would not otherwise be able to attend to experience live theatre. Tickets were allocated through referral routes, ensuring that access was targeted and meaningful. The invoice for this has yet to be received.

### **Suhail Shaikh Acquisition – Trust Contribution (£1,200)**

During the 2024/25 financial year, the Trust agreed to support the acquisition of *Mandala*, a three-dimensional paper sculpture by Suhail Shaikh, for The Atkinson's permanent collection. The acquisition was secured through a partnership funding approach, with additional support from Arts Council England / V&A Purchase Grant Fund and The Arts Society Southport. The acquisition represents an important investment in contemporary craft and visual art, ensuring that a significant work from a well-received exhibition remains accessible to the public in Southport. The sculpture is now on display on the museum landing along with information and a thank you to the Trust alongside a donation box. Staff and volunteers are using it as a way to show people what their donations go towards and hopefully encourage more. While the project was agreed and actioned during 2024/25, the invoice was received after the year end. In line with the Trust's cash-basis accounting, the related expenditure will be recorded in the 2025/26 accounts.

### **Eon Flanders Photographic Portraits**

During 2024/25, the Trust supported the acquisition of photographic portrait works by Eon Flanders. The portraits were used as part of The Atkinson's Windrush exhibition, contributing to the telling of contemporary stories connected to identity, heritage and lived experience. The works have ongoing relevance beyond the initial exhibition. The Atkinson team is

currently in discussion with SACHA regarding the potential resurrection and touring of the Windrush exhibition, which would enable the photographs to reach wider audiences and extend their impact. The acquisition supports the Trust's commitment to collections development that enables new narratives to be shared and increases opportunities for public engagement.

## ONGOING PROJECTS

### **Matterport – Digital Exhibition Archive (£289)**

The Trust continues to fund a subscription to Matterport, a digital platform originally adopted during the Covid-19 pandemic to provide virtual access to exhibitions for people unable to visit in person. During the pandemic, Matterport enabled exhibitions at The Atkinson to be explored online, including through immersive 360-degree views and virtual reality, supporting access for vulnerable and isolating audiences. The platform now functions primarily as a digital archive of exhibitions. Most exhibitions since 2020, with the exception of the Sefton Open, have been recorded in this format. The archive has proved useful for professional purposes, allowing curatorial staff to review exhibition layouts and share installation approaches with other venues. Trustees are currently reviewing the ongoing value and utilisation of this subscription to ensure it represents appropriate use of charitable funds.

### **Adopt a Teddy (£475 income)**

During 2024/25, the Trust received **£475** through the Adopt a Teddy scheme. The scheme invites members of the public to symbolically 'adopt' one of the historic teddy bears from The Atkinson's museum collection, helping to raise funds while increasing awareness of the collection and its care. The initiative provides a light-touch, family-friendly way for visitors to engage with the museum's heritage, while generating unrestricted income to support the Trust's wider charitable activities.

## DIGITAL TOOLS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS REVIEW

During the year, the Trustees undertook a review of the Trust's digital tools and paid subscriptions to ensure they continued to represent good value for money and supported efficient governance.

As part of this review, the Board agreed to end the Trust's use of Trello, which had previously been used as a project management and information-sharing platform. While Trello was valuable during a period of higher project volume and remote working, its use has reduced as the Trust has streamlined administration and simplified ways of working. The subscription will therefore cease in June 2025.

The Trustees are also reviewing the ongoing use of paid services including Zoom and paid email platforms, recognising that current usage levels may not represent best value for money. Alternative, lower-cost or free solutions are being considered where appropriate.

These decisions reflect the Trustees' commitment to regularly reviewing operational costs and ensuring that charitable funds are directed primarily towards delivering public benefit.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The Trustees recognise the challenges posed by delayed invoicing and are working closely with The Atkinson team to improve timelines and ensure clearer alignment between project delivery and financial reporting in future years.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### INCOME

During 2024/25, the Trust's income continued to be generated primarily through memberships and general donations, reflecting strong ongoing support for **The Atkinson** and the Trust's work.

Total income for the year included **£5,695.15** from memberships, **£8,278.26** from general donations received via The Atkinson's ticketing system, and **£1,000** from seat sponsorship. In addition, this was the first full year in which the Trust was able to claim Gift Aid on eligible donations, generating an additional **£1,320.14** in income. The Trust also received £475 through the Adopt a Teddy scheme.

The Trust does not routinely fundraise for specific projects and does not run restricted appeals. This approach ensures that income remains unrestricted and can be allocated flexibly by Trustees to support projects that best align with the Trust's charitable objectives and respond to emerging need.

Expenditure during the year includes payments relating to projects approved and reported in previous financial years, where final costs were settled during 2024/25 in line with the Trust's cash-basis accounting.

During the year, the Board also provided financial support for The Atkinson to engage a freelance fundraiser. This investment was made to explore opportunities to broaden income streams, develop donor relationships and strengthen future fundraising capacity, recognising the increasing financial pressures facing publicly funded cultural organisations.

### AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

Membership and awareness of the Trust were promoted through The Atkinson's digital marketing channels, including social media, e-newsletters, the website and in-house digital screens. When print activity could be reintroduced, A5 leaflets were produced and placed at key visitor points throughout the building.

An information board was installed on the ground floor of The Atkinson, positioned between the café and the library. This provides a permanent, visible space to explain the Trust's purpose, highlight supported projects and encourage visitors to become members or make donations. The board is intended to improve transparency and understanding of how public support contributes to cultural and community impact.

### SITUATION AT YEAR END

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to **£16,815.27**.

The total expenditure in the year amounted to **£15,033.99**.

Cash funds at last year end: **£39,692.58**.

Cash funds at this year end: **£41,473.86**.

### RESERVES POLICY

The Trust holds reserves to ensure it can continue to achieve its charitable objectives in the event of a reduction in income, such as that experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic. Careful financial management has meant that the Trust has not needed to draw on its reserves during the year. For the purposes of this policy, reserves are defined as funds that are freely available for the Trust's general purposes once all known commitments have been met.

In 2016, the Trustees agreed a policy of holding minimum unrestricted reserves of £10,000.

At the end of the 2023/24 financial year, the Trust held total cash funds of £39,692.58, including £3,000 previously reported as restricted under earlier accounting treatment in relation to a specific project.

During 2024/25, the Trust generated a net surplus of £1,781.28, resulting in total cash funds of £41,473.86 as at 31 March 2025. All funds held at year end are unrestricted.

Of the unrestricted funds held at year end, £10,000 is designated as reserves in line with the Trust's reserves policy. The remaining £31,473.86 is available to support future charitable activity, including projects planned for delivery in 2025/26.

The Trustees remain in ongoing discussion with The Atkinson team to identify appropriate projects and initiatives through which these funds can be applied to deliver maximum public benefit in line with the Trust's charitable objectives.


## VAT VALIDATION

In line with our responsibilities as a charitable body, all payees have been checked to confirm that, where applicable, they are properly registered for VAT.

## DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they approve the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of The Atkinson Development Trust's Trustees:

Signature:  .....

Name: Alice Clark, Chair of The Atkinson Development Trust

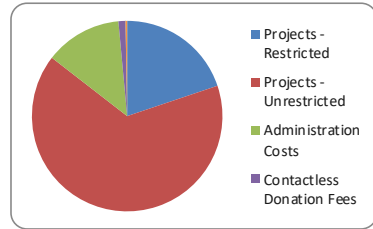
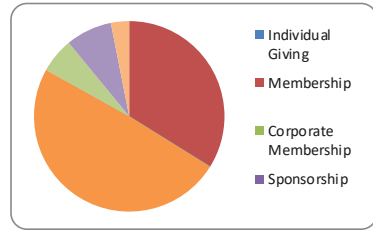
Date: 22 January 2026

**THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

As at: 31/03/2025

**Income & Expenditure Account**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
<b>INCOME</b>			
Individual Giving	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership	5,695.15	0.00	5,695.15
Corporate Membership	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sponsorship	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations - Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations - Unrestricted	8,278.26	0.00	8,278.26
Grants - Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants - Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seat Sponsorship	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Gift Aid	1,320.14	0.00	1,320.14
Miscellaneous	1.01	0.00	1.01
Interest	520.71	0.00	520.71
	0		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>16,815.27</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>16,815.27</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Projects - Restricted	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Projects - Unrestricted	9,925.28	0.00	9,925.28
Administration Costs	1,971.21	0.00	1,971.21
Contactless Donation Fees	180.00	0.00	180.00
Seat Sponsorship	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership Scheme Costs	(42.50)	0.00	(42.50)
Marketing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charity Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>12,033.99</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>15,033.99</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>4,781.28</b>	<b>(3,000.00)</b>	<b>1,781.28</b>
Cash Funds Last Year End	36,692.58	3,000.00	39,692.58
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	4,781.28	(3,000.00)	1,781.28
Cash Funds This Year End	<b>41,473.86</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>41,473.86</b>



**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

Cash Funds This Year End **41,473.86**

Signed

Alice Clark, Chair

Date

1st August 2025

# Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Atkinson Development Trust For the year ended 31st March 2025

I report on the accounts of The Atkinson Development Trust ('the charity') for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

*Ian Wright*

*14th August 2025*

Ian Wright FCA  
Community Accountant  
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service  
Burlington House  
3rd Floor, Suite 3b  
Crosby Road North  
Waterloo  
Liverpool  
L22 0LG

**THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161020

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# Accounts

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## The Atkinson Development Trust

Improving local people's lives through art and heritage.



Paper My Wishes, The Many, Suhail Shaikh, The Atkinson 2023. Exhibition programmed by The Atkinson for between 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The Atkinson Development Trust donated £4,300 towards a community engagement project to run alongside Suhail's exhibition.

## Trustees' Annual Report 2023-2024

**The Atkinson Development Trust**  
**Trustees' Annual Report**  
**for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024**

**Reference and Administrative Details:**

Charity name: The Atkinson Development Trust

Registered charity number: 1161020

Principal address:

The Atkinson

Lord Street

Southport

MERSEYSIDE

PR8 1DB

**Trustees:**

Alice Clark (Chair)

Ian Bryden (Treasurer)

Stephen Whittle (Designated Representative, The Atkinson)

Lindsey Holding (Former Interim Chair, now Trustee and Administrator)

Luke Barnes

Laura Bell

Jill Carruthers

Gemma Grady-Hill

Dom Potter

Bernadette Reynolds

Matt Smith

# The Atkinson Development Trust – Annual Report

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# 1. Executive Summary

2023/24 continued to be a period of recovery post the Covid-19 pandemic, but also a time of transition.

First of all, a change in leadership: long-serving Chair – Jo Kay stepped down after many years of dedication, Jo’s service saw the Trust grow and support The Atkinson in many acquisitions and projects. Trustee, Lindsey Holding stepped up as Interim Chair for a brief period stepping down once a more permanent Chair – Alice Clark was installed towards the end of 2023.

Meetings continue to switch between in person and via Zoom, which is still considered to be a good overall formula. Furthermore, the Trust has since purchased a camera and microphone kit to allow for hybrid meetings via Zoom should they not be available to attend in person helping to maintain the momentum and enabling the Trustees to contribute remotely.

In person meetings are held at The Atkinson where possible, but on occasion have been held at The Vincent Hotel on Lord Street, or in Southport Town Hall.

The Wellbeing Choir continues to be successful under a paid model with up to 50 members during the year and several public engagements.

Overall, this has been a year of progress, with much work being done to strengthen the Board, and to equip us to become more effective for 2024-2025.

## 1.1. Who we are

**The Atkinson Development Trust** (TADT) is a small charity run by a committed Board of skilled volunteers and a part-time paid Administrator - all have a shared love of The Atkinson and Sefton.

We believe in the transformative power of art, and that communities thrive best when they have civic pride, a sense of place and a feeling of connection and heritage within a community. The Atkinson Development Trust was established to help The Atkinson use its collections and building to make a positive impact on local people’s lives and to tell Sefton’s stories.

**The Atkinson** is a council-owned arts centre in the heart of Southport, which serves the whole borough of Sefton. The Atkinson houses free-to-access galleries, a museum, and Southport’s main library, plus a main fixed-seating theatre and smaller flexible seating Studio used for ticketed events spanning all types of performing arts, talks and film. Added to this there is a gift shop as well as a social enterprise café which is run by Autism Initiatives.



## 1.2. What we do

The Trust was set up to work in partnership with The Atkinson. We raise money from individuals, businesses, and funding bodies to support The Atkinson in using its heritage and art collections to connect with people.

Our purpose is to:

- Support The Atkinson
- Share Sefton's stories
- Use art, heritage, and culture to enhance the lives of local people and visitors.

Social impact is our primary focus: we have particular interest in supporting projects which benefit the wellbeing of the more disadvantaged and under-represented people in our local communities. For example, children in areas of economic deprivation, disabled people and their families, or older people at risk of loneliness and isolation. We also want to continue to positively steward our members and supporters to continue their enjoyment and affection for The Atkinson.

More broadly, our work aims to connect people with local stories and improve access to the collections and the building. We support conservation and acquisitions when this enables new stories to be shared with the public or unlocks new engagement projects.

We work supportively with The Atkinson to expand and enhance their work. We do not work directly with beneficiaries, and we do not influence the programming or running of the venue. The Trust operates within the geographic area of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (Sefton MBC). Our work is primarily aimed at, but not limited to, those within the administrative area of Sefton Council and is concerned with the arts, cultural and heritage managed by Sefton MBC with a particular focus on The Atkinson.

Our ability to step outside the funding and strategic restrictions associated with the public sector means we can apply for different funding and open conversations with potential donors which a Council-run service would struggle to have. It has also allowed us to maximise public donations by claiming Gift Aid where possible.

### 1.3. Our aims

**To connect people with local stories and (global) cultural activity:** Encouraging the public to participate in and contribute to arts, cultural and heritage activities. We want to bring people together, connect them with their community, celebrate the cultural heritage of the area and beyond to enable creative expression.

**To improve access to and engagement with the collections and the building:** Opening up Sefton's art, culture, and heritage to everyone. This might mean improving physical access through better facilities or supporting the restoration of an artwork to enable it to go on public display.

**To have a positive impact on local people's lives:** Facilitating engagement with cultural activity for the positive impact it can have upon the lives and wellbeing of the public. We have a particular interest in people who are typically under-represented among arts audiences due to a range of social, economic, and physical barriers which they may experience.

Statutory declaration: The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

## 2. Format and function of the Trust

### 2.1. Structure

The Atkinson Development Trust (TADT) is a charitable incorporated organisation which was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 23 March 2015.

The Trust is governed by a Board who are Trustees of the charity. TADT supports equal opportunities, and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation, or age. Within those guidelines, prospective Trustees are targeted according to the skills needed by the Board. After recruitment and vetting, Trustee applicants are invited to attend a meeting as a guest, after which they are formally invited to become a Trustee. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role and guidance documents are issued as part of an induction process. They have individual and collective responsibility for the management of the charity and its funds.

### 2.2. Board Recruitment and Organisational Development

Original and long serving Chair - Jo Kay - stepped down on 4th May 2023, and Lindsey Holding was elected as Interim Chair for the coming year.

The Trust recruited three new board members: Alice Clark, Dom Potter and Gemma Grady Hill.

In addition to new Trustees, the concept of subgroups was introduced with the objectives of keeping momentum once actions have been sanctioned and to allow Board members to lean into their respective skill sets of project management, fundraising, membership etc. simultaneously, Trello – an online project management space was brought in as a way to improve tracking of actions – for quick reference and future evaluation as provides a more visual way of working with actions added as checklists, it provides a space to collaborate online for those in the subgroups and a place to share documents and information more easily than navigating through the Trust's Google Drive. It is also used as a 'Noticeboard' with meeting details, papers and zoom links shared to the main dashboard meaning everything is 'to hand' for all users.

Towards the end of 2023 the Board was sad to say goodbye to Trustees; Marie Davies, Margaret Jolley and Helen Binbaum due to changes in health or family circumstances. Both Jenny Cope (Museum Futures Trainee) and Emma Harrison (Non-Trustee but as a Designated Representative, The Atkinson) stepped away from working with the Trust due to time constraints and work commitments. The Board thanks them all for their hard work and service during their time with The Atkinson Development Trust.

### 2.3. Governance

During 2023- 24, the following Trustees were appointed to the Board:

- Alice Clark appointed: June 2023
- Dom Potter appointed: June 2023
- Gemma Grady appointed: July 2023

The following Trustees and Representatives stepped down:

- Emma Harrison (non-trustee, but as Designated Representative, The Atkinson) ceased: December 2023
- Jenny Cope (Museum Futures Trainee & Trustee) ceased: November 2023
- Margaret Jolley: ceased: November 2023
- Helen Binbaum ceased: December 2023
- Marie Davies ceased: July 2023

The Trustees hold meetings every 4-6 weeks to discuss ideas and make decisions.

Day-to-day running of the Trust is delegated to the Administrator, with strategic steer from The Chair and all financial transactions are overseen by the Treasurer.

## 2.4. Management

It is the Trustees' duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity might be exposed, and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

We have one employee - a paid, part-time freelance Administrator. The Administrator has no access to the bank accounts or authority for authorising any payments.

Our Data Manager controls access to all data covered by GDPR.

# 3. Overview of Activities in 2023/24

## 3.1. Charitable Activities

During 2023/24, the Trust's primary focus was upon The Wellbeing Choir and Subsidised Tickets for Underrepresented Groups. The Trust also donated funds to the following projects:

### *Southport's first ukulele lending library - £580*

The Trust provided £580 to launch Southport's first ukulele lending library. Ukuleles are available to loan in soprano, concert or tenor size (small, medium or large) from Southport Library in the same way that you borrow a book - all you need is a Sefton library card.

The Atkinson and Southport Library are working in collaboration with The Ukulele Project Northwest and Ukulele Buddies to allow our adult Library Members to gain access to music and connect with the local community across Sefton.

Each loan will come with an introduction guide to give you information on how to play your Ukulele, song sheets and lots of information on where you can buy a Ukulele, find a teacher, or a local 'strum-along' / open mic session or group.

In addition, the Trust also provided funds to launch some free teaching sessions available from Southport library with expert tutor Karine Woodward.

The Northwest Ukulele Project's mission is to use the Ukulele as a tool for building communities, confidence, combating loneliness and promoting wellbeing. Ukulele Buddies are a friendly and encouraging group, performing at festivals, events, care homes and open mics around the Southport region.

### *'Paper My Wishes' exhibition - £4,300*

The Trust provided £4,300 for a community engagement project as part of Suhail Shaikh's 'Paper My Wishes' exhibition.



Paper artist Suhail Shaikh transforms the simple sheet of paper into multidimensional artworks. His work reflects the ideas, thoughts and reactions that arise from his perception of the evolving world around him. This unique exhibition allowed those who attended to explore the figurative, the abstract and to step into a space where the artist allows his dreams to become reality as he 'papers his wishes'.

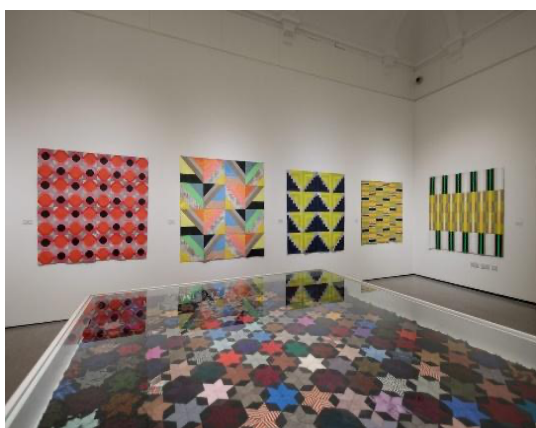
Central to Suhail's exhibition is a paper sculpture of the central section of a Lancaster Bomber. The work has been painstakingly put together to tell the story of WW2's Bomber Command and to remember those that gave themselves for our freedom. We want to stop the memory of them from fading. The sculpture is covered in copies of ephemera, donated by veterans, their families and those who wished to assist in the acknowledgement of the sacrifice of so many. The documents help to tell this story in the words and pictures of those who were there.

55,573 young men died flying with Bomber Command during World War Two; that's more than those who serve in the entire Royal Air Force today. They came to serve from all over the world, not just from Great Britain but also Canada, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, in total over 62 Nations – most of them still in their late teens.

Bomber Command suffered the highest losses of any unit during WWII yet have struggled for recognition. Every member of Bomber Command aircrew was a volunteer. They were tasked with flying 30 missions, but the survival rate was 3 weeks. The average age at time of death was 23.

### *'Quilt | Grid | Pattern' - £1,000*

The Trust provided £1,000 to fund quilting workshops which ran alongside Kevin Laycock and Christopher Harris's Quilt | Grid | Pattern exhibition.



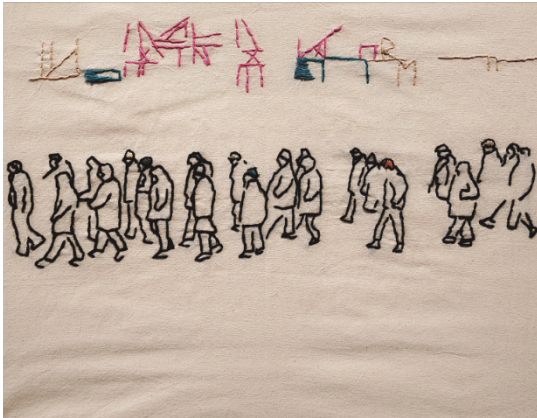
The artists reinterpret historic quilt making through abstract painting and mixed media artworks. The exhibition also showcases examples of British 19th century quilt making and the artists' responses to the patterns and structures contained within them. Gawthorpe Textiles Collection provided the touchstone for Harris and Laycock's latest work. Housed at the National Trust's Gawthorpe Hall, the collection includes over 11,000 items of textile history.

Our thanks are due to curator Rachel Midgley for her help in selecting and preparing work from the Gawthorpe Textile Collection for display.

### *Sefton at 50 - £300*

On April 1st 2024 the Borough of Sefton officially turned 50 years old. Spanning an incredible 22 miles of jaw dropping coastline and playing host to some of the UK's most caring, kind-hearted and hard-working communities, Sefton is a Borough for everyone. Throughout Sefton's 50th birthday we will be celebrating the places and people which make our borough truly amazing.

We received £2,000 from Sefton MBC and the Trust allocated £300. More details here: [Sefton at 50](#)



New Exhibition – The Liverpool Dockers’ Dispute  
Tapestry

This tapestry was created by community volunteers from Sefton and funded by Heritage Lottery and The Atkinson as part of the “Sefton is 50” celebrations.

### *Adopt a Teddy - £2,100*

Adopt A Teddy has now launched after much planning and work by Atkinson staff and volunteers, and the bears are now proudly displayed on the first-floor landing of The Atkinson. The Trust released £2100 to support the project and its launch. Funds raised from this project will feed back into the Trust.

Adoption packs include a letter from your teddy, a certificate, pin badge, post card and a bookmark. As a special thank you, Adopters have their names included in the Atkinson’s Museum display.

The Atkinson’s teddy collection was donated to The Botanic Gardens Museum in 1985 by a Mrs Pearce who lived in Southport. The teddies lived in the Botanic Gardens Museum until 2012 when they moved to The Atkinson. The Atkinson’s teddy collection is a very important historical record of toys that were popular in the 20th century.



### *Social Inclusion Tickets*

The Atkinson was delighted to be able to host its Christmas pantomime again in December 2023.

Previously the Trust, on the guidance of The Atkinson, had focused its subsidised tickets scheme on local primary schools. However, in 2022/23 capacity limitations meant that it wasn't possible to accommodate school parties. As a result, when The Atkinson was approached by a member of social services to request free tickets for 'Looked After Children and their carers', the Trust made the decision to reallocate some of the funding to provide these tickets for free to referred families.



This change in beneficiary led to a broader discussion, after which it was decided in October 2022 that 'Free Tickets for Schools' would become 'Social Inclusion Tickets', which broadened out the categories that could be funded by the residue of £3,230.50.

In 2023, the Trust released £1,128 for free social inclusion tickets for targeted groups in and around Southport.

### **3.2. Acquisitions and Restorations**

There have been no acquisitions or restorations during this year that required Trust support.

### **3.3. Fundraising**

Funds from 2023/24 came equally from cash and donations via The Atkinson's ticketing system (£5,065.11) and through Memberships (£5,121.00).

Income from contactless donations continues to be disappointing. Different locations have been tried and a wrap for the stand has been added for better visibility, but donations continue to be poor. A planned display stand intended to further draw attraction to contactless donations has proved difficult to implement.

The Project Team process has worked well in managing projects to a point at which they can be approved by the Board, but fundraising to cover the project cost has been unsuccessful. Fortunately, we have been able to support a significant number of projects from our own funds and it is hoped that an extension to the Membership scheme and sponsorships will allow the level of funding to grow.

The Board has approved the engagement of a freelance fundraiser. It will be an engagement of just 3 or 4 days in order to identify appropriate grant sources. Members of the Board will complete the grant applications.

### *Unrestricted Fund Allocation*

**Social Inclusion Tickets:** £1,769.50, bringing the available support to **£5,000**.

**Kevin Laycock Quilts:** **£1,000** to fund workshops in the art of Quilting.

**Suhail Shaik Retrospective:** **£4,300** to fund the collection of stories about people from Sefton communities who flew in Lancaster bombers during WWII, and to then take those stories back into the community via schools, care homes etc.

**Sefton Open:** £1,200 for workshops to teach local people the basic skills of creating art.  
**Ukulele Group:** £1,300 to purchase Ukuleles and provide Ukulele lessons at The Atkinson.

Total Unrestricted Allocation: - £12,800

#### *Restricted Fund Allocation*

**Sefton at 50:** TADT donated £300, and we received a grant of £2,000, giving a total of £2,300 to produce a tapestry telling the story of the dock workers strike, and to promote the story throughout Sefton.

**Phillip Connard Exhibition:** A £3,000 grant in support of a forthcoming exhibition.

Total Restricted Allocation: - £5,300

### 3.4. Awareness-Raising Activities

Membership was promoted via The Atkinson's digital marketing channels, including social media, e-newsletter, website plus in-house digital screens. When print could be re-introduced, A5 leaflets were produced and placed in key pick-up points throughout the building.

The Trust also agreed to put together an information board to be placed on the ground floor of The Atkinson between the cafe and the library. This board will enable the Trust to have a permanent space to promote itself and encourage support from visitors. The Marketing and PR subgroup led on this project, and it should be in place during the next financial year.

## 4. Financial Review

### 4.1. Situation at year end

- The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £13,776.87. The total expenditure in the year amounted to £11,229.70.
- Cash funds last year end: £37,145.41.
- Cash funds this year end: £39,692.58.

### 4.2. Reserves Policy

In 2016, the Trustees agreed a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds of a minimum of £10,000. The Trust holds reserves in order that it can continue to achieve its objectives should there be a reduction in incoming resources, such as experienced during the pandemic. However, continuing careful management has meant that we haven't had to use any of the reserve.

Reserves in this context mean funds that are freely available for the Trust's general purposes after all commitments have been met. As of 31 March 2024, the Trust had remaining unrestricted funds (after reserves) of £14,055.27.

We have provisions of £15,637.31 in place to cover previously planned activities and have a reserve of £10,000. The remaining £14,055.27 is not a large sum but is expected to grow with a full programme of activities at The Atkinson. It is expected that income from Memberships will continue to grow as people engage with The Atkinson and as new levels of Membership, corporate Memberships and Sponsorships are introduced.

### 4.3. Vat Validation

In line with our responsibilities as a charitable body, all payees have been checked to confirm that, where applicable, they are properly registered for VAT.

Thank you...

We would like to take this opportunity to thank The Vincent Hotel and Southport Town Hall for hosting our board meetings when The Atkinson has been unable to accommodate the Trust on certain dates due to events or closure.

## 5. Declaration

The Trustees declare that they approve the Trustees' report above.

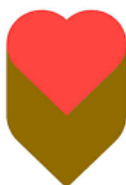
Signed on behalf of The Atkinson Development Trust's Trustees:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: Alice Clark, Chair of The Atkinson Development Trust

Date: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

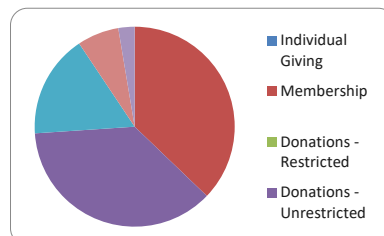


THE  
ATKINSON  
DEVELOPMENT  
TRUST

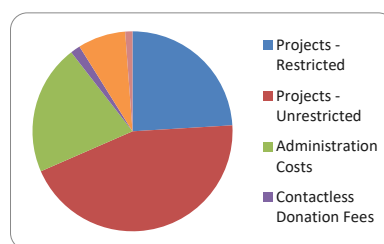
**Income & Expenditure Account**

As at: **31/03/2024**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
<b>INCOME</b>			
Individual Giving	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership	5,121.00	0.00	5,121.00
Donations - Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations - Unrestricted	5,065.11	0.00	5,065.11
Grants - Restricted	0.00	2,300.00	2,300.00
Grants - Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seat Sponsorship	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gift Aid	928.14	0.00	928.14
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	362.62	0.00	362.62
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>11,476.87</b>	<b>2,300.00</b>	<b>13,776.87</b>



<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Projects - Restricted	0.00	2,700.00	2,700.00
Projects - Unrestricted	4,987.18	0.00	4,987.18
Administration Costs	2,363.53	0.00	2,363.53
Contactless Donation Fees	180.00	0.00	180.00
Seat Sponsorship	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership Scheme Costs	866.99	0.00	866.99
Charity Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	132.00	0.00	132.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>8,529.70</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>11,229.70</b>



<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>2,947.17</b>	<b>(400.00)</b>	<b>2,547.17</b>
Cash Funds Last Year End	33,745.41	3,400.00	37,145.41
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	2,947.17	(400.00)	2,547.17
<b>Cash Funds This Year End</b>	<b>36,692.58</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>39,692.58</b>

<b>Outstanding Commitments</b>			
Sefton at 50 Project	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Inclusion Tickets 2022/23 (inc Elderly)	3,872.00	0.00	3,872.00
Marketing	1,011.03	0.00	1,011.03
Subscription to Matterport 2022	134.28	0.00	134.28
Adopt an Object	400.00	0.00	400.00
Kevin Laycock Quilts	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Suhail Shaik - Retrospective	4,300.00	0.00	4,300.00
Philip Connard - Eternal Summer	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Sefton Open 2024	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Ukulele Group	720.00	0.00	720.00
Reserved for Talks	0.00	0.00	0.00
Minimum funds to remain in Trust Accounts	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>22,637.31</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>25,637.31</b>

<b>Funds remaining after commitments</b>	<b>14,055.27</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>14,055.27</b>
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**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

Cash Funds This Year End	<b>39,692.58</b>
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**Accruals**

**Monetary Assets:**

Coop Current Account	7778.81
Coop Deposit Account	3193.77
	<b>39,692.58</b>

Diff	Pending Payment	0.00
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# Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Atkinson Development Trust For the year ended 31st March 2024

I report on the accounts of The Atkinson Development Trust ('the charity') for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Ian Wright FCA  
Community Accountant  
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service  
Burlington House  
3rd Floor, Suite 3b  
Crosby Road North  
Waterloo  
Liverpool  
L22 0LG

**THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161020

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# Accounts

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# THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Improving local people's lives through art and heritage



Self portrait by Chila Burman.

Acquired by The Atkinson in August 2022 for £7,345 and fully funded by TADT

## Trustees' Annual Report 2022-23

**The Atkinson Development Trust**  
**Trustees' Annual Report**  
**for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

**Reference and Administrative Details**

Charity name: The Atkinson Development Trust

Registered charity number: 1161020

Principal address:

The Atkinson  
Lord Street  
Southport  
MERSEYSIDE  
PR8 1DB

Trustees:

Lindsey Holding (Chair)  
Ian Bryden (Treasurer)  
Stephen Whittle (Designated Representative, The Atkinson)  
Emma Harrison (Designated Representative, The Atkinson)  
Laura Bell  
Helen Birnbaum  
Jennifer Cope  
Margaret Jolley  
Gemma Grady-Hill  
Dom Potter  
Alice Clark

## Executive Summary

2022/23 continued to be a period of recovery post the Covid-19 pandemic, but good progress was made in re-establishing donation incomes and activities. We also took the opportunity to introduce further processes into the Trust, especially in the area of Projects associated with the exhibitions at The Atkinson.

Meetings continue to switch between in person and via Zoom, which is considered to be a good overall formula. We are still struggling to become an executive Board that can deliver prompt and effective results. There are options for us to co-opt required skills and for us to develop a body of volunteer 'members' in order to provide extra resources for the Board, but this hasn't yet been actioned in order to lighten the load of Trustees and to allow them to be more effective.

The Wellbeing Choir continues to be successful under a paid model with up to 50 members during the year and several public engagements. They also entertained visitors to our 'Arty Party'. Sadly, as a result of restrictions on theatre capacity early post Covid, there weren't any opportunities to support activities via our Social Inclusion fund.

During this period we were able to support the launch of the Ganzflicker event which gained much publicity locally and were delighted to be able to fund the purchase of an exciting piece of art from Chila Burman who has links to the south of our operating area.

Membership continued to re-cover and, whilst we have a way to go in terms of engagement with our members, numbers have improved and levels of renewal have been pleasing. Income through Memberships for the year was £2,571; a significant increase upon the previous year. Unfortunately HMRC won't permit us to claim Gift Aid on Membership as a result of the nature of benefits offered to Members.

Fundraising activities brought in £1,139.65 via cash donations and £3,778.87 through donations made when booking tickets for events in the Studio and Theatre. We were able to claim £1,038.31 in Gift Aid on the previous year's donations income.

Over all this has been a year of progress, with much work being done to strengthen the Board, and to equip us to be more effective going forward.

## Who we are

**The Atkinson Development Trust** (TADT) is a small charity run by a committed Board of skilled volunteers and a part-time paid Administrator, and who all have a shared love of The Atkinson and Sefton.

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**The Atkinson** is the council-owned arts centre in the heart of Southport, which serves the whole borough of Sefton. The Atkinson is home to free-to-access galleries, museum and Southport's main library, plus a main fixed-seating theatre and smaller flexible seating Studio used for ticketed events spanning all types of performing arts, talks and film. Added to this there is a gift shop as well as a social enterprise café which is run by Autism Initiatives.

## What we do

The Trust was set up to work in partnership with The Atkinson. We raise money from individuals, businesses and funding bodies in order to support The Atkinson to use its heritage and art collections to connect with people.

Our purpose is to:

- To support The Atkinson
- Sharing Sefton's stories
- Using art, heritage and culture to enhance the lives of local people and visitors

Our main focus is social impact: we have particular interest in supporting projects which benefit the wellbeing of more disadvantaged and under-represented people in our local communities. For example, children in areas of economic deprivation, disabled people and their families, or older people at risk of loneliness and isolation. We also want to continue to positively steward our members and supporters to continue their enjoyment and affection for The Atkinson.

More broadly, our work aims to connect people with local stories and improve access to the collections and the building. We support conservation and acquisitions when this enables new stories to be shared with the public, or unlocks new engagement projects.

We work supportively with The Atkinson to expand and enhance their work. We do not work directly with beneficiaries, and we do not influence the programming or running of the venue. The Trust operates within Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (Sefton MBC), which is in Merseyside. Our work is primarily aimed at, but not limited to, those within the administrative

area of Sefton Council and is concerned with the arts, cultural and heritage managed by Sefton MBC with a particular focus on The Atkinson.

Our ability to step outside the funding and strategic restrictions associated with the public sector means we are able to apply for different funding and open conversations with potential donors which a Council-run service would struggle to have. It has also allowed us to maximise public donations by claiming Gift Aid where possible.

## **Our aims**

- **To connect people with local stories and (global) cultural activity**  
Encouraging the public to participate in and contribute to arts, cultural and heritage activities. We want to bring people together, connect them with their community, celebrate the cultural heritage of the area and beyond to enable creative expression.
- **To improve access to and engagement with the collections and the building**  
Opening up Sefton's art, culture and heritage to everyone. This might mean improving physical access through better facilities or supporting the restoration of an artwork to enable it to go on public display.
- **To have a positive impact on local people's lives**  
Facilitating engagement with cultural activity for the positive impact it can have upon the lives and wellbeing of the public. We have a particular interest in people who are typically under-represented among arts audiences due to a range of social, economic and physical barriers which they may experience.

Statutory declaration: The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

## **Format and function of the Trust**

### **Structure**

The Atkinson Development Trust (TADT) is a charitable incorporated organisation which was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 23 March 2015.

The Trust is governed by a Board who are Trustees of the charity. TADT supports equal opportunities, and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age. Within those guidelines, prospective Trustees are targeted according to the skills needed by the Board. After recruitment and vetting, Trustees are appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Trustees. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role. They have individual and collective responsibility for the management of the charity and its funds.

## **Governance**

Governance of the Trust remained robust during the course of 2022-23. The following Trustee was appointed to the Board:

- Margaret Jolley, appointed 21st July 2022

Margaret has worked for many years at The Atkinson and brings important skills to Membership.

The following Trustees ceased to be members of the Board:

- Councillor Janet Grace (Resigned 19th October 2022)
- Nathan Marsh (removed 23rd February 2023 - no attendance at 6 consecutive meetings)

Our Chair, Jo Kay, decided to step down at the end of the financial year, and Lindsey Holding was elected as Chair for the coming year.

The Trustees hold meetings every 4-6 weeks to discuss ideas and make decisions.

Day-to-day running of the Trust is delegated to the Administrator, with strategic steer from The Chair and all financial transactions are overseen by the Treasurer.

## **Management**

It is the Trustees' duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity might be exposed, and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees actively review the risks which the charity faces on a regular basis through regular meetings of the Trustees which cover operational and financial reviews.

We have one employee - a paid, part-time freelance Administrator. The Administrator has no access to the bank accounts or authority for authorising any payments,

Our Data Manager controls access to all data covered by GDPR.

Trustees regularly examine other risks that may become applicable as new situations arise, and develop policies and procedures to mitigate those risks.

# **Overview of Activities in 2021/22**

## **Charitable Activities**

During 2022/23, the Trust's primary focus was upon The Wellbeing Choir and Subsidised Tickets for Underrepresented Groups.

## The Atkinson Wellbeing Choir



The Wellbeing Choir, despite now being primarily self-funded, went from strength to strength throughout 2022/23, and was attended by up to 50 people each week.

Under the self-funding model the Choir only required a further £400 funding before gaining full financial dependency. We have £1,202.99 remaining in the budget and there is currently debate about whether we should launch a second choir or whether the residual funds should be surrendered into the general fund.

As well as weekly rehearsals at The Atkinson, the Choir performed at:

<b>2022/3</b>	<b>Venue</b>
10th August	Hesketh Park Lodge, Southport
20th August	Southport Flower Show
14th October	Southport Music Festival - Greenbank High School
19th November	The Atkinson Members Christmas Event
20th November	Botanic Gardens Xmas Fete
27th November	Birkdale Christmas light switch on
1st December	Trustees at Atkinson
12th December	Galloways for the blind
20th December	Vincent Convent
22nd February	Cornerstones for Brighter Connections, Marshside

## Social Inclusion Tickets

The Atkinson was delighted to be able to host its Christmas pantomime again in December 2022 after the impacts of Covid on its performance the previous few years.

Previously the Trust, on the guidance of The Atkinson, had focused its subsidised tickets scheme on local primary schools. However, in 2022/23 capacity limitations meant that it wasn't possible to accommodate

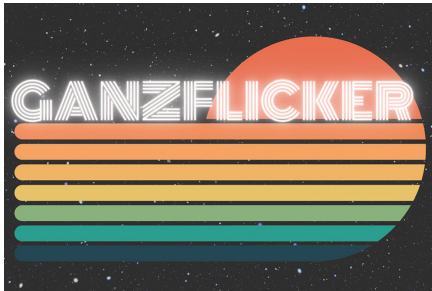
school parties. As a result, when The Atkinson was approached by a member social services to request free tickets for Looked After Children and their carers, The Trust made the decision to reallocate some of the funding to provide these tickets for free to referred families.

In total three groups, Ukrainian Families, Talbot Street Wellbeing Centre and Foster Carers were offered tickets. Unfortunately, the performance which they attended was interrupted by an emergency evacuation procedure and could not continue. This resulted in the Trust being refunded for the tickets purchased.

This change in beneficiary led to a broader discussion after which it was decided in October 2022 that Free Tickets For Schools would become Social Inclusion Tickets, which broadened out the categories that could be funded by the residue of £3,230.50.



## Ganzflicker Event



The Ganzflicker event ran from 11th to 19th November 2022.

Ganzflicker is a way of inducing hallucinations by looking at a flickering image. The exhibition allowed visitors to experience the

Ganzflicker imagery in several different ways, including on screen, through mechanical interactives and 'hypnobuckets'.



The Board agreed to fund £100 for the launch event, including drinks and signage.

## Acquisitions and Restorations

In August the Trust donated £7,345 to The Atkinson. This was used to purchase a piece of art, a self portrait by Chila Burman.

Born in Liverpool, Chila Kumari Singh Burman describes herself as a 'Punjabi Liverpoolian' who likes to combine her Indian roots with popular culture. Punjab is a region in the north of India. She has been described as a South Asian pop artist.

She creates art that is fun but also makes you think. She likes using unexpected styles and techniques to create her masterpieces. She loves the energy of different colours. Her work includes collage, printmaking and video. You could say that she's a 'mixed media' or a 'multimedia' artist.



## Fundraising Activities

### Donations

Funds are raised primarily through donations via The Atkinson's ticketing system, where customers can add a donation to their ticket purchase. There are also cash collecting boxes within the building, and towards year end these have been supplemented with a contactless donation unit, sited in the foyer. Contactless income to date has been disappointing, and work is in hand to find a suitable location that can garner more donations.

The Board has introduced a Project Team process which allows us to better identify funding opportunities. Where a project is approved by the Board a Trustee is appointed to raise the required amount from donor bodies, both local and national.

### Membership

#### **Be at the heart of The Atkinson**

Membership is your way to get closer to Sefton's fascinating heritage, and a whole world of incredible art. For just a few pounds a month, you can enjoy a programme of exclusive events and discounts. At the same time, you'll be helping us to use our remarkable building and its collections to benefit local communities and inspire future generations.

At the end of the financial year, 2 years after the membership was relaunched, we have 102 members, bringing in a total membership income of £2,571. This is an increase of £1,036 on the previous year, with a 17.6% renewal rate. As membership numbers grow, it is increasingly becoming a significant source of income for the Trust.

## Membership benefits

- Special Members-only events, including exclusive access to artist-led exhibition briefings and a behind-the-scenes tour
- Invitations for you and a guest to attend exhibition opening nights
- Free entry to The Atkinson's regular programme of **Evening Talks**
- £10 off a purchase of original artwork in our Landing **exhibitions**
- 10% discount in **A Great Little Place** café
- 10% discount in The Atkinson's **shop**
- A ticket for one of The Atkinson's regular Studio events: choose between our acclaimed Americana, roots and acoustic gigs with **Grateful Fred's** or our relaxing **Cake and Classical** afternoon concerts. *(note that this is one ticket per member, so joint membership includes two tickets)*

In order to help steward our existing members and to attract new ones, in December 2022 the Trust hosted its first Members event, an Arty Party for members and their guests.

Attendees were welcomed in the foyer by The Atkinson Wellbeing Choir and were able to browse an artisan craft fair made up of local makers.

Upstairs they were entertained by a string band while they enjoyed a private tour of The Atkinson's gallery spaces, and heard talks from members of The Atkinson and the Trust.

In most aspects the event was considered a success. Everything went to plan, numbers attending were good, refreshments worked well, and guests enjoyed the event. However, very few members attended, and it was necessary to bolster numbers from outside the membership.

We need to understand what type of event will best motivate members to attend, and to bring potential new members before we plan to repeat the event.

### AmazonSmile

Throughout 2022/23, The Atkinson remained part of AmazonSmile and received a total of £43.49 in donations.

### Adopt A Teddy

Progress on this project continued to be slow in 2022/23, mainly due to a lack of resources within The Atkinson to facilitate the project. However, by the end of this reporting period the project was gaining some momentum and should launch in 2023/24.



## **Unrestricted funds**

Cash donations via the collecting boxes provided £1,139.65, donations for events raised £3,778.87, and donations via newly installed contactless collection plates was £54.10 after commission. Revenue from the Trust's relaunched membership scheme reached £2,571.00.

## **Restricted Funds**

We received £3000 from the Finnis Scott Foundation which is reserved for the Eternal Summer Exhibition which is scheduled for May to November 2024.

## **Gift Aid**

We were able to claim £1,038.31 in Gift Aid for donations during the period 2021 to 2022. We were pleased to receive some sizable donations through The Atkinson's booking system and there was a further boost from donations received from our choir members.

## **Awareness-Raising Activities**

Membership was promoted via The Atkinson's digital marketing channels, including social media, e-newsletter, website plus in-house digital screens. When print could be re-introduced, A5 leaflets were produced and placed in key pick-up points throughout the building. The Arty Party membership event, discussed above, was the main in-person awareness- raising event activity.

The Trust also agreed to put together an information board to be placed on the ground floor of The Atkinson between the cafe and the Library. This board will enable the Trust to have a permanent space to promote itself and encourage support from visitors. The Marketing and PR subgroup led on this project, and it should be in place during the next financial year.

## **Board Recruitment and Organisational Development**

2022/23 has been another year of change for the Board. Following a comprehensive recruitment drive in 2021/22, the Trust started this financial year with 11 Trustees. This rose to 12 with Margaret Jolley joining as a Trustee in July 2022.

In December, Cllr Janet Grace announced her resignation after 6 years as a Trustee and in January 2023 our longstanding Chair Jo Kay made the decision to step down from the role, although to remain as a Trustee for the time being. To help ease the recruitment of a new Chair and to help with the transition Jo remained in the role until the end of the financial year.

Trustee Nathan Marsh had been unable to attend 6 meetings and hadn't sent any apologies. The Board made every attempt to contact him but in February, in line with our constitution, we reluctantly removed him as a Trustee. A recorded letter was sent to his last known address.

Our last meeting of the year was focused on strategy, and this helped us to focus upon how the Trust could develop to best utilise the skills within the Board. It was expected that these ideas would be properly developed through the coming financial year.

# Financial Review

## Situation at year end

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £12,687.43.

The total expenditure in the year amounted to £11,515.35.

Cash funds last year end: £35,973.33.

Cash funds this year end: £37,145.41.

## Reserves policy

In 2016, the Trustees agreed a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds of a minimum of £10,000. The Trust holds reserves in order that it can continue to achieve its objectives should there be a reduction in incoming resources, such as experienced during the pandemic. However, continuing careful management has meant that we haven't had to use any of the reserve.

Reserves in this context mean funds that are freely available for the Trust's general purposes after all commitments have been met.

As at 31 March 2023 the Trust had remaining unrestricted funds (after reserves) of £14,487.43.

At year end The Trust feels that we have managed our residual funds effectively during the Pandemic crisis. We have provisions of £12,657.98 in place to cover previously planned activities and have a reserve of £10,000. The remaining £14,487.43 is not a large sum but is expected to grow with a full programme of activities at The Atkinson. It is expected that Memberships will continue to grow as people engage with The Atkinson.

## Vat Validation

In line with our responsibilities as a charitable body, all payees have been checked to confirm that, where applicable, they are properly registered for VAT.

## Declaration

The Trustees declare that they approve the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of The Atkinson Development Trust's Trustees:

Signature:.....  .....

Name: Lindsey Holding, Chair of The Atkinson Development Trust

Date: 28 September 2023

**THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

As at: 31/03/2023

Income & Expenditure Account

**INCOME**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Individual Giving	50.00	0.00	50.00
Membership	2,571.00	0.00	2,571.00
Donations - Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations - Unrestricted	5,142.11	0.00	5,142.11
Grants - Restricted	0.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
Grants - Unrestricted	0.70	0.00	0.70
Seat Sponsorship	250.00	0.00	250.00
Gift Aid	1,038.31	0.00	1,038.31
Miscellaneous	295.00	0.00	295.00
Interest	40.31	0.00	40.31

**Total Receipts**

**9,387.43      3,300.00      12,687.43**

**EXPENDITURE**

Projects - Restricted	0.00	8,016.68	8,016.68
Projects - Unrestricted	1,054.88	0.00	1,054.88
Administration Costs	1,368.09	0.00	1,368.09
Contactless Donation Fees	15.00	0.00	15.00
Seat Sponsorship	31.80	0.00	31.80
Membership Scheme Costs	54.90	0.00	54.90
Marketing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charity Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	974.00	0.00	974.00

**Total Payments**

**3,498.67      8,016.68      11,515.35**

**Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments**

**5,888.76      (4,716.68)      1,172.08**

Cash Funds Last Year End	27,856.65	8,116.68	35,973.33
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	5,888.76	(4,716.68)	1,172.08
Cash Funds This Year End	<b>33,745.41</b>	<b>3,400.00</b>	<b>37,145.41</b>

**Outstanding Commitments**

Scarab Belt Restoration	500.00	100.00	600.00
Choir 2022/23	1,202.99	0.00	1,202.99
Social Inclusion Tickets 2022/23 (inc Elderly)	3,230.50	0.00	3,230.50
Marketing	1,590.21	0.00	1,590.21
Subscription to Matterport 2022	134.28	0.00	134.28
Adopt an Object	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
GanzFlicker Event	100.00	0.00	100.00
Members Event 2022	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interactive Education Room	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gordon Cheung/Blue and White Ceramics	0.00	300.00	300.00
Sefton Open 2023	0.00	0.00	0.00
Antarctic Photographer - Herbert Ponting	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eternal Summer - Phillip Connard	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Minimum funds to remain in Trust Accounts	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>19,257.98</b>	<b>3,400.00</b>	<b>22,657.98</b>

**Funds remaining after commitments**

**14,487.43      0.00      14,487.43**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

Cash Funds This Year End **37,145.41**

**Accruals**

**Monetary Assets:**

Coop Current Account	5594.26
Coop Deposit Account	31551.15
	<b>37,145.41</b>

Signed

Lindsey Holding, Chair

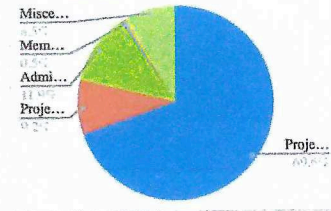
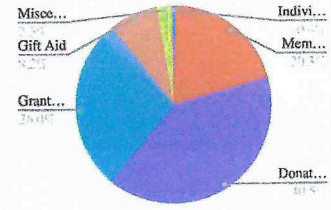
Date

4th May 2023

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Pending Payment

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# Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Atkinson Development Trust For the year ended 31st March 2023

I report on the accounts of The Atkinson Development Trust ('the charity') for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Anthony Deegan MAAT, MICB Pm. Dip.  
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service  
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service  
Burlington House  
3rd Floor, Suite 3b  
Crosby Road North  
Waterloo  
Liverpool  
L22 0LG

**THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161020

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# Accounts

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Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Registered Charity Number 1161020

# THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Improving local people's lives through art and heritage



**Trustees' Annual Report 2021-2022**

**The Atkinson Development Trust**  
**Trustees' Annual Report**  
**for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022**

**Reference and Administrative Details**

Charity name: The Atkinson Development Trust

Registered charity number: 1161020

Principal address:

The Atkinson  
Lord Street  
Southport  
MERSEYSIDE  
PR8 1DB

Trustees:

Jo Kay (Chair)  
Ian Bryden (Treasurer)  
Laura Bell  
Helen Birnbaum  
Jennifer Cope  
Councillor Janet Grace  
Emma Harrison (Designated Representative, The Atkinson)  
Lindsey Holding  
Nathan Marsh  
Stephen Whittle (Designated Representative, The Atkinson)

## Executive Summary

The Atkinson Development Trust continued to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic during the 2021/22 reporting period. Many of our activities were limited for at least part of the year, including The Atkinson Well-Being Choir, which was unable to meet in person in the first quarter and our Subsidised Tickets for Schools programme which was affected by the reduced seating capacity for The Atkinson's panto due to the need for audiences to be socially distanced.

However, the work we undertook in the previous year to determine the skill set and skills gap within our Board and the consequent development of our Skills Matrix, enabled us to undertake a comprehensive new Trustee recruitment programme. This resulted in the appointment of four excellent new Trustees, plus a highly skilled volunteer who took on an informal Membership Liaison Manager role. The Trust continued to meet via Zoom during this year but these new appointments brought fresh thinking and renewed vigour to our meetings. They also brought essential skills to our Board, which will ensure the Trust continues to provide effective and innovative support to The Atkinson and in bringing the heritage of Sefton alive for its visitors both local and from further afield.

Our membership scheme, which was only launched in the previous year, has performed very well, raising £1,535. This was ahead of our Year 1 income target of £1,500, despite the reduced number of visitors to The Atkinson.

As The Atkinson began to open its doors during this year, our unrestricted income received through collection boxes and events increased significantly, raising £3,444 in total. We also put the wheels in motion and completed much of the groundwork for launching a new Adopt A Teddy scheme - a fundraising initiative linked to an exhibition within The Atkinson. This will be launched in the next reporting period and will raise unrestricted income for the Trust.

Finally, we supported the acquisition or restoration of a number of key artefacts for The Atkinson's collections.

All in all, whilst we cannot deny that the ongoing pandemic has impacted the Trust's activities both fundraising and charitable during this year, we have increased our activity on the previous year and maintained our presence and effectiveness in achieving our aims during this challenging time.

## Who we are

**The Atkinson Development Trust** (TADT) is a small charity run by a committed Board of skilled volunteers and a part-time paid Administrator with a shared love of The Atkinson and Sefton.

We believe in the transformative power of art and that communities thrive best when they have civic pride, a sense of place and a feeling of connection and heritage within a community. The Atkinson Development Trust was established to help The Atkinson use its collections and building to make a positive impact on local people's lives and to tell Sefton's stories.



**The Atkinson** is the council-owned arts centre in the heart of Southport, which serves the whole borough of Sefton. The Atkinson is home to free-to-access galleries, museum and Southport's main library, plus a main fixed-seating theatre and smaller flexible seating Studio used for ticketed events spanning all types of performing arts, talks and film. Added to this is a social enterprise café run by Autism Initiatives and a gift shop.

## What we do

The Trust was set up to work in partnership with The Atkinson. We raise money from individuals, businesses and funding bodies in order to support The Atkinson to use its heritage and art collections to connect with people.

Our main focus is social impact: we have particular interest in supporting projects which benefit the wellbeing of the more disadvantaged and under-represented people in our local community. For example, children in areas of economic deprivation, disabled people and their families, or older people at risk of loneliness and isolation.

More broadly, our work aims to connect people with local stories and improve access to the collections and the building. We support conservation and acquisitions when this enables new stories to be shared with the public, or unlocks new engagement projects.

We work supportively with The Atkinson to expand and enhance their work. We do not work directly with beneficiaries and we do not influence the programming or running of the venue. The Trust operates within Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (Sefton MBC), Merseyside. Our work is primarily aimed at, but not limited to, those within the administrative area of Sefton Council and is concerned with the arts, cultural and heritage managed by Sefton MBC with a particular focus on The Atkinson.

Our ability to step outside the funding and strategic restrictions associated with the public sector means we are able to apply for different funding and open conversations with potential donors which a Council-run service would struggle to have. It has also allowed us to maximise public donations by claiming Gift Aid where possible.

## Our aims

- **To connect people with local stories and (global) cultural activity**  
Encouraging the public to participate in and contribute to arts, cultural and heritage activities. We want to bring people together, connect them with their community, celebrate the cultural heritage of the area and beyond to enable creative expression.
- **To improve access to and engagement with the collections and the building**  
Opening up Sefton's art, culture and heritage to everyone. This might mean improving physical access through better facilities or supporting the restoration of an artwork to enable it to go on public display.
- **To have a positive impact on local people's lives**  
Facilitating engagement with cultural activity for the positive impact it can have upon the lives and wellbeing of the public. We have a particular interest in people who are typically under-represented among arts audiences due to a range of social, economic and physical barriers which they may experience.

Statutory declaration: The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

## Format and function of the Trust

### Structure

The Atkinson Development Trust (TADT) is a charitable incorporated organisation which was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 23 March 2015.

The Trust is governed by a Board who are Trustees of the charity. TADT supports equal opportunities and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age. Prospective Trustees are targeted according to the skills needed by the Board. After recruitment and vetting, Trustees are appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Trustees. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role. They have individual and collective responsibility for the management of the charity and its funds.

### Governance

Governance of the Trust remained robust during the course of 2021-22. The following Trustees were appointed to the Board:

- Laura Bell, appointed 12 October 2021
- Helen Birnbaum, appointed 12 October 2021
- Nathan March, appointed 12 October 2021

The Trustees hold meetings every 4-6 weeks to discuss ideas and make decisions.

Day-to-day running of the Trust is delegated to the Administrator, with strategic steer from The Chair and all financial transactions are overseen by the Treasurer.

### Management

It is the Trustees' duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity might be exposed, and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis through regular meetings of the Trustees which cover operational and financial reviews.

In September 2021, we recruited a Membership Volunteer, Margaret Jolley, to help with the day-to-day administration and stewardship of our members. Margaret is overseen by the Chair and has done a fantastic job in implementing a regular communication calendar with new and existing members. We also have one employee - a paid, part-time freelance Administrator. Our Data Manager controls access to all data covered by GDPR and the Administrator has no access to the bank accounts or authority for authorising any payments,

Trustees regularly examine other risks that may become applicable as new situations arise, and develop policies and procedures to mitigate those risks.

## Overview of Activities in 2021/22

### Charitable Activities

As in previous years our two key charitable activities have been The Wellbeing Choir and Subsidised Tickets for Schools. Whilst both these projects were able to continue in some form during 2021/22 they continued to be hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### The Atkinson Wellbeing Choir

For the first quarter 21/22 the choir was unable to meet in person, but kept in contact via a WhatsApp group and the Zoom meetings we instigated, subsequently organised by the choir's leader. The Choir was able to meet once again on 7 September 2021 as Covid restrictions eased.



Members were increasingly encouraged to donate towards the cost of choir sessions as part of a planned move to a paid model by the end of the financial year, in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the choir. This change in funding model was implemented. Attendees now pay a small fee to cover the cost of the singing tuition. The Atkinson provides free space and staffing, and the charity will still fund any shortfall if required. It will be monitored in the first half of 2022/23 to ensure the Choir can continue under this self-funding model without attendees being excluded for financial reasons.

If the Wellbeing Choir is to continue as hoped as a self-funded venture, decisions have to be made about whether a second choir will be funded and/or if the Trust is required to support development of the Wellbeing Choir in some capacity going forward.

## Subsidised Tickets for Schools

Whilst The Atkinson was able to put on a Covid-compliant pantomime, seating capacity was significantly reduced: only a quarter of seats were available, to allow for social distancing. This radically limited what was possible in terms of offering Trust funded /subsidised seats to schools with high pupil premium (high number of pupils identified by the Government as being disadvantaged). The popularity of The Atkinson's panto at Christmas 2021 was significantly bolstered as it became the only professional pantomime offered in Southport and surrounding areas. Attendance was much higher than expected, and with the reduced, socially distanced capacity, there wasn't the spare capacity to invite schools, particularly those that needed financial assistance, to attend.

Instead, the Board made the decision to use some of the earmarked funds to enable a small party of vulnerable families being supported by Sefton Council's Social Services team to attend the pantomime for free, enabling them to share a cultural experience they'd not otherwise have been able to access. Sadly, the particular performance they attended was cut short due to an emergency evacuation. Unfortunately it wasn't possible to reschedule, as the event was close to the end of the run and other shows were sold out. We did not have direct contact details to invite the same families to return for a different event, so it was a disappointing outcome - however, with a longer lead-in this year, it's something we'd like to work on.

The Board will reconsider its approach to the funding of the subsidised Tickets for Schools scheme in 2022/23 to ensure the project is being most effective in giving disadvantaged young people the opportunity to attend live theatre.

Unspent funds committed to these projects in the accounts will be rolled over to the next financial year.

## Acquisitions and Restorations

In 2021/22 the Trust funded the acquisition of artworks for The Atkinson's collections:

- May 2021 - £2,925 towards the purchase of Gordon Cheung's Jin, Jin, Ji
- December 2021 - £2,500 for the purchase of Paul Kenny's Iona Sun

A winged heart scarab (pictured) from the Egyptology collection was sent for restoration, funded by the Trust. Unfortunately the restoration of this piece has been delayed due to ill-health of the restorer. It is hoped restoration will be completed within the next reporting period.



## Fundraising Activities

### Donations

In the later part of the year The Atkinson was able to re-open which increasingly enabled both cash donations at the site and online donations, albeit significantly lower than would be normal.

### Membership

Despite the challenges of another pandemic year, we made modest progress with sales of Memberships. At the end of the financial year and 13 months after the membership was relaunched we have 40 members, bringing in a total membership income of £1,535.00. This was just above our Year 1 income target of £1,500.00 and is a fantastic achievement considering the ongoing impact the pandemic had on recruitment and our ability to fulfil our membership promises with supporters. As we continue to move beyond the pandemic next year we are optimistic that membership will continue to grow both in supporter numbers and income.

### AmazonSmile

In November 2021, the Trust signed up to AmazonSmile which allows Amazon shoppers to select The Atkinson Development Trust to receive 0.5% of their purchase cost as a donation from Amazon Foundation. In 2021/22 reporting year, the Trust received a total donation of £11.65.

### Adopt A Teddy

During 2021/22 the Trust worked closely with The Atkinson on developing a new Adopt A Teddy fundraising initiative to link with The Atkinson new display of teddy bears (pictured).



The Trust allocated £2,500 to fund the starting of this fundraising initiative, which includes the design and creation of an adoption pack for donors.

The progress of this initiative has been delayed due to staff changes and shortages at The Atkinson but it is anticipated that it will be launched in the next reporting period.

### Unrestricted funds

As well as the £1,535.00 received from the Trust's relaunched membership scheme, unrestricted funds were received through cash donations via the collecting boxes, which provided £978.20 and donations for events, which raised £2,466.28. The Trust also applied for a grant from the Co-op but were unsuccessful.

### Restricted Funds

We received £785.48 from members of the Wellbeing Choir. This has been added to the budget which is dedicated for the Choir.

### Gift Aid

With donations dramatically reduced because of Covid closures we were only able to claim £246.50 for the period 2021 to 2022.

## **Awareness-Raising Activities**

Promotion of the Board's activities was put on hold largely due to the lack of footfall in The Atkinson, the restrictions on hard-copy materials in distribution racks and a lack of activity to promote (all due to Covid-19). There was also a lack of capacity amongst Trustees whilst we focussed on recruitment.

Membership was promoted via The Atkinson's digital marketing channels, including social media, e-newsletter, website plus in-house digital screens. When print could be re-introduced, A5 leaflets were produced and placed in key pick-up points throughout the building. The design of marketing assets for Membership was managed by the Board but paid for by The Atkinson's marketing department thanks to an underspend, since they too had been unable to produce print for much of the year.

## **Board Recruitment and Organisational Development**

Following the resignation of two Board Members in 2020/21, the Trust started this financial year with a comprehensive Trustee recruitment drive. In total we received nine applications, with five interviewed online by a panel of Trustees, led by the Chair. Each potential candidate was assessed against the skills matrix devised last year to ensure any new Trustee would help to fill skills gaps and bring the experience needed to create a robust and resilient Board.

Following the interviews, four candidates were invited to attend a Board meeting (online) as observers. Three candidates were subsequently invited to join the Board. All three became Board Members on 12 October 2021. Another candidate was asked to take on a newly created voluntary role of Membership Liaison Manager, which she accepted.

Due to the large number of applicants and the impact of the pandemic, the recruitment process took longer than anticipated and required significant input from the Chair and other Trustees. However, we believe this was time well spent as the new Trustees have brought renewed energy and enthusiasm to the Trust and its future activities.

By the end of the 21/22 financial year, with Covid-19 restrictions beginning to ease, and three new Trustees in place, we began a period of review, discussion and planning. This allowed us the space to reflect on how we work, what we want to achieve, and how we should develop and change to enable this. We are looking forward to seeing the rewards of this in the next financial year, as fundraising and activity plans progress.

## **Financial Review**

### **Situation at year end**

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £6,726.77.

The total expenditure in the year amounted to £9,400.92.

Cash funds last year end: £38,647.48.

Cash funds this year end: £35,973.33.

### **Reserves policy**

In 2016, the Trustees agreed a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds of a minimum of £10,000. The Trust holds reserves in order that it can continue to achieve its objectives should there be a reduction in incoming resources, such as experienced during the pandemic. However, careful management has meant that we haven't had to use any of the reserve.

Reserves in this context mean funds that are freely available for the Trust's general purposes after all commitments have been met.


As at 31 March 2022 the Trust had remaining unrestricted funds (after reserves) of £7,961.65.

At year end The Trust feels that we have managed our residual funds effectively during the pandemic crisis. We have provisions of £18,011.68 in place to cover previously planned activities and have a reserve of £10,000. The remaining £7,961.65 is not a large sum but is expected to grow as activities resume at The Atkinson and online and onsite donations are able to recommence. It is also hoped that Memberships will start to grow as people are once again able to interact with The Atkinson.

### **Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they approve the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of The Atkinson Development Trust's Trustees:

Signature:.....

Name: Jo Kay, Chair of The Atkinson Development Trust

Date: 7 September 2022

# Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Atkinson Development Trust For the year ended 31st March 2022

I report on the accounts of The Atkinson Development Trust ('the charity') for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## Independent examiner's statement


I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Anthony Deegan MAAT, MICB Pm. Dip.  
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service  
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service  
Burlington House  
3rd Floor, Suite 3b  
Crosby Road North  
Waterloo  
Liverpool  
L22 0LG

<b>THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST</b>	As at: 31/03/2022		
Income & Expenditure Account			
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Individual Giving	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership	1,535.00	0.00	1,535.00
Donations - Restricted	0.00	785.48	785.48
Donations - Unrestricted	4,444.48	0.00	4,444.48
Grants - Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants - Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gift Aid	246.50	0.00	246.50
Miscellaneous	(295.00)	0.00	(295.00)
Interest	10.31	0.00	10.31
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>5,941.29</b>	<b>785.48</b>	<b>6,726.77</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Projects - Restricted	0.00	4,739.50	4,739.50
Projects - Unrestricted	3,497.27	0.00	3,497.27
Administration Costs	992.84	0.00	992.84
Membership Scheme Costs	171.31	0.00	171.31
Marketing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charity Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>4,661.42</b>	<b>4,739.50</b>	<b>9,400.92</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>1,279.87</b>	<b>(3,954.02)</b>	<b>(2,674.15)</b>
Cash Funds Last Year End	26,576.78	12,070.70	38,647.48
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	1,279.87	(3,954.02)	(2,674.15)
Cash Funds This Year End	<b>27,856.65</b>	<b>8,116.68</b>	<b>35,973.33</b>
<b>Outstanding Commitments</b>			
Bridging the Gap	0.00	7,345.70	7,345.70
Speakers	0.00	300.00	300.00
Scarab Belt Restoration	500.00	100.00	600.00
Choir 2021/22	1,232.01	370.98	1,602.99
Free Tickets 2021/22	3,938.50	0.00	3,938.50
Marketing for Membership launch	1,590.21	0.00	1,590.21
Subscription to Matterport 2021	(0.00)	0.00	(0.00)
Subscription to Matterport 2022	134.28	0.00	134.28
Adopt an Object	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Minimum funds to remain in Trust Accounts	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>19,895.00</b>	<b>8,116.68</b>	<b>28,011.68</b>
<b>Funds remaining after commitments</b>	<b>7,961.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,961.65</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
Cash Funds This Year End			<b>35,973.33</b>
<b>Accruals</b>			
<b>Monetary Assets:</b>			
Coop Current Account			2962.49
Coop Deposit Account			33010.84
			<b>35,973.33</b>
Signed			
Jo Kay, Chair			
Date	9th May 2022		
Diff	Pending Payment		0.00

**THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1161020

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# Accounts

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# THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Improving local people's lives through art and heritage



*Photo credit: Matt Dodd*

## Trustees' Annual Report 2020-2021

**The Atkinson Development Trust**  
**Trustees' Annual Report**  
**for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021**

**Reference and Administrative Details**

Charity name: The Atkinson Development Trust

Registered charity number: 1161020

Principal address:

The Atkinson  
Lord Street  
Southport  
MERSEYSIDE  
PR8 1DB

Trustees:

Jo Kay (Chair)  
Samantha Browne (Administrator)  
Ian Bryden (Treasurer)  
Simon Dredge  
Councillor Janet Grace  
Emma Harrison (Designated Representative, The Atkinson)  
Lindsey Holding  
Stephen Whittle (Designated Representative, The Atkinson)

## Executive Summary

This has been a difficult year for charities and The Atkinson Development Trust has been no exception.

We began the year in the early days of the global COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020 the government told the public to cease social contact and The Atkinson along with arts organisations across the country closed their doors.

We curtailed all of our primary activities for the whole of 2020-2021.

The Wellbeing Choir was unable to meet and whilst we encouraged them to stay connected socially online, virtual choir practice was impractical due to the time delay on Zoom.

Although The Atkinson was able to safely stage a pantomime, seating was socially-distanced, which dramatically reduced capacity. In any case, it would have been unlikely that schools could safely transport groups of schoolchildren to the theatre. This, coupled with the venue's pressing need to make income on the small number of seats available, meant we decided not to offer Free Tickets for Schools.

An important strand of income for us are the donations made by visitors to The Atkinson and online donations when buying tickets for events at The Atkinson. With the premises closed for a significant part of our financial year, income has been considerably smaller than usual.

Grants are normally given for planned activities that are supported by our charity and, with activities curtailed, opportunities to apply successfully for grants have fallen away.

Monthly board meetings have been conducted via Zoom, and this has worked well to keep us all connected, although remote working combined with all the restrictions of the ever-shifting situation has found us feeling less creative and productive.



During the latter part of 2020 two resignations meant we lost a Trustee and an Administrator/Trustee, due to changes in their personal circumstances. This left us somewhat limited in resources but a programme of active recruitment should see our skillset strengthened and Trustee numbers increased by the middle of 2021.

Whilst it has been a frustrating year we have nevertheless made some progress. We changed banks from NatWest to Co-op in order to gain online banking functionality. We developed a Skills Matrix to identify skills gaps and focus our Trustee recruitment.

And we launched a new Membership system to enable people to deepen their relationship with The Atkinson and provide the Trust with another strand of income to underpin our charitable work.

## Who we are

**The Atkinson Development Trust (TADT)** is a small charity run by a committed Board of skilled volunteers and a part-time paid Administrator with a shared love of The Atkinson and Sefton.

We believe in the transformative power of art and that communities thrive best when they have civic pride, a sense of place and a feeling of connection within a community.

**The Atkinson Development Trust was established to help The Atkinson use its collections and building to make a positive impact on local people's lives and to tell Sefton's stories.**

**The Atkinson** is the council-owned arts centre in the heart of Southport, which serves the whole borough of Sefton. The Atkinson is home to free-to-access galleries, museum and Southport's main library, plus a main fixed-seating theatre and smaller flexible seating Studio used for ticketed events spanning all types of performing arts, talks and film. Added to this is a social enterprise café, run by Autism Initiatives, a gift shop and Southport's One Stop Shop.



*Photo credit: Matt Dodd*

## What we do

The Trust was set up to work in partnership with The Atkinson. We raise money from individuals, businesses and funding bodies in order to support The Atkinson to use its heritage and art collections to connect with people.

Our main focus is social impact: we have particular interest in supporting projects which benefit the wellbeing of the more vulnerable and under-served people in our community. For example, children in areas of economic deprivation, disabled people and their families, or older people at risk of loneliness and isolation.

More broadly, our work aims to connect people with local stories and improve access to the collections and the building. We support conservation and acquisitions when this enables new stories to be shared with the public, or unlocks new engagement projects.

We work supportively with The Atkinson to expand and enhance their work. We do not work directly with beneficiaries and we do not influence the programming or running of the venue. The Trust operates within Sefton Council, Merseyside. Our work is primarily aimed at, but not limited to, those within the administrative area of Sefton Council.

Our ability to step outside the funding and strategic restrictions associated with the public sector means we are able to apply for different funding and open conversations with potential donors which a Council-run service would struggle to have.

## Our aims

- **To connect people with cultural activity and the stories of Sefton**  
To encourage the public to participate in and contribute to arts, cultural and heritage activities, managed for Sefton Council with a particular focus on The Atkinson. We want to bring people together, connect them with their community, celebrate the cultural heritage of the area and enable creative expression.
- **To improve access to the collections and the building**  
Opening up art, culture and heritage for public benefit, by supporting cultural services managed for Sefton Council, particularly by The Atkinson, and promoting high quality services. This might mean improving physical access through better facilities or supporting the restoration of an artwork to enable it to go on public display.
- **To have a positive impact on local people's lives**  
Valuing engagement with cultural activity for the positive impact it can have upon the lives and wellbeing of the public. We have a particular interest in people who are typically under-represented among arts audiences due to a range of social, economic and physical barriers which they may experience.

Statutory declaration: The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

## Format and function of the Trust

### Structure

The Atkinson Development Trust (TADT) is a charitable incorporated organisation which was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 23 March 2015.

The Trust is governed by a Board who are Trustees of the charity. After recruitment and vetting, Trustees are appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Trustees. All Trustees are briefed on their responsibilities as Trustees prior to their acceptance of the role. They have individual and collective responsibility for the management of the charity and its funds.

### Governance

Governance of the Trust remained robust during the course of 2020-21. The following Trustees were appointed to the Board:

- Jennifer Cope, (British Museum Trainee), appointed 17 February 2021

The following Trustees resigned due to the increase of outside commitments:

- Simon Dredge resigned 28 July 2020
- Samantha Browne resigned 5 February 2021

TADT supports equal opportunities and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

Prospective Trustees are targeted according to the skills needed by the Board. Successful applicants are invited to attend Trustees' meetings as an observer. If the Trustees present at the meeting approve the applicant, and the applicant is in agreement, they will be offered a position on the Board. Once elected, new Trustees are made familiar with the activities and policies of TADT. As well as receiving a copy of the Constitution, they are supplied with the previous year's accounts for review along with the Trust's Handbook for Trustees. New Trustees are required to be fully conversant with the responsibilities and obligations in carrying out their role as a Trustee as defined on the Charity Commission website. They are required to sign a Trustee Eligibility Declaration confirming that they are eligible to be a Trustee as defined by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees hold meetings every 4-6 weeks to discuss ideas and make decisions.

Day-to-day running of the Trust is delegated to the Administrator, with strategic steer from The Chair and all financial transactions are overseen by the Treasurer.

## Management

It is the Trustees' duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity might be exposed, and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis through regular meetings of the Trustees which cover operational and financial reviews.

We don't currently have any volunteers, but we do have one employee - a paid, part-time Administrator. Our Data Manager controls access to all data covered by GDPR and the Administrator has no access to the bank accounts or authority for authorising any payments,

Trustees regularly examine other risks that may become applicable as new situations arise, and develop policies and procedures to mitigate those risks.

## Overview of Activities in 2020/21

### Charitable Activities

Our two, key charitable activities, The Wellbeing Choir and Free Tickets For Schools, were both hit by the pandemic. The choir was unable to meet in person. Online singing, while considered, was decided not to be viable as the Choir Leader did not have access to the specific production equipment needed to manage virtual participation. Since the original aim of the choir was to bring a sense of community to people who felt isolated, the Trustees held a Zoom get-together with members of The Atkinson's Wellbeing Choir and their Choir Leader in November 2020 to keep them connected. Members also kept in touch via a WhatsApp group which provided social interaction and much-needed mutual support in difficult times. The get-together was warmly welcomed and the group decided after the pilot meeting to continue regular Zoom socials under their own steam.

Whilst The Atkinson was able to put on a Covid-compliant pantomime, seating capacity was significantly reduced, radically limiting what was possible in terms of offering free seats to schools with high pupil premium. The schools themselves were focussed on navigating the challenges of COVID-19 and arranging school trips to the theatre was low on their agenda. Therefore we decided not to forge ahead with this project at this time.

Unspent funds committed to these projects in the accounts will be rolled over to the next financial year. We hope to re-start the Wellbeing Choir in September 2021 and plan to run the Free Tickets for Schools scheme for the winter 2021 pantomime.

### Lego Challenge

The idea for this came from Trustee, Lindsey Holding. With limited access for the public to an

exciting Lego exhibition, *Brick Wonders*, which ran in The Atkinson from 27 June - 29 August 2020, online activity was encouraged by inviting people to create their own Lego creations and to share them through social media. There was no prize offered (although there was the potential for inclusion in the exhibition), but there was a good level of participation which produced some interesting and varied creations.

We had allocated funds to underpin some hands-on engagement work on this exhibition which did not take place. This opportunity has now passed so funds will be reabsorbed to be used on a future engagement opportunity.



### **The Triumph of Art**

The Atkinson hosted a virtual exhibition celebrating the restoration of an important painting, given to The Atkinson in the late 19th century. Due to its poor condition, *The Triumph of Art* by Nicolas Pierre Loir had not been exhibited in over a century.



The painting is an homage to Jean Baptiste Colbert, a major patron of the arts and a powerful minister who helped Louis XIV rule over France in the 1600s. The Trust were specifically keen to enable an unflinching exploration of an uncomfortable story which accompanies this painting: Colbert wrote the Code Noir - regulations covering the lives and deaths of slaves in 17th century France.

We invited Dr Onyeka Nubia to comment on the painting and the patron. Dr Nubia is a pioneering and internationally recognised historian, writer and presenter who is reinventing perceptions of the Renaissance, British history, Black Studies and intersectionalism.

As part of a programme of virtual events during lockdown, Dr Onyeka Nubia gave a talk on *'The Triumph of Art'*, Colbert and the Code Noir, delivered online on 15 October 2020. It remains available to watch on The Atkinson's website here:

<https://www.theatkinson.co.uk/events/colbert-code-noire/>

## Winged Heart Scarab Conservation

The Trust agreed to gift £280 to The Atkinson to enable the conservation of a magnificent and rare Egyptian Winged Heart Scarab (1069 - 525 BC) from The Atkinson's collection. It was also agreed that the Trust would fund the video recording of the restoration for later publication.



The purpose of this is to produce a short and engaging film to show the conservation process. This aims to tap into the current awareness and interest in restoration - thanks to the mainstream appeal of BBC's *The Repair Shop* - to leverage public donations for future conservation work by showing people the immediate impact and long term legacy their donation could have.

The funds have been committed in the accounts and will be paid to The Atkinson in the next financial year.

## *Jin Jin Ji* Acquisition

The Trust agreed to part-fund (£2,925) the purchase of *Jin Jin Ji*, a painting by Gordon Cheung. The painting will join The Atkinson's collection in 2021/22.



The Atkinson have acknowledged that artists from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds are underrepresented amongst their collections, and we were keen to support their acquisition policy which aims towards a rebalancing of the collections.

The amount is committed in the accounts and will be paid to The Atkinson in the next financial year.

## Re-launch of Membership Scheme

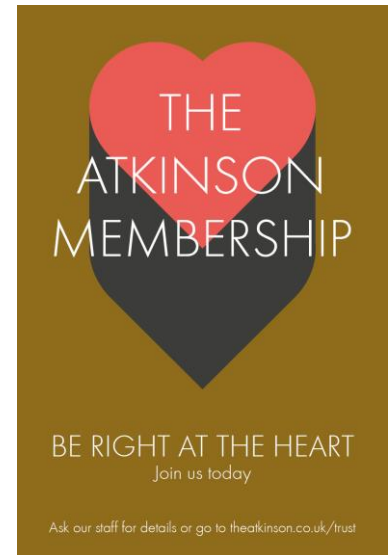
The Trust's membership scheme was relaunched on 14 February 2021 with a stronger package which is designed to be more attractive to potential Members and more easily managed by the team.

Much of the system has been automated, Membership is much more affordable for people with low or no income, and provides more benefits. It can be bought and renewed online, and bought as a gift. New messaging has been developed to promote it, and assets produced for the membership pack.

Given the challenges of lockdown - the venue closed much of the time, and no hard-copy marketing materials available when they were open - this was a soft launch, but we are delighted to say that there has been a modest but promising start. There is a provision in the accounts to permit later promotion of the scheme.

### **Fundraising Activities**

The pandemic severely restricted the Trust's ability to raise funds. However, during the relatively short period that The Atkinson was able to admit the public to museums and galleries collecting boxes were relocated to best give opportunities to donate in the one way systems around the building. The Atkinson website was also amended to give more opportunities to donate to the Trust.



### **Unrestricted funds**

Donation boxes, fundraising events and online giving raised £240.00. Revenue from the Trust's membership scheme will largely fall into financial year 2021/22 due to the February 2021 relaunch.

### **Restricted Funds**

We received £100 from The Rushworth Trust directly supporting the Wellbeing Choir and this has been added to the budget for the Choir.

### **Gift Aid**

We registered for Gift Aid and were able to claim back to when the Charity started in 2015. £2592.50 was received for the period 2015 to 2018.

## **Awareness-raising**

### **External Awareness-raising and Promotion**

As a result of the pandemic, with venues closed, print removed from racks, newspapers not being published for much of the time, and comparatively little Trust activity to promote, we have had limited opportunity to raise awareness and promote our work.

Much work has been done to raise our profile within The Atkinson website and we are pleased



with the results, but have to accept that this channel of communication is speaking to an audience who are, by and large, already supportive.

### **Internal Awareness-raising and Advocacy**

Members of the Board, particularly the Chair, Administrator and Treasurer have liaised remotely with the team at The Atkinson upon the improvement of the website and the implementation of systems in support of the new membership scheme. The two Board members from The Atkinson, Stephen Whittle and Emma Harrison have been able to promote the plans and ambitions of the Trust while, at the same time, have been soliciting ideas and views from The Atkinson's teams. We are hopeful that this contact will have, at least, maintained levels of awareness and advocacy within The Atkinson.

## **Financial Review**

### **Bank**

During the year we switched our bank accounts from NatWest to Co-op. Natwest are very inflexible and could offer us no online facility for viewing transactions and making payments.

The Co-op Bank caters for all of our needs, permitting online banking. Online payments require two authorisers; the originator (Treasurer) and another Trustee, currently either the Chair or Stephen Whittle.

The total incoming resources for the year amounted to £2,841.06.

The total expenditure in the year amounted to £4,834.36.

Cash funds last year end: £40,640.78.

Cash funds this year end: £38,647.48.

### **Reserves policy**

In 2016, the Trustees agreed a policy of holding reserves of unrestricted funds of a minimum of £10,000. The Trust holds reserves in order that it can continue to achieve its objectives should there be a reduction in incoming resources, such as experienced during the pandemic. However, careful management has meant that we haven't had to use any of the reserve.

Reserves in this context mean funds that are freely available for the Trust's general purposes after all commitments have been met.

As at 31 March 2021 the Trust had remaining unrestricted funds (after reserves) of £5963.27.

At year end The Trust feels that we have managed our residual funds effectively during the Pandemic crisis. We are pleased to confirm that we have provisions in place to cover previously planned activities and have a reserve of £10,000. The remaining £5,963.27 is not a large sum but is considered to be more than sufficient to cover administrative activities until such time as

donations and active fundraising are able to recommence.

### **Declaration**


The Trustees declare that they approve the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of The Atkinson Development Trust's Trustees:

Signature:.....

Name: Jo Kay, Chair of The Atkinson Development Trust

Date: 15 July 2021

<b>THE ATKINSON DEVELOPMENT TRUST</b>	As at: 31/08/2021		
Income & Expenditure Account			
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Individual Giving	0.00	0.00	0.00
Membership	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations - Restricted	0.00	100.00	100.00
Donations - Unrestricted	140.00	0.00	140.00
Grants - Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants - Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gift Aid	2,592.50	0.00	2,592.50
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	8.56	0.00	8.56
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>2,741.06</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>2,841.06</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Projects - Restricted	0.00	500.00	500.00
Projects - Unrestricted	3,578.27	0.00	3,578.27
Administration Costs	726.70	0.00	726.70
Membership Scheme Costs	29.39	0.00	29.39
Marketing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charity Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>4,334.36</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>4,834.36</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>(1,593.30)</b>	<b>(400.00)</b>	<b>(1,993.30)</b>
Cash Funds Last Year End	28,170.08	12,470.70	40,640.78
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(1,593.30)	(400.00)	(1,993.30)
<b>Cash Funds This Year End</b>	<b>26,576.78</b>	<b>12,070.70</b>	<b>38,647.48</b>
<b>Outstanding Commitments</b>			
Vanwall Sponsorship	1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00
Bridging the Gap	0.00	9,961.00	9,961.00
Restoration Project	0.00	709.70	709.70
Bessie Downs Exhibition	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Speakers	0.00	300.00	300.00
Scarab Belt Restoration	500.00	0.00	500.00
Choir 2021	3,200.00	100.00	3,300.00
Free Tickets 2020	4,233.50	0.00	4,233.50
Marketing	1,517.97	0.00	1,517.97
Subscription to Matterport 2021	62.04	0.00	62.04
Minimum funds to remain in Trust Accounts	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>20,613.51</b>	<b>12,070.70</b>	<b>32,684.21</b>
<b>Funds remaining after commitments</b>	<b>5,963.27</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,963.27</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
Cash Funds This Year End			<b>38,647.48</b>
<b>Accruals</b>			
<b>Monetary Assets:</b>			
Coop Current Account			5646.95
Coop Deposit Account			33000.53
			<b>38,647.48</b>
Signed			
Jo Kay, Chair			
Date	16th July 2021		

# Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Atkinson Development Trust For the year ended 31st March 2021

I report on the accounts of The Atkinson Development Trust ('the charity') for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



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