THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1161563

Details

Other names	THE ORWELL PRIZE
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2015-05-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Orwell Foundation Institute of Advanced Studies Wilkins Building Ucl London WC1E 6BT
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Website	www.orwellfoundation.com

Activities

Objects: The objects of the CIO are: 1. THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION THE PROVISION OF CULTURAL EVENTS, DEBATES, ONLINE RESOURCES, AND ANNUAL PRIZES. 2. THE PROMOTION OF THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

Activities: PROVISION OF ANNUAL PRIZES, CULTURAL EVENTS AND DEBATES

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-30	£193,536	£268,171	-	-
2024-08-30	£221,828	£266,798	-	-
2023-08-30	£204,995	£235,855	-	-
2022-08-30	£127,825	£174,900	-	-
2021-08-30	£191,383	£127,450	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Lord Nigel Kim Darroch KCMG	Chair	2026-01-31
Andrew Peck		2020-05-06
Deborah Lincoln		2021-12-13
Gavin Kelly		2019-11-25
Jack Sedman		2025-10-09
Janine Gibson		2024-10-28
Kamran Abbasi		2024-10-28
Najma Finlay		2025-10-09
SU-MEI THOMPSON		2018-05-10
Sameer Padania		2023-10-09
Stephen Armstrong		2020-05-06

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THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1161563

Accounts

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Registered Charity No 1161563

TRUSTEES

Lord Ken Macdonald KC Chair
Kamran Abbasi *joined 30/01/25*
Stephen Armstrong
Najma Finlay *joined 09/10/25*
Janine Gibson *joined 30/01/25*
Kathy Harvey *until 07/07/25*
Gavin Kelly
Deborah Lincoln
Sameer Padania
Andrew Peck
Jack Sedman *joined 09/10/25*
Liz Sich *until 07/07/25*
Su-Mei Thompson
Boyd Tonkin *until 07/07/25*
Andrew Williams *until 06/09/25*
Ruby Alexander *Trainee Trustee until 09/10/25*
Bella Rew *joined as Trainee Trustee 09/10/24*
Noah Robinson *Trainee Trustee until 09/10/25*

COUNCIL

Richard Blair
Bill Hamilton
David Taylor
Hugh Tomlinson KC
Archie Blair *joined as Trainee Council Member 30/01/25*

MANAGEMENT

Professor Jean Seaton Director
Liz Wallace Deputy Director
Georgina Faulkner Finance Manager
Tabby Hayward Youth Prize Manager *until 12/12/24*
Sam Hill Youth Prize Manager *from 06/01/25*
James Tookey Books Prizes Manager
Jeremy Wikeley Communications Manager
Graham Self Administrator

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Orwell Foundation,
Institute of Advanced Studies,
University College London,
Gower Street,
London WC1E 6BT

BANKERS

Barclays Bank,
193 Camden High Street,
London NW1 7PJ

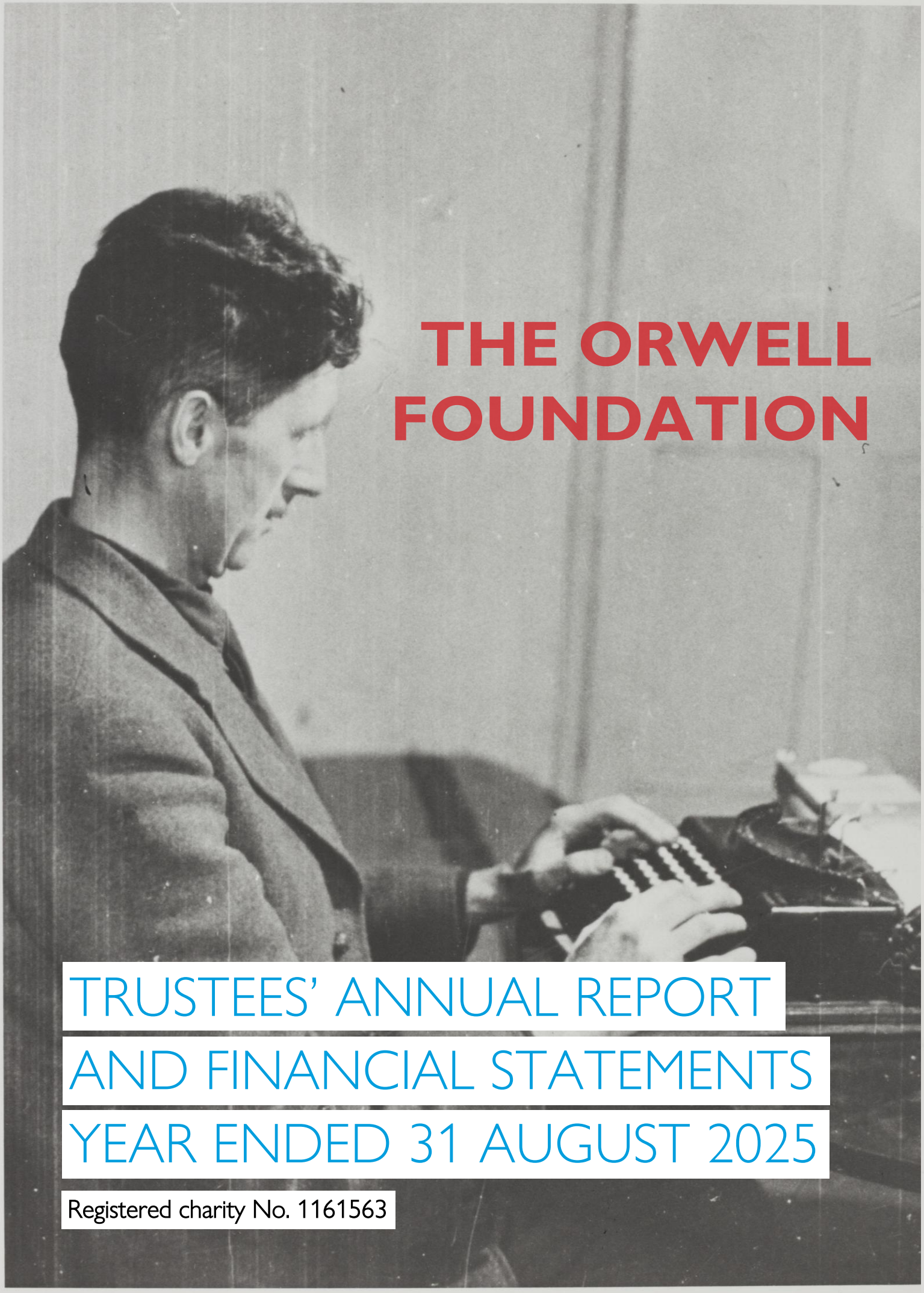
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

Gravita Audit Oxford LLP,
First Floor, Park Central 40-41, Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1JD

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), *Accounting and Reporting by Charities* (revised 2015 FRS 102) financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing constitution.

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

www.orwellfoundation.com



THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Registered charity No. 1161563

Front cover images: (from top left to right)

- Lorna Tucker, Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness 2025 judge, and Greg Hurst, Director of Communications and Public Engagement at the Centre for Homelessness Impact, outside Conway Hall[A]
- 2025 Orwell Youth Prize judges Manveen Rava and Gary Snapper presenting the 2025 awards[A]
- Director of The Orwell Foundation Jean Seaton with Orwell Prize for Journalism 2025 chair of judges Matt Walsh[A]
- Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe in conversation at Southbank Centre following her 2024 Orwell Lecture[A]
- 2025 Orwell Youth Prize recipients on stage at Conway Hall[A]
- 2025 Orwell Prize for Political Fiction judges Laura Battle, Matthew Beaumont and Jim Crace outside Conway Hall[A]
- Graphic created for Orwell Youth Fellows project *Songs of Cygnus*[B]
- Clive Cowdery, Founder and Chairman of the Resolution Group, announcing the relaunch of The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils at the 2025 Orwell Prize Ceremony[A]
- Guests at the 2025 Orwell Prize Ceremony[A]
- Surfing Sofas performing at the 2025 Orwell Prize Ceremony[A]
- Donal Ryan, 2025 Orwell Prize for Political Fiction winner with Political Fiction chair of judges, Jim Crace[A]
- Jenny Kleeman, 2025 Orwell Prize for Journalism winner, receiving her award for Ken MacDonald, The Orwell Foundation Chair of Trustees[A]

Image on previous page:

- 'Orwell at work'[C]

Photo credits:

[A] *Facundo Arrizabalaga*

[B] *Orwell Youth Fellows*

[C] *Courtesy of the Orwell Archive, UCL Special Collections*

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INTRODUCTION FROM OUR CHAIR

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

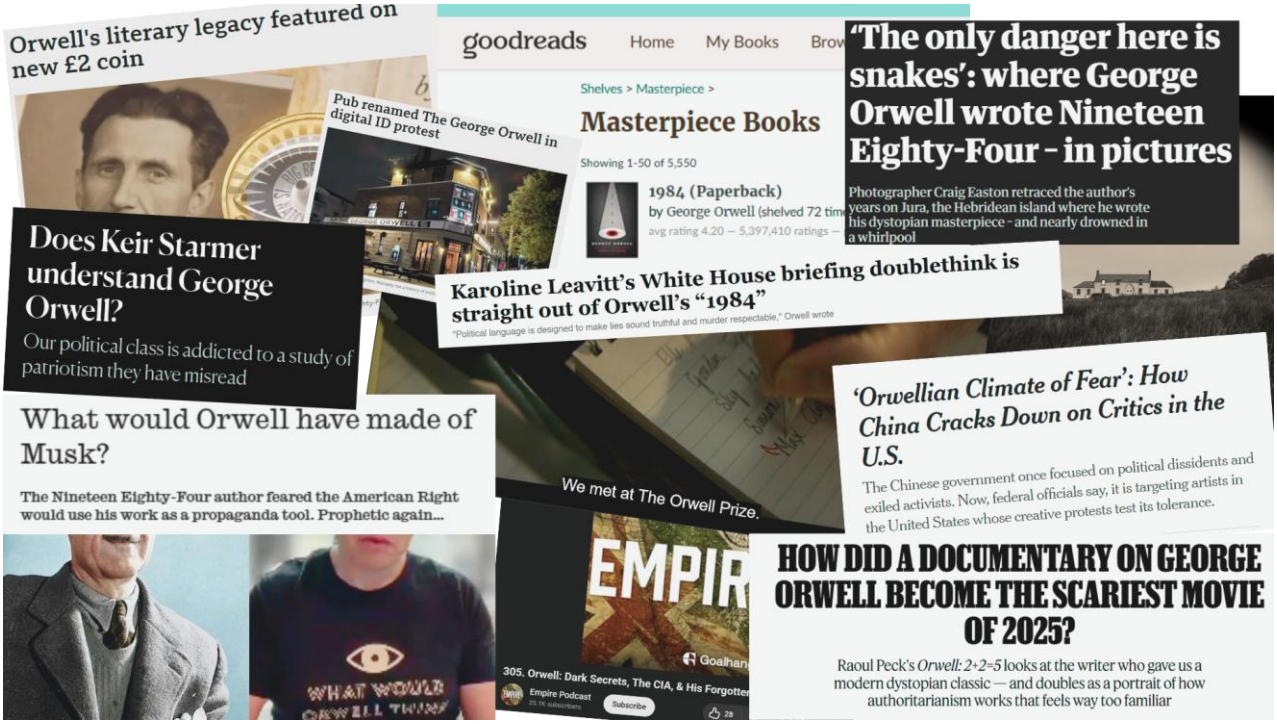
2025 has been another busy and successful year for The Orwell Foundation, which continues to build its reputation for celebrating the legacy of George Orwell, and for awarding the UK's premier prizes for journalism and political writing. Again, my thanks go to our hard working and committed staff and to our enthusiastic and much valued trustees. I also pay the warmest tribute to the continuing generosity of our wonderful donors and supporters. In a challenging environment for fund-raising, the Foundation depends on your far-sighted support. Your generosity means everything to us.

The world remains a place of disinformation and dark propaganda. Assaults on objective truth have a clear aim- to drain confidence that it is any longer possible to distinguish between what is real and what is false. This perversion of human understanding, and its inevitable spawning of cruelty and violence, were foreseen by Orwell in many of his greatest works. In his attachment to truth, clarity and honest writing, he provided a beacon that burns brightly, shaming corruption in public discourse, even in our world today.

So, once again over this past year, our annual festival, our prizes and our lectures have reflected this incomparable legacy, needed now more than ever. Once again, with your help, we are proud to continue our work in George Orwell's honour, remembering always his lifelong ambition 'to make political writing into an art'.

Lord Ken Macdonald KC
Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Orwell Foundation

GEORGE ORWELL TODAY



In Britain in 2025, protestors against Government policies have attacked 'Orwellian' arrests just as right-wing media outlets have criticised France's President Macron for what they perceive as 'Orwellian free speech crackdowns'. It has become impossible to track the many, varied – and often contradictory – uses and abuses of Orwell's name and values in the media and across political life. This is true nowhere more so than in the US. As Orwell biographer and member of our Council, DJ Taylor, commented so astutely in *The Observer*

> *'The Nineteen Eighty-Four author feared the American Right would use his work as a propaganda tool. Prophetic again.'*

Before Orwell's death in January 1950, a statement penned by him appeared across the Atlantic. As Taylor states, it confirmed that his final, and most celebrated, work of fiction was not an attack on socialism per se but rather an exposé of totalitarianism. As the tuberculosis that was soon to kill Orwell took hold, he became acutely aware of the ways in which his dystopian novel would be used by political opponents on both sides of the divide. Yet, it is important to remember that, around the world, George Orwell's writing encapsulates the hopes, as well as the fears and schisms, of our time.

One shining and perhaps little-known example of this, comes in his devotion to environmentalism, decades before the cause was widely understood. In 1946 he wrote:

> *'The planting of a tree…is a gift which you can make to posterity at almost no cost and with almost no trouble, and if the tree takes root it will far outlive the visible effect of any of your other actions, good or evil.'*

The surviving copies of his domestic diaries, housed with the rest of the UNESCO-registered George Orwell Archive in University College London, detail the goats, geese and chickens kept by George and his wife, Eileen, at their Hertfordshire cottage in the late 1930s. Attention and delight is given to the bounty of vegetables, fruit and flowers they produced and the number of eggs laid.

What is clear as we consider Orwell's legacy, is that, through his writing and the way in which he lived his life, he embodied intellectual courage, valued decency and integrity and, above all, respect for the truth. He believed firmly in the right to freedom of expression and he would seek to engage in difficult conversations, not shut them down. And so, at this moment of great global insecurity, it is a source of hope to all of us in the Foundation that readers continue to be drawn to Orwell's journalism, non-fiction books and novels in such numbers.

HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS TO KEEP HIS LEGACY ALIVE

The Orwell Foundation is the registered charity, authorised by the estate, to uphold the visionary writer's impressive legacy. In her Orwell Lecture (December 2024), Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, summarised beautifully what our charity exists to do:

> *"The Orwell Foundation has done remarkable work in bringing together writers, scholars, academics and journalists to acclaim and encourage what meant so much to George Orwell himself, including freedom and truth. Through his graceful explorations of these themes in fiction and essays alike, Orwell warned us of the rise of totalitarianism. It remains important to celebrate freedom, specifically during hard times such as those we currently bear witness to, with democracy in decline and humanity at risk."*

It began as a single prize - The Orwell Prize – funded by Orwell's first biographer, the late Sir Bernard Crick. He devoted his royalties to encourage the work of young writers and the first Orwell Prize was awarded in 1994. Soon, the annual lecture in George Orwell's memory was added, thanks to support from *The Political Quarterly*. Professor Jean Seaton took over as Director in 2007 and, with the generous support of Richard Blair, The Media Standards Trust, The Joseph Rowntree Foundation and many others, she went on to grow the authority and reach of the charity's work. Professor Seaton launched a suite of respected prizes, grew a Youth Prize and ran wide-ranging programmes of challenging events, dramatised live readings and important lectures.

Three decades on from their inception, the Orwell Prizes are among the most prestigious in the English-speaking world, praised for their independence and integrity. In 2025, the Foundation runs four *adult* prizes in addition to The Orwell Youth Prize:

1. The Orwell Prize for Political Writing (non-fiction books)
2. The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction
3. The Orwell Prize for Journalism
4. The Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness (sponsored and supported by the Centre for Homelessness Impact since 2022)
5. The Orwell Youth Prize

In all that we do, we aim to use Orwell's name, and authority scrupulously. Through our writing Prizes, open to all secondary school children and adults in the UK (and students following a British curriculum abroad), we work to inspire and support the current, and the next, generation of clear, brave writers. Orwell's commitment to truth and clarity of expression is rightly valued across the world while his warnings about the corruption of language and the capacity of power and technology to control even consciousness speak to the challenges of our era.

FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC REVIEW 2025 - 2030

In May 2025, the Orwell Foundation's Strategic Plan was adopted by the Board, setting out 3 key aims for the charity over the next five years:

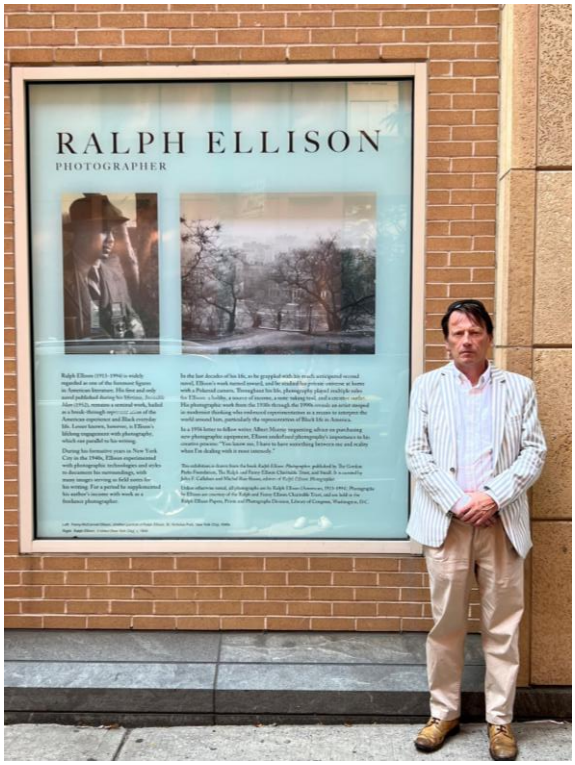
1. Cultivating understanding of Orwell and his works
2. Connecting with audiences on Orwell's values
3. Encouraging courageous, clear new writing and journalism

Please see the attached presentation (appendix 1) for greater detail on the roadmap to achieving these aims but a key element is that we plan to take forward the Prizes and associated events in reach and scope, expanding some internationally. Launching the Orwell Foundation fully in the United States is central to our mission because this is where Orwell is most contested and where we believe his values are best placed to make a difference to public life.

We developed our work in this area with two trips to New York this year. In September 2024, the Foundation's Deputy Director and Council Member, and Orwell biographer, David Taylor visited the Lotos Club where they met Dr. Charles Coutinho, who hosts a podcast on New Books Network and kindly offered his support as a Patron. They also had fascinating meetings with curators at The Morgan Library and New York Public Library and met key faculty members at NYU including its Head of History and lead curator for its Tamiment-Wagner Collections. It was here that the idea for the 2026 Kimmel Windows exhibition took form.

In March 2025, Orwell's son, Richard Blair joined David Taylor and Liz Wallace on a second trip to New York. They held meetings at Columbia Journalism School, with journalists and executives from TIME Magazine and Semafor, and with Russell Pennoyer, direct descendant of JP Morgan who grew up in the house attached to the Morgan Library. The Foundation team gave talks in the city's Lotos Club and to the New York staff of Argus Media (annual sponsors of the Foundation). In all meetings, they explored the potential for setting up an International Orwell Prize for Journalism as well as speaking to potential donors. Among the guests at the Lotos Club talk was New York Literary Agent, Ann Tanenbaum, who generously offered her support as a patron.

KIMMEL WINDOWS EXHIBITION



From March 2026, New York University's Kimmel Windows will feature a timely exhibition – *Orwell and Truth* - the first of its kind - curated in partnership with The Orwell Foundation and University College London. It is set to run through to October 2026.

While many Americans study *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Animal Farm* at school and might already be familiar with the visionary British writer's less celebrated novels and journalism, this exploration of Orwell's life and works takes a closer look, interrogating and celebrating Orwell's core values from being born into what he called a lower-upper-middle class family until his death aged 46 of Tuberculosis. The importance he placed throughout this short life on decency, integrity, bravery and fidelity to truth shine out from this collection of manuscripts, diaries, photographs and keepsakes.

At the exhibition launch in New York will be Orwell's Great Grandson, Archie Blair; Orwell biographer, David Taylor; the Provost of UCL, Dr Michael Spence; senior members of The Orwell Foundation and NYU faculty.

This exhibition will examine where, when and how Orwell developed the interests, experience and characteristics that made him this most exceptional of writers. Though it was in the 1930s and '40s that he warned about the dangers of unchecked power and excessive limits on freedom of expression, the enduring relevance of his warnings around the world and the importance he attached to truth, demand the forensic attention of us all today.

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE WRITE AND THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND THEM

We continue to work with teachers across the UK, to help plug gaps in the curriculum and encourage critical thinking. As far as we know, we remain the only national creative writing prize to offer personalised feedback to every student who enters. As one teacher told us recently,

> "We use the Orwell Youth Prize as a way of engaging our students' interest and engagement in the wider world. Like all teenagers, they have an opinion and want to express it… From a pedagogical point of view we have found the feedback students receive on their first drafts to be highly valuable."

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH UCL

At every opportunity, we seek to use our new global presence to fortify our charity's finances, while simultaneously cementing our relationship with UCL – *London's Global University*.

We were pleased to receive a message from UCL's Provost towards the end of the financial year, reaffirming the deep ongoing relationship between the Foundation and the university. Provost, Sir Michael Spence, and head of Arts and Humanities, Stella Bruzzi, stated that they were excited to renew their commitment to collaboration between UCL and the Orwell Foundation, as they look forward to celebrating their bicentennial, *UCL200*, in 2026. They spoke of the numerous plans in the works, including hosting the Orwell Awards back on campus, a live reading of *Animal Farm* and the exhibition in New York in March 2026. They thanked us for our support and for being so willing to engage with their anniversary.

In addition, the Advisory Group for the George Orwell Archive, comprising UCL faculty and Orwell Foundation management and Council Members, was reformed and held 2 meetings during the year, with a view to making the archive more accessible and, ideally with some of it on a permanent/ semi-permanent display.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

It was another exciting year for The Orwell Foundation, connecting with audiences up and down the UK and in the United States. In 2024, we grew our membership scheme as a way of engaging with supporters of our work, running events in London specifically for Friends and Patrons able to join. We ran events for anyone interested in the various aspects of our work and/ or the values of George Orwell. We are grateful to everyone who has joined us as Patrons and Friends as well as those who subscribe to our newsletter, our Substack accounts and all who attend our events.

THE 2025 ORWELL PRIZES

The Orwell Prizes aim to encourage good writing and thinking about politics, with our independent judges asked to find winning entries which best meet Orwell's own ambition 'to make political writing into an art'. In addition to their prizes each winner also received a Folio Society copy of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* signed by George Orwell's son Richard Blair, in the 75th anniversary year of the book's publication.

The Orwell Prizes exist to champion creativity and to explore plurality of opinion. We aim to nourish the most courageous, clear new writing and thinking about politics, in its widest possible sense. We curate our independent judging panels, to allow for a wide range of opinions, experience and interests. We are not interested in curating echo chambers but rather, as Orwell did, we seek to hold open the door for difficult conversations. Ultimately, we ask our judges to find winning entries which best meet Orwell's own ambition 'to make political writing into an art'.

Since The Orwell Prize was awarded for the first time in 1994 the number of categories has grown to include awards showcasing writing and reporting which draws on the full range of Orwell's contemporary legacy: for Political Fiction, for social reporting and, since 2023 for Reporting Homelessness. Each Prize is worth £3,000 to the winner, though this will rise to a minimum of £5,000 for each of the 'adult' prizes from next year.

The Orwell Foundation is grateful to all the judges, our founding patron Richard Blair, founding sponsors The Political Quarterly and newer sponsors the Centre for Homelessness Impact, Argus Media and partners University College London and A. M. Heath; also to all our Friends, Patrons and volunteers for making these awards possible.

On Wednesday 25th June, The Orwell Foundation celebrated the finalists and announced the winners of the 2025 Orwell Prizes at a wonderful ceremony at Conway Hall, in Bloomsbury, central London. It was an evening which saw winners and runners-up of The Orwell Youth Prize join the adult celebrations for the first time, rather than having their own separate event. It was an emotional and memorable night for all of them, who stood together on the stage with their certificates and prizes, as it was for the audience cheering them on!

Our Chair, Lord Macdonald concluded the evening by paying tribute to our outgoing Director, Professor Jean Seaton, and her unparalleled contribution to the Orwell Prizes, in what was her final awards ceremony. The applause for Jean at the end went on for some minutes and was rightly extremely raucous!

THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR JOURNALISM

Winner of The Orwell Prize for Journalism*: Jenny Kleeman*
For long-form journalism and podcasts for The Guardian, The Financial Times and BBC Radio 4.

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

The Orwell Prize for Journalism is awarded to a journalist for sustained reportage and/or commentary working in any medium. Dr Matt Walsh, head of Cardiff University's school of Journalism, Media and Culture chaired this year's Journalism Prize, with panelists Isabel Hardman, Assistant Editor of the Spectator; Maryam Moshiri, Chief Presenter at BBC News; John Pienaar, Times Radio Presenter; and Jonathan Shainin, founder of *The Guardian* Long Read.

Chair of Judges, Matt Walsh said about the winning entry:

> *"The hallmark of all of Jenny Kleeman's reports is her empathetic analysis of people with extraordinary ambitions or in life-changing circumstances. Her writing brings out the humanity of her subjects with emotional intelligence and great sensitivity. Her writing on American pronatalists, or Israelis who want dead soldiers to live on through harvesting their semen, never stooped to cliche or caricature, even when it shocked. Orwell wanted good prose to have purpose and reject humbug, and Kleeman's writing fits that mould."*

THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR REPORTING HOMELESSNESS

Winner of The Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness: *Simon Murphy*
For reportage for *The Mirror* in print and video.

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

Dr Lígia Teixeira Chief Executive, Centre for Homelessness Impact chaired the 2025 Reporting Homelessness Prize panel with judges Robert Booth, Technology Editor at The Guardian; filmmaker Lorna Tucker; and Caroline Wheeler, Political Editor of The Sunday Times.

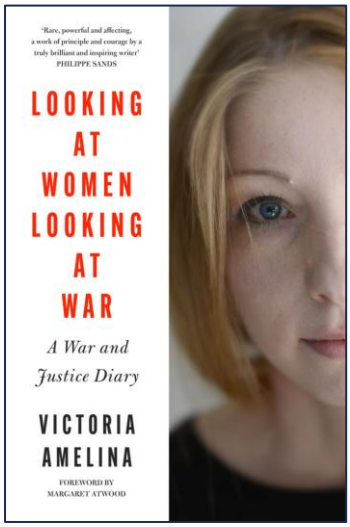
Chair of Judges Ligia Teixeira said of the winning entry:

> *"It's important and commendable that journalism for a large popular audience challenges misconceptions about homelessness, so The Mirror's reporting of how homelessness impacts women in different ways stood out. Congratulations to Simon Murphy for informing public understanding on the complexities of homelessness."*

And judge Lorna Tucker added:

> *"Simon Murphy's reporting for The Mirror was not only incredibly well written, but also excited me that red top newspapers are highlighting such a pressing issue in such an ethical way."*

The Orwell Foundation and Centre for Homelessness Impact continued to offer individual feedback to entrants with lived experience, to encourage them to pursue their writing further.



THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR POLITICAL WRITING

Winner of The Orwell Prize for Political Writing*: Victoria Amelina*
Looking at Women, Looking at War

The Orwell Prize is the UK's most prestigious prize for political writing and continues to attract judges and entries of the highest quality. The 2025 Orwell Prize for Political Writing was chaired by Kim Darroch, former UK ambassador to the USA during Trump's first presidency. He was joined by the sociologist and political scientist Colin Crouch; ex-Labour MP and Shadow Culture Media and Sport Secretary, Thangam Debbonaire; historian and journalist Katja Hoyer; and Cindy Yu of The Spectator.

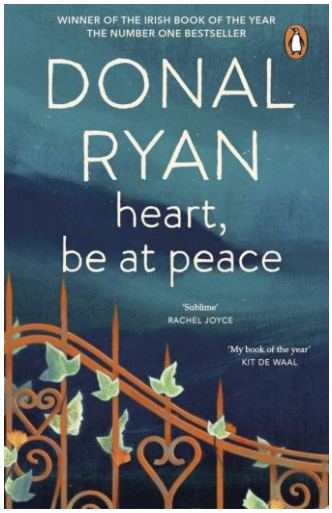
The judging panel said of the winning entry:

"Victoria Amelina was a successful Ukrainian novelist, and founder of a book festival, living in the Donetsk region of Eastern Ukraine. The Russian invasion stripped all of this away overnight. Rather than fleeing the country, she travelled it, supporting humanitarian projects, helping others evacuate, researching war crimes, and chronicling the harrowing, sometimes surreal, challenges and experiences of living in a war zone. Then, on 27 June 2023, she was in a pizzeria in Kramatorsk when it was hit by a Russian missile. Sixty-four were injured and thirteen killed. Victoria was amongst them. Her book, Looking at Women, Looking at War, put together after her death by a group of friends and colleagues, is unavoidably fragmentary – a collection of diary entries, interviews, audio files, notes and drafts. But it is all the more powerful for its episodic structure, conjuring up the reality of daily life when mere survival is an achievement. She brings to her narrative the acuity of a journalist and the artistry of a born writer. The result is an unforgettable picture of the human consequences of war."

Amelina's prize was received by her husband Alex Amelin and publisher Arabella Pike.

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR POLITICAL FICTION



Winner of The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction*: Donal Ryan*
Heart, Be At Peace

Our 2025 judges were award-winning novelist and playwright Jim Crace (chair), Laura Battle, senior editor at FT Weekend; author and professor of English Literature at University College London, Matthew Beaumont; and the author, journalist and critic, Anita Sethi.

Chair Jim Crace said of the winning entry:

> *"We have an outstanding shortlist of eight political novels for this year's Orwell Prize for Fiction. All of them are winners. But the single work that has finally emerged as our overall champion is Donal Ryan's Heart, Be at Peace. For its clarity. For its twenty-one perfectly pitched voices. For the neatness and breadth of its form. For its humanity and kindness. Here is a small, deprived community in rural Ireland – after the Good Friday Peace Accord and the collapse of the Celtic Tiger – suffering and recovering from the bruises of its political and economic past. The boom years – in both senses of that word, might be over – but, in Donal Ryan's exceptional Heart, Be At Peace, the echoes still reverberate and hum.*

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

THE CRICK PRIZE

Winner of The Crick Prize: ***James Hampshire***
'Full-Fat, Semi-Skimmed or Skimmed?' The Political Economy of Immigration Policy since Brexit

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

The Crick Prize, for the best essay in The Political Quarterly magazine, is named after the founder of The Orwell Prizes, Sir Bernard Crick.

All of our Orwell Prize winners receive free subscriptions to The Political Quarterly magazine, which addresses current issues through serious and thought-provoking articles, written in clear jargon-free English.

THE ORWELL YOUTH PRIZE – *A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR!*

In 2024-25, we received 1476 final entries, which represented an increase of 661 final entries compared to the previous year. In total, including both feedback and final entries, we received 1893 submissions on the theme, '*Freedom Is...*'

The Prize, open to all 11–18-year-olds in the UK and to those studying a British curriculum abroad, is unique among young people's writing prizes. Every entrant can request individual feedback before submitting an improved draft. This is made possible by a wide network of expert readers and judges who are deeply immersed in young people's writing, a network that has been built and developed over more than a decade of running the Prize.

We also ran highly successful regional and mini-hub events in areas of social deprivation, welcoming students from local non-selective state schools. These included a regional hub in partnership with the University of Sunderland and a mini-hub at Barr Hill School in Coventry.

59% of entries received came from non-selective state schools, up from 42% in the previous year. This was broadly mirrored in our final shortlist, made up of 60% state school students.

WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

Our winners and runners-up were selected by our judges, Manveen Rana, Anthony Anaxagorou, and Gary Snapper. They selected two winners and three runners-up from each of the three age categories: Years 7–9, 10–11, and 12–13.

The winning and runner-up entries covered a full range of forms, including stories, essays, journalism, and poems. Themes included the threat of AI to our personal freedom, protest, battling with health conditions, conflict, and more.

THE ORWELL YOUTH FELLOWS

We continue to be very proud of our ever-growing cohort of past winners and runners-up of The Orwell Youth Prize: The Orwell Youth Fellows. They are an exceptionally collaborative, supportive, and creative group, now ranging in age from 13 to 24.

Through their monthly, facilitated virtual meetings, the Fellows form ideas, start conversations, and develop new writing that responds to the society we live in. They also play an important role in supporting other young writers to engage with the Prize, having had a hand in developing the 2026 theme, 'Truth.'

It has been an incredible year for their project on Substack, which received a total of nearly 20,000 views on the *Songs of Cygnus* publication, with more expected for their next project in 2025–26.

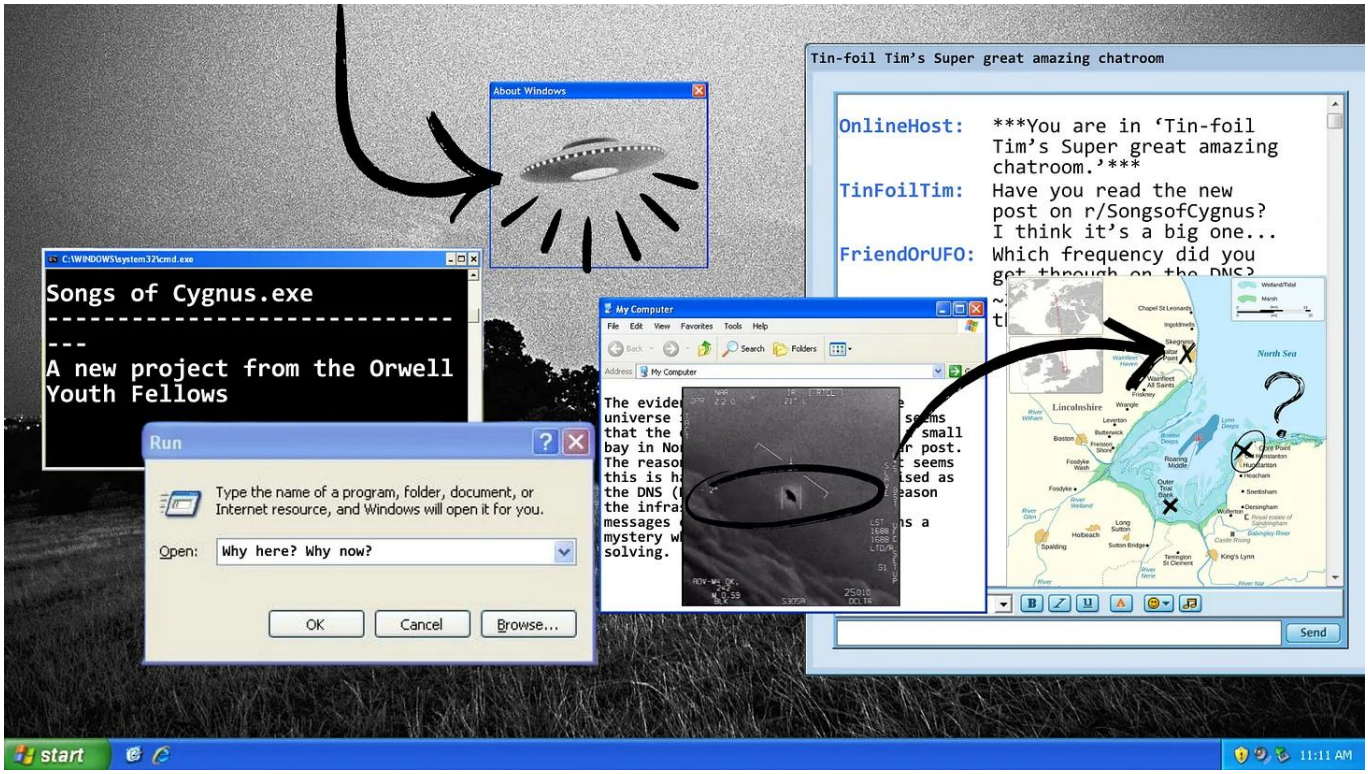


Photo credit: Orwell Youth Fellows

THE ANNUAL ORWELL LECTURE

Through the annual Orwell Lecture, we invite leaders in the fields of literature, politics and religion or people with exceptional life stories to tell, to speak on any topic 'Orwell might have been interested in'. Since its inception in 1989 Orwell lecturers have included:

- **Ian McEwan** - *Politics and the Imagination: Reflection's on Orwell's Inside the Whale*
- **Dame Hilary Mantel** - *More like a castle than a realm: Thomas Cromwell's Radical England*
- **Daniel Finkelstein** - *How to Predict an Election*
- **The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams** - *War, Words and Reason: Orwell and Thomas Merton on the Crises of Language*
- **Tristram Hunt MP** - *Decolonising the Wonder House: Orwell, Empire and the Museum*
  Ruth Davidson MSP - *Nationalism should not be confused with patriotism - Our Divided Politics*
  Bill Browder - *In Front of Your Nose: Putin, Russia and What We Failed to See*

Our annual flagship event, The Orwell Lecture, was, for many years, held at University College London's Cruciform Theatre. For the first time, on 5th December 2024 it took place in the Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

The lecture returns to the Southbank Centre in 2025 and plans are already underway to host the Lecture there for a third year running, in 2026.

THE ORWELL FESTIVAL AND OTHER EVENTS

Our annual Orwell Festival offers a mix of free and ticketed events to our Friends, Patrons and members of public. These events draw on the breadth of topics reflected in our shortlists, as well as our expertise of finalists and judging panels, tapping into key contemporary political issues and exploring Orwell's work in legacy. The 2025 Festival ran from 27th May – 25th June, concluding with the 2025 Orwell Prize Ceremony at Conway Hall in Bloomsbury. Several events were presented in collaboration with long-time partners, including The Political Quarterly, Waterstones, Foyles and Pushkin House, while we welcomed new partners and venues, including The Volley and The Frontline Club.

In total, we hosted **nine events across seven partner venues**. We estimate attendance at more than **500 guests across Festival events**, with an additional **250 guests at the Prize Ceremony**, and participation from over **20 speakers**,

Thanks to our partnership model, all Festival venues besides the Prize Ceremony were provided free of charge, with some events sharing ticket revenue with us.

21st January 2025 – *Orwell's Final Warning*

Months before the Festival, on the 75th anniversary of George Orwell's Death, D. J. Taylor (Orwell biographer), Sandra Newman (author of *Julia*) and historian Jeffrey Wasserstrom discussed the afterlife of Orwell's final novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

Are all interpretations of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* equal? What was Orwell's final warning? And what does his legacy mean today? Just some of the questions this knowledgeable panel attempted to answer.

Screenshot from video produced by Theatrical Solutions

Photo credit: Orwell Foundation Staff

27th May 2025 - *Propaganda, A New Age?*

A full house at the Frontline Club was an early highlight of the 2025 Orwell Festival. The panel featuring Kim Darroch, the UK's former Ambassador to the United States, historian and journalist Anne Applebaum and Orwell Foundation Director Jean Seaton as Chair, asked *Are we living in a new age of propaganda and does the truth stand a chance, in an age of algorithmic echo chambers and return of great power politics?*

28th May 2025 – *Orwell and China*

A timely conversation about the meaning of Orwell in a Chinese context with a distinguished panel: Isabel Hilton, Founder of the China Dialogue Trust: Jeff Wasserstrom, author of *Vigil: The Struggle for Hong Kong* and *The Milk Tea Alliance: Inside Asia's Struggle Against Autocracy and Beijing*, and Cindy Yu, incoming contributing editor at The Times and The Sunday Times.

Photo credit: Orwell Foundation Staff

The People's Republic of China is a rare example of a "Big Brother" state where Orwell's work is not only available but widely read and discussed. At the same time, dystopian fiction—from *Nineteen Eighty-Four* to *The Hunger Games*—continues to inspire protest movements like the Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong.

3rd June 2025 - *Can We All Belong? The PQ Conversation*

An expert panel explored issues of national identity, immigration, and belonging in modern Britain in this year's Political Quarterly Conversation. The panel included Tariq Modood, founding director of the Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship and a leading thinker on multiculturalism; Sunder Katwala, director of British Future; and Nicola Kelly, journalist and author of *Anywhere But Here: How Britain's Broken Asylum System Fails Us All*, with Orwell Foundation Deputy Director Liz Wallace as moderator.

Photo credit: Orwell Foundation Staff

4th June 2025 - *Toward European Unity? A Continent At A Crossroad*

In his 1947 essay Toward European Unity, George Orwell proposed that a democratic socialist United States of Europe was the best hope for the continent if it was to resist the dominance of the world's nuclear powers: the USA to the West and the Soviet Union to the East.

Judges on the 2025 Orwell Prize for Political Writing Katja Hoyer and Colin Crouch, along with 2024 Political Writing Prize winner Matthew Longo, discussed Europe at a crossroads.

12th June 2025 - *The Politics of Football*

Panellists Philippe Auclair (writer, broadcaster and contributor to The Guardian Football Weekly podcast), Miguel Delaney (chief football writer at The Independent) and chair Matthew Beaumont, (Co-director of University College London's Urban Lab and Orwell Prize judge) discussed the knotting politics of the beautiful game, from sportswashing, social issues, football's place in international diplomacy and Orwell's assessment of the proles in *Nineteen Eighty-Four, that* "Football, beer and above all, gambling filled up the horizon of their minds. To keep them in control was not difficult."

This event was held at The Volley, which self-describes as "the best place to watch football in London"!

Photo credit: Orwell Foundation Staff

17th June 2025 – *Masterclass: Telling Other People's Stories*

This Arvon Masterclass was run in conjunction with The Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness and was specifically designed for journalists and non-fiction writers who work closely with other people's stories, particularly reporting on personal and often difficult subject matter. Free places were offered to select Reporting Homelessness entrant.

The masterclass was led by Peter Apps, author of the Orwell Prize-winning *Show Me The Bodies*.

Photo credit: Orwell Foundation Staff

17th June 2025 – *Shortlist Reading: Natasha Brown & Gabriel Gatehouse*

This event at Waterstones Gower Street brought together Political Writing finalist Gabriel Gatehouse with Political Fiction finalist Natasha Brown, to discuss the commonalities of their books, delving into conspiracy, extremism, cult of personality and power of language with Foundation Deputy Director, Liz Wallace.

19th June 2025 – *Mishal Husain & Simon Parkin at Foyles Charing Cross*

Political Writing Prize finalists Mishal Husain and Simon Parkin sat down with prize judge Thangam Debbonaire to discuss their books, both of which explore individual stories in the face of historical fragmentation and war. Husain's *Broken Threads* traces lives shaped by the partition of India and Pakistan, the Raj, independence and a world war. In *The Forbidden Garden of Leningrad*, Parkin considers a profound detail in the devastating story of the longest blockade in recorded history: the botanists who remained in the city's Plant Institute during the darkest days of the siege, risking their lives in the name of science.

23rd June 2025 – *Benefit of Clergy: Art Morality and the "Genius Myth"*

In his 1944 essay *Benefit of Clergy: Some Notes on Salvador Dalí*, Orwell wrestled with two "fallacies": that no "morally degraded" person can produce good art, and that anyone who raises moral objections to good art has no "aesthetic sense". Eighty years on, the "middle ground" Orwell sought remains elusive—and Orwell himself is now part of the debate.

Photo credit: Orwell Foundation Staff

Helen Lewis, journalist and author of *The Genius Myth: The Dangerous Allure of Rebels, Monsters and Rule-Breakers*, joined Nathan Waddell, author *of A Bright Cold Day: The Wonder of George Orwell*, to discuss what happens when morality, art, and "genius" collide.

2025 Orwell Prize Ceremony

The Festival culminated in the Orwell Prize Ceremony at Conway Hall in central London. The evening was widely praised, with one regular attendee describing it as the best yet! Youth Prize winners received their awards on the stage for the first time, from Richard Blair, Orwell's son and our founding patron. The event was superbly hosted by Orwell Foundation Chair, Ken Macdonald.

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

FUTURE PLANS

EXPANDING REACH OF THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

We have discovered through several research trips to the US that Orwell plays an ever-more topical part in American political discussion. His most celebrated novels are still studied widely in the US public school system; his writings used and sometimes abused; his message at times distorted by extreme voices, as also occurs in the UK. Although Orwell was a quintessentially English author, it was his reception in the US which established his global reputation. Thanks to American readers and institutions, *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen-Eighty-Four* came to define the twentieth century but also, alarmingly, the twenty-first. We have created an effective organisation that celebrates Orwell's legacy and puts his values to work in contemporary contexts, but the issues threatening Orwell's legacy are global.

Central to our plan to make the Foundation international is the creation of an international Orwell Prize for Journalism. We already run the UK's most prestigious Journalism Prize. Now it's time to lend Orwell's name to the best from the rest of the world. We have also begun having conversations in New York about the piloting of our Youth Prize activities in some of the city's public schools, where there is concern, as in the UK, that critical thinking has fallen off the syllabus.

Our small staff is lucky to have the support of an advisory Council and a dedicated Board, led expertly for the past decade by Lord Ken Macdonald. The end of 2025 will see an extensive refresh of the governance and management of the Foundation, as Kim Darrach takes over as Chair and Liz Wallace takes over as Director, building on Professor Seaton's extraordinary legacy.

SEEKING SPONSORSHIP FOR EVERY PRIZE

From 2025 onwards, the Foundation will be supporting journalists across a wider range of voices and formats, while sharpening our focus on reporting that deepens public understanding of Britain's social realities.

Our aim is to secure sponsorship across every Orwell Prize—including our two book prizes, the Orwell Prize for Journalism, and the Orwell Youth Prize—building on the momentum created by our new partnerships. These prizes collectively represent the breadth of the Foundation's work: from emerging young writers to established authors and journalists whose work shapes public debate.

NEW PRIZES FOR 2025/2026

The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils will return in 2025-2026, thanks to sponsorship by Prospect magazine, while the Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness, sponsored by the Centre for Homelessness Impact, also returns with a new remit to celebrate early-career journalists. Together with the Orwell Prize for Journalism, these awards reflect the Orwell Foundation's commitment to championing brave, impactful and evidence-based reporting, in the best tradition of George Orwell.

The return of sponsored journalism prizes marks an important step in the Foundation's long-term strategy. As we embark on an ambitious programme to expand our reach and deepen our impact, we are keen to begin conversations with patrons and sponsors who wish to support excellence in writing and reporting.

SPONSORING AN ORWELL PRIZE

The Orwell Prizes have a long-standing reputation for rewarding excellence from across the political spectrum. We take the independence of the Prizes extremely seriously; it is central to our credibility and to the trust placed in us by writers, judges and audiences alike. Any sponsorship arrangement is founded on these principles and does not compromise editorial independence.

Sponsorship has the power to transform the careers of the writers and reporters who win our prizes, while allowing us to engage a far wider public in their work. Support enables us to:

- increase the value of our awards, raising their profile and reach
- deliver industry-leading publicity for shortlisted and winning work
- expand our programme of high-profile public events, talks and debates

We believe the Orwell Prizes offer a distinctive opportunity for partners to support democratic culture, free expression and brave writing, while sharing in the impact of work that matters.

THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR REPORTING HOMELESSNESS

Sponsored by the Centre for Homelessness Impact

The Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness will return with a renewed focus on early-career journalists, recognising the importance of supporting new voices in this vital area. Sponsored by the Centre for Homelessness Impact, the prize celebrates rigorous, data-led reporting that changes the conversation about homelessness in the UK.

The prize's new remit is designed to support reporters at a formative stage in their careers, encouraging careful, ethical and impactful storytelling on one of the country's most urgent social challenges. Alongside the award itself, the Foundation will work with the CHI on a series of masterclasses and events, creating a structured pathway into specialist reporting on homelessness and housing. This initiative helps bridge the gap between the Orwell Youth Prize and the Orwell Prizes, strengthening the long-term pipeline of public-interest journalism.

THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR EXPOSING BRITAIN'S SOCIAL EVILS

Sponsored by Prospect Magazine

The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils will relaunch in 2025-2026, marking the return of a prize that has transformed the Orwell Foundation's journalism awards.

Sponsored by Prospect magazine for an initial three-year period, the prize celebrates journalism that interrogates the UK's social fabric. It recognises outstanding reporting on issues such as poverty, housing, education, disability, welfare, inequality and the long-term consequences of government policy, stories that are often underreported but which carry lasting public significance.

The prize is open to all forms of journalism, including text, audio, video, photojournalism and social media. A new £10,000 prize pot has been confirmed: the winner will receive £5,000 and publication in Prospect, while two runners-up will each receive £2,500.

The decision to retain the previous title of the prize reflects the enduring power of the phrase "social evils", made famous by the social reformer Joseph Rowntree, and its relevance to contemporary Britain. In the words of Sir Clive Cowdery, publisher of Prospect, the prize will celebrate journalism that 'refuses to look away'.

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

UCL200 AND THE FUTURE OF THE PRIZE CEREMONY

All this takes place as we prepare for University College London's bicentenary in 2026 (UCL200), a landmark moment for celebrating George Orwell's legacy and the Foundation's long-standing relationship with UCL, home of the UNESCO registered George Orwell Archive.

As part of the UCL200 programme, the Orwell Prizes will be awarded at the Bloomsbury Theatre, allowing us to welcome a larger public audience and to bring together prize winners, partners, students and supporters in central London. The ceremony will also showcase the Orwell Youth Prize, following its successful integration into the awards in 2025, and highlight our partnership with UCL throughout the bicentenary year.

Alongside the awards, we are developing a wider programme of talks, workshops and public events in collaboration with UCL, reflecting Orwell's enduring relevance and the Foundation's commitment to engaging new audiences in debates about writing, politics and freedom of expression. In March 2026, the Foundation and the Orwell Archive will be taking over NYU's famous Kimmel Windows in New York, with an outdoor exhibition "Orwell and Truth" and associated events. We are also working towards a unique live reading of George Orwell's masterpiece, *Animal Farm*, building on our innovative readings of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (2017) and *Down and Out in Paris and London* (2018).

The George Orwell Archive is the jewel in UCL Special Collections' crown. Most of it has been loaned to UCL on a permanent basis by Richard Blair, Orwell's son and Foundation Council member and Sonia Brownell, Orwell's second wife and founder (with David Astor and Richard Rees) of the archive in 1960. Richard Blair and The Orwell Foundation believe it is vital that the archive is made fully accessible to students and visitors. 2025 will see a significant drive to ensure this happens, with a display of reproductions planned for New York University's Kimmel Windows, preparations underway for a 2029 exhibition of original items and the establishment of a UCL/Orwell Foundation Strategic Partnership, to ensure all exhibitions and fundraising involving the archive is conducted jointly, with UCL and the Foundation sharing in the work and benefits of such endeavours.

The Foundation will also transform its digital activities, fundraising for a new, mobile-friendly website and digital rebrand. As well as underpinning our fundraising efforts and events programme, the new site will ensure that our resources for schools and young writers are as accessible as possible. As the official Orwell website, we also have a responsibility to maintain and promote reliable, expert information about Orwell, his life and his works. A new site, integrated with our growing presence on social media, will help us reach the largest possible audience.

VOLUNTEERS

In 2024-25, we worked with 110 volunteers to deliver feedback for students entering the Youth Prize. Volunteers were drawn from a range of places, including international volunteers from Hungary, the United States, the Netherlands, and beyond. We have continued to work with volunteers from University College London, King's College London, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and Penguin, as well as with professional writers, civil servants, poets, and education professionals recruited through our newsletter, and have added to our volunteer numbers with support from the Orwell Society, the University of Bristol, and the University of Birmingham—with those networks set to expand further in 2025-26. We are extremely grateful to all of our volunteer readers, who give their time and expertise to enable us to provide individual feedback to every student who enters The Orwell Youth Prize.

GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMME

2025 to 2030 will also see intense activity aimed at increasing our Friends and Patrons programme, using volunteer support. We shall also build on the success our growing subscriber base on Substack for Orwell Daily and continue to boost awareness of our partners, most notably The Political Quarterly.

Typically, we see an increase in people signing up to be Friends of the Foundation in the lead-up to events, such as the Festival and Lecture. On 31st August 2025, we had 27 UK Friends and 14 International Friends – a notable increase from last year - and a further 109 paid subscribers on Orwell Daily, which we update with new material each week. Friends donate £60/$60 per year or £42/$42 for concessions. Like Friends, Subscribers donate $5/month - equivalent to $6640 USD gross revenue a year.

On 31st August 2025, we had ten patrons, donating £1500/$1500 per year or more.

THE ORWELL LECTURE

Photo credit: Southbank Centre

In December 2025, the annual Orwell Lecture returns to the Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall for a second year, when Harvard-based cognitive psychologist and best-selling author, Steven Pinker, will take the stage.

The Southbank Centre agreed to a more generous financial deal for this second year – meaning the event is not only key to our mission but also generates a modest return. The Southbank Centre has invited us to return in 2026 with potential lecturers already under discussion.

THE ORWELL FESTIVAL 2026

The Orwell Festival 2026 is slated to start circa Monday 18th May, to conclude with our annual Orwell Prize ceremony on Thursday 25th June.

Building on the 2025 Festival, we will seek to present more events with partner venues in 2026. Taking events to capable partners reduces the workload for the Orwell Foundation team and offers benefits from these venues' front-of-house operations, ensuring a smooth, straightforward experience for attendees. Importantly, it allows for combined marketing efforts and helps us to reach new audiences and explore new topics.

Based on the success of this year's events and relationships with the related venues, there is strong potential to return to Pushkin House, The Frontline Club and The Volley for the 2026 Festival, as well as further programming with the Arvon Foundation. We will now have the opportunity to explore using The Resolution Foundation's venue in Westminster – we anticipate hosting an event for the newly relaunched Orwell Prize for Exposing Britian's Social Evils there. We look forward to presenting events for each of our prizes, as well as our annual PQ Conversation.

The Politics of Football event proved rich and popular. To coincide with the 2026 FIFA World Cup, we are eager to present another panel event examining new questions around this theme.

The documentary *Orwell: 2+2=5* directed by Raoul Peck is set to be released in the UK in March 2026. We have been liaising with the distributors and publicist and hope to host an event, either at the Festival or closer to the film's release date.

Bookshop events with finalists are a staple of our annual festival – bringing together writers from different perspectives and forms and exploring thematic links that speak to the zeitgeist. Significantly these events also help us fulfill our agreements with publishers. In recent years, we have noticed a drop in attendance at our Waterstones Gower St and Foyles Charing Cross events, so we will be assessing how we might build on the bookshops' marketing efforts, to ensure they are well-attended, including considering working with different branches and other retailers.

OUR YOUTH PRIZE

WORK ON THE CURRICULUM

Over the decade that we have been running The Orwell Youth Prize, we have continued to see exceptional writing. As we have long noted, we have also identified some areas of concern, notably a lack of entries from male students. 25–30% each year come from boys (28% in 2025), and the majority of these are boys studying at private or grammar schools. We believe this speaks to a wider problem in engaging boys in creative writing. To address this, we have pioneered 'Game Design' as a new form, which encouraged 54 entries in 2025. We will look to expand on this success in subsequent years with additional resources, including several under development with our Youth Fellows.

We submitted evidence to the Government's curriculum review in the last year and have seen some engagement from the Department for Education with our suggestions. We continue to learn from our Youth Prize and remain committed to the belief that assessing and interpreting evidence is essential to building resilient young people in the face of the information revolution. These skills are also crucial for the creative economy: imagination, storytelling and expression underpin many important sectors of the UK economy, from gaming to film and television, as well as the arts more widely. Giving young people nuanced ways of expressing their views and approaching difficult subjects is vital both for democratic citizenship and for providing young people with a sense of their own agency. This should also be about excitement, creativity, enjoyment, and equipping young people with the skills they need to thrive.

These insights continue to find expression in our advocacy work. We have published on these issues in *The Political Quarterly* and in the English Association's special issue on the challenges facing boys in education, contributing evidence from our prize work to national discussions about curriculum design, literacy and educational inequality. Building on this, we plan to continue developing our policy and advocacy work around the curriculum, working with educators, subject associations and policymakers to strengthen the teaching of critical reasoning, extended writing, imagination and self-expression for young people.

However, many secondary-age students still need more than the curriculum is currently offering. We will continue to use the Orwell name, and the considerable convening power it brings, to urge policymakers to do more to support young people in developing critical reasoning, self-expression, extended creative and original writing, and a deeper understanding of others through literature and debate.

We also urge them to encourage the widespread study of Orwell on the English and Politics curricula, so that students may question the world around them while also learning to write 'good prose… like a windowpane'.

SCHOOL OUTREACH

We have plans to run events at Kingston Academy and Sunderland University, moving up into Scotland in 2025–26, all the time prioritising engagement with non-selective state schools.

Orwell Youth Prize Hub at Sunderland University. Photo credit: Orwell Foundation Staff

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

STRUCTURE

The Orwell Foundation is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (*Registered Charity No 1161563).* It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution. Its Board of Trustees determines the long-term direction of the organisation and works with the Director and Deputy Director to determine and review strategy.

Four former trustees with a special connection to the Orwell estate – Richard Blair, Bill Hamilton, David Taylor and Hugh Tomlinson – have been appointed indefinitely to the Council of the Orwell Foundation and provide wise counsel to the Board and staff.

On 30th January 2025, the Council, Board and staff welcome its first Trainee Council Member, Archie Blair. Archie's thoughtfulness and contribution to events, including school outreach, has been a wonderful addition to our work.

Responsibility for the management of the charity and its activities is delegated to the Director and Deputy Director who are, in turn, supported by a small team. The Foundation has six members of staff, all of them working part-time. The Director, Professor Jean Seaton, generously donates her time.

GOVERNANCE

Trustees
The Board of Trustees, chaired by Lord Ken Macdonald KC, brings a range of literary, journalistic, legal and charitable professional expertise to the body. All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity. They are appointed for a term of four years and may be reappointed for a further four years (or longer in exceptional circumstances).

The Foundation's Board originated from the merger of two previous charity Boards: The Orwell Foundation and The Orwell Youth Prize, in 2020. This resulted in an excessively large number of Trustees. Lord Macdonald, with agreement of the Board, reduced its size and on 31st August 2025, the Board had 10 Trustees plus 2 Trainee Trustees (3 Trainee Trustees in total but with two of those sharing one role, with each attending 50 % of Board meetings).

The Orwell Foundation's Trustees, Council and staff are grateful to Kathy Harvey, Liz Sich and Boyd Tonkin for their service to the Board. All resigned their posts on 7th July 2025. It should be noted Andrew Williams' term is due to end on 9th September 2025 and we are most grateful for his service.

The Board welcomed new Trustees Janine Gibson and Kamran Abbasi to the Board on 30th January 2025.

All Trustees are asked to declare any possible conflict of interest resulting from their involvement in other organisations. The Trustees meet quarterly, to review the progress of the charity, and on further occasions as required. The Constitution of The Orwell Foundation permits the Board to appoint new Council members and Trustees at any time as needs arise. Trustees are appointed by agreement of the Board, with regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective management of the CIO. Two trustees (currently Deborah Lincoln and Gavin Kelly) are nominated by *The Political Quarterly*, according to the constitution of The Orwell Foundation.

New trustees are provided with an induction pack containing information about their duties and responsibilities. Upon appointment, trustees are introduced to the charity's work and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles, including that outlining their responsibilities under the Charities Act (2011).

Liability in the event of a winding-up of the charity is limited under the Foundation's Constitution to its Trustees. Trainee Trustees, Members (Friends and Patrons of The Orwell Foundation) and members of The Council of The Orwell Foundation have no liability in the event of a winding up of the charity.

Committees
Following the creation of a new 5-year strategic plan (signed off by Trustees in May 2025), the Board has dissolved its former committee structure in favour of the direct consultation from the Board. Expert lead Trustee will be appointed, where necessary, using their experience to consult staff and Trustee of relevant matters. This change has reduced duplication, and positivity impacted the workload of the management team.

As of 31st August 2025, The Orwell Foundation was advertising for two Trustee positions: one with professional knowledge to lead on finance; and another with special insight into publishing, filling the gap left by retiring Trustee Liz Sich. Both positions have now been filled.

Trainee Trustees
Trainee Trustees are active observers of The Orwell Foundation's activities at the board level. They have no voting rights. Nor do they have legal or financial responsibilities. Each Trainee Trustee is paired with an existing trustee who acts as a mentor. Each serves a two-year term, attending, either in person or virtually, four Board meetings per year as well as events, where possible. The role is voluntary.

The responsibilities of our Trainee Trustees include, but are not limited to, contributing to discussions, evaluating and supporting areas of our work, championing The Orwell Foundation's events and activities, values, ambition, and strategic direction, helping to safeguard the good name and values of the charity, always acting in its best interests and acting as an ambassador for the Youth Prize and the Foundation more widely.

On 9th October 2024, the Board of The Orwell Foundation welcomed its third Trainee Trustee, Bella Rew. Ruby Alexander and Noah Robinson, appointed for a shared two-year term in 2023, will stay in their roles until October 2025. New Trainee Trustees being appointed yearly for two-year terms, resulting in a deliberately staggered turnover.

Bella Rew was successful after a competitive round of interviews with candidates from The Orwell Youth Fellows. The Youth Fellow are our growing cohort of previous winners and runners-up of The Orwell Youth Prize. Like Ruby and Noah before her, Bella's has brough a fresh perspective and consistently thoughtful insights. Our Trainee Trustees have provided invaluable service to the governance and activities of the Foundation, not least through assisting at our school outreach events, acting as ambassadors in assemblies at schools near their home or place of education and through their participation in Board meetings.

MANAGEMENT

Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the charity and its activities is delegated to the Director and Deputy Director, who are in turn supported by a small team.

In December 2024, we said farewell to our wonderful Youth Prize Manager, Tabby Hayward, and welcomed her excellent successor Sam Hill January 2025. Sam felt as though he had come full circle upon joining us as an employee, for he won The Orwell Youth Prize as a student, in its inaugural year – 2015 – an experience which made him consider going to university for the first time. Sam then didn't leave university until he'd got his PhD!

In January 2025 Liz Wallace was confirmed as the next Director of The Orwell Foundation. She will officially start in this role on 1st February 2026. Professor Jean Seaton will take on the new title of President of The Orwell Foundation and remain on in an advisory capacity so the Foundation will continue to benefit from her extensive knowledge and interminable enthusiasm. Under Jean's leadership the prizes were professionalised, and the values, range and consequences of Orwell's work were explored through an expanded programme of events and activities, including the launch of the Youth Prize in 2014.

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION STAFF

DIRECTOR
Professor Jean Seaton

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Liz Wallace

FINANCE MANAGER
Georgina Faulkner

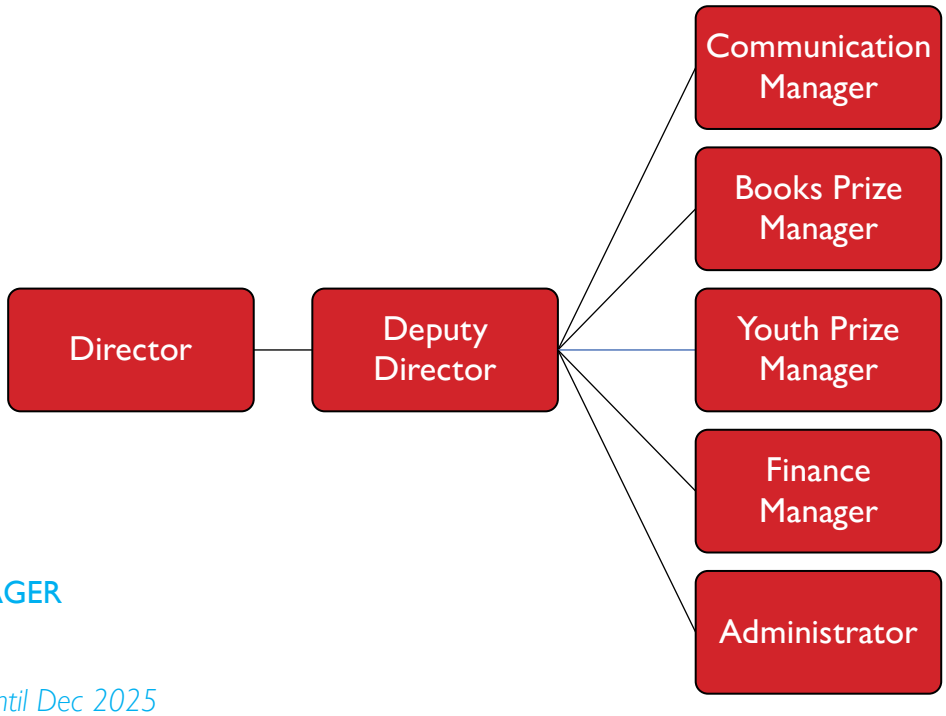
ADMINISTRATOR
Graham Self

BOOKS PRIZE MANAGER
James Tookey

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
Jeremy Wikeley

YOUTH PRIZE MANAGER *until Dec 2025*
Tabby Hayward

YOUTH PRIZE MANAGER *from Jan 2025*
Sam Hill



VOLUNTEERS

We are supported by around 100 volunteers each year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

SUMMARY

2024 - 2025 saw the charity consolidate its efforts to achieve long-term financial security, with the signing of multi-year prize contracts with sponsors for two of our journalism prizes. This alone ensures £100k p.a. for the next 3 years. Also in 2024-25, we won grants for the Youth Prize from two new funders, in what continues to be a highly challenging fundraising environment, particularly for London-based arts charities. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis, set against rising costs, continued as the backdrop, and the Foundation was turned down for multiple grants on account of what multiple funders cited as our high level of reserves. These factors combined led to the charity spending down some of those reserves. We have claimed Gift Aid on all UK donations and benefited from changes to interest rates. Our subscriptions increased through Substack, bringing higher revenue and publishers whose authors reached the shortlists of our Book Prizes made financial contributions.

The Foundation has developed new sources of funding by engaging with donors in the UK and the US and building individual giving through our membership scheme. The team has continued to raise our profile, and revenue, by moving the annual Orwell Lecture to the prestigious venue of the Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall and through a campaign of heightened media exposure.

In May 2025, the Board ratified the Foundation's 5-year Strategic Plan, allowing for greater expansion internationally, particularly in the US with its tradition of philanthropy. This will be undertaken in tandem with increasing efforts to celebrate and promote writers of the best political fiction and non-fiction in the UK and seeking to attract sponsorship from domestic corporate and individual donors.

Meanwhile, work continues to counter misconceptions about the way in which our charity is funded. The facts are:

1. We raise all our funding through grants, donations, membership support and sponsorship.
2. Our charity is authorised by - and enjoys a close relationship with - the Orwell Estate, however Orwell's works are out of copyright in the UK which clearly impacts ongoing funding from the Estate. Similarly, we have no endowment, property or other assets from the Estate.
3. While the name of our charity, The Orwell *Foundation,* might suggest to some that we *distribute* grants, we rely on *applying* for grants to finance our operations. Our organisation has discussed changing our name, to clarify this point. 2026 should see resolution on this matter.
4. We are housed in University College London pro bono, though we receive no major funding[1] from the university.

[1] *Across 2024-25 and 2025-6, UCL contributed £10, 000 to international travel costs incurred by Foundation personnel while promoting a joint Orwell Foundation/ UCL project.*

PRINCIPAL FUNDING SOURCES

Principal partners, sponsors and corporate donors in 2024-25 were The Political Quarterly, the Centre for Homelessness Impact and Argus Media. We are eternally grateful for the financial support, and generosity of time, offered by our Founding Patron and member of our Council, Richard Blair.

The support of all those who have signed up or renewed as Patrons and Friends in the UK and the US has been invaluable in the support of our mission. The Foundation would like to thank our 2024-25 Patrons:

- Ariane Bankes
- Richard Blair
- Charles Coutinho
- Lord Egremont
- Sir John Gieve
- Aydin Hammoudeh
- Kathy Harvey
- Andrew Peck
- Ann Tanenbaum
- Su-Mei Thompson

All patrons receive complimentary tickets to Foundation events, copies of our anthologies, personalised acknowledgement in Foundation publications, a Folio copy of a book by George Orwell and annual copies of our prize-winning books, as well as personal updates from the Foundation team. Further benefits are available, depending on level of membership, including patron events and personalised tours of the UNESCO-registered Orwell archive at UCL.

GOING CONCERN

The trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position and forecasts as part of their assessment of the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. In doing so, they have considered forecasts covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The trustees note that the charity is operating within a particularly challenging fund-raising environment; however, taking into account key factors, in particular, the charity's current financial position, forecast monies flows and balance sheet, management's assessment of the likely outcome of charity's fundraising programme and the availability of mitigating actions which can be taken, if necessary, to reduce expenses, the trustees consider the charity has adequate resources to continue for the foreseeable future and have therefore concluded that it remains appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

RESERVES POLICY

As at 31 August 2025, unrestricted reserves were £46,353 compared to £120,988 on 31st August 2024 and £165,958 on 31 August 2023. After being turned down for grants on multiple occasions, with grant makers citing the high level of our reserves, the charity's trustees took a decision to rewrite our reserves policy. The Foundation's new Trustee Treasurer has taken the lead on this and has advised that 3 months of operating costs (£41, 970) is a sensible base target level, given that this more than covers the notice period for all staff contracts, as well as one month of additional winding-up activities. The updated reserves policy therefore recommends that our reserves be kept between £50, 000 and £100, 000, with the understanding that, in order to secure grants, funders will expect reserves to be maintained towards the lower end of this range. The reserves policy is reviewed annually by the Board.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The charity has a comprehensive Risk Register that is regularly reviewed and updated by management and Trustees. The principal risk to the charity continues to be insufficient income generation. Economic conditions, together with significant financial pressure in the charity sector and continued restrictions in public funding, continue to pose significant uncertainty over fundraising capability and investment performance. To meet these challenges, the Orwell Foundation has made significant investments in its fundraising capacity, including the launch of a Friends and Patrons scheme, holding fundraising events and several donor relationship-building trips to the United States. This ongoing work, along with the employment of a freelance fundraiser should mitigate against this principal risk. New plans and a prudent budget have been drawn up for the next financial year, and agreed by the Board, with the importance of securing sustained and sustainable core funding in mind.

(signed)

Lord Ken Macdonald, Trustee (Chair)

Date: 30.01.2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Orwell Foundation (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 Charities Act 2011.*
2. *the financial statements do not accord with those records; or*
3. *the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.*

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

(signed)……..

Gary Pready FCA
Gravita Audit Oxford LLP
First Floor, Park Central
40-41 Park End Street
Oxford
OX1 1JD

Date: 4 Feb 2026……..

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 As restated £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 As restated £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	86,012	69,750	155,762	136,054	55,460	191,514
Investments	4	1,801	-	1,801	2,526	-	2,526
Other income	5	35,973	-	35,973	27,788	-	27,788
Total income		123,786	69,750	193,536	166,368	55,460	221,828
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	198,421	69,750	268,171	204,149	62,649	266,798
Total expenditure		198,421	69,750	268,171	204,149	62,649	266,798
Net expenditure and movement in funds		(74,635)	-	(74,635)	(37,781)	(7,189)	(44,970)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 September 2024		120,988	-	120,988	158,769	7,189	165,958
Fund balances at 31 August 2025		46,353	-	46,353	120,988	-	120,988

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

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	2,447		2,097	
Cash at bank and in hand		109,762		168,059	
		112,209		170,156	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(65,856)		(49,168)	
Net current assets			46,353		120,988
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	16		46,353		120,988
			46,353		120,988

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 28th January 2026

(signed)

Lord Ken Macdonald, Trustee (Chair)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Accounting policies

Charity information
The Orwell Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

Charitable activities - comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services. it includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such series and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs - comprise expenditure associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024 As restated	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024 As restated
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	59,762	26,750	86,512	40,398	16,500	56,898
Grants	26,250	43,000	69,250	95,656	38,960	134,616
	86,012	69,750	155,762	136,054	55,460	191,514

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024
	£	£
Interest receivable	1,801	2,526

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024 As restated
	£	£
Other income	35,973	27,788

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	165,024	174,667
Prizes awarded, Judging fees & Project costs	88,043	73,778
Other operating costs	11,527	14,980
Trustee expenses	337	429
	264,931	263,854
Share of support and governance costs (see note 7)		
Governance	3,240	2,944
	268,171	266,798
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	198,421	204,149
Restricted funds	69,750	62,649
	268,171	266,798

7 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Governance costs	3,240	2,944
Analysed between:		
Charitable activities	3,240	2,944

8 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	3,240	2,944

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	6	6

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	152,042	161,565
Social security costs	8,482	8,701
Other pension costs	4,500	4,401
	165,024	174,667

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,000 - £69,999	1	1

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

12 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments and accrued income	2,447	2,097

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	61,993	38,486
Accruals and deferred income	3,863	10,682
	65,856	49,168

14 Retirement benefits schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2025 £	2024 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	4,500	4,401

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

15 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 August 2025 £
Richard Blair - Youth	-	25,000	(25,000)	-
Centre for Homelessness	-	40,000	(38,697)	1,303
Andrew Peck - Youth	-	1,750	(1,750)	-
Chapman Charitable Trust	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
UCL NYC Visit	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
CHIC Awards Ceremony	-	-	(1,303)	(1,303)
	-	69,750	(69,750)	-

Previous year:	At 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 August 2024 £
Richard Blair - Youth	7,189	15,000	(22,189)	-
Centre for Homelessness	-	38,960	(38,960)	-
Andrew Peck - Youth	-	1,500	(1,500)	-
	7,189	55,460	(62,649)	-

16 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

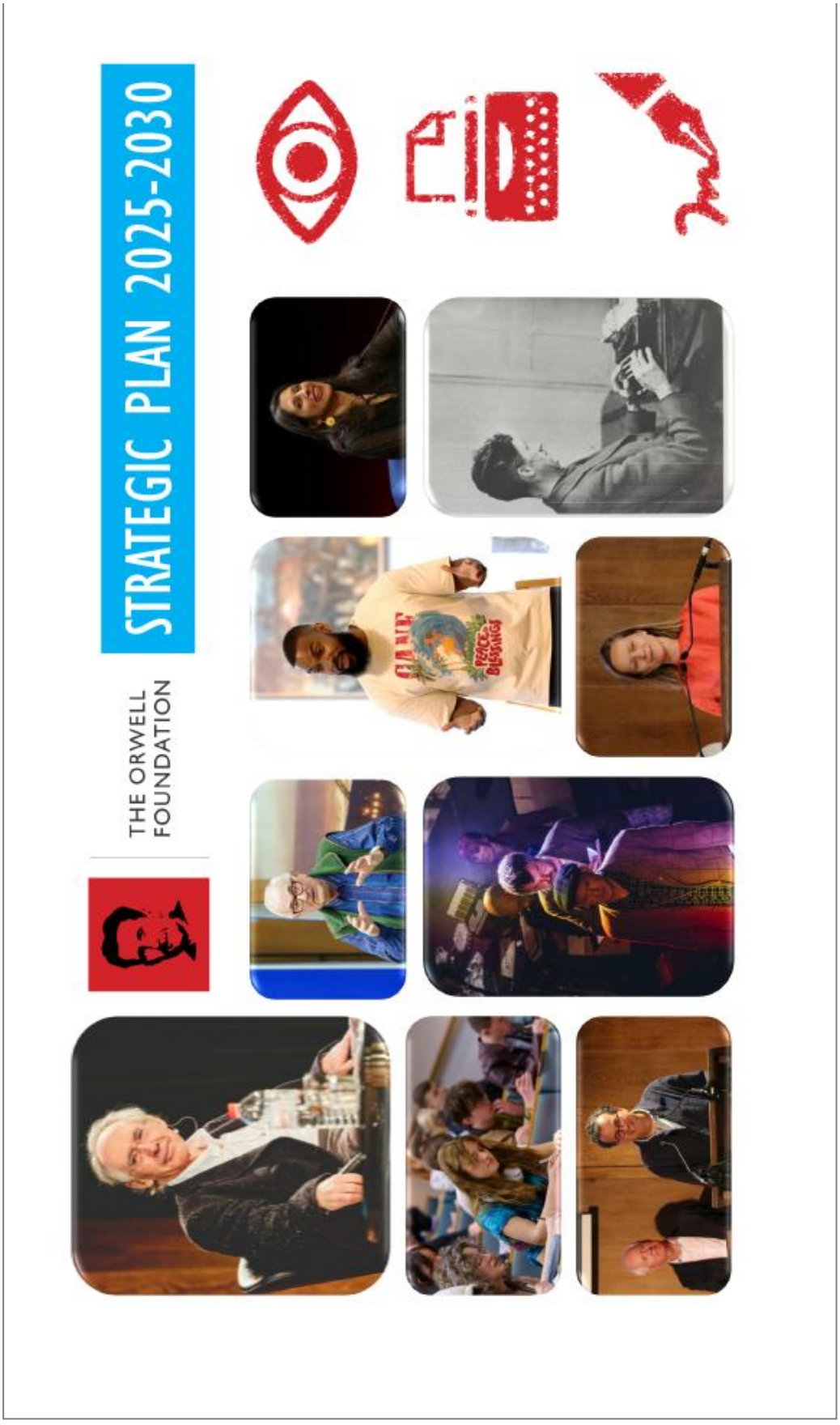
	At 1 September 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£
General funds	120,988	123,786	(198,421)	46,353

Previous year:	At 1 September 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	158,769	166,368	(204,149)	120,988

17 Related party transactions

During the period a trustee was paid a total of £332 for work done on behalf of the charity (2024-£600).

APPENDIX 1: 2025-2030 STRATEGY PLAN PRESENTATION



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"Two plus two equals four.
If that is granted, all else follows."
- Nineteen Eighty-Four,
George Orwell, 1949

Executive Summary

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

In the UK and around the world, George Orwell's writing encapsulates the fears and hopes of our time. It is worth taking a moment to consider the magnitude of that achievement, given that the most recent of those works was created three quarters of a century ago. Young people and adults alike continue to be drawn to Orwell's novels and essays, which resonate uncannily with modern events. As I write this on a bright cold day in April 2025, media appearances of the name 'Orwell' and the term 'Orwellian' are daily and numerous.

The Orwell Foundation has the privilege and responsibility of upholding his impressive legacy. From Nineteen Eighty-Four to Animal Farm, Orwell's writing remains banned where dictators fear the power of free minds. His commitment to truth and clarity of expression is valued across the world by those who believe in the power of good writing to promote change and challenge orthodoxy, while his warning about the corruption of language and the capacity of power and technology to control even consciousness speaks to the challenges of our era.

The Achievements of our Founders

The Orwell Prize was established by Sir Bernard Crick to encourage the work of young writers. He later added lectures from distinguished experts in George Orwell's memory, with support from The Political Quarterly. Professor Jean Seaton took over as Director in 2007 and, with the generous support of Richard Blair, The Media Standards Trust, The Joseph Rowntree Foundation and many others, went on to grow the authority and reach of the Foundation's work. She launched a suite of respected prizes, grew a Youth Prize and ran wide-ranging programmes of challenging events, dramatised live readings and important lectures.

Three decades on from their inception, the Orwell Prizes are among the most prestigious in the English-speaking world, praised for their independence and integrity. In 2025, the Foundation runs four adult prizes, with a fifth set to be re-established for the 2026 prize cycle, in addition to The Orwell Youth Prize:

1. The Orwell Prize for Political Writing (non-fiction)
2. The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction
3. The Orwell Prize for Journalism
4. The Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness (sponsored and supported by the Centre for Homelessness Impact 2022 – present)
5. The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils (sponsored and supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2015 – 2023, with a new sponsor set to announce for 2026)
6. The Orwell Youth Prize

The Challenges We Face Today

Democracy around the world is under challenge: democratic values under assault: truth itself under attack. The same can be said of the natural world about which Orwell cared so greatly. Many of the contemporary issues faced by societies around the globe are exacerbated by factors identified long ago by Orwell. It is through pointing readers towards his seminal works, by interrogating the ideas that underpin our modern predicament and by celebrating brave, truthful writing that the Orwell Foundation seeks to platform both his values and his warnings.

"Two plus two equals four.
If that is granted, all else follows."
- Nineteen Eighty-Four,
George Orwell, 1949

Executive Summary

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Being educated in how to write clearly is no longer a given, with many children growing up learning to swipe before they turn the pages of a book. In a time when corruption of language is rife and the pervasiveness of AI leads us to question all that we read and view, we strive to maintain the integrity and prestige of all our prizes. This moment provides opportunity as well as concern. Collectively we need to make the case for the writing down and broadcasting of truth, of facts and of quality political writing.

Taking on the Challenges

Over the next five years, we plan to take forward the Prizes and associated events in reach and scope, expanding some internationally. Launching the Orwell Foundation fully in the United States is central to our mission because this is where Orwell is most contested and where we believe his values are best placed to make a different to public life. In 2025 we shall begin the process of establishing a US Board, with the aim of giving the Foundation full charitable status there and so maximising our fundraising potential in America. We intend to use our new global presence to fortify our charity's finances, while simultaneously cementing our relationship with UCL – London's Global University.

We have discovered through several research trips to the US that Orwell plays an ever-more topical part in American political discussion. His most celebrated novels are still studied widely in the US public school system; his writings used and sometimes abused; his message sometimes distorted by extreme voices, as they are in the UK. Although Orwell was a quintessentially English author, it was his reception in the US which established his global reputation. Thanks to American readers and institutions, Animal Farm and Nineteen-Eighty-Four came to define the twentieth century but also, alarmingly, the twenty-first. We have created an effective organisation that celebrates Orwell's legacy and puts his values to work in contemporary contexts, but the issues threatening Orwell's legacy are global.

Central to our plan to make the Foundation international is the creation of an international Orwell Prize for Journalism. We already run the UK's most prestigious Journalism Prize. Now it's time to lend Orwell's name to the best from the rest of the world. We have also begun having conversations in New York about the piloting of our Youth Prize activities in some of the city's public schools, where there is concern, as in the UK, that critical thinking has fallen off the syllabus.

The George Orwell Archive is the jewel in UCL Special Collections' crown. Most of it has been loaned to UCL on a permanent basis by Richard Blair, Orwell's son and Foundation Council member and Sonia Brownell, Orwell's second wife and founder (with David Astor and Richard Rees) of the archive in 1960. Richard Blair and The Orwell Foundation believe it is vital that the archive is made fully accessible to students and visitors. 2025 will see a significant drive to ensure this happens, with a display of reproductions planned for New York University's Kimmel Windows, preparations underway for a 2028 exhibition of original items and the establishment of a UCL/ Orwell Foundation Strategic Partnership, to ensure all exhibitions and fundraising involving the archive is conducted jointly, with UCL and the Foundation sharing in the work and benefits of such endeavours.

The Foundation will also transform its digital activities, fundraising for a new, mobile-friendly website and digital rebrand. As well as underpinning our fundraising efforts and events programme, the new site will ensure that our resources for schools and young writers are as accessible as possible. As the official Orwell website, we also have a responsibility to maintain and promote reliable, expert information about Orwell, his life and his works. A new site, integrated with our growing presence on social media, will help us reach the largest possible audience.

"Two plus two equals four.
If that is granted, all else follows."
- Nineteen Eighty-Four,
George Orwell, 1949

Executive Summary

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Securing our Future
The Foundation needs to raise £275 000 annually to fund its current activities. It maintains a mixed portfolio of fundraising targets, submitting regular grant applications while also pursuing donations from individual and corporate sponsors, to ensure that it has the resources it needs to function well and to lay the groundwork necessary to provide a sustainable and lasting financial future for the charity by 2026. The Foundation will work to continue on this trajectory through to 2030 and beyond.

Efforts are underway to secure sponsorship of several of our Prizes in what remains a challenging funding climate for London-based arts charities. Looking further afield, we expect our international endeavours to provide significant opportunities for US philanthropy. In addition, we will work hard to maximise the potential of a series of major events in our UK fundraising calendar, including the annual Eton Gala Dinner and the annual Orwell Lecture, now held in partnership with the Southbank Centre, London.

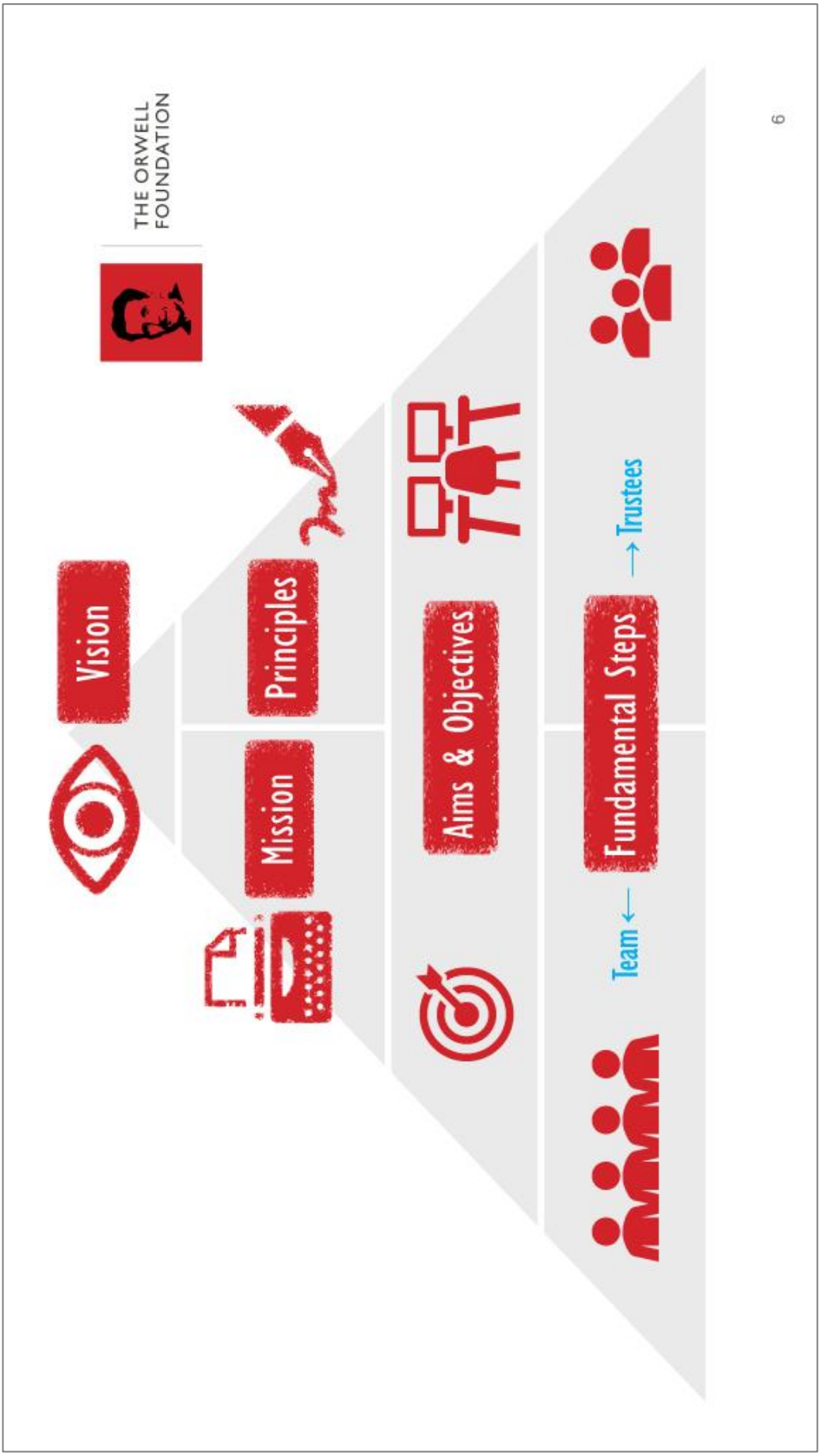
2025 to 2030 will also see intense activity aimed at increasing our membership programme, using volunteer support. We shall also build on the success our growing subscriber base on Substack for Orwell Daily and continue to boost awareness of our partners, most notably The Political Quarterly.

Our small staff is lucky to have the support of an advisory Council and a dedicated Board, led expertly for the past decade by Lord Ken Macdonald. The end of 2025 will see an extensive refresh of the governance and management of the Foundation, as a new Chair is appointed, and as I take over as Director, building on Professor Seaton's extraordinary legacy.

This plan is unashamedly ambitious and requires fresh financial support. We are immensely grateful to those of you with means, who can offer it. I hope that you find inspiration in this document and I warmly invite you to join us in bringing it to life.

E. Wallace

Liz Wallace, Deputy Director


THE ORWELL FOUNDATION
Vision
Mission
Principles
Aims & Objectives
Fundamental Steps
Team
Trustees
6

Vision

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

We share George Orwell's vision of a decent society where thought is free, truth is valued and brave writing is celebrated.

7

Mission

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

We exist to **promote Orwell's values** of bravery, integrity, decency and fidelity to truth. We **champion plurality of opinion and ideas** by running prizes and events which **nourish courageous, clear writing**. We **connect with audiences** on subjects emerging from Orwell's works including poverty, totalitarianism and the dangers posed by the corruption of language and the pervasive rise of new technologies.

8

Principles

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

The following principles, which shape our aims and objectives, are drawn from our Mission and from our charitable object, namely "*the advancement of education for the public benefit including the provision of cultural events and prizes and the promotion of the education of young people for the benefit of the public.*"

Truthfulness: Truth and accuracy run through everything we do. We work to nourish and promote writers and journalists who share Orwell's values of bravery, integrity, decency and fidelity to truth.

Creativity: We ensure that the prizes and events we run champion creativity, explore plurality of opinion and promote Orwell's desire to 'make political writing into an art'.

Freedom of speech: We facilitate discussions on subjects close to Orwell's heart including freedom of expression, poverty, the natural world, war, totalitarianism, the dangers posed by the corruption of language and the abuse of technology. We hold the door open for difficult conversations.

Impact: We connect with audiences, educating through world-class, and school outreach, events. We bring prize-winning writing and journalism to national and international attention, all for the public good. We work with minimum financial and environmental waste, ensuring donated funds are used to create the greatest possible charitable outcome.

Aims & Objectives

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Our Charity has 3 key aims:

- CULTIVATING UNDERSTANDING OF ORWELL AND HIS WORKS
- CONNECTING WITH AUDIENCES ON ORWELL'S VALUES
- ENCOURAGING COURAGEOUS, CLEAR NEW WRITING AND JOURNALISM

10

CULTIVATING UNDERSTANDING OF ORWELL AND HIS WORKS

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Details	**Objectives:**
We aim to promote Orwell's WORKS by: • Acting as global stewards of Orwell's novels, non-fiction books, essays, journalism and letters and their contemporary significance • Connecting with audiences on subjects about which Orwell wrote • Educating children and adults about Orwell's works	1) Open up the UNESCO-registered archive at UCL to more visitors and curate touring exhibitions of archival items for UK and international audiences. 2) Encourage and aid teachers and students to choose Orwell on the curriculum 3) Preserve Orwell's authority by running events which promote public understanding of Orwell's works, including live readings and discussions 4) Examine Orwell's reputation, for example if under attack through misrepresentation; seek event, broadcast and promotional opportunities for Orwell's works. 5) Create an UCL- funded Orwell fellowship.

11

CULTIVATING UNDERSTANDING OF ORWELL AND HIS WORKS

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Fundamental Steps TEAM:	Fundamental Steps TRUSTEES:
1) Work with the UCL George Orwell Archive Advisory Board to make the archive significantly more accessible. Call for the most important archival material to be on temporary rotating display/ permanent display in UCL, as it is in NYU. Create a strategic partnership ensuring that The Orwell Foundation works with UCL on all fundraising and exhibitions related to the George Orwell Archive. 2) Discuss with UCL how best to become a hub for academics and citizens on Orwell. 3) Grow relationships with partners in the US for a touring exhibition of archive reproductions and archival material, ensuring that receiving institutions/ UCL contribute financially wherever appropriate. 4) Create new educational resources, aimed at easing the burden on teaching staff and encouraging them to choose Orwell; same team to encourage improvements to the curriculum to help students boost their critical thinking skills. 5) Curate high quality events throughout each year relating to Orwell's work and subjects about which he wrote. 6) Work with the Chair to counter any serious instances of misrepresentation, where appropriate.	1) Support the Foundation management in its efforts to make the archive more accessible to all. 2) Share networks in US universities, museums, libraries, embassies and other potential partners. 3) Suggest speakers and share contacts for panel events, lectures etc. 4) Work with Foundation Management to counter any serious instances of misrepresentation, where appropriate.

12

CONNECTING WITH AUDIENCES ON ORWELL'S VALUES

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Details	**Objectives:**
We aim to promote the understanding of Orwell's VALUES to greatest effect by: • Connecting with audiences on subjects emerging from Orwell's work • Championing plurality of opinion and encouraging civil debate where both sides of an argument are heard through our events and communications. • Supporting and promoting writers who share Orwell's values of bravery, integrity, decency and fidelity to truth	1) Grow our high-quality suite of Prizes for books and journalism, including the Orwell Youth Prize,; making some of them international, increasing the prize money on offer. 2) Make The Orwell Foundation international; piloting the Youth Prize in US schools; launching an international prize for journalism, attracting new international audiences through events and exhibitions.. 3) Maintain a calendar of high-quality events, big and small, gathering together our writers and supporters and holding open the door to difficult conversations; further enhancing the quality and reach of those events, including through innovative "big ticket events" in the UK. 4) Harness member interaction and mobilise members to entice others to join; pilot ventures which attract friends and patrons e.g. through appropriate partnerships. 5) Be brave in all that we do.

CONNECTING WITH AUDIENCES ON ORWELL'S VALUES

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Fundamental Steps TEAM:	Fundamental Steps TRUSTEES:
1) Attract new sponsorship and so increase staffing or, as a minimum, buy a CRM. 2) Enhance the Foundation team's planning operation. 3) In all that we do, consistently asking, "Are we being brave enough?" 4) Develop a network of Global Ambassadors 5) Set up a US Board, with the help of Trustees.	1) Offer any relevant expertise / contacts to Management as they work with the Chair to create a US Board, for the purpose of fundraising in the US (securing 501C3 status). 2) Pursue membership (Patrons and Friends) prospects among contacts at home and abroad. 3) Pursue sponsorship prospects among contacts, reporting back to fellow Trustees, Council members and Management at each Board meeting.

14

ENCOURAGING COURAGEOUS, CLEAR NEW WRITING AND JOURNALISM

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Details	**Objectives:**
We aim to promote Orwell's desire to 'make political writing into an ART by: • Championing creativity, clarity, and brave writing through our events and prizes, encouraging all Prize entrants to aspire to Orwell's own ambition "to make political writing into an art". • Nourishing the writers, in every generation, who share Orwell's values and enter our Prizes. • Advancing critical thinking and independent creative writing in young people through the Orwell Youth Prize and the Orwell Youth Fellows programme. • Encouraging all Prize entrants to follow Orwell's advice that "*Good prose should be like a window pane*". (*Why I Write*, 1946)	1) Feature exciting new writing at our events, providing opportunities to our Prize-winning writers and finalists in the immediate and long-term. 2) Grow The Orwell Youth Prize in a sustainable way, by working with partners to encourage more entries, maintaining a focus on non-selective state schools, in areas of high income deprivation where possible, while maintaining a good geographical reach around the UK and beyond. 3) Provide more opportunities reserved for debut writers and/or emerging reporters, ideally working in partnership with other organisations. 4) Influence policy-makers to return critical thinking to the centre of the curriculum. 5) Create high- quality resources for writers young and old. as well as teachers 6) Help young people to write independently without the use of AI.

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ENCOURAGING COURAGEOUS, CLEAR NEW WRITING AND JOURNALISM

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Fundamental Steps TEAM:	Fundamental Steps TRUSTEES:
1) Through all comms and in judging meetings, remind judges of the importance of celebrating brave, new writing rather than giving out lifetime achievement awards. 2) Create a better system of keeping in touch with our prize winners, finalists and judges. 3) Work with our Fundraising Consultant to secure sponsorship and/or partnerships to support new writers and/or reporters. 4) Develop our relationship with partners who can provide vital funding for more staffing / a CRM system and develop a volunteer network in the US, to enable us to cope with significantly more Youth Prize entries. 5) Boost comms and school outreach to encourage more entries to the Youth Prize; increase the percentage of entries from target groups. 6) Engage with policy-makers and partners such as NATE, initiating comms around our proposal for UCAS points for students who reach the final of our Youth Prize. 7) Produce consistently high quality resources for writers, students and teachers. 8) Keep developing our strategy for counteracting and responding to the use of AI in the Youth Prize.	1) Support Foundation events, turning up and inviting their networks. 2) All Trustees to contribute ideas for sources of sponsorship on a regular basis, making introductions wherever possible. 3) Spread the word on social media and through networks, to encourage prize entries and attendance at Foundation events. 4) Help Foundation team at crunch points in the prize cycle by, for example, reading Youth Prize entries or sharing with networks to do the same.

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Measuring Impact

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

Cultivating Understanding of Orwell and His Works

1) A marked improvement in access to the George Orwell Archive, measured immediately by a rise in the number of visits and increased opening hours; soon after by the existence of rotating/ permanent exhibitions in UCL
2) Securing agreement from the Orwell Archive Advisory Board to take archival items on touring exhibitions from 2027/28
3) Development of a UCL-funded fellowship
4) Creation of new educational resources
5) Curation of brave and wide-ranging, quality events programme

Connecting with Audiences on Orwell's Values

1) US Board established
2) A move towards increased prize money
3) Creation of an International Journalism Prize
4) Exploration of activities associated with the Youth Prize, in US schools
5) Enhanced Foundation planning operation
6) Enhanced quality and reach of our events
7) New domestic and international audiences reached
8) Membership numbers increased
9) Global Ambassadors secured

Encouraging Courageous, Clear New Writing and Journalism

1) The showcasing of exciting new writing at our events; making the most of our Prize-winning writers and finalists and keeping them close throughout the years
2) Create new opportunities for debut writers
3) The encouragement of more entries to the Youth Prize, increasing the percentage of entries from target groups
4) Influencing policy-makers to return critical thinking to the centre of the curriculum
5) The creation of high-quality resources for writers young and old as well as teachers

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www.orwellfoundation.com

THE ORWELL
FOUNDATION

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

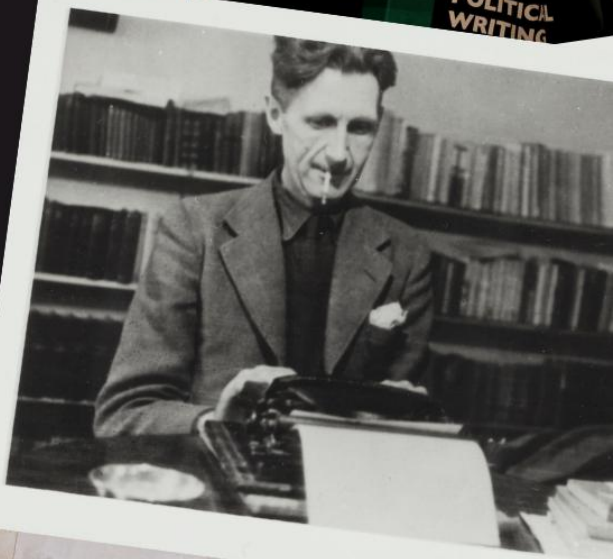
England & Wales - Charity number 1161563

Accounts

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Registered Charity No 1161563

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION



TRUSTEES

Lord Ken Macdonald KC Chair
Arifa Akbar *until 09/10/23*
Stephen Armstrong
Michael Callanan *until 17/07/24*
Gavin Freeguard *until 17/07/24*
Matt Garraghan *until 17/07/24*
Kathy Harvey
Gavin Kelly
Deborah Lincoln
Rebecca Omonira-Oyekanmi *until 17/07/24*
Sameer Padania *Joined 09/10/23*
Andrew Peck
Liz Sich
Su-Mei Thompson
Boyd Tonkin
Andrew Williams
Ruby Alexander *Joined as Trainee Trustee 09/10/23*
Noah Robinson *Joined as Trainee Trustee 09/10/23*

COUNCIL

Richard Blair
Bill Hamilton
David Taylor
Hugh Tomlinson KC

MANAGEMENT

Professor Jean Seaton Director
Liz Wallace Deputy Director
Georgina Faulkner Finance Manager
Tabby Hayward Youth Prize Manager
James Tookey Books Prizes Manager
Jeremy Wikeley Communications Manager
Graham Self Administrator *from 08/01/24*

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Gravita Audit, First Floor,
Park Central 40-41, Park End Street
Oxford OX1 1JD

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), *Accounting and Reporting by Charities* (revised 2015 FRS 102) financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing constitution.

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

www.orwellfoundation.com

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Registered charity No. 1161563

Images previous page: (from top left to right)

- George Orwell's son and Founding Patron of the Orwell Foundation, Richard Blair, speaking at an Orwell Youth Prize hub at Sunderland University[1]
- Shortlisted Youth Prize writers Aaliyah and Srilakshmi presenting group-writing created at the Orwell Youth Prize Celebration Day[2]
- Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness judges presenting the award at the 2024 Prize Ceremony[2]
- Students attending an Orwell Youth Prize hub at Sunderland University[1]
- 'Tea and Tobacco' George Orwell in 1945[3]
- Students creating new writing at an Orwell Youth Prize hub[1]
- Books by George Orwell[1]
- 2024 Political Writing Winner Matthew Longo receiving his award from Lord Ken Macdonald[2]
- Bill Browder delivering the annual Orwell Lecture 2023[4]

Front cover images: (from top, clockwise)

- Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness 2024 winners 'Unheard Voices' Karl Brown, Debbie Cuthbert, Stuart Potts and David Winter accepting their award at the 2024 Orwell Prize Ceremony[2]
- Shortlisted Youth Prize writer Rahaf reading an excerpt of her piece at the Orwell Youth Prize Celebration Day[2]
- Orwell Prize for Journalism 2024 Chair Janine Gibson speaking at the Orwell Prize Ceremony[2]
- 'Orwell at Work' George Orwell in 1945[3]
- Attendees of 2024 Orwell Youth Prize Celebration Day on the steps of University College London's (UCL) famous portico[2]
- Shortlisted Youth Prize writer Benjamin reading an excerpt of his piece at the Orwell Youth Prize Celebration Day[2]
- George Orwell's son and Founding Patron of the Orwell Foundation, Richard Blair, with Orwell Prize for Journalism 2024 Judge, Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, at the Orwell Prize Ceremony[2]

Back cover images: (from top, anticlockwise)

- Orwell Foundation Deputy Director Liz Wallace presenting Orwell Youth Prize winning writer Frankie with his certificate[2]
- 2024 Crick Prize winner Robert Saunders speaking at the Orwell Prize Ceremony[2]
- Students at the Orwell Youth Prize Sunderland University Hub taking a selfie with George Orwell's son and Founding Patron of the Orwell Foundation, Richard Blair[1]
- Orwell's National Union of Journalists identity card with his photograph attached[3]
- 2024 Orwell Prize for Political Writing winner Matthew Longo with Orwell Foundation Chair Lord Ken Macdonald at the Orwell Prize Ceremony[2]
- Shortlisted Youth Prize writers Aaliyah and Selina working together at the Orwell Youth Prize Celebrati

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Photo credits:

[1] David James Wood

[2] Facundo Arrizabalaga

[3] Courtesy of the Orwell Archive, UCL Special Collections

[4] The Orwell Foundation team

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INTRODUCTION FROM OUR CHAIR

It has been another highly successful year for the Orwell Foundation. This is thanks to the hard work and commitment of our staff and my fellow trustees, and to the continuing generosity of our wonderful donors and supporters. I am grateful to you all.

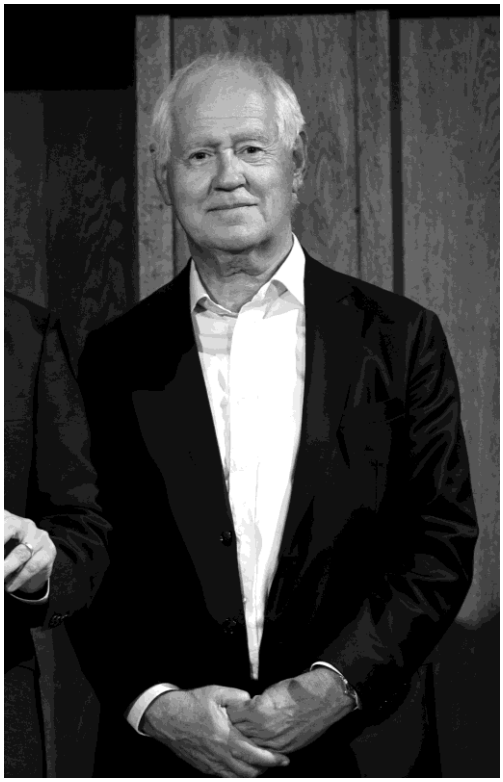


Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

In an age of increasingly damaging disinformation and dark propaganda, there is no more important time to be championing the values of George Orwell. His clarity, and his attachment to truth and to honest writing, remain beacons around the world for political writing at its most incisive and pure.

This year, our annual festival, our prizes and our lectures have spoken once more to his legacy, which is needed now more than ever. With your help, we are proud to continue this work in his honour, remembering always his lifelong ambition 'to make political writing into an art'.

Lord Ken Macdonald KC
Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Orwell Foundation

WHO WAS GEORGE ORWELL AND WHY THE NEED FOR A FOUNDATION?

George Orwell (1903-1950) has become one of the world's most influential writers. He was the visionary author of *Animal Farm* (1945) and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949), non-fiction classics *Down and Out in Paris in London, The Road to Wigan Pier* and *Homage to Catalonia* and many seminal essays including *The Lion and the Unicorn*, *My Country Right or Left*, *Why I Write* and *Inside the Whale* as well as thousands of pieces of journalism and criticism.

In *Animal Farm*, Orwell sought to alert readers to the reality of totalitarianism in Soviet Russia, when many in the West looked the other way. He identified the ways in which tyranny both human and technological destroyed language and the capacity to think. We now live in a world made by Orwell's ideas, 'doublethink' 'Big Brother' 'Room 101' and the idea of 'Orwellian dystopia' shape how people all over the world understand their circumstances. His commitment to verity was luminous and his personal integrity exceptional.

Photo courtesy of the Orwell Archive, UCL Special Collections

In a world awash with propaganda, new forms of tyranny and in which opinion rather than evidence drives increasingly polarised discussions, Orwell's work and that of the Foundation – attempting to develop the capacity to disagree well and creatively – is more important than ever. Orwell uniquely is respected across political barriers and our job is to secure that heritage and to reward exceptional and brave thinking wherever it comes from.

The Orwell Prize - as the Foundation was formerly known - was the brainchild of the late Professor Sir Bernard Crick. As Orwell's first biographer, Crick used the royalties from his *George Orwell: A Life* (1980) to set up a fund to encourage the work of young writers. In 1994, with support from The Political Quarterly, Crick established an Orwell Prize: annual awards for books and journalism, intended to "encourage writing in good English...of a kind aimed at or accessible to the reading public, not to specialised or academic audiences." The Political Quarterly was established in 1930 to make expert technical political and policy research written in clear English part of the national conversation and whose early writers included Maynard Keynes, Leonard Woolf, and Naomi Mitchison, the first edition was hand-sewn by Virginia Woolf. The Political Quarterly remains a key partner of the Foundation.

The prize had 2 judges and a part time secretary for 3 months of the year.

In 2007 Professor Jean Seaton, a member of The Political Quarterly editorial board, was asked by Crick to take over as Director of the Prize. She was working with Martin Moore and Sir David Bell as part of the Media Standards Trust. The prizes were put on a full-time footing and were professionalised. The values, range and consequences of Orwell's work were explored in lectures and events. A wide programme of literary festivals discussions was developed. Later transformative funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, AM Heath, Richard Blair, as well as additional awards from the Arts Council and a wide variety of other funders, meant that ambitious new prizes were launched, all based on Orwell's work. Innovative public readings and dramatisations of Orwell's work were mounted. In 2014, a separate youth prize was launched.

Thirty years since their launch, the prizes have grown from these modest beginnings to being among the most prestigious in the English-speaking world, respected both for their independence from the institutions whose achievements they reward and their ability to respond to changes in the media landscape. Our judges are impressive, our lecturers important and we use the convening power of Orwell to influence debate and policy.

What has not changed is the purpose of Orwell Foundation, the registered charity which has overseen its operations since 2017. It continues to use Orwell's works to celebrate honest writing and reporting, uncover hidden lives, confront uncomfortable truths and encourage all young people to write and think critically and creatively. Through our prestigious prizes for books and journalism, public events and work with young writers, we offer a platform for debate and discussion designed to appeal to the widest possible audience, connecting with everyone to whom George Orwell and his writings are a source of inspiration.

The Orwell Foundation is based at University College London (UCL) in Bloomsbury, an area of central London famous for housing writers and intellectuals and home to Senate House, the imposing art deco building which inspired Orwell's Ministry of Truth *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. UCL is also home to the UNESCO-registered Orwell Archive, the most comprehensive body of research material relating to the author's life anywhere in the world.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

As laid out in its Constitution, the charitable objective of The Orwell Foundation is the advancement of education in the works and values of George Orwell, for public benefit through the provision of cultural events, debates, online resources and annual prizes.

The Foundation provides online resources, puts on events and provides school outreach workshops. It is also responsible for the award of:

- The Orwell Prize for Journalism and The Orwell Prize for Political Writing – the two original prizes
- The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction and the Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness (sponsored by the Centre for Homelessness Impact) – two newer prizes
- The Orwell Youth Prize – now in its tenth year

The mission of The Orwell Foundation in 2024 remains true to its origins: to nourish and promote writers who share Orwell's values of bravery, decency and fidelity to truth.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Orwell Foundation has had an exciting year connecting with audiences up and down the UK and in the United States. In 2023, we launched our membership scheme as a way of engaging with supporters of our work and supporters of the work and values of Orwell. We are grateful to everyone who has joined us as Patrons and Friends as well as those who subscribe to our newsletter, our Substack accounts and all who attend our in-person and livestreamed events.

THE 2024 ORWELL PRIZES

The Orwell Prizes aim to encourage good writing and thinking about politics, with our independent judges asked to find winning entries which best meet Orwell's own ambition 'to make political writing into an art'. In addition to their prizes each winner also received a Folio Society copy of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* signed by George Orwell's son Richard Blair, in the 75th anniversary year of the book's publication.

Since The Orwell Prize was awarded for the first time in 1994 the original categories for books and journalism have been complemented by individual awards showcasing writing and reporting which draws on the full range of Orwell's contemporary legacy: for Political Fiction, for social reporting and, in 2023, for Reporting Homelessness. Each Prize is worth £3,000 to the winner.

The Orwell Foundation is grateful to all the judges, our founding patron Richard Blair, founding sponsors The Political Quarterly, prize sponsors the Centre for Homelessness Impact, partners University College London and A. M. Heath and all our Friends, Patrons and volunteers for making these awards possible.

On Thursday 27th June, The Orwell Foundation celebrated the finalists and announced the winners of the 2024 Orwell Prizes – the *adult prizes* - at a wonderful Prize Ceremony at Conway Hall, in Bloomsbury, central London. It was an evening which saw *Computer Weekly* awarded a Special Prize for breaking and pursuing the story of the Post Office Horizon scandal over more than a decade while a cake was presented to Richard Blair, in honour of his 80th birthday.

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR JOURNALISM

Winner of The Orwell Prize for Journalism: Wendell Steavenson
Reporting for The Economist's 1843 magazine on an autistic Ukrainian boy whose world was upended by the Russians, a vast Ukrainian cemetery awaiting the casualties of the counter-offensive, how one kibbutz defended itself from Hamas and how Russia has taken thousands of Ukrainian kids, some of whom don't want to go home.

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

The Orwell Prize for Journalism is awarded to a journalist for sustained reportage and/or commentary working in any medium. This year's judges were Yuen Chan, Senior Lecturer in Journalism at City, University of London; David Gauke, New Statesman and Conservative Home Columnist and ex-Cabinet Minister; Janine Gibson (Chair), Editor of FT Weekend; Helen Lewis, Staff Writer at The Atlantic, author and presenter of BBC R4 podcasts; Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Project Manager at Thomson Reuters Foundation who was held hostage in Iran from 2016 to 2022.

Chair of Judges, Janine Gibson said about the winning entry:

> *"We were struck by the commitment and versatility of Wendell Steavenson, who contributed two forceful and stark dispatches from Ukraine before pivoting after October 7th to the Gaza conflict and producing a meticulous account of an attack on a kibbutz which is – irrespective of one's position – unarguably an outstanding piece of reporting. Good prose is like a windowpane, Orwell wrote, and Steavenson's is admirably clear."*

THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR REPORTING HOMELESSNESS

Winners of The Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness: Karl Brown, Debbie Cuthbert, Stuart Potts & David Winter

Community Reporting for the Unheard Voices Microsite, with Shelter and On Our Radar: a series of reports sharing insights and experiences of trying to navigate a housing system that is not fit for purpose plus The Manchester Maze: a collection of human stories and an action plan for change.

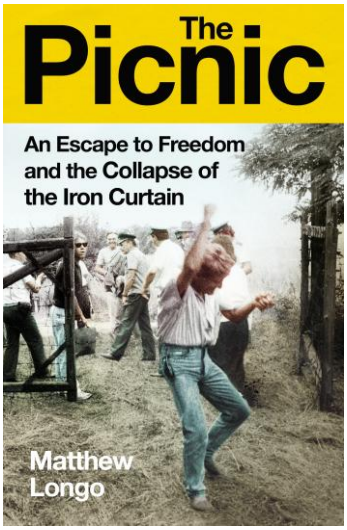
Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

Entries are encouraged from established journalists and writers as well as people with lived experience of homelessness. We work closely with charities in the sector, elicit entries from the Prison estate, liaising with prison reading groups, and from community groups via email and phone call. We create posters and advertise in prisons and shelters and we advertise in the *Big Issue*. We also produce a podcast related to the Prize, in partnership with the Prison Radio Association and we publish entries which do not make the shortlist in an anthology. We also offer individual feedback to entrants with lived experience, to encourage them to pursue their writing further.

The 2024 judges were the BBC's Paddy O'Connell, poet and playwright Lemn Sissay, inaugural Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness winner, Freya Marshall Payne and campaigner, Fire Chief, author and neuroscientist, Sabrina Cohen-Hatton.

Chair of Judges, Paddy O'Connell said of the shortlist of finalists:

> *"This is Britain. As entrants, you collectively took us onto the streets and into precarious, temporary and often substandard accommodation. Sometimes, as we were reading, we had to take ourselves off the streets, too. Our eight finalists all artfully and expertly brought human stories to bear on the wider picture - congratulations to every one of them. And to everyone who entered, thank you. We as judges have read and understood each piece: everyone has been seen. Now, it's up to us to make sure you are heard."*



THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR POLITICAL WRITING

Winner of The Orwell Prize for Political Writing: *Matthew Longo*
The Picnic: An Escape to Freedom and the Collapse of the Iron Curtain

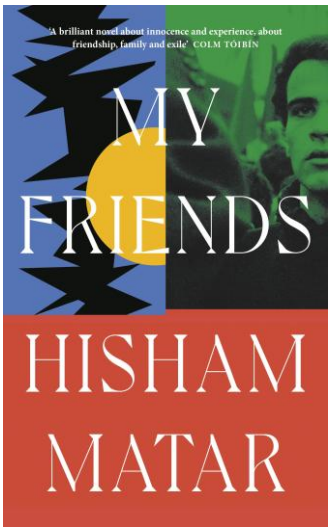
The Orwell Prize is the UK's most prestigious prize for political writing and continues to attract judges and entries of the highest quality. Our 2024 judges were Peter Frankopan (chair), historian, best-selling author and broadcaster; Christina Lamb OBE, Chief Foreign Correspondent of the Sunday Times and best-selling author; Sunder Katwala, writer and director of the British Future Think Tank; Rohan Silva, CEO of Second Home, founder of the Libreria bookshop and former senior policy advisor to David Cameron and Lola Seaton, Editor at the New Left Review and contributing writer at the New Statesman.

Judge, Christina Lamb, said of the winning entry:

> *"In the summer of 1989, a group of Hungarian activists did something unthinkable: they entered the forbidden militarised zone of the Iron Curtain – and held a picnic. They were joined by East German holidaymakers in Ladas rolling up for goulash, beer and brass bands. I did not know this story and I loved the way it surprised me and captured the time, the idealism, and the role of ordinary citizens in the unravelling of the Iron Curtain – as well as its echoes for today. Wonderfully told through extensive interviews with everyone from the human rights activist who came up with the madcap idea, the stubborn young woman who made it happen, to Stasi agents and border guards."*

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

THE ORWELL PRIZE FOR POLITICAL FICTION



Winner of The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction*: Hisham Matar*
My Friends

Our 2024 judges were literary critic, author of author of *Romantic Moderns, Virginia Woolf, Weatherland and The Rising Down* and Professor of English at the University of Birmingham, Alexandra Harris (Chair); writer of novels including God's Own Country and A Hunger and winner of the 2024 BBC national short story award, Ross Raisin; Simon Okotie, environmental consultant and novelist and Dr Lara Choksey, a lecturer, specialising in modern and contemporary literature at UCL.

Judge, Simon Okotie, said of the winning entry:

> *"A novel exploring the fallout of the 1984 shootings at the Libyan embassy in London, and its effect on three friends. The quietness of the prose belies the event's traumatic drama and its profound personal and political repercussions. The style is old fashioned – genteel almost – and authentic to the point of reading like the most exquisite memoir. A warm and extraordinarily clear-sighted novel that is, in part, about the power of the literary world to effect real-world change."*

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

A SPECIAL PRIZE FOR 2024

Winner of The Orwell Prize, Special Prize*: Computer Weekly*
For breaking the Post Office Horizon scandal and sustained investigation and reportage of the story over many years.

Awarded rarely, certainly not annually, our Prize Committee deemed Computer Weekly's exceptional reporting to be deserving of this special honour.

THE CRICK PRIZE

Winner of The Crick Prize: ***Robert Saunders***
How Do We Write the History of Brexit?

The Crick Prize, for the best essay in The Political Quarterly magazine, is named after the founder of The Orwell Prizes, Sir Bernard Crick.

All of our Orwell Prize winners receive free subscriptions to The Political Quarterly magazine, which addresses current issues through serious and thought-provoking articles, written in clear jargon-free English.

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

THE ORWELL YOUTH PRIZE - *ANOTHER BUMPER YEAR FOR ENTRIES!*

This was an almost-record-breaking year for the Prize! We had 815 final entries – only surpassed by the 2020 prize cycle which took in Covid lockdown periods, and up by 250 final entries on the previous year. 593 entrants submitted for feedback.

The Prize, open to all 11–18-year-olds in the UK and those studying from a British curriculum abroad, is unique among young people's writing prizes. Every entrant can request individual feedback before submitting an improved draft. We have a wide network of expert readers and judges immersed in what young people write and this has been grown over a decade of running the Prize.

This was the first year that we welcomed entrants from Year 7, whose entries made up 15% of the total. 45% of students who made it through to the shortlist (on blind judging) came from non-selective state schools. We ran hugely successful regional hub events, with partner universities in three areas of deprivation, welcoming students from local non-selective state schools in and around Sunderland, Coventry and Portsmouth.

Winners and Runners Up
Our winners and runners up were selected by our judges, Charlie Higson, Patience Agbabi, Polly Toynbee, John Bernard and Vicky Spratt. They selected 2 winners and 3 runners-up from each of the three age categories: Years 7-9, 10-11 and 12-13.

Winners and runners up covered the full range of forms, from stories to essays, journalism and poems. Themes included multicultural identity, climate, migration, war, national identity, inheritance, and family. There was even a standout comedic piece, *Macduff the Carrot*, selected as a runner up!

> *My home life is simply riddled with illness. But my family isn't unique in this regard. In fact, South Asians are six times more likely to develop Type 2 Diabetes than Europeans. One may assume that this may be due to a variety of lifestyle reasons, such as diet, perhaps. South Asian cuisine does tend to consist of foods high in fat and sugar. But what if the reason was far more profound than simply diet? What if it leads back to events occurring decades in the past? What if Mubina was part of it all?*
>
> Excerpt from 'Diagnosing Hunger Then And Now' by Nethuli Weerakoon,
> 2024 Orwell Youth Prize winner, Years 10 to 11

> *We were still catching up on our day spent without each other when I opened the door to the café; eyes instantly drawn to the colour of the deep red roses that occupied every table, and as we walked over to our usual one in the corner, I noticed a label was attached, and I read Phoenix and William through teary eyes.*
> *Phoenix picked up one of the flowers and held it out for me, with slight hesitation, before reaching out and wiping away one of my tears that was glad, like me, to finally be free.*
>
> Excerpt from 'Love Behind Closed Doors' by Florence Alsop Nethuli Weerakoon,
> 2024 Orwell Youth Prize winner, Years 12 to 13

Celebration Day

Our shortlist of 44 entrants were invited to our Celebration Day at University College London on Saturday 6th July. 36 young people attended, from as far as the Isle of Jura, Argyll and Bute, with family and teachers, for a workshop with Coventry Poet Laureate and Youth Prize judge John Bernard, readings of extracts from the shortlisted pieces and the prize giving. We were very lucky to have Richard Blair, Orwell's son, there in person, to congratulate the young people.

Photo credit: Facundo Arrizabalaga

The Orwell Youth Fellows

We are particularly proud of our ever-growing cohort of past winners and runners up of The Orwell Youth Prize: The Orwell Youth Fellows. They are an exceptionally collaborative, supportive and creative group. They now range in age from 13 to 21. In their monthly, facilitated virtual meetings, they form ideas, start conversations and develop new writing that is responsive to the society we live in and supports other young writers to engage with the prize. New projects for the 2024 Prize cycle including Songs of Cygnus, an online publication on the theme of 'Home' which brought readers regular transmissions from imagined planets.

'Since becoming an Orwell Youth Fellow in 2021, I have received countless opportunities to develop and share my writing that I would never have had access to otherwise, such as through the Unlock Democracy event we took part in last year. It has been immensely rewarding to work collaboratively with other talented young writers and to see our annual projects grow in ambition. I feel that through my time as a Youth Fellow, and the creative responsibilities that role has allowed me to take on, I have not only grown as a political writer but as a person.' - Bella Rew, OYP Winner 2021"

Bella Rew, OYP Winner 2021, Orwell Youth Fellow & Trainee Trustee

"I have loved my time as an Orwell Youth Fellow, since 2020. It has been a fantastic opportunity to meet other engaged young people and work together on a broad range of projects. The process of collaboration when writing, in a constructive, friendly environment is fabulous, just like the opportunities to attend the Foundation's events, where we have had some really fascinating speakers - George Monbiot being a particular highlight for me."

Hugh Ludford, OYP Winner 2020 & Orwell Youth Fellow

"I've been a Fellow of the Youth Prize since the project's inception in 2020. I've particularly enjoyed the opportunity to work collaboratively with other Youth Fellows to develop new writing projects, including our zine Axial Tilt and the Digitalis Archives on Substack. It has been really encouraging to have the space and time to create new pieces of work with other young people whilst receiving valuable feedback and support.

It has also been a fantastic chance to get involved with the wider work of the Foundation and shape the future direction of the Youth Prize. I've had the chance to contribute to the school's outreach programme as well as attend one of the Youth Prize's university hub events. The Fellows programme is much more than just helping engagement with the Youth Prize but also allows us to gain broader experience in the charity sector across the Foundation's work."

Noah Robinson, OYP Runner-Up 2020, Orwell Youth Fellow & Trainee Trustee

THE ANNUAL ORWELL LECTURE

Personal bravery is a quality that links all of our lecturers and 2023 saw anti-corruption campaigner, Bill Browder deliver his Orwell Memorial Lecture entitled "In Front of Your Nose: Putin, Russia and What We Failed to See".

Browder is on Putin's 'hit-list' - a list published by Russian prosecutors of Americans they want to 'question' in connection with a series of bogus criminal cases.

As the founder of Hermitage Capital told the packed audience at UCL's Cruciform Theatre, Browder was the largest foreign investor in Russia until 2005, when he was denied entry to the country and declared 'a threat to national security' for exposing corruption in Russian state-owned companies.

In his lecture, he explained how in 2008, his lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky, had uncovered a massive fraud committed by Russian government officials involving the theft of US $230 million of state taxes. Magnitsky testified against state officials involved in this fraud and was subsequently arrested, imprisoned without trial and systematically tortured. He spent a year in prison under horrific detention conditions, was repeatedly denied medical treatment, and died in prison on November 16, 2009, leaving behind a wife and two children.

Since then, Bill Browder has sought justice outside of Russia and started a global campaign for governments around the world to impose targeted visa bans and asset freezes on human rights abusers and highly corrupt officials. The United States was the first to impose these targeted sanctions with the passage of the Sergei Magnitsky Accountability Act in 2012, followed by the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act in 2016.

In giving the annual Orwell Memorial Lecture, Bill Browder joined an impressive list of speakers, often leaders in their fields of literature, politics and religion or people with exceptional life stories to tell. Speakers are tasked with discussing any topic 'Orwell might have been interested in'. Since its inception in 1989 Orwell lecturers have included:

- **Ian McEwan CH**, 'Politics and the Imagination: Reflection's on Orwell's Inside the Whale',
- **Dame Hilary Mantel**, "More like a castle than a realm': Thomas Cromwell's Radical England'
- **Daniel Finkelstein**, 'How To Predict An Election'
- **The Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams**, 'War, Words and Reason: Orwell and Thomas Merton on the Crises of Language'
- **Tristram Hunt MP**, 'Decolonising the Wonder House: Orwell, Empire and the Museum'
- **Ruth Davidson MSP**. "Nationalism should not be confused with patriotism' - Our Divided Politics'

THE ORWELL FESTIVAL AND OTHER EVENTS

Our 2024 Festival offered paying guests a diverse range of events between 12th – 26th June 2024 including several in collaboration with our partners, The Political Quarterly, Waterstones, Foyles and UCL. Events included:

Labour's challenge: Can a Starmer government fix the UK's broken economic model?
With Orwell Foundation Trustee and Chair of The Resolution Foundation, Gavin Kelly and panellists Professor of Political Economy, Michael Jacobs of the University of Sheffield and Stephanie Flanders, Head of Economics and Government at Bloomberg.

Photo credit: Graham Self

Orwell Birthday Celebration with Ariane Bankes and DJ Taylor
A celebration of the launch *Who is Big Brother: A Reader's Guide to George* Orwell (Yale University Press) by DJ Taylor and *The Quality of Love: Twin Sisters at the Heart of the Century* (Duckworth), Ariane's book about her mother, Celia Kirwan and aunt, Mamaine Koestler – a book described by Rachel Cooke in the Guardian as telling '*the story of Celia and Mamaine Paget and their friends and lovers, including George Orwell – and may prove a useful corrective to some of the claims made by Anna Funder in Wifedom, her recent book about Eileen.*

Photo credit: Jeremy Wikeley

A series of Orwell walks
Led by Michael King, experienced tour guide and member of the Orwell Society, these popular walks featured visits to Orwell's lodgings, favoured haunts and sites of inspiration for his writing.

Gower St Presents: The Orwell Prize 2024 Finalists
This event brought together writers working in different forms from the Orwell Prize lists to read from their work and discuss how to 'make political writing into an art'. We were joined by Samantha Harvey (***Orbital***) for the Prize for Political Fiction, Matthew Longo (***The Picnic***) and Jason Okundaye (***Revolutionary Acts***) for the Prize for Political Writing.

Photo credit: Liz Wallace

Orwell and the Future
At the 2024 Charleston Festival, journalist and author of ***The Ministry of Truth: A Biography of George Orwell's 1984,*** Dorian Lynskey was joined by 'Sherlock' and 'Back' actor Louise Brealey and Sandra Newman as well as Dr Lisa Mullen, English Fellow at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge and presenter of Radio 3's Free Thinking, to discuss Orwell's ongoing legacy. The event featured the unveiling of the shortlist for the 2024 Orwell Prize for Political Writing, as announced by judge, Sunder Katwala.

Photo credit: Sunder Katwala

And separately from the Festival, The Orwell Foundation and the Institute of Advanced Studies at UCL were delighted to welcome Dr Débora Tavares (University of São Paulo) and Dr Nathan Waddell (University of Birmingham) for two talks on 'reading and misreading' the work of George Orwell across cultures, classes, and continents.Research Trips

Excerpts from Youth Prize Manager Tabby Hayward's 2023 Marrakech dairy:

5th November
Next, we drove past the railway station (rain still heavy) where Eric and Eileen arrived (separately from their luggage), then on to the Rialto cinema, where they watched a film on their brief stay

6th November
Next, to the hospital which Eileen visited for neuralgia and then to the Cafe Les Negociants, frequented by Eileen and Eric (and where they later stayed in rooms, probably on the first floor) for coffee and more interesting materials to peruse, including the couple's shopping lists, photographs and letters.

7th November
We stopped at Taddert. Many places are called Taddert, or similar, as it means village, but this one had been correctly pinpointed by the group as the location of the Auberges des Noyeurs, the hotel where Orwell and Eileen stayed in Jan 1939 after Orwell had completed his first draft of Coming Up for Air.

Photo credit: Tabby Hayward

FUTURE PLANS

EXPANDING THE INTERNATIONAL REACH OF THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

George Orwell's remarkable legacy has never been more important to free society. We need the help of those who share his values to secure and strengthen this legacy, in the United States and around the world.

Orwell was fascinated by the USA. Though, in many ways he is quintessentially an English author, it was his reception in the US, which established him as an authority on the international stage. Thanks to US readers and institutions, Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty-Four came to define the twentieth century- but also, alarmingly, the twenty-first.

In the UK, we have created an effective organisation that celebrates Orwell's legacy and puts his values to work in contemporary contexts. But the issues threatening Orwell's legacy – from dis-and mis-information to freedom of speech – are global. The use and misuse of Orwell as a cultural figure is especially prevalent in the US where his message can be distorted by extreme voices across the political spectrum. We have the experience and authority to make a difference by extending our programmes into the USA.

Orwell Council member, David Taylor and Orwell Foundation Deputy Director, Liz Wallace undertook a successful reconnaissance visit to New York in September 2024, where there was great interest in the idea of bringing a limited archival exhibition – and Richard Blair – over for the 75th anniversary of Orwell's death in 2025 with plans for a more extensive exhibition in 2027/28. In a series of talks and meetings during their short visit, David and Liz discovered the potential for far more significant fundraising than is possible in the UK currently. We are also speaking to UCL about making the Orwell archive accessible to an international audience and in 2025 we intend to return to the US for a series of talks, some based around archival material, with Richard Blair and David Taylor among others.

We have now developed a visiting Orwell Fellowship at UCL, in collaboration with the university's Institute of Advanced Studies, and we are hoping to develop this into a funded visiting research post, to make us and UCL the hub of Orwell authority and scholarship

VOLUNTEERS

We have had two kind offers of significant help, as we look to grow our network of volunteers and our membership scheme. A highly experienced literary agent and rights specialist has offered to work with us on a voluntary basis, to ensure a premium experience for our donors, from spring 2025 onwards. And Eton, where Orwell was a pupil, has offered volunteer reading from members of its state school partnership team in order to expand our feedback offer and ensure all entrants to The Orwell Youth Prize get the opportunity to improve their entries. In 2023-24, we worked with 101 volunteers, from University College London, King's College London, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press and Penguin, as well as professional writers, civil servants, poets and education professionals, recruited through our newsletter. We are grateful to all of our volunteer readers who give up their time and expertise, enabling us to provide individual feedback to every student who enters The Orwell

Youth Prize. Thanks too to all the volunteers at UCL who helped out at our events throughout the year.

GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

Sustaining and growing our Friends and Patrons Scheme is our number one priority as we move into the 2025 Prize cycle. On 31st August 2024, we had EIGHT patrons, donating £1500/$1500 per year or more:

- **Richard Blair** – Orwell's son and our Founder Patron
- **Ariane Bankes** – an author whose mother, Celia Kirwan was a friend of Orwell's.
- **Lord Egremont** – a biographer and novelist
- **Kathy Harvey** – Associate Dean at the University of Oxford and Trustee of The Orwell Foundation
- **Andrew Peck** – Trustee of The Orwell Foundation
- **Su-Mei Thompson** – CEO of The Media Trust and Trustee of The Orwell Foundation
- **Sir John Gieve** – Former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England
- **Aydin Hammoudeh** – a school-age student based in LA, Aydin recently took his Orwell books into class and gave a talk about being an Orwell Foundation Patron.

In September 2024, we were delighted to be joined by a NINTH Patron:

- **Charles Coutinho** - the MD of Coutinho Properties and host of the New Books Network podcast.

Our Friends

In June we reduced the cost of our Friends scheme and it now costs £60/$60 per year or £42/$42 for concessions. This halving of the cost hasn't yet translated into a big rush of new members but our December 5th Southbank Lecture with Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe will be an important moment to publicise our activities and to welcome new supporters.

On 31st August 2024, we had 15 UK Friends and 10 international Friends and a further 97 paid subscribers on *Orwell Daily*, which we update with new material each week. Like Friends, Subscribers donate $5/month - equivalent to $5675 a year on current subscriptions.

We have a Friends/Patrons calendar/schedule covering key moments for engagement in the year. We regularly review our offer to supporters and we are currently looking to show our appreciation by enhancing benefits. We believe this can largely be done without incurring significant costs (special access to key figures on Zoom etc). All Friends and Patrons have now had an invitation to the lecture and we are making plans for drinks afterwards.

EVENTS

THE ORWELL LECTURE

Our flagship annual event, for many years held at University College Library's Cruciform Theatre, for the first time is taking place at the Southbank Centre on 5th December 2024. The Queen Elizabeth Hall, with a capacity nearly three times that of our usual venue, offers the opportunity for us to appeal to a new audience as well as welcoming many of our annual lecture supporters. With tickets set to sell out, we expect the event to be a success and look forward to a fruitful partnership for years to come. We shall have a merchandise stall in the foyer of the QEH before and after the event and we have secured a sponsor for a drinks reception following the lecture, where we can thank our members and attract new ones.

THE ORWELL GALA DINNER

The intention is that this becomes *The Annual Orwell Gala Dinner*, a key fundraising event taking place in early summer each year. We are speaking to several interested host partners and sponsors.

THE ORWELL FESTIVAL 2025

We are planning our highest profile events for 29th May, 5th, 12th and 19th June 2025 in and around Bloomsbury. We anticipate working with our usual partners including *The Political Quarterly*, the Southbank Centre, Pushkin House, Waterstones, Foyles and UCL. We are also in the early stages of planning an event focusing on Artificial Intelligence and another featuring panel from the world of professional football.

UCL 200

In 2026, UCL turns 200 and they are keen to put Orwell front and centre of their celebrations. We are developing plans with UCL's Faculty of Arts and Humanities, including an ambitious proposal to produce a live reading of *Animal Farm* on the UCL estate.

We have also been in regular contact with artist Hans K. Clausen and we are hopeful that UCL 200 will create an opportunity for his Orwell-inspired word 'The Winston Smith Library of Victory and Truth' to be displayed on campus.

THE ORWELL AWARDS CEREMONY 2025 & 2026

In 2025 our annual Awards Ceremony will be held once again in Bloomsbury's Conway Hall, fittingly on Orwell's birthday, 25th July. In UCL's bicentennial year of 2026, the college is keen for us to host our Awards Ceremony in the Bloomsbury Theatre (capacity 541), part of the UCL estate. We are excited by the proposal and hope it becomes a reality.

OUR YOUTH PRIZE

EXCITING NEW WORK ON THE CURRICULUM

Over the decade that we have been running our Youth Writing prize, we have seen some exceptional writing. We have also identified some areas of concern, notably a lack of entries from male students - 25-30% each year come from boys, and the majority of these are boys studying at private or grammar schools. We believe this speaks to a wider problem in engaging boys in creative writing.

We have convened other writing prizes and creative writing organisations, regularly meeting teams from Foyle Young Poets, the Financial Times' Young Economists' Prize, the Royal Geographical Society, First Story and New Writing North to share experiences and best practice. It has become clear that together we have all been in some way supplementing the curriculum, by adding what should be part of every young person's skillset: reasoning, expressing and writing for themselves and understanding, through literature and argument, the experiences of others. Common concerns about entries, cited by groups representing youth creative writing prizes, include:

- An unfamiliarity with structuring and sustaining an argument across a long piece of writing
- A lack of imaginative confidence
- Uncertainty about expressing their own interpretations/opinions

We believe that these skills are vital for all citizens. Assessing and interpreting evidence clearly is the only way to build resilient young people in the face of the information revolution. These skills are also important for the creative economy: imagination, storytelling and expression have been the basis of many important economic sectors in the UK from gaming to film and television.

Orwell wrote that '*The imagination, like certain wild animals, will not breed in captivity*.' Giving young people nuanced ways of expressing their views and approaching difficult subjects is vital for citizens and to provide agency for young people. It should also be about excitement, creativity, fun.

We are extremely proud of our Orwell Youth Prize winners, many of whom have gone on to win other writing prizes and to speak to parliamentarians, to appear on BBC Radio 4's Today programme and local media, and to have an impact on education policy during Covid. Many have now moved on to universities, to study a range of subjects, and have used their skills in a huge variety of careers and in their communities.

But many secondary age students need more than the curriculum is currently offering and we shall continue to use the Orwell name and the considerable convening powers it brings to urge policymakers to do more for our young people in developing critical reasoning, self-expression, extended creative and original writing and understanding others, through literature and debating.

We also urge them to encourage the widespread study of Orwell on the English and Politics curriculums, so that students may question the world around them while also learning to write 'good prose…like a windowpane'.

SCHOOL OUTREACH

We shall revisit our outreach interventions for 2025, to see how we can most effectively develop interventions in state schools in target areas which translate into entries to the Prize.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

STRUCTURE

The Orwell Foundation is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (*Registered Charity No 1161563).* It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution. Its Board of Trustees determines the long-term direction of the organisation and works with the Director and Deputy Director to determine and review strategy.

Four former trustees with a special connection to the Orwell estate – Richard Blair, Bill Hamilton, David Taylor and Hugh Tomlinson – have been appointed indefinitely to the Council of the Orwell Foundation and provide wise counsel to the Board and staff.

Responsibility for the management of the charity and its activities is delegated to the Director and Deputy Director, who are in turn supported by a small team. The Foundation has six members of staff. The Director, Professor Jean Seaton, generously donates her time.

GOVERNANCE

Trustees
The Board of Trustees, chaired by Lord Ken Macdonald KC, brings a range of literary, journalistic, legal and charitable professional expertise to the body. All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity. They are appointed for a term of four years and may be reappointed for a further four years (or longer in exceptional circumstances).

The Foundation's Board originated from the merger of two previous charity Boards: The Orwell Foundation and The Orwell Youth Prize, in 2020. This resulted in an excessively large number of Trustees. Lord Macdonald, with agreement of the Board, reduced its size and on 31st August 2024, the Board had 11 Trustees plus 2 Trainee Trustees (3 Trainee Trustees in total but with two of those sharing one role, with each attending 50 % of Board meetings).

The Orwell Foundation's Trustees, Council and staff are grateful to Arifa Akbar, Michael Callanan, Gavin Freeguard, Matt Garraghan and Rebecca Omonira-Oyekanmi for their service to the Board. All resigned their posts on 17th July 2024. The Board welcomed new Trustee Sameer Padania to the Board on 19th October 2023.

All Trustees are asked to declare any possible conflict of interest resulting from their involvement in other organisations. The Trustees meet quarterly, to review the progress of the charity, and on further occasions as required. The Constitution of The Orwell Foundation permits the Board to appoint new Council members and Trustees at any time as needs arise. Trustees are appointed by agreement of the Board, with regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective management of the

CIO. Two trustees (currently Deborah Lincoln and Gavin Kelly) are nominated by *The Political Quarterly*, according to the constitution of The Orwell Foundation.

New trustees are provided with an induction pack containing information about their duties and responsibilities. Upon appointment, trustees are introduced to the charity's work and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles, including that regarding the role of trustees and their responsibilities under the Charities Act (2011).

Liability in the event of a winding-up of the charity is limited under the Foundation's Constitution to its Trustees. Trainee Trustees, Members (Friends and Patrons of The Orwell Foundation) and members of The Council of The Orwell Foundation have no liability in the event of a winding up of the charity.

Trainee Trustees
On 19th October 2023, the Board of The Orwell Foundation welcomed its first Trainee Trustees, Ruby Alexander and Noah Robinson. Ruby and Noah were the successful applicants in a competitive round of interviews among The Orwell Youth Fellows, our growing cohort of previous winners and runners-up of The Orwell Youth Prize. Our Trainee Trustees are active observers. They have no voting rights. Neither do they have legal or financial responsibilities.

The inclusion of Ruby and Noah in our Board has introduced fresh insights and perspectives and has been a most welcome development. The responsibilities of our Trainee Trustees include, but are not limited to, contributing to discussions, evaluating and supporting areas of our work, championing The Orwell Foundation's events and activities, values, ambition, and strategic direction, helping to safeguard the good name and values of the charity, always acting in its best interests and acting as an ambassador for the Youth Prize and the Foundation more widely.

Each Trainee Trustee is paired with an existing trustee who acts as a mentor. Each serves a two-year term, attending, either in person or virtually, four Board meetings per year as well as events, where possible. The role is voluntary.

In their first year, our Trainee Trustees have provided invaluable service to the governance and activities of the Foundation, not least through assisting at our school outreach events, acting as ambassadors in assemblies at schools near their home or place of education and through their participation in Board meetings.

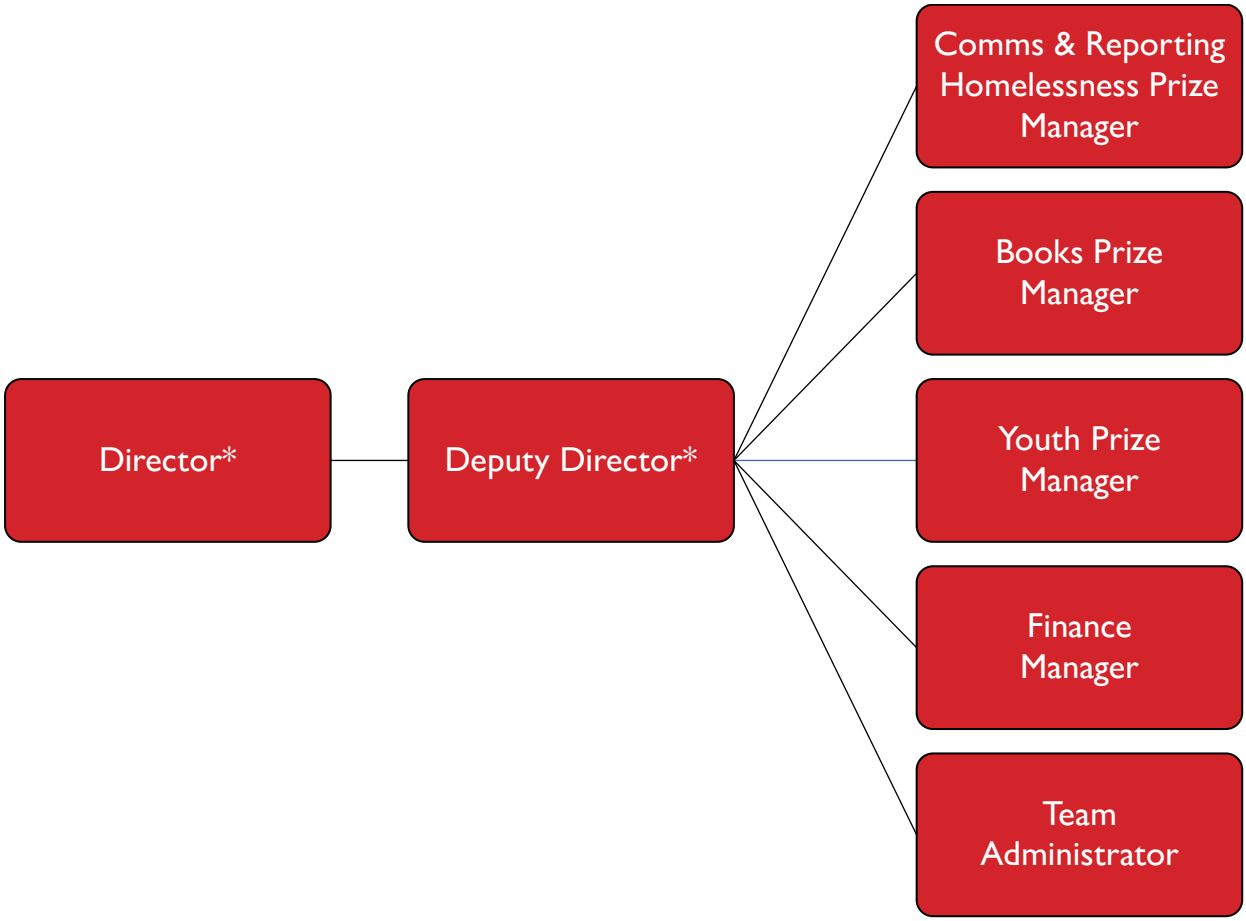
MANAGEMENT

Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the charity and its activities is delegated to the Director and Deputy Director, who are in turn supported by a small team. The Foundation has six members of staff. In addition, the Foundation's Director, Professor Jean Seaton, generously donates her time. In December 2023, we said farewell to our excellent Administrator, Alice Adonis and we welcomed our wonderful new one, Graham Self in January 2024.

VOLUNTEERS

We are supported by around 100 volunteers each year.

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION STAFF



* The Journalism Prize is run by the Director & Deputy Director. The Reporting Homelessness Prize is run by the Deputy Director and the Communications Manager.

DIRECTOR
Professor Jean Seaton

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Liz Wallace

FINANCE MANAGER
Georgina Faulkner

YOUTH PRIZE MANAGER
Tabby Hayward

TEAM ADMINISTRATOR
Graham Self

BOOKS PRIZE MANAGER
James Tookey

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
Jeremy Wikeley

FINANCIAL REVIEW

SUMMARY

2021-22 saw the charity navigate the ongoing consequences of the pandemic and current cost of-living crisis as well as increased costs associated with global conflicts and Brexit. In the challenging fundraising environment of the following two years, the charity used some of its reserves to maintain operations. Throughout the period of this Annual Report and beyond, the Foundation has taken steps to develop new sources of funding, including engaging with potential donors in the US and the appointment of a freelance fundraiser to help with securing sustainable funding. In 2024-5, we will be embarking on our new multi-year Strategic Plan with the aim of identifying new funding opportunities and solidifying the Foundation's long term financial security.

Building individual giving to the charity through our membership scheme remains a key priority in ensuring the Foundation can keep nourishing brave writing long into the future. Our initial progress since the membership relaunch is promising.

During 2023-24, we claimed Gift Aid on all UK donations and, with the projected increase in the Friends and Patrons scheme, we will be endeavouring to also claim Gift Aid on income received through these schemes.

PRINCIPAL FUNDING SOURCES

Partners, sponsors and corporate donors in 2023-4: The Centre for Homelessness Impact, The Political Quarterly, Argus Media, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Silicon Valley Community Fund.

We are eternally grateful for the financial support, and generosity of time, given by our Founding Patron and Member of our Council, Richard Blair.

The support from those who joined us over the last year as Patrons has been invaluable in the pursuit of our mission. The Foundation would like to thank:

- Richard Blair
- Ariane Bankes
- Lord Egremont
- Sir John Gieve
- Aydin Hammoudeh
- Kathy Harvey
- Andrew Peck
- Su-Mei Thompson

All patrons receive complimentary tickets to Foundation events, copies of our anthologies, personalised acknowledgement in Foundation publications, a Folio copy of a book by George Orwell and annual copies of our prize-winning books, as well as personal updates from the Foundation team. Further benefits are available, depending on donations, including patrons' events and personal tours of the UNESCO-registered Orwell archive at UCL.

GOING CONCERN

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position and forecasts as part of their assessment of the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have reviewed the cash flow forecast for a period of at least 12 months from the date of these accounts, and taking into account the income and cash flow forecasts, the possible mitigating actions and initial positive reactions from some potential donors, they are of the view that, notwithstanding the current challenging fundraising landscape and the material uncertainties that remain in relation to the amount of additional income which will be realised, the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Trustees have concluded that it remains appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

RESERVES POLICY

As at 31 August 2024, unrestricted reserves were £120,988 (compared to £165,958 at the same time in 2023 and £196,818 in 2022). Under the charity's reserves policy, the Trustees have set a minimum level of unrestricted reserves of 6 months of operating costs, which is approximately £100,000. In order to maintain reserves at the reserves policy level and to raise additional funds for operations, steps have already been taken to develop new sources of funding, including engaging with potential donors in the US and the appointment of a freelance fundraiser to help with securing sustainable funding. The purpose of these actions is to increase the amount of unrestricted reserves to a level which the Trustees consider adequate to support the activities of the charity. The reserves policy is reviewed annually by the Trustees.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The charity has a comprehensive Risk Register that is regularly reviewed and updated by management and Trustees. The principal risk to the charity continues to be insufficient income generation. Economic conditions, together with significant financial pressure in the charity sector and continued restrictions in public funding, continue to pose significant uncertainty over fundraising capability and investment performance. To meet these challenges, the Orwell Foundation has made significant investments in its fundraising capacity, including the launch of a Friends and Patrons scheme, holding fundraising events and several successful trips to the United States. This ongoing work, along with the employment of a freelance fundraiser in 2024/2025 and 2025/2026, should mitigate against this principal risk.
New plans and a prudent budget have been drawn up for the next financial year with the importance of securing sustained and sustainable core funding in mind.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Orwell Foundation (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 Charities Act 2011.*
2. *the financial statements do not accord with those records; or*
3. *the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.*

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

(signed): ..... (signed): .....

Gary Pready, FCA
For and on behalf of Gravita Audit Oxford LLP
Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales
First Floor, Park Central
40-41 Park End Street
Oxford OX1 1JD

Lord Ken Macdonald, Trustee (Chair)
Dated: 20/May/25

Dated: 22 May 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	120,652	55,460	176,112	105,591	83,037	188,628
Investments	4	2,526	-	2,526	1,154	-	1,154
Other income	5	43,190	-	43,190	15,213	-	15,213
Total income		166,368	55,460	221,828	121,958	83,037	204,995
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	204,149	62,649	266,798	94,133	141,722	235,855
Total expenditure		204,149	62,649	266,798	94,133	141,722	235,855
Net expenditure and movement in funds		(37,781)	(7,189)	(44,970)	27,825	(58,685)	(30,860)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 September 2023		158,769	7,189	165,958	130,944	65,874	196,818
Fund balances at 31 August 2024		120,988	-	120,988	158,769	7,189	165,958

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

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	**12**	2,097		15,365	
Cash at bank and in hand		168,059		159,750	
		170,156		175,115	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	(49,168)		(9,157)	
Net current assets			120,988		165,958
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	**15**		-		7,189
Unrestricted funds	**16**		120,988		158,769
			120,988		165,958

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 15 May 2025

Lord Ken Macdonald, Trustee (Chair)
Dated: 20 May 25

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Orwell Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

Charitable activities - comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services. it includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such series and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs - comprise expenditure associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	24,996	16,500	41,496	60,008	18,000	78,008
Grants	95,656	38,960	134,616	45,583	65,037	110,620
	120,652	55,460	176,112	105,591	83,037	188,628

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	2,526	1,154

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Other income	43,190	15,213

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	174,667	133,893
Prizes awarded, Judging fees & Project costs	73,778	80,649
Other operating costs	14,980	17,783
Trustee expenses	429	-
	263,854	232,325
Share of support and governance costs (see note 7)		
Support	-	1,030
Governance	2,944	2,500
	266,798	235,855
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	204,149	94,133
Restricted funds	62,649	141,722
	266,798	235,855

7 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
	-	1,030
Governance costs	2,944	2,500
	2,944	3,530
Analysed between:		
Charitable activities	2,944	3,530

8 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,944	2,500

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	6	6

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	161,565	124,728
Social security costs	8,701	5,604
Other pension costs	4,401	3,561
	174,667	133,893

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,000 - £69,999	1	-

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

12 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	-	11,075
Prepayments and accrued income	2,097	4,290
	2,097	15,365

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	38,486	6,077
Accruals and deferred income	10,682	3,080
	49,168	9,157

14 Retirement benefits schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2024 £	2023 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	4,401	3,561

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

15 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 August 2024 £
Richard Blair - Youth	7,189	15,000	(22,189)	-
Centre for Homelessness	-	38,960	(38,960)	-
Andrew Peck - Youth	-	1,500	(1,500)	-
	7,189	55,460	(62,649)	-

15 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Previous year:	At 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 August 2023 £
JRF Social Evils	12,796	11,083	(23,879)	-
Richard Blair Political Fiction	16,782	-	(16,782)	-
Richard Blair - Youth	12,460	15,000	(20,271)	7,189
Individual Donation - Youth	4,825	-	(4,825)	-
Other - Youth	11,687	-	(11,687)	-
Substack Festival	7,324	-	(7,324)	-
Centre for Homelessness	-	34,054	(34,054)	-
Arts Council	-	19,900	(19,900)	-
Andrew Peck - Youth	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
	65,874	83,037	(141,722)	7,189

16 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 September 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	158,769	166,368	(204,149)	120,988

Previous year:	At 1 September 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	130,944	121,958	(94,133)	158,769

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£
At 31 August 2024:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	120,988	-	120,988
	120,988	-	120,988

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£
At 31 August 2023:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	158,769	7,189	165,958
	158,769	7,189	165,958

18 Related party transactions

During the period a trustee was paid a total of £600 for work done on behalf of the charity (2023- £1,250).

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THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

www.orwellfoundation.com

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1161563

Accounts

Charity registration number 1161563

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Lord K Macdonald KC (Chair)	
	Arifa Akbar	(Resigned 9 October 2023)
	Professor Andrew Williams	
	Stephen Armstrong	
	Richard Blair	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
	Michael Callanan	
	Gavin Freeguard	
	Matthew Garraghan	
	Bill Hamilton	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
	Kathryn Harvey	
	Gavin Kelly	
	Deborah Lincoln	
	Rebecca Oyekanmi	
	Andrew Peck	
	Elizabeth Sich	
	David Taylor	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
	Su-Mei Thompson	
	Hugh Tomlinson	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
	Boyd Tonkin	
Council (created December 2022)	Mr Richard Blair	
	Mr William Hamilton	
	Mr David Taylor	
	Mr Hugh Tomlinson	
Charity number	1161563	
Independent examiner	Critchleys Audit LLP	
	Beaver House	
	23-38 Hythe Bridge Street	
	Oxford	
	OX1 2EP	
Bankers	Barclays Bank	
	193 Camden High Street	
	Camden	
	London	
	NW1 7PJ	

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

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THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives, activities, and achievements

The Orwell Foundation uses the work of George Orwell to shine a light on brave writing, uncovering hidden lives and uncomfortable truths. We aim to connect with audiences from schoolchildren to policymakers, offering a platform to discuss subjects close to Orwell's heart, including poverty, political extremism, and the dangers posed by the corruption of language and the rise of new technologies.

Orwell exposed the dangers of disinformation and totalitarianism thorough writing that glowed with integrity, decency and fidelity to truth. His work powerfully transcends his own era, remaining relevant to the social, geo-political and economic landscapes of the twenty-first century.

We celebrate these values with our prizes, school programmes, lectures, debates, and online resources, championing creativity and diversity of opinion to promote Orwell's desire to 'make political writing into an art'. Following a change to the Foundation's constitution approved as part of a merger with The Orwell Youth Prize (6th May 2020), the Foundation's charitable objective also includes the promotion of the education of children and young people for the public benefit.

In addition to the busy programme of prizes and events described below, the Foundation maintains a website hosting a wide range of resources by and about George Orwell, which is free to use, as well as active social media accounts. Many of the essays on The Orwell Foundation's website receive over 10,000 unique visitors a month. We also publish a popular Substack serialisation, Orwell Daily.

Achievements and performance

The Orwell Prizes
The Orwell Prizes, the UK's most prestigious prizes for political writing, aim to reward and promote good writing, thinking, and reporting about politics for a public audience. Each Prize is worth £3000 to the winner. In 2022-2023, The Orwell Foundation awarded six prizes:

- The Orwell Prize for Political Writing, for a work of non-fiction published in the previous calendar year in the UK.
- The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction, for a work of fiction.
- The Orwell Prize for Journalism, for commentary and/or reportage.
- The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils, for reporting which has contributed to the public understanding of social issues in the UK.
- The Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness, for reporting experience of, or solutions to, homelessness in the UK
- The Orwell Youth Prize, an annual programme for students in school years 8 – 13 (or equivalent) culminating in a writing prize.

The awards, which are free to enter, independent of editorial agenda, and open to self-nomination, are accompanied by a programme of events, debates, and other activity.

The full list of finalists for all The Orwell Prizes can be found on our website.

The Orwell Prize for Journalism 2023 and Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils 2023
This year we had one panel of judges across two Prizes: The Orwell Prize for Journalism and The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils. The judges were Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (Chair), Katy Balls, Lindsey Hilsum, Kurt Barling and Ed Thomas.

The Orwell Prize for Journalism received 99 eligible entries and there were 57 eligible entries to the Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils. We received entries from 43 publications for the Journalism Prize and 22 publications for the Social Evils Prize, representing national, local, and independent reporting.

The shortlisted entries are published on The Orwell Foundation website . The winning prize was awarded to journalist, author and academic **Gary Younge**, whose entry included essays and a podcast on race, inequality and the history and legacy of slavery in Britain on We Are Unedited and in the New Statesman and The Guardian. **Paul Caruana Galizia and Katie Gunning** were highly commended for their Tortoise Media podcast series *Londongrad*.

The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils 2023was jointly awarded to **Shanti Das**, for a series investigating modern slavery in the UK care sector and **Mark Townsend**, for reporting on the mass kidnapping of children from Home Office care. Both investigations were published in The Observer. **Craig Easton** was highly commended for his photojournalism series *Thatcher's Children*. All the shortlisted entries are published on The Orwell Foundation website.

The Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness 2023
In the inaugural year of The Orwell Prize for Reporting Homelessness we received 73 eligible entries. The winning prize was jointly awarded to **Freya Marshall Payne** and **Daniel Lavelle**. Freya is an emerging writer and PhD candidate at the University of Oxford exploring women's experiences of homelessness, and Daniel is an author and journalist who won the Guardian's Hugo Young award in 2017. Both Freya and Daniel have lived experience of homelessness. **Jack Simpson** and **Carolyn Atkinson** were also highly commended for their reporting on exempt accommodation. The judging panel comprised Alan Rusbridger (Chair), Sangita Myska, Leanna Fairfax, and John Bird.

Of the total entries, 41% of teams included at least one member who stated they have experienced homelessness. The most popular medium of entry by a significant margin was written journalism – 51% of total submitted pieces – followed by non-fiction/essay – 16%. Other mediums included TV journalism, radio, photojournalism, film, and poetry, among others. 29% of entries included at least one piece of previously unpublished work. All entrants received a certificate thanking them for entering the Prize in its inaugural year.

The shortlisted entries, which are published on The Orwell Foundation website, broadly reflected overall entry figures: 44% of finalists have experienced homelessness and 22% of shortlisted entries included unpublished work. 57% of the shortlisted pieces were written journalism, followed by 14% TV journalism, 14% radio, 10% non-fiction/ essay, and 5% film.

The Foundation team produced a 3-episode podcast to accompany the Prize, with an average reach of approximately 4000 listens per episode in the 30 days after transmission.

The Orwell Prize for Political Writing 2023 and Prize for Political Fiction 2023
In 2023, we received approximately 250 entries to the Orwell Prize for Political Writing and 100 entries to the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction. The winner of The Orwell Prize for Political Writing 2023 was *Show Me the Bodies: How We Let Grenfell Happen* by Peter Apps (Oneworld). The winner of The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction was The New Life by Tom Crewe (Chatto and Windus). The shortlisted entries in each category are published on The Orwell Foundation website.

The 2023 judges of The Orwell Prize for Political Writing were Martha Lane-Fox (Chair), Kojo Koram, Alice Bell, Cristina Odone and Sukhdev Sandhu, while the 2023 judges of The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction were Boyd Tonkin (Chair), Tomiwa Owolade, Julia Jordan and Alison Flood.

The Orwell Youth Prize
The Orwell Youth Prize is an annual programme for students in school years 8 – 13 (or equivalent) culminating in a writing prize. Rooted in Orwell's values of integrity and fairness, the Prize and the activities around it introduce young people to the power of language and provoke them to think critically and creatively about the world in which they are living.

The Youth Prize asks young people to respond to big ideas in contemporary society, with a particular focus on social justice. Past themes have included: 'Truth vs. Lies', 'Identity', 'A Fair Society?', 'The Future We Want', 'A New Direction: Starting Small' and 'Coming up for Air'.

Far more than just a prize, the Orwell Youth Prize offers young people a journey progressing from debate-provoking workshops and resources, through to personal feedback on draft entries, and building a community around youth writing and an audience that engages with it.
Our understanding of social and educational disadvantage in the UK drives our work and focus, with the aim of reaching schools and individuals from less advantaged backgrounds, through workshops and online resources.

Activities 2022-23

The theme for The Orwell Youth Prize 2023 was 'Who's in Control?'

For the 2023 Prize, we received a total of 570 entries (up from 425 in 2022). Our volunteer readers narrowed the entries down to a shortlist of 43, encompassing a wide geographical range. Entries came in from Northern Ireland, Wales, Lancashire, Wiltshire, Somerset, Devon, County Durham, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire.

The 2023 judges were Orwell Prize winning novelist and academic, Delia Jarrett-Macauley (Chair); FT Global Education Editor, Andrew Jack; the BBC's Disinformation and Social Media Correspondent, Marianna Spring; and Forward Prize-winning poet, Will Harris. The winners and runners-up were announced at a Celebration Day at UCL on Saturday 8th July. Winners and runners up were invited to join the Youth Fellows programme, and winners received a cash prize and complete works of Orwell for themselves and their school sent separately.

The winners were in the following categories:

Junior Winners (Y8-11)
Beth Anker – *Meritocracy: The Politician's Pipe Dream*
Priya Floura – *Tick Tock*
Heike Ghandi – *The Catharsis of a Crane*
Amelia Roles – *Misconception*

Junior Runners Up (Y8-11)
Edward Blair-Heikkinen – *Simulation 0413*
Ruxue Jia – *Why is it so dark?*
Ellie Lee – *An Uncontrollable Scribble*
Marianne Lee – *Obedience*

Senior Winners (Y12 & 13)
Zaeema Assad – *The Radcliffe Line*
Iris Mamier – *Beware of the dog!' says the man with the gun*
Lara Wong – *Men's Shoes*

Senior Runners Up (Y12 & 13)
Heather Chapman – *Tableau with Sea Breeze and Salt Crown*
Ewan Guarnieri – *A Grand Reveal*
Rosetta Millar – *The Collective*

Highly Commended (Y8-13)
Zirui Peng – *To The Northerner* (Junior)
Catie May McAleese – *Thy Will Be Done* (Senior)

The full list is available on The Orwell Foundation website.

The Orwell Youth Fellows
The Orwell Youth Fellows are a young writers' collective, made up of former winners and runners up of The Orwell Youth Prize, who meet monthly to create new writing inspired by our theme.

In 2023, the Fellows published on Substack a collaborative project on the theme of 'Who's in Control?' They mapped out a dystopian world (*Digitalis*) where this question is paramount, focusing on topical issues including the impact of AI on creativity, a culture of hyper-productivity, and the spread of misinformation. Their work covers a huge range of forms, including poems, stories, letters, news reports, adverts, articles, diaries, scripts and audio-plays. *Digitalis* was launched, in July 2023, with regular instalments published over the summer holidays. The Fellows created digital artwork and audio recordings to accompany their writing. They also had creative control over the curation of the project with support from Foundation staff. *Digitalis* received acclaim, including from Substack's CEO, Hamish McKenzie.

Four Youth Fellows also participated in an online event with Unlock Democracy, an organisation campaigning for a more participatory democracy in Britain, in July 2023, where they introduced the project, read from their work, and answer questions from members.

Regional Hubs
The Orwell Youth Prize held two events at Sunderland and Coventry universities in January and March respectively. A total of 140 students attended across both events, from local outreach schools, in school years 10-12. Participants took part in creative writing workshops across a range of forms, including short fiction, poetry, broadcast and feature journalism, screenplays and game design, led by local writers and university lecturers. Participants at both events also took part in a press conference with Orwell's son, Richard Blair, and all received Orwell goody bags, including Orwell books donated by Penguin,

The Orwell Foundation received a grant from Arts Council England for £19900 in support of these activities, as well as a significant amount of support in kind from both universities.

The Orwell Festival
The Orwell Festival's second year continued to excite, entertain and challenge audiences, with a sold-out audience at the headline event with Succession creator Jesse Armstrong and full houses for events on “Orwell and Russia” (at Pushkin House) and “Orwell and Antisemitism” (at the Wiener Holocaust Library).

There were also important conversations on key areas of national interest, with members of the Shadow Cabinet (Paula Barker and Kevin Brennan MPs) and high-profile journalists and campaigners such as Jon Sopel contributing to discussions on the future of homelessness, housing and public service broadcasting, as well as more intimate salon style events, including a Political Quarterly Conversation with Polly Toynbee. Gary Younge's opening lecture was very well received at UCL and is available to watch back on YouTube. The popular guided walks sold out for a second year.

The Orwell Foundation sold 686 tickets to the Festival, with a further 250 guests attending closing Orwell Prize ceremony.

The Orwell Memorial Lecture
The Orwell Memorial Lecture has been given annually since 1989 and is generously sponsored by George Orwell’s son, Richard Blair. Originally held at Birkbeck, University of London and the University of Sheffield, the Orwell Lecture is now held each year at University College London. The Orwell Lectures can be found on our YouTube channel, which you can access here.

The lecture has attracted notable speakers including Ian McEwan, Dr Tristam Hunt, Daniel Finkelstein, Dr Rowan Williams, Dame Hilary Mantel, Robin Cook, Kamila Shamsie and Ian Hislop. The Orwell Memorial Lecture 2021 with Ian McEwan was republished in the New Statesman. Lecturers are invited to speak on ‘any topic George Orwell might have been interested in’.

The Orwell Memorial Lecture 2022 was delivered by Lisa Nandy MP, on the theme “Wigan, the World and Everywhere In Between: How We Build a Country That Works”. The lecture, inspired by George Orwell’s classic work of reportage The Road to Wigan Pier (1936) is available to watch back on The Orwell Foundation website.

Volunteers
The Director of The Orwell Foundation, Jean Seaton, donates her time. The Foundation would like to record its thanks for her considerable efforts.

In 2022 - 2023, the Youth Prize worked with 81 volunteers from institutions including Oxford University Press, University College London, King’s College London, and Penguin. Youth Prize volunteers provide individual feedback and writing advice for all entrants to The Orwell Youth Prize. They also help to create a shortlist of entries to be read by the Youth Prize judges.

Financial review
In 2022/2023 The Orwell Foundation received income of £204,995 with expenditure amounting to £235,855. This resulted in a deficit of £30,860, £58,685 of which was a decrease in Restricted Funds. The deficit reflects an increase in expenses as the Foundation expanded its activities. There has been a need for additional staff to support this expansion and the Board believes that this expansion is a necessary investment to provide a new basis for the improved achievement of the Foundation’s charitable objectives in the future. The Foundation's opening balance in reserves in August 2022 was £196,818 and its closing balance in August 2023, was £165,958.

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees to maintain sufficient reserves to cover the charity's forecast expenditure for at least the following 6 months.

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements and are satisfied that considering the budgeted income and expenditure and the reserves that it is appropriate for the accounts to be prepared on a going concern basis.

The Orwell Foundation begins 2023/24 with £165,958 (2022: £196,818) in reserves.

The Foundation's principal sources of funding are currently The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Political Quarterly, Richard Blair, the Arts Council England, the Centre for Homelessness Impact, Goldman Sachs, individual donors and the Foundation's public events programme, particularly The Orwell Festival and the annual Orwell Memorial Lecture.

We are grateful to the following supporters who joined us this year as Patrons:

- Kathy Harvey
- Su-Mei Thompson
- Andrew Peck
- Aydin Hammoudeh

Structure, governance, and management

The Orwell Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution. Trustees are appointed for a term of four years and may be reappointed for a further four years. Four Trustees – Mr Richard Blair, Mr William Hamilton, Mr David Taylor and Mr Hugh Tomlinson – resigned as Trustees in December 2022 and were appointed indefinitely to the Foundation's Council. The Orwell Council have a special relationship to the Orwell estate and Orwell's legacy. As well as advocating for the charity in public life, they are the Foundation's first and most important source of advice on its stewardship of Orwell's work, values, and contemporary significance.

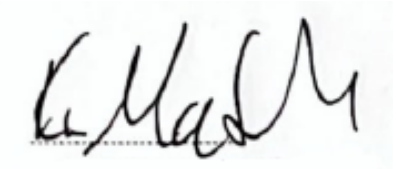
Trustees are appointed by agreement of the Board of Trustees, who have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective management of the CIO. Two trustees (currently, Ms Deborah Lincoln and Mr Gavin Kelly) are nominated by the Political Quarterly, according to the Foundation's constitution.

The Trustees regularly review a risk register and the measures taken to manage these risks. New Trustees are provided with an induction pack containing information about their duties and responsibilities. When new Trustees are appointed, they are introduced to the charity's work and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles, including information about the role of Trustees and their responsibilities under the Charities Act (2011).

The Foundation is based at University College London's (UCL) Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS). Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the charity and its activities is delegated to the Director and Deputy Director, who are in turn supported by a small team of part-time staff.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Lord K Macdonald KC (Chair)	
Arifa Akbar	(Resigned 9 October 2023)
Professor Andrew Williams	
Stephen Armstrong	
Richard Blair	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
Michael Callanan	
Gavin Freeguard	
Matthew Garraghan	
Bill Hamilton	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
Kathryn Harvey	
Gavin Kelly	
Deborah Lincoln	
Rebecca Oyekanmi	
Andrew Peck	
Elizabeth Sich	
David Taylor	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
Su-Mei Thompson	
Hugh Tomlinson	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
Boyd Tonkin	



Lord K Macdonald KC (Chair)
Trustee

Date: 20/03/2024

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Orwell Foundation (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 2011 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

For and on behalf of Critchleys Audit LLP
Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales

Beaver House
23-38 Hythe Bridge Street
Oxford
OX1 2EP

Dated: ..11.04.2024

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	105,591	83,037	188,628	50,331	66,533	116,864
Investments	**4**	1,154	-	1,154	87	-	87
Other income	**5**	15,213	-	15,213	10,874	-	10,874
Total income		121,958	83,037	204,995	61,292	66,533	127,825
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	**6**	94,133	141,722	235,855	61,919	112,981	174,900
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	(38,667)	38,667	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		27,825	(58,685)	(30,860)	(39,294)	(7,781)	(47,075)
Fund balances at 1 September 2022		130,944	65,874	196,818	170,238	73,655	243,893
Fund balances at 31 August 2023		158,769	7,189	165,958	130,944	65,874	196,818

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

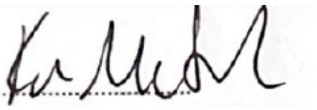
THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	**11**	15,365		20,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		159,750		191,768	
		175,115		211,768	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**12**	(9,157)		(14,950)	
Net current assets			165,958		196,818
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**13**		7,189		65,874
Unrestricted funds			158,769		130,944
			165,958		196,818

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20/03/2024



Lord K Macdonald KC (Chair)
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Orwell Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

Charitable activities - comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services. it includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such series and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs - comprise expenditure associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity’s contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	60,008	18,000	78,008	20,331	28,200	48,531
Grants	45,583	65,037	110,620	30,000	38,333	68,333
	105,591	83,037	188,628	50,331	66,533	116,864

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	1,154	87

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Other income	15,213	10,874

6 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs	133,893	91,105
Prizes awarded, Judging fees & Project costs	80,649	68,336
Other operating costs	17,783	11,507
	232,325	170,948
Share of support costs (see note 7)	1,030	640
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	2,500	3,312
	235,855	174,900
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	94,133	61,919
Restricted funds	141,722	112,981
	235,855	174,900

7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	Support costs	Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consultancy and admin support	1,030	-	1,030	640	-	640
Audit fees	-	2,500	2,500	-	2,556	2,556
Legal and professional	-	-	-	-	756	756
	1,030	2,500	3,530	640	3,312	3,952
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	1,030	2,500	3,530	640	3,312	3,952

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiners of £2.500 (2022 - £2,220) for independent examination fees.

8 Trustees

Other than the two Trustees mentioned in Note 15, none of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	6	4

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	124,728	85,272
Social security costs	5,604	2,675
Other pension costs	3,561	3,158
	133,893	91,105

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxationof Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Other debtors	11,075	-
Prepayments and accrued income	4,290	20,000
	15,365	20,000

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	**£**
Other creditors	6,077	-
Accruals and deferred income	3,080	14,950
	9,157	14,950

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 September 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 September 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	381	-	-	(381)	-	-	-	-
JRF Social Evils	17,998	23,333	(28,916)	381	12,796	11,083	(23,879)	-
Publishers' Marketing Contributions	-	1,700	(3,880)	2,180	-	-	-	-
Richard Blair Political Fiction	10,252	25,000	(18,470)	-	16,782	-	(16,782)	-
A. M. Heath.	7,500	-	(15,988)	8,488	-	-	-	-
Centris Webb Trust	(6,215)	-	(20,915)	27,130	-	-	-	-
Richard Blair - Youth	27,727	-	(15,267)	-	12,460	15,000	(20,271)	7,189
Individual Donation - Youth	3,325	1,500	-	-	4,825	-	(4,825)	-
Education Income - Youth	1,000	-	(1,329)	329	-	-	-	-
Other - Youth	11,687	-	-	-	11,687	-	(11,687)	-
Subtrack Festival	-	15,000	(7,676)	-	7,324	-	(7,324)	-
Journalism Prize	-	-	(540)	540	-	-	-	-
Centre for Homelessness	-	-	-	-	-	34,054	(34,054)	-
Arts Council	-	-	-	-	-	19,900	(19,900)	-
Andrew Peck - Youth	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
	73,655	66,533	(112,981)	38,667	65,874	83,037	(141,722)	7,189

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	158,769	7,189	165,958	130,944	65,874	196,818
	158,769	7,189	165,958	130,944	65,874	196,818

15 Related party transactions

During the period two trustees were paid a total of £1,250 for work done on behalf of the charity (2022 - £2,779).

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1161563

Accounts

Charity registration number 1161563

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Lord K Macdonald KC (Chair)	
	Arifa Akbar	
	Professor Andrew Williams	
	Stephen Armstrong	
	Richard Blair	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
	Michael Callanan	
	Dr Peter Claus	(Resigned 26 May 2022)
	Gavin Freeguard	
	Matthew Garraghan	
	Bill Hamilton	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
	Kathryn Harvey	
	Laura Jones	(Resigned 17 September 2021)
	Gavin Kelly	
	Deborah Lincoln	(Appointed 13 December 2021)
	Rebecca Oyekanmi	
	Andrew Peck	
	Elizabeth Sich	
	David Taylor	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
	Su-Mei Thompson	
	Hugh Tomlinson	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
	Boyd Tonkin	
Charity number	1161563	
Independent examiner	Critchleys Audit LLP Beaver House 23-38 Hythe Bridge Street Oxford OX1 2EP	
Bankers	Barclays Bank Birmingham Edgbaston Leicester LE87 2BB	

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

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Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the financial statements	12 - 19

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Structure, governance, and management
The Orwell Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution. Trustees are appointed for a term of four years and may be reappointed for a further four years. Trustees are appointed by agreement of the Board of Trustees, who have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective management of the CIO. Under the CIO's constitution two trustees (Mr Richard Blair and Mr William Hamilton) are appointed indefinitely and two trustees (currently, Ms Deborah Lincoln and Mr Gavin Kelly) are nominated by the Political Quarterly,.

The Trustees regularly review a risk register and the measures taken to manage these risks. New trustees are provided with an induction pack containing information about their duties and responsibilities. When new trustees are appointed, they are introduced to the charity's work and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles, including information about the role of trustees and their responsibilities under the Charities Act (2011).

The charity is based at University College London's (UCL) Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS). Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the charity and its activities is delegated to the Director and Deputy Director, who are in turn supported by a small team of part-time staff.

Objectives, activities, and achievements

The Orwell Foundation uses the work of George Orwell to shine a light on brave writing, uncovering hidden lives and uncomfortable truths. We aim to connect with audiences from schoolchildren to policymakers, offering a platform to discuss subjects close to Orwell's heart, including poverty, political extremism, and the dangers posed by the corruption of language and the rise of new technologies.

George Orwell's work powerfully transcends his own era, remaining relevant to the social, geo-political and economic landscapes of the twenty-first century. Orwell exposed the dangers of disinformation and totalitarianism thorough writing that glowed with integrity, decency and fidelity to truth.

We celebrate these values with our prizes, school programmes, lectures, debates, and online resources, championing creativity and diversity of opinion to promote Orwell's desire to 'make political writing into an art'. Following a change to the Foundation's constitution approved as part of a merger with The Orwell Youth Prize (6th May 2020), the Foundation's charitable objective also includes the promotion of the education of children and young people for the public benefit.

In addition to the busy programme of prizes and events described below, The Orwell Foundation maintains a website hosting a wide range of resources by and about George Orwell, which is free to use, as well as active social media accounts. Many of the essays on The Orwell Foundation's website receive over 10,000 unique visitors a month.

The Orwell Prizes for Political Writing

The Orwell Prizes, the UK's most prestigious prizes for political writing, aim to reward and promote good writing, thinking, and reporting about politics for a public audience. Each Prize is worth £3000 to the winner. In 2021-2022 The Orwell Foundation awarded five prizes:

- The Orwell Prize for Political Writing, for a work of non-fiction published in the previous calendar year in the UK.

- The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction, for a work of fiction.
- The Orwell Prize for Journalism, for commentary and/or reportage.
- The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils, for reporting which has contributed to the public understanding of social issues in the UK.
- The Orwell Youth Prize, an annual programme for students in school years 8 – 13 (or equivalent) culminating in a writing prize.

The awards, which are free to enter, independent of editorial agenda, and open to self-nomination, are accompanied by a programme of events, debates, and other activity.

In 2021-2022 The Orwell Prizes began a transition to a new eligibility schedule and were awarded in a new format – with one set of eight to ten finalists in each prize, as opposed to the previous longlist and shortlist format.

The intention behind both these changes was to create more publicity for and conversations around all the Orwell Prize finalists. The full list of finalists for all The Orwell Prizes can be found on our website.

The Orwell Foundation

The Orwell Foundation has discussed running its own writing festival for a long time: we believe there is a unique opportunity each year where exceptional writers and journalists are brought into conversation with each other through The Orwell Prizes

The Orwell Festival builds on these ideas, offering opportunities for writers to reach different audiences and talk about their work in new contexts, as well as catering for audiences who are curious about George Orwell and his contemporary relevance.

Discussions about running a festival in 2022, after two years of being unable to run in-person events, began in earnest in the late summer of 2021. The Orwell Festival of Political Writing 2022, in partnership with Substack, took place from the 22nd June to the 14th July at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London and across Bloomsbury, London, bringing together Orwell Prize finalists, judges and special guests to discuss 'the most important and exciting political writing and thinking today'.

The festival began with a lecture by the American writer Rebecca Solnit on her book *Orwell's Roses* and went on to feature such diverse writers, thinkers, and political figures as Chris Patten, Ali Smith, Dominic Cummings, Grace Blakely and Jess Phillips. Seventeen events were held, featuring forty-three writers and journalists and over a thousand attendees. Events took place in eight venues: UCL, bookshops, cultural centres, a pub, and kicked off and closed with The Orwell Prize ceremony Conway Hall, Red Lion Square.

The Orwell Festival received coverage in London's *Evening Standard*. In the run up to the awards, the Foundation also launched a new online magazine profiling Orwell Prize finalists through brief interviews and extracts from their work.

The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction

First awarded in 2019, The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction rewards outstanding novels and collections of short stories, first published in the UK or Ireland, that illuminate major social and political themes, present or past, through the art of narrative.

The prize is sponsored by the Orwell estate's literary agency, A. M. Heath, and George Orwell's son, Richard Blair. The Foundation works closely with the Department of English Language and Literature at UCL, which also nominates one of the prize's four judges.

The 2022 winner was Claire Keegan for her novel *Small Things Like These* (Faber) which went on to be shortlisted for The Booker Prize. The judges were Dennis Duncan, Sana Goyal, Adam Roberts, and Monique Roffey, and the prize received 151 entries.

The Orwell Prize for Political Writing

The Orwell Prize for Political Writing (previously, Orwell Prize for Books) is for a work of non-fiction, whether a book or pamphlet, first published in the UK or Ireland. 'Political' is defined in the broadest sense, including (but not limited to) entries addressing political, social, cultural, moral, and historical subjects and can include pamphlets, books published by think tanks, diaries, memoirs, letters, and essays.

The 2022 winner was Sally Hayden for her book *My Fourth Time, We Drowned* (Harper Collins), an investigation into the experiences of migrants in detention camps in Libya. The judges were Stephen Bush, David Edgerton, Kennetta Hammond Perry, and Anne McElvoy and the prize received 288 entries.

The Orwell Prize for Journalism

The Orwell Prize for Journalism is awarded to a journalist for sustained reportage and/or commentary working in any medium.

A submission should consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of four articles in any combination of media. This might consist of, for example, three printed articles, three television or radio broadcasts or a combination of different media.

The 2022 winner was George Monbiot, for a serious of columns on the politics of climate change published in *The Guardian.* The judges were Isabel Hilton, Helen Hawkins, Marcus Ryder, and Sameer Padania, and the prize received 115 entries.

The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils

Since 2014, The Orwell Prize and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation have worked together on The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils, a social issues journalism prize.

Named in recognition of the task Joseph Rowntree gave his organization 'to search out the underlying causes of weakness or evil' that lay behind Britain's social problems, the prize supports and encourages original, insightful, and impactful reporting on social issues in the UK. Entries should consist of a story that has enhanced the public understanding of social problems and public policy in the UK. The story must be clearly and primarily concerned with an aspect of UK society. Entry is free and there are no charges at any point. A single author, or small group of authors may enter.

The 2022 winner was Ed Thomas for a series of BBC News reports on the impact of the pandemic in Burnley. The judges also awarded a special prize to David Collins and Hannah Al-Othman for their Sunday Times report on the unsolved murder of Agnes Wanjiru. The judges were Sophia Parker, Annabel Deas, Jo Swinson, Kirsty McNeill, and Sophia Moreau, and the prize received 64 entries.

The Orwell Youth Prize

The Orwell Youth Prize is an annual programme for students in school years 8 – 13 (or equivalent) culminating in a writing prize. Rooted in Orwell's values of integrity and fairness, the Prize and the activities around it introduce young people to the power of language and provoke them to think critically and creatively about the world in which they are living.

The Youth Prize asks young people to respond to big ideas in contemporary society, with a particular focus on social justice. Past themes have included: 'Truth vs. Lies', 'Identity', 'A Fair Society?', 'The Future We Want', and 'A New Direction: Starting Small'.

Far more than just a prize, the Orwell Youth Prize offers young people a journey progressing from debate-provoking workshops and online resources, through to personal feedback on draft entries, and builds a community around youth writing and an audience that engages with it. Our understanding of social and educational disadvantage in the UK drives our work and focus, with the aim of reaching schools and individuals from less advantaged backgrounds.

Activities 2021-2022

The theme for The Orwell Youth Prize 2022 was ‘Coming Up For Air: Writing the Climate Crisis’. The environment and the climate emergency are regular topics among Youth Prize entries. This year, the Foundation wanted to offer entrants an opportunity to think creatively and critically about the politics of climate change at a global and a national level, as well as its effects on their own lives. The theme was inspired by Orwell’s own writing on nature and the environment, for instance in essays like ‘Some Thoughts on the Common Toad’.

Overall, The Orwell Youth Prize received 425 entries, with 300 entries receiving individual feedback from our team of volunteer readers, from Oxford University Press, University College London, Kings College London and Penguin to whom we are most grateful. The judges were Nada Farhoud, Gillian Clarke, Dan Bernardo and Michael Jacobs.

School workshop scheme

In 2021-2022 the Orwell Youth Prize launched a new support scheme to work directly with teachers in a number of specially chosen schools across the country. The intention behind the scheme was to support teachers at non-selective state schools which meet our targeting criteria (high percentage of students eligible for free school meals, in areas with high levels of income deprivation affecting children). The Youth Prize worked directly with these teachers to encourage students to enter the Prize, as well as consulting with the teachers on how to shape the programme to make it as accessible and engaging as possible.

Teachers on the scheme received regular online sessions with the Youth Prize coordinator, introducing them to the Prize and resources and to other teachers on the scheme, and giving them the opportunity for subsidised in-person workshops with professional writers, as well as the opportunity to contribute regular feedback on their experience using the programme in the classroom, in particular with boys, who engage in far lower numbers.

Youth Prize workshops provided through the scheme were held at Hollingworth Academy in Rochdale, Wright Robinson College in Manchester and Pilton College in North Devon, with the scheme also supporting Barr’s Hill in Coventry, Neath Port Talbot in Wales and Southmoor Academy in Sunderland. A Youth Prize workshop was also held with the Thames Valley Learning Partnership at Langley Academy, with six partner schools attending.

The Orwell Youth Fellows

The Orwell Youth Fellows – previous winners and runners-up of the prize – continued to meet regularly to help shape the programme and contribute new writing around the theme. A major outcome of this programme was a zine of new writing about the climate crisis's impact on the seasons, ‘Axial Tilt’, which was sold at The Orwell Festival and The Orwell Memorial Lecture, and online, reaching readers from Las Vegas to Australia.

Through a partnership with political literacy organisation Shout Out UK, representatives from the Youth Fellows also worked with young people from Shout Out’s Youth Policy Development Group to prepare a presentation on political literacy and consent, tolerance, and the climate crisis in schools, with their proposals for more effective teaching methods in these areas. They made these presentations to the APPG on Political Literacy at Westminster in May 2022.

Celebration Day and Summer School

Once the judging of te Prize was complete, shortlisted young writers were invited to a Celebration Day at UCL on 9th July, which 24 young people attended, coming from throughout the UK – for example, Cardiff , Coventry and Carnlough in Northern Ireland. They participated in political writing workshops led by journalist Ria Chatterjee and Dee Jarrett-Macauley (previous Orwell Prize winning author and academic), and shared readings of their shortlisted works. The afternoon culminated in a video message from Richard Blair and the presentation of certificates and prizes.

From 25th-29th July, in partnership with UCL Special Collections, the Youth Prize also ran a Summer School, for 25 Year 12 students from non-selective London state schools. Participants explored the Orwell Archive, took part in writing workshops with BBC reporter Marianna Spring and Max Daly (Drugs Editor of VICE, former Orwell Prize winner), heard a talk from Foundation trustee Stephen Armstrong about Orwell and journalism, visited the ‘Breaking the News’ exhibition at the British Library, and wrote their own journalistic pieces, which they shared at the end of the week.

Film crew also attended the event and are in the process of creating two short films (one for schools, and one for promotion). The films, and a print resource for schools, will be launched at an event for teachers on 19th January 2023.

The Orwell Memorial Lecture

The Orwell Memorial Lecture has been given annually since 1989 and is generously sponsored by George Orwell's son, Richard Blair. Originally held at Birkbeck, University of London and the University of Sheffield, the Orwell Lecture is now held each year at UCL. The Orwell Lectures can be found on our YouTube channel, which you can access here.

The lecture has attracted notable speakers including Ian McEwan, Dr Tristam Hunt, Daniel Finkelstein, Dr Rowan Williams, Dame Hilary Mantel, Robin Cook, Kamila Shamsie and Ian Hislop. The Orwell Memorial Lecture 2021 with Ian McEwan was republished in the New Statesman, and the Orwell Memorial Lecture 2020 with Dr Tristam Hunt had a live online audience of around 800 attendees. It was international in scope, featuring responses from Tasneem Zakaria Mehta, managing trustee and honorary director of the Dr Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum, and Thant Myint-U, Burmese historian and Founder and Chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust.

Volunteers

The Director of The Orwell Foundation, Jean Seaton, donates her time. The Foundation would like to record its thanks for her considerable efforts.

In 2021-2022, the Youth Prize worked with 73 volunteers from institutions including Oxford University Press, University College London, King's College London, and Penguin.

Financial Review

In 2022/2023 The Orwell Foundation received income of £127,825 with expenditure amounting to £174,900. This resulted in a deficit of £47,075, £7,781 of which was a decrease in Restricted Funds. The deficit reflects two things, firstly a reduction in donations and gifts over the year, which was compensated for in part by new grant income and, secondly, an increase in expenses as the Foundation expanded its activities. There has been a need for additional staff to support this expansion and the Board believes that this expansion is a necessary investment to provide a new basis for the improved achievement of the Foundation's charitable objectives in the future. The Foundation's opening balance in reserves in August 2021 was £243,893 and its closing balance in August 2022, was £196,818.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees to maintain sufficient reserves to cover the charity's forecast expenditure for at least the following 6 months.

Reserves

The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected income and expenditure for 12 months from the date that the board approved these financial statements.

The trustees are satisfied that considering the income and budgeted expenditure, it is appropriate for the accounts to be prepared on a going concern basis.

The Orwell Foundation begins 2022/23 with £196,818 (2021: £243,893) in reserves.

Principal sources of funds

The Foundation's principal sources of funding are currently The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Political Quarterly, Richard Blair, A. M. Heath and its public events programme, particularly The Orwell Festival.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Lord K Macdonald KC (Chair)	
Arifa Akbar	
Professor Andrew Williams	
Stephen Armstrong	
Richard Blair	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
Michael Callanan	
Dr Peter Claus	(Resigned 26 May 2022)
Gavin Freeguard	
Matthew Garraghan	
Bill Hamilton	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
Kathryn Harvey	
Laura Jones	(Resigned 17 September 2021)
Gavin Kelly	
Deborah Lincoln	(Appointed 13 December 2021)
Rebecca Oyekanmi	
Andrew Peck	
Elizabeth Sich	
David Taylor	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
Su-Mei Thompson	
Hugh Tomlinson	(Resigned 10 October 2022)
Boyd Tonkin	

.....
Lord K Macdonald KC (Chair)
Trustee

Date: 12 May 23

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Orwell Foundation (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 2011 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Robert Kirtland, FCA
For and on behalf of Critchleys Audit LLP
Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales

Beaver House
23-38 Hythe Bridge Street
Oxford
OX1 2EP

Dated: 16/5/2023

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	50,331	66,533	116,864	46,426	92,077	138,503
Charitable activities	**4**	10,874	-	10,874	-	52,592	52,592
Investments	**5**	87	-	87	88	-	88
Other income	**6**	-	-	-	200	-	200
Total income		61,292	66,533	127,825	46,714	144,669	191,383
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	**7**	61,919	112,981	174,900	41,805	85,645	127,450
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(627)	(46,448)	(47,075)	4,909	59,024	63,933
Gross transfers between funds		(38,667)	38,667	-	-	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(39,294)	(7,781)	(47,075)	4,909	59,024	63,933
Fund balances at 1 September 2021		170,238	73,655	243,893	165,329	14,631	179,960
Fund balances at 31 August 2022		130,944	65,874	196,818	170,238	73,655	243,893

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	11	20,000		55,002	
Cash at bank and in hand		191,768		226,643	
		211,768		281,645	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(14,950)		(37,752)	
Net current assets			196,818		243,893
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		65,874		73,655
Unrestricted funds			130,944		170,238
			196,818		243,893

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

.....

Lord K Macdonald KC (Chair)
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Orwell Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

Charitable activities - comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services. it includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such series and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs - comprise expenditure associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity’s contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	20,331	28,200	48,531	46,426	92,077	138,503
Grants	30,000	38,333	68,333	-	-	-
	50,331	66,533	116,864	46,426	92,077	138,503

4 Charitable activities

	Social Evils sponsorship	**OYP Control**	**Other**	**Shortlist Income**	**Total**	**Total 2021**
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	**2022**	**2022**	
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Other income	-	-	10,874	-	10,874	52,592
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	-	-	10,874	-	10,874	-
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	52,952

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable	87	88

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Other income	-	200

7 Charitable activities

	2022	**2021**
	£	**£**
Staff costs	91,105	68,832
Prizes awarded, Judging fees & Project costs	68,336	47,108
Other operating costs	11,507	8,577
	170,948	124,517
Share of support costs (see note 8)	640	1,237
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	3,312	1,696
	174,900	127,450
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	61,919	41,805
Restricted funds	112,981	85,645
	174,900	127,450

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consultancy and admin support	640	-	640	1,237	-	1,237
Independent examination fees	-	2,556	2,556	-	1,656	1,656
Legal and professional	-	756	756	-	-	-
Trustee and Directors expenses	-	-	-	-	40	40
	640	3,312	3,952	1,237	1,696	2,933
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	640	3,312	3,952	1,237	1,696	2,933

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiners of £2,220 (2021 - £1,680) for independent examination fees.

9 Trustees

Other than the two Trustees mentioned in Note 15, none of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	4	3

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	85,272	62,963
Social security costs	2,675	1,351
Other pension costs	3,158	4,518
	91,105	68,832

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Other debtors	-	9,502
Prepayments and accrued income	20,000	45,500
	20,000	55,002

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	**£**
Accruals and deferred income	14,950	37,752

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 September 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 September 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	3,925	-	(3,544)	381	-	-	(381)	-
JRF Social Evils	-	40,000	(22,002)	17,998	23,333	(28,916)	381	12,796
Publishers' Marketing Contributions	-	-	-	-	1,700	(3,880)	2,180	-
Richard Blair Political Fiction	5,000	20,625	(15,373)	10,252	25,000	(18,470)	-	16,782
A. M. Heath.	15,000	-	(7,500)	7,500	-	(15,988)	8,488	-
Centris Webb Trust	(9,294)	40,000	(36,921)	(6,215)	-	(20,915)	27,130	-
Richard Blair - Youth	-	28,127	(400)	27,727	-	(15,267)	-	12,460
Individual Donation - Youth	-	3,325	-	3,325	1,500	-	-	4,825
Education Income - Youth	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	(1,329)	329	-
Other - Youth	-	11,592	95	11,687	-	-	-	11,687
Subtrack Festival	-	-	-	-	15,000	(7,676)	-	7,324
Journalism Prize	-	-	-	-	-	(540)	540	-
	14,631	144,669	(85,645)	73,655	66,533	(112,981)	38,667	65,874

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	**Restricted funds 2022 £**	**Total 2022 £**	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	130,944	65,874	196,818	165,260	78,633	243,893
	130,944	65,874	196,818	165,260	78,633	243,893

15 Related party transactions

During the period a trustee was paid £2,779 for work done on behalf of the charity (2021 - £2,411).

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1161563

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1161563

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Elizabeth Sich Bill Hamilton Richard Blair Kathryn Harvey Boyd Tonkin Lord Ken Macdonald QC (Chair) Hugh Tomlinson David Taylor Professor Andrew Williams Arifa Akbar Su-Mei Thompson Dr Peter Claus Gavin Freeguard Michael Callnan Stephen Armstrong Rebecca Oyekanmi Matthew Garraghan Andrew Peck Gavin Kelly
Charity number	1161563
Independent examiner	Critchleys Audit LLP Beaver House 23-38 Hythe Bridge Street Oxford Oxfordshire OX1 2EP
Bankers	Barclays Bank Birmingham Edgbaston Leicester LE87 2BB

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

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THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the 12-month period ended 31 August 2021. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" revised 2015 (FRS 102) and comply with the charity's governing document.

Objectives and activities

George Orwell (1903-1950) believed in the moral power of language and understood the dangers of its corruption. The Orwell Foundation uses George Orwell's work to celebrate honest writing and reporting, to uncover unheard voices, to confront uncomfortable truths and, in doing so, to promote Orwell's values of integrity, decency and fidelity to truth. The Foundation pursues these objectives through an annual programme of prizes, cultural events, debates, and online resources for the public benefit, including the prestigious Orwell Prizes for political writing.

Following a change to the Foundation's constitution, approved as part of a merger with The Orwell Youth Prize (on 6th May 2020), the Foundation's charitable objective also includes the promotion of the education of children and young people for the public benefit.

The Orwell Prizes, the UK's most prestigious prizes for political writing, aim to reward and promote good writing, thinking, and reporting about politics to a broad public audience. The Foundation currently awards five prizes: The Orwell Prize for Political Writing (for a work of non-fiction published in the previous calendar year in the UK); The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction (for a work of fiction); The Orwell Prize for Journalism (for commentary and/ or reportage) and The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils (for reporting which has contributed to the public understanding of social issues in the UK). In addition, The Orwell Youth Prize is an annual programme for students in school years 8 – 13 (or equivalent) culminating in a writing prize.

The Foundation, which is based at the Institute of Advanced Studies at UCL, also hosts events and resources which aim to bring Orwell's work and legacy to new audiences and provide a platform for debate on issues of contemporary relevance in society, politics, and culture. Its wide range of educational activities includes open-access information and educational material, from excerpts of George Orwell's essays (courtesy of Penguin Books and the Orwell Estate) and an online library of other resources by and about Orwell, to archival footage of previous Orwell lectures and events, and to exclusive short films exploring aspects of Orwell's life and work. Its website (www.orwellfoundation.com) is accessed by thousands of people from around the world every day, while its monthly newsletter has several thousand subscribers.

The Orwell Prizes have continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and have adapted by hosting a series of events with shortlisted authors and journalists and holding our Awards Ceremony online. In the 2019/2020 prize cycle, we announced our winners on Times Radio, hosted by Matt Chorley, and featured interviews with the winners of the Orwell Journalism Prizes, shortlisted authors. The Bristol Cable and Peter Foster, as well as a discussion on the state and future of political journalism in a time of crisis with judges Ben Fenton, Abigail Scott Paul and Max Daly. In addition, we hosted our own Orwell Prize 'Telescreen' Ceremony on our YouTube channel featuring acceptance speeches from winners Kate Clanchy and Colson Whitehead plus an exclusive interview with George Orwell's son, Richard Blair.

In the 2020/21 prize cycle, we announced the winners on Twitter, Instagram, and our YouTube channel. In the run up to the announcement, we held a series of events with bookshops across the UK on the themes of Europe, home, care, and conspiracy. We also published a series of interviews with our short-listed authors on our blog, 'As I Please'.

The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction

First awarded in 2019, The Orwell Prize for Political Fiction rewards outstanding novels and collections of short stories, first published in the UK or Ireland, that illuminate major social and political themes, present or past, through the art of narrative.

The prize is sponsored by the Orwell estate's literary agency, A. M. Heath, and George Orwell's son, Richard Blair. TheFoundation, which is based at UCL's Institute of Advanced Studies, works closely with the Department of English Language and Literature at UCL, who also nominate one of the prize's four judges.

The 2021 winner was Ali Smith, and previous winners include Anna Burns and Colson Whitehead.

The Orwell Prize for Political Writing

The Orwell Prize for Political Writing (previously, Orwell Prize for Books) is for a work of non-fiction, whether a book or pamphlet, first published in the UK or Ireland. 'Political' is defined in the broadest sense, including (but not limited to) entries addressing political, social, cultural, moral, and historical subjects and can be in any written format including pamphlets, books published by think tanks, diaries, memoirs, letters and essays.

The 2021 winner was Joshua Yaffa, and previous winners include Kate Clanchy and Patrick Radden Keefe.

The Orwell Prize for Journalism

The Orwell Prize for Journalism is awarded to a journalist for sustained reportage and/or commentary working in any medium.

A submission should consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of four articles in any combination of media. This might consist of, for example, three printed articles, three television or radio broadcasts or a combination of different media.

The 2021 winners were John Harris and John Domokos, and previous winners include Janice Turner, Steve Bloomfield, Suzanne Moore, Carole Cadwalladr, and Fintan O'Toole.

The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils

Since 2014, The Orwell Prize and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation have worked together on The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain's Social Evils, a social issues journalism prize.

Named in recognition of the task Joseph Rowntree gave his organization 'to search out the underlying causes of weakness or evil' that lay behind Britain's social problems, the prize supports and encourages original, insightful, and impactful reporting on social issues in the UK.

Entries should consist of a story that has enhanced the public understanding of social problems and public policy in the UK. The story must be clearly and primarily concerned with an aspect of UK society. Entry is free and there are no charges at any point. A single author, or small group of authors may enter.

The 2021 winner was Annabel Deas, and previous winners include Ian Birrell, Max Daly, Sarah O'Connor, Felicity Lawrence, Nicci Gerrard, and Alison Holt.

The Orwell Memorial Lecture

The Orwell Memorial Lecture has been given annually since 1989 and is generously sponsored by George Orwell's son, Richard Blair. Originally held at Birkbeck, University of London and the University of Sheffield, the Orwell Lecture is now held each year at University College London. The Orwell Lectures can be found on our YouTube channel, which you can access [redacted].

The lecture has attracted notable speakers including Ian McEwan, Dr Tristam Hunt, Daniel Finkelstein, Dr Rowan Williams, Dame Hilary Mantel, Robin Cook, Kamila Shamsie and Ian Hislop. The Orwell Memorial Lecture 2021 with Ian McEwan was republished in the New Statesman, and the Orwell Memorial Lecture 2020 with Dr Tristam Hunt had a live online audience of around 800 attendees. It was international in scope, featuring responses from Tasneem Zakaria Mehta, managing trustee and honorary director of the Dr Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum, and Thant Myint-U, Burmese historian and Founder and Chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust.

Achievements and performance

2020-2021 was the Orwell Youth Prize's seventh year of operation and activities.

- In 2021, the Orwell Youth Prize received 677 entries. (1206 entries in 2020).
- 85 volunteer readers from institutions including Oxford University Press, University College London, King's College London, and Penguin to provide personalised feedback and assisted in the longlisting.
- In total 412 pieces of unique feedback were delivered to entrants.
- Knowing that the most disadvantaged young people were hit hardest by the lockdown, the Orwell Youth Prize ran a series of writing workshops, led by writer and trustee Stephen Armstrong, with The Star Project in Paisley.
- The winning and runners-up entries were shared with their MPs and local newspapers, as well as individuals and organisations requested by the young people themselves. Responses came from MPs such as Jess Phillips, Theresa May, Bob Seely, Anthony Browne and Olivia Blake, and the Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees.
- As part of the Youth Fellows programme, the 2020 winners and runners up participated in a new podcast series with the think-tank Compass, engaging in conversation with a range of writers, politicians and policy makers, including Dawn Butler MP, Donna Hall CBE, and John Harris (Guardian journalist).
- Following her podcast with 2020 runner-up, Manal Nadeem, Dawn Butler quoted Manal's Youth Prize piece, 'The Poverty Pandemic' as part of a speech in parliament, which was widely reported and shared on social media.

For the 2021/22 Prize, we will work to:

- expand entries, with a focus on our game design category and attracting the increased participation of boys
- establish a new Target Schools Programme, working with a group of non-selective state schools in the UK, who meet at least one metric of deprivation
- create a new Submissions Pathway for individual entrants and for teachers

Partnerships

The Youth Prize worked in partnerships with:

- **Rethinking Poverty, The Webb Trust**
- **Oxford University Press**
- **University College London**
- **King's College London**
- **Penguin**

The Orwell Youth Prize

The Orwell Youth Prize is an annual programme for students in school years 8 – 13 (or equivalent) culminating in a writing prize. The writing prize, which is free to enter, independent of editorial agenda and open to self-nomination, is accompanied by a programme of events, debates and other activities.

Rooted in Orwell's values of integrity and fairness, the Prize, and the activities around it, introduce young people to the power of language and provoke them to think critically and creatively about the world in which they are living. With a particular focus on social justice, the Youth Prize asks young people to respond to big ideas in contemporary society. Past themes have included: 'Truth vs. Lies', 'Identity', 'A Fair Society?' and 'The Future We Want'.

Far more than just a prize, the Orwell Youth Prize offers young people a journey progressing from debate-provoking workshops and resources, through to personal feedback on draft entries, and building a community around youth writing with an audience that engages with it. Our understanding of social and educational disadvantage in the UK drives our work and focus, with the aim of reaching schools and individuals from less advantaged backgrounds, through workshops and online resources.

Activities

Through a second year of the pandemic, in 2021, Youth Prize activities moved online, with educational resources and new initiatives including:

- Online introductory videos for teachers and individual entrants
- Downloadable and adaptable lesson plans
- Online workshop videos from professional writers
- The 2021 theme, designed in collaboration with our partner, Rethinking Poverty, The Webb Legacy, was 'A New Direction: Starting Small'
- For the first time in 2021, the Youth Prize opened a new category for entries in the form of video game design
- The 2021 judging panel included representatives of the games industry, journalism, and poetry, as well as a former Youth Prize winner
- In 2021, our Celebration Event took place online.
- The winners and runners-up from 2020 and 2021 were enrolled in our Orwell Youth Fellows Programme

Financial review

In 2020/2021, The Orwell Foundation received income of £191,383 with expenditure amounting to £127,450. This resulted in a surplus of £63,933, £59,024 of which was an increase in Restricted Funds. The Foundation's opening balance in reserves in July 2020 was £179,960 and its closing balance in August 2021 was £243,893. Overall income for this 12-month period was £23,840 higher than income for the 12-month year ended 31 August 2020. This was partly due to the merger with the Orwell Youth Prize and the transfer of assets from The Orwell Youth Prize to the Foundation on 6 May 2021. Savings were also realised through the cancellation of live events and activities during the pandemic and the loss of one role in the organisational structure. Income from Charitable Activities was down in 2021 as 2020 included a significant one off donation of £47k.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Trustees to maintain sufficient reserves to cover the charity's forecast expenditure for at least the following 6 months.

Reserves

The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected income and expenditure for 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees are satisfied that considering the income and budgeted expenditure and the level of the Foundation's reserves that it is appropriate for the accounts to be prepared on a going concern basis.

Last year funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation was confirmed for a further two years, in addition to the one-off grant for the year 2018-2019, awarded in collaboration with The Orwell Youth Prize for a series events aiming to build public support to tackle poverty in the UK.

A. M. Heath and Richard Blair sponsored a new Orwell Prize for Political Fiction for four years, beginning 2018/2019,

The Orwell Foundation begins 2021/2022 with £243,893 (2020: £179,960) in reserves.

Principal sources of funds

The Foundation's principal sources of funding are currently The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Political Quarterly, Richard Blair and A. M. Heath.

Structure, governance and management

The Orwell Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution. Trustees are appointed for a term of four years and may be reappointed for a further four years. Two trustees representing the literary estate of George Orwell (Richard Blair and. William Hamilton) are appointed indefinitely due to their key roles in preserving the Orwell legacy. Trustees are appointed by agreement of the Board of Trustees, who have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective management of the CIO. Two trustees (in the year 2020-21, Laura Jones and Gavin Kelly) are nominated by the Political Quarterly.

There is a Trustee committee structure made up of the Finance and Risk Committee (FARC), Prize Committee, Youth Committee and HR Committee. They meet regularly to review the performance, governance, and activities of the organisation in detail and make recommendations to the Trustee Board.

The Board of Trustees regularly reviews the risk register and the measures taken to manage the risks identified in it. New trustees are provided with an induction pack containing information about their duties and responsibilities. When new trustees are appointed, they are introduced to the charity's work and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles, including information about the role of trustees and their responsibilities under the Charities Act (2011).

Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the charity and its activities is delegated to the Director, Jean Seaton, who is in turn supported by the Programme Managers. Jean Seaton donates her time spent working for the Foundation and the Foundation would like to record its thanks for her considerable efforts.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Lord Ken Macdonald QC (Chair)
Trustee

Date: 31 March 22

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Orwell Foundation (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 2011 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Robert Kirtland, FCA
For and on behalf of Critchleys Audit LLP
Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales

Beaver House
23-38 Hythe Bridge Street
Oxford
Oxfordshire
OX1 2EP

Dated: 4/4/2022

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	46,426	92,077	138,503	1,984	50,000	51,984
Charitable activities	4	-	52,592	52,592	91,809	23,750	115,559
Investments	5	88	-	88	-	-	-
Other income	6	200	-	200	-	-	-
Total income		46,626	144,669	191,383	93,793	73,750	167,543
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	41,805	85,645	127,450	65,450	91,550	157,000
Net movement in funds		4,821	59,024	63,933	28,343	(17,800)	10,543
Transfer from the Orwell Youth Prize					25,211	5,505	30,716
Fund balances at 1 September 2020		165,329	14,631	179,960	111,775	26,926	138,701
Fund balances at 31 August 2021		170,238	73,655	243,893	165,329	14,631	179,960

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE ORWELL FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	11	55,002		20,580	
Cash at bank and in hand		226,643		171,609	
		281,645		192,189	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(37,752)		(12,229)	
Net current assets			243,893		179,960
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		73,655		14,631
Unrestricted funds			170,238		165,329
			243,893		179,960

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 14/3/2022

.....

Lord Ken Macdonald QC (Chair)
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Orwell Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

Charitable activities - comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services. it includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such series and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs - comprise expenditure associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	**2021**	**2021**	2020	2020	2020
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	46,426	92,077	138,503	1,984	41,000	42,984
Grants	-	-	-	-	9,000	9,000
	46,426	92,077	138,503	1,984	50,000	51,984

4 Charitable activities

	Social Evils sponsorship	**OYP Control**	**Other**	**Shortlist Income**	**Total 2021**	**Total 2020**
	2021	**2021**	**2021**	**2021**		
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Other income	40,000	9,642	1,000	1,950	52,592	115,559
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	91,809
Restricted funds	40,000	9,642	1,000	1,950	52,592	23,750

4 Charitable activities

(Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Social Evils sponsorship	Political Fiction	Gift Aid	Other	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Other income	50,000	12,500	6,250	46,809	115,559
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	26,250	12,500	6,250	46,809	91,809
Restricted funds	23,750	-	-	-	23,750
	50,000	12,500	6,250	46,809	115,559

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest receivable	88	-

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2021	2020
	£	£
Other income	200	-

7 Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs	68,832	93,104
Events & Project costs	47,108	26,326
Writing Prize and workshop costs	-	2,354
Other operating costs	8,577	8,630
	124,517	130,414
Share of support costs (see note 8)	1,237	25,216
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,696	1,370
	127,450	157,000
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	41,805	65,450
Restricted funds	85,645	91,550
	127,450	157,000

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	Support costs	Governance costs	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consultancy and admin support	1,237	-	1,237	25,216	-	25,216
Audit fees	-	1,656	1,656	-	1,229	1,229
Trustee and Directors expenses	-	40	40	-	141	141
	1,237	1,696	2,933	25,216	1,370	26,586
Analysed between Charitable activities	1,237	1,696	2,933	25,216	1,370	26,586

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiners of £1,680 (2020 - £1,200) for independent examination fees.

9 Trustees

Other than the two Trustees mentioned in Note 15, none of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
	3	3

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	62,963	84,131
Social security costs	1,351	3,289
Other pension costs	4,518	5,684
	68,832	93,104

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2021 £	2020 £
Other debtors	9,502	3,125
Prepayments and accrued income	45,500	17,455
	55,002	20,580

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals and deferred income	37,752	12,229

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 September 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 September 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 August 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	4,426	-	(501)	-	3,925	-	(3,544)	381
JRF PR Grant	-	9,000	(9,000)	-	-	-	-	-
JRF Social Evils	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-	40,000	(22,002)	17,998
Publishers' Marketing Contributions	-	2,250	(2,250)	-	-	-	-	-
Richard Blair Political Fiction	-	12,500	(7,500)	-	5,000	20,625	(15,373)	10,252
A. M. Heath.	22,500	-	(7,500)	-	15,000	-	(7,500)	7,500
Centris Webb Trust	-	-	(14,799)	5,505	(9,294)	40,000	(36,921)	(6,215)
Richard Blair - Youth	-	-	-	-	-	28,127	(400)	27,727
Individual Donation - Youth	-	-	-	-	-	3,325	-	3,325
Education Income - Youth	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Other - Youth	-	-	-	-	-	11,592	95	11,687
	26,926	73,750	(91,550)	5,505	14,631	144,669	(85,645)	73,655

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted funds 2020	Restricted funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:						
Current assets/ (liabilities)	165,260	78,633	243,893	165,329	14,631	179,960
	165,260	78,633	243,893	165,329	14,631	179,960

15 Related party transactions

During the period 2 trustees were paid £2,411 for work done on behalf of the charity (2020 - none).