

MYTHSTORIES

England & Wales · Charity number 1161594

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-05-11

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address University Centre Shrewsbury
The Guildhall
Frankwell Quay
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY3 8HQ

Phone 07968 400144

Email info@mythstories.com

Website <https://mythstories.com>

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC:(1) BY THE PROVISION OF A MUSEUM COMPRISING THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO TOGETHER WITH SUCH OTHER EXHIBITS OR ITEMS AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE COMPRISED IN THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO AND TO PRESERVE THE SAME AS A COLLECTION ("THE COLLECTION");(2) THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF MYTHS AND STORIES AND ORAL ARTS PERFORMANCES WHETHER OR NOT IN THE MUSEUM OR BY SUCH OTHER MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION SHALL DETERMINE.

Activities: Mythstories works with words, keeping oral heritage alive. We run a museum; organise projects and events to celebrate the heritage art of storytelling; link stories to landscape; share stories for community cohesion. We use storytelling as a gateway to literacy and communication skills. All age groups get involved in projects or visit the museum. Users are usually young people and families.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Birmingham City
- Cheshire West & Chester
- Conwy
- Flintshire
- Powys
- Sandwell
- Shropshire
- Telford & Wrekin
- Wolverhampton
- Wrexham

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £3,902 | £5,872 | - | - |
| 2024-03-31 | £4,206 | £2,781 | - | - |
| 2023-03-31 | £7,702 | £6,076 | - | - |
| 2022-03-31 | £3,640 | £21,017 | - | - |
| 2021-03-31 | £30,099 | £18,292 | - | - |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|----------------------------|------|------------|
| Jacob Edward Owen Williams | | 2018-05-15 |
| Jennifer Kate Watson | | 2021-02-10 |
| Joseph Malcolm White | | 2021-02-10 |
| Philip Leslie Jefferies | | 2020-09-01 |
| Simon Ellis Poole | | 2020-09-01 |
| Zara Bannu | | 2020-09-01 |

MYTHSTORIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1161594

Accounts

MYTHSTORIES - CHARITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

| | Unrestricted | 2025 Restricted | Total | 2024 Total |
|--|--------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Arts Council England | | 441 | 441 | 3969 |
| Shropshire County Council | | 3320 | 3320 | |
| Sales | | | | 157 |
| Donations | 68 | | 68 | 41 |
| Interest Earned | 73 | | 73 | 39 |
| | | | | |
| Total | <u>141</u> | <u>3761</u> | <u>3902</u> | <u>4206</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Employee Costs | | | | |
| General Administration - insurance, maintenance etc. | 519 | | 519 | 246 |
| Travel | | 285 | 285 | 40 |
| Artists/Project Costs | | 4759 | 4759 | 2185 |
| Advertising | | | | |
| Accounts | 250 | | 250 | 250 |
| Other | 60 | | 60 | 60 |
| | | | | |
| Total | <u>829</u> | <u>5044</u> | <u>5872</u> | <u>2781</u> |
| | | | | |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | <u>(687)</u> | <u>(1283)</u> | <u>(1970)</u> | <u>(1424)</u> |
| | | | | |
| FULL COST RECOVERY/TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS | 1017 | (1017) | | |
| | | | | |
| FUNDS B/FWD | 181 | 3784 | 3965 | 2540 |
| | | | | |
| FUNDS C/FWD | <u>510</u> | <u>1485</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>3965</u> |

MYTHSTORIES - CHARITY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st MARCH 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Stock | | |
| Bank and cash | 2483 | 4453 |
| Debtors | 12 | 12 |
| | <u>2495</u> | <u>4465</u> |
| Liabilities | | |
| Creditors | | |
| Accruals | 500 | 500 |
| | <u>500</u> | <u>500</u> |
| Net Current Assets | <u>1995</u> | <u>3965</u> |
| Net Assets | <u><u>1995</u></u> | <u><u>3965</u></u> |
| Funds | | |
| Unrestricted | 510 | 181 |
| Restricted | 1485 | 3784 |
| Total Funds | <u><u>1995</u></u> | <u><u>3965</u></u> |





13.01.26

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Mythstories

Charity Number 1161594

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

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

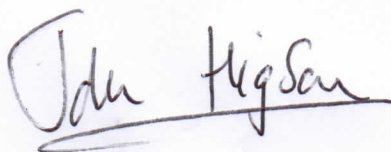
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

have not been met; or

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



John Higson
Bank Accounts
Oak Ridge, Horderley
Craven Arms
Shropshire
SY7 8HW

Date: 23/01/2026

MYTHSTORIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1161594

Accounts



where
words
work

Mythstories

museum of myth and fable

**The Guildhall
Frankwell Quay
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ**

Charity Reg. No. 1161594

Annual Report

Year ended 31st March 2024

1. Our Mission

Mythstories works with the spoken word; on-line and in outreach projects.

We encourage our users to be storytellers themselves, passing on oral heritage and keeping it alive.

2. Status of the Charity

Mythstories is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a standard 'Foundation' constitution. The original Charity was created by a Deed of Trust in 2001 and merged with the CIO in 2015.

Mythstories began as a website in June 1998, before opening as a physical museum in February 1999. During 2022/3 most of the museum artefacts were dispersed. Mythstories continues to operate as an on-line museum with outreach projects.

3. Governance and Management

Contact c/o Mr. S. Poole, Fullersmoor Cottage, Smithy Lane, Brown Knowl, Broxon, Cheshire, CH3 9JY info@mythstories.com

The maximum number of Trustees that can serve is 7.

During the year six Trustees held office:

Jacob Williams (second term – ends 15th May 2024)

Zara Bannu (second term – ends 31st August 2026)

Philip Jefferies (second term – ends 31st August 2026)

Simon Poole (second term – ends 31st August 2026)

Jennifer Watson (second term – ends 9th February 2027)

Joseph White (second term – ends 9th February 2027)

Trustees may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms.

The Trustees cover the following skill areas: cultural and community education, diversity, health psychology and resilience, legal expertise, verbal arts practice. Some were former young storytellers, some have current experience of academic life as teachers, lecturers and researchers.

No in-person formal meetings took place during the year. Trustees held formal meetings on-line and maintained contact via a WhatsApp group. Key policy documents and governance information, all contracts and current project information together with daily ledger and management accounts are maintained on cloud storage to which all Trustees have access.

Three Trustees and a key volunteer have access to the on-line bank account, with payments being reviewed and authorised monthly.

Ongoing and routine work continues to be delegated to two key volunteers.

4. Objectives

The primary focus of **Mythstories** is educational; preserving and disseminating traditional tales. It does this by:

A Maintaining an extensive website, free at the point of use, with traditional tales and a gallery of the objects previously held in the museum. It is a resource of tried and tested ideas for using stories and storytelling artefacts in formal and informal educational settings.

B. Initiating outreach projects in the Shropshire/Mid-Wales borders area, which focus on the region's oral heritage.

C. Working with other organisations to promote storytelling in the United Kingdom.

D. Exploring the educational uses of storytelling, as a gateway to literacy and to develop 'soft' life-skills.

The Trustees and management keep in mind the **Charity Commission's** guidance on public benefit when designing and delivering activities that flow from this objective.

5. Achievements and Performance

Telling our Stories: This project's final report evidenced the positive impact of this 'triple coded' approach in education, but concluded that more work needed to be done on the practicability of the approach within today's schools strictures. Both the report and a short documentary film are available on line and both were emailed to the teams at the newly re-

organised **Museums Development Service** as well as schools and academy trusts within the areas of the pilot project.

The project storyteller, Dawn Powell, continues to work with a small group of Year 5 pupils at one of the schools, **Mount Pleasant Primary in Shrewsbury**, as they refresh and redisplay their mini-museum.



During the year we successfully applied to **Arts Council England** for a grant to help progress both the exploratory work with schools and Mythstories' on-line presence. This **Imaginal** project will see two different storytellers deliver CPD for staff of both pilot schools, suggesting starting points for the use of the artefacts. It also enables Mythstories to participate in the **Arts UK / Bloomberg Philanthropies 'Connects'** project by engaging a freelance app developer. This programme will develop apps for museum users and the developer will produce an app which highlights aspects of the website, bringing to the fore sections on environmental links and videos made by and of young people telling traditional tales.

During the year volunteers completed the 'Museum' section of the website, ensuring there is a complete record of the collection of physical artefacts that have now been dispersed.

And Mythstories was pleased to learn that the Flying Donkeys Screen was displayed at the Get A Word in Edgeways festival in Much Wenlock in October 2023, while the Edric & Godda storyscape, owned by the Clee Hills Trust, was used by a storyteller at the Shrewsbury Folk Festival in August 2023 and at Bishop's Castle Arts Festival in February 2024.



From October through to December Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery featured the painting “The Disappearing City” in their exhibition about Viriconium, Wroxeter Roman City.

After year end we were contacted by the University of Chester who told us they had arranged to vacate their Shrewsbury campus at The Guildhall at the end of the 2023/24 academic year.



As part of that arrangement they had agreed to transfer ownership of the Gilgamesh tablets and paintings to Shropshire Council so they may remain on display in the courtyard and building.



We are grateful to Shropshire Council, who have agreed Mythstories can maintain a postal address at The Guildhall.

6. Staff and Volunteers

Mythstories had no employees during the year. Routine work was undertaken by two key volunteers.

A former young storyteller has joined the volunteer team to run Mythstories' Instagram account, bringing a fresh vision and focus on the exhibits.

Mythstories has engaged a freelance trainee project manager to run the Imaginal project, liaising with app. developer, the schools and the two professional storytellers delivering the CPD. The trainee project manager is an experienced team manager in an unrelated discipline and is being mentored in her work with artists by the Key volunteers.

In addition to the Trustees, a further 10 volunteers were involved during the year.

7. Financial Review

Income

Mythstories has no guaranteed regular funding and during the year benefitted from in-kind support as well as volunteer time.

Sales revenue through the **ArtUK** shop generated a small net profit and a decision was made to continue the partnership for a further 12 months.

The first instalment of the **Imaginal** project grant of £4,410 from **Arts Council England Lottery** funding was received during the year. This project benefits greatly from the in-kind support provided by **Bloomberg Philanthropies** and **ArtUK** as well as Mythstories' own Key volunteers.

Expenditure

Mythstories has minimum overheads. Outside of project costs, the major costs in the year were accountancy, on-line hosting fees and insurance.

Reserves

Unrestricted reserves at year end are sufficient to cover foreseeable running costs in 2024/25 and this will provide a useful buffer as Mythstories continues to transition to its new operating method.

8. Future Plans


Mythstories will pro-actively seek funding to follow up the research project, using the learning to develop digital resources. We are working on this in association with RECAP (Research into Education Creativity and Arts Practise) who have generously agreed to be the research partner and fundholder for future work in this area.

The Mythstories app is due to launch on the Bloomberg Connects site in July 2024. We will actively promote and monitor its use in schools and other educational settings.

The Charity is currently in discussions with a funder regarding the delivery a small project with **Shropshire Supports Refugees** which will introduce these new families to the countryside and oral history of the County.

Approved by the Board

Signed: 

Signed: 

Date: ...29.06.2024.....

MYTHSTORIES - CHARITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

| | 2024 | | | 2023 |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Unrestricted | Restricted | Total | Total |
| Arts Council England | | 3969 | 3969 | |
| Sales | 157 | | 157 | 135 |
| Donations | 41 | | 41 | 31 |
| Interest Earned | 39 | | 39 | 26 |
| University of Chester | | | | 7510 |
| | | | | |
| Total | <u>237</u> | <u>3969</u> | <u>4206</u> | <u>7702</u> |
| | | | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Employee Costs | | | | |
| General Administration - insurance, maintenance etc. | 246 | | 246 | 275 |
| Travel | 5 | 35 | 40 | 597 |
| Artists/Project Costs | 260 | 1925 | 2185 | 4882 |
| Advertising | | | | |
| Accounts | 250 | | 250 | 250 |
| Other | 60 | | 60 | 72 |
| | | | | |
| Total | <u>821</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>2781</u> | <u>6076</u> |
| | | | | |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | <u>(585)</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>1424</u> | <u>1626</u> |
| | | | | |
| FULL COST RECOVERY/TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS | 35 | (35) | | |
| | | | | |
| FUNDS B/FWD | 731 | 1810 | 2540 | 915 |
| | | | | |
| FUNDS C/FWD | <u>181</u> | <u>3784</u> | <u>3965</u> | <u>2540</u> |



PJ. 03.09.2024



Joe White
13/09/2024

MYTHSTORIES - CHARITY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Stock | | |
| Bank and cash | 4453 | 2790 |
| Debtors | 12 | |
| | <u>4465</u> | <u>2790</u> |
| Liabilities | | |
| Creditors | | |
| Accruals | 500 | 250 |
| | <u>500</u> | <u>250</u> |
| Net Current Assets | <u>3965</u> | <u>2540</u> |
| Net Assets | <u><u>3965</u></u> | <u><u>2540</u></u> |
| Funds | | |
| Unrestricted | 181 | 731 |
| Restricted | 3784 | 1810 |
| Total Funds | <u><u>3965</u></u> | <u><u>2540</u></u> |



PJ. 03.09.2024



Joe White
13/09/2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Mythstories

Charity Number 1161594

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
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- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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

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have not been met; or

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

John Higson
Bank Accounts
Oak Ridge, Horderley
Craven Arms
Shropshire
SY7 8HW



Date: 16/09/2024

MYTHSTORIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1161594

Accounts



where
words
work

Mythstories

museum of myth and fable

**University Centre Shrewsbury
Guildhall
Frankwell Quay
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ**

Charity Reg. No. 1161594

**Annual Report
Year ended 31st March 2023**

1. Our Mission

Mythstories works with the spoken word; on-line and in outreach projects.

We encourage our users to be storytellers themselves, passing on oral heritage and keeping it alive.

2. Status of the Charity

Mythstories is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a standard 'Foundation' constitution.

Mythstories began as a website in June 1998, before opening as a museum in February 1999. The original Charity was created by a Deed of Trust in 2001 and merged with the CIO in 2015. During 2022/3 most of the museum artefacts were dispersed and Mythstories reverted to its website format.

3. Governance and Management

Contact c/o Mr. S. Poole, Fullersmoor Cottage, Smithy Lane, Brown Knowl, Broxon, Cheshire, CH3 9JY info@mythstories.com

The maximum number of Trustees that can serve is 7.

During the year six Trustees held office:

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The Trustees cover the following skill areas: cultural and community education, diversity, health psychology and resilience, legal expertise, verbal arts practice. Some were former young storytellers, some have current experience of academic life as teachers, lecturers and researchers.

No in-person formal meetings took place during the year. Trustees held formal meetings on-line and maintained contact via a WhatsApp group. Key policy documents and governance information, all contracts and current project information together with daily ledger and management accounts are maintained on cloud storage to which all Trustees have access.

Three Trustees and a key volunteer have access to the on-line bank account, with payments being reviewed and authorised monthly.

Ongoing and routine work continues to be delegated to two key volunteers.

4. Objectives

The primary focus of **Mythstories** is educational; preserving and disseminating traditional tales. It does this by:

A Maintaining an extensive website, free at the point of use. This disseminates traditional tales, a gallery of the objects previously held in the museum and is a resource of tried and tested ideas for using stories and storytelling artefacts in formal and informal educational settings.

B. Initiating outreach projects in the Shropshire/Mid-Wales borders area, which focus on the region's oral heritage.

C. Working with other organisations to promote storytelling in the United Kingdom.

D. Exploring the educational uses of storytelling, as a gateway to literacy and to develop 'soft' life-skills.

The Trustees and management keep in mind the **Charity Commission's** guidance on public benefit when designing and delivering activities that flow from this objective.

5. Achievements and Performance

Following the request from **University Centre Shrewsbury** for the Charity to vacate its premises, and a subsequent decision to revert to a digital museum with outreach projects, the majority of the artefacts were dispersed during the year. This transition back to a virtual museum was the main focus of the Charity's activity.

Loaned items were returned to their owners.

In April 2022, the **Centre for Folklore, Myth and Magic** in Todmorden took possession of Mythstories' library, the Society for Storytelling library and the audio archive of the London Centre for International Storytelling. This enabled all 3,000+ books to be kept together and be accessible to the public, to storytellers and researchers.



We were unable to find a UK home for the two processional giants, **Bertilak de Haut Desert** and **Morgan Le Fey**. In September they were 3D scanned courtesy of the **University of Chester**.



They were then taken down and travelled to **La Maison Des Geants, Ath, Belgium** where they are now displayed alongside other European giants.

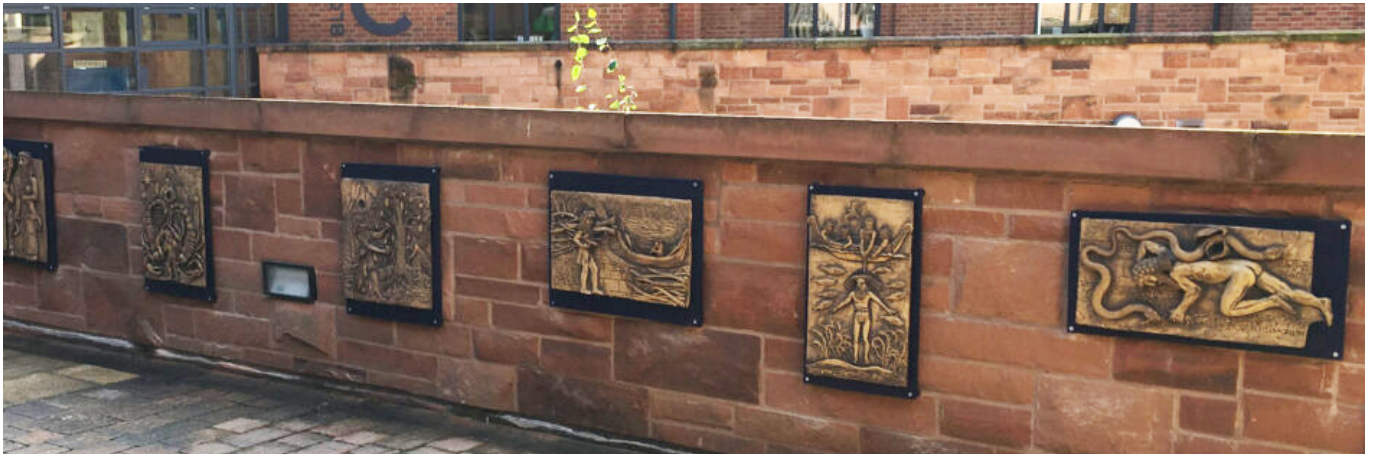


In January the screen and cartoons originally commissioned as stage and set dressings by The Flying Donkeys storyclub were transferred to **A Word In Edgeways**. This organisation promotes a spoken word festival and events in South Shropshire, so the artefacts will now be re-used for their original purpose.



The Edric & Godda Storyscape, commissioned with funding from Arts Council England, has been transferred to the **Titterstone Clee Trust**, an organisation that encourages public engagement with the culture and landscape of that part of Edric's historic kingdom.

Ownership of the Gilgamesh tablets and paintings has been transferred to **The University of Chester** so they may remain on display in the courtyard and library at University Centre, Shrewsbury.



Many of the other artefacts were dispersed to two primary schools as part of Telling Our Stories, a **University of Chester** research project exploring the use of storytelling objects in the Primary curriculum. **Grosvenor Park Academy, Chester** received the Ramayana, North American and South American constellations in July, while **Mount Pleasant Primary, Shrewsbury**, took possession of the Shropshire and Folk Customs constellations in September. Storyteller, **Dawn Powell**, has been in the schools to demonstrate sample workshops and help staff explore ways of using the artefacts.



The project, which is still on-going, has already highlighted two major difficulties schools face in integrating new forms of creativity into their curriculum: the already heavy staff workload and the lack of flexibility in a tightly forward-planned school year. We look forward to seeing the different perspectives of the final report, which will also look at the digital resources teachers feel they need. A documentary film is being made of the process by film-maker, **Phil Hirst**.



The beginning of the year saw the final two workshops for home-educating families looking at the history and stories of the now redundant Newport – Shrewsbury canal took place. These were run in partnership with **The Hive**, an arts and well-being venue in Shrewsbury. The pottery plaques created by the group will be installed along the line of the canal bed later in 2023.



Also during the year Mythstories' Arts Award Adviser worked with one young home-educated person to successfully complete his Bronze Arts Award.



The Talking Cat mug



The Hanuman's Leap mug



Mouse Tiger Cushion



Elephant Charging Cushion



Loyalist Cow Cushion

During the year Mythstories was active on social media promoting the collection and the work of the Charity. **ArtUK**, whose website displays the paintings in the Mythstories collection, also ran two features on Mythstories artist-in-residence. They also added cushions, mugs and art materials featuring Mythstories' paintings to the range of prints available from their on-line print-on-demand shop.

6. Staff and Volunteers

Mythstories had no employees during the year. Routine work was undertaken by two key volunteers, who also led on the dispersal of the museum collection. 2 self-employed artists were contracted to work on the research project with the University of Chester. In addition to the Trustees, a further 21 volunteers were involved during the year.

7. Financial Review

Income

Mythstories has no guaranteed regular funding and during the year benefitted from a great deal of in-kind support as well as volunteer time.

A small amount of donations came via the **SmileAmazon** website.

Sales revenue through the **ArtUK** shop increased, and a decision was made to continue the partnership for a further 12 months.

All other income was from the University of Chester, the majority related to the on-going Telling Our Stories project with the balance (£1,750) covering the paid costs of dispersal of other artefacts.

Expenditure

Mythstories has minimum overheads. The major costs in the year were accountancy , on-line service fees and insurance.

Reserves

Unrestricted reserves at year end will be sufficient to cover foreseeable running costs in 2023/24, and this will provide a useful buffer as Mythstories transitions to its new operating method.

8. Future Plans

The focus of Mythstories' work in 2023/24 will be based on the results of the research project, using the learning to develop digital resources.

Volunteers will also complete the 'Museum' section of the website, ensuring there is a complete record of the physical artefacts that have now been dispersed.

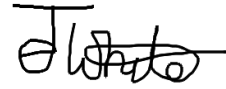
Trustees will oversee the implementation Mythstories' digital engagement strategy with a view to raising the profile of Mythstories and its work.

The Charity is also actively seeking funds for a small project with **Shropshire Supports Refugees** which will introduce these new families to the countryside and oral history of the County.

Approved by the Board



Signed:



Signed:

Date: 08.09.23

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Mythstories

Charity Number 1161594

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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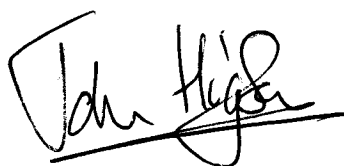
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

have not been met; or

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



John Higson
Bank Accounts
Oak Ridge, Horderley
Craven Arms
Shropshire
SY7 8HW

Date: 08/09/2023

MYTHSTORIES - CHARITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

| | Unrestricted | 2023 Restricted | Total | 2022 Total |
|--|--------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Arts Council England | | | | 1490 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | | | | 1290 |
| Sales | 135 | | 135 | 97 |
| Donations | 31 | | 31 | 12 |
| Interest Earned | 26 | | 26 | 1 |
| Arnold Clark | | | | 750 |
| University of Chester | | 7510 | 7510 | |
| | | | | |
| Total | <u>192</u> | <u>7510</u> | <u>7702</u> | <u>3640</u> |
| | | | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Employee Costs | | | | 650 |
| General Administration - insurance, maintenance etc. | 275 | | 275 | 963 |
| Travel | 13 | 585 | 597 | 5 |
| Artists/Project Costs | 234 | 4648 | 4882 | 18630 |
| Advertising | | | | 120 |
| Accounts | 250 | | 250 | 500 |
| Other | 72 | | 72 | 149 |
| | | | | |
| Total | <u>844</u> | <u>5233</u> | <u>6076</u> | <u>21017</u> |
| | | | | |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | <u>(652)</u> | <u>(2277)</u> | <u>1626</u> | <u>(17377)</u> |
| | | | | |
| FULL COST RECOVERY/TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS | 720 | (720) | | |
| | | | | |
| FUNDS B/FWD | 662 | 252 | 915 | 18292 |
| | | | | |
| FUNDS C/FWD | <u>731</u> | <u>1810</u> | <u>2540</u> | <u>915</u> |

MYTHSTORIES - CHARITY

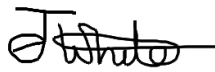
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st MARCH 2023

| | 2023 | | 2022 | |
|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Stock | | | | |
| Bank and cash | 2790 | | 1165 | |
| Debtors | | | | |
| | | <u>2790</u> | | <u>1165</u> |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Creditors | | | | |
| Accruals | 250 | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| | | <u>250</u> | | <u>250</u> |
| Net Current Assets | | <u>2540</u> | | <u>915</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u><u>2540</u></u> | | <u><u>915</u></u> |
| Funds | | | | |
| Unrestricted | | 731 | | 662 |
| Restricted | | 1810 | | 252 |
| Total Funds | | <u><u>2540</u></u> | | <u><u>915</u></u> |



08.09.23



08.09.23

MYTHSTORIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1161594

Accounts



where
words
work

Mythstories

museum of myth and fable

**University Centre Shrewsbury
Guildhall
Frankwell Quay
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ**

Charity Reg. No. 1161594

**Annual Report
Year ended 31st March 2022**

1. Our Mission

Mythstories works with the spoken word; on-line and in outreach projects.

We encourage our users to be storytellers themselves, passing on oral heritage and keeping it alive.

2. Status of the Charity

Mythstories is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a standard 'Foundation' constitution.

Mythstories began as a website in June 1998, before opening as a museum in February 1999. The original Charity was created by a Deed of Trust in 2001 and merged with the CIO in 2015. During 2022/3 the museum artefacts will be dispersed and Mythstories will revert to its website base.

3. Governance and Management

Contact c/o Mr. S. Poole, Fullersmoor Cottage, Smithy Lane, Brown Knowl, Broxon, Cheshire, CH3 9JY info@mythstories.com

During the year six Trustees held office:

Jacob Edward Owen Williams (second term – ends 15th May 2024)

Zara Bannu (first term – ends 31st August 2023)

Philip Leslie Jefferies (first term – ends 31st August 2023)

Simon Poole (first term – ends 31st August 2023)

Jennifer Watson (first term – ends 9th February 2024)

Joseph White (first term – ends 9th February 2024)

The maximum number of Trustees that can serve is 7.

The Trustees cover the following skill areas: cultural and community education, diversity, health psychology and resilience, legal expertise, verbal arts practice. Some have experience as former young storytellers, some have current experience of academic life as teachers, lecturers and researchers.

No in-person meetings took place during the year. Trustees held formal meetings on-line and maintained contact via a WhatsApp group. Key policy documents and governance information, all contracts and current project

information together with daily ledger and management accounts are maintained on cloud storage to which all Trustees have access.

Three Trustees and a key volunteer have access to the on-line bank account, with payments being reviewed and authorised monthly.

Ongoing and routine work continues to be delegated to two key volunteers.

4. Objectives

The primary focus of **Mythstories** is educational; preserving and disseminating traditional tales. It does this by:

A Maintaining a publicly accessible collection of storytelling artefacts which introduce visitors to traditional tales and folklore and a library which includes volumes of stories as well as books on the theory and application of storytelling. The collection incorporates the **Society for Storytelling Library** and a copy of the audio archive of performance storytelling created by the **London Centre for International Storytelling**. This collection will be dispersed during 2022/23, beginning with the libraries and archive which will relocate to the **Centre for Folklore Myth and Magic** in Todmorden, Yorkshire, before it opens in May/June 2022

B Maintaining a website, free at the point of use, disseminating traditional tales and ideas for their use in formal and informal educational settings.

C Initiating outreach projects in the Shropshire/Mid-Wales borders area, which focus on the region's oral heritage.

D Working with other organisations to promote storytelling in the United Kingdom.

E Exploring the educational uses of storytelling, as a gateway to literacy and to develop 'soft' life-skills.

The Trustees and management keep in mind the **Charity Commission's** guidance on public benefit when designing and delivering activities that flow from this objective.

5. Achievements and Performance

University Centre Shrewsbury remained closed to the public during the year, which prevented opening the museum to the public.

In September 2021 the **University of Chester** confirmed they no longer wished to continue housing the collection on the UCS campus. Without the reduction in overheads that this arrangement allowed, Mythstories museum would be unable to continue as a financially viable operation. Trustees revisited the consultation carried out prior to the relocation to UCS in 2019 and took the decision to revert to a digital museum with outreach projects. The University offered financial support to relocate the artefacts and it was agreed both parties would work towards dispersing the collection by the end of September 2022.

During the year Mythstories continued to deliver outreach:

The first half of the year saw the completion of a major project '**Wise Words in Wild Places**' funded by **Arts Council England, Shropshire Council and Energize, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin** and supported by the **Shropshire Area of Natural Beauty, Shropshire Outdoor Partnership, Shropshire Library and Shropshire Archives**. The question the project was designed to answer was "can on-line viewers become active listeners and experience the essence of a storytelling performance, retaining their ability to build unique pictures in their heads?". And on a practical level, as Covid-measures receded, it became important to encourage people to spend more time in the countryside. Over the year we commissioned 10 videos for site-specific Shropshire stories: a storyteller created the audio track for each, film-makers accompanied this with either 'slow tv' or archive footage specific to each site, or in one case an animation. The resultant videos are available via QR codes at the sites, on YouTube or through the Mythstories' website. A leaflet complete with QR codes was distributed throughout the regional day-tourist area to encourage families emerging from Covid isolation to visit these sites.

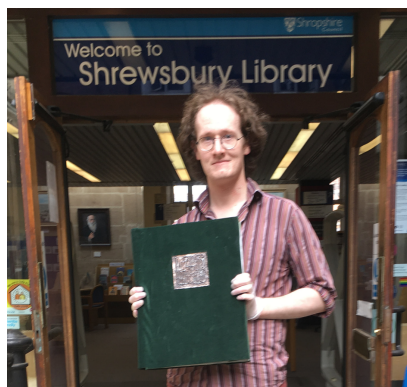


6 Llanymynech

Storyteller **Clare Murphy** tells "Ned Pugh of Llanymynech" from North Shropshire, film by **Neda Ahmadi**



Storytellers also led five storywalks at different sites, accompanied by an 'expert' on the sites' flora, fauna or industrial heritage. Again aimed at families emerging from Covid isolation, these walks proved so beneficial that funding was secured from **The National Lottery Fund Local Connections Fund** for a further three walks in the second half of the year.



Wise Words in Wild Places was artistically evaluated by commissioning an artist to produce a sketchbook reacting to the films. This sketchbook and those done by young people who attended the walks were exhibited at **Shrewsbury Library** in September/October 2021 alongside QR codes leading to the videos.

The **Zoom Away With Words** storytelling club for young people, part-funded by a grant from the **Community Fund** initially flourished, with monthly on-line meetings led by storyteller volunteers and interim on-line meetings between members. Parents were asked to supervise the young people when on line and a number of parents encouraged their children to engage with the project, practising or researching the stories in between club sessions. Over the summer the families were able to meet up to socialise. In the autumn the on-line sessions were augmented by a monthly in-person meeting at **Shropshire Library** and a project on local tales, funded by the



Arnold Clark Community Fund, commenced. The young people recorded local tales, which were uploaded to Mythstories YouTube channel. They then designed postcards sign-posting their recordings which were printed and sent to friends and family members over the Christmas period. A final celebratory event was held in February 2022, with 8 families attending.

During the year Mythstories' Arts Award Adviser worked with one young home-educated person to successfully complete her Silver Arts Award. The main artform was Poetry and the young person led a public poetry-walk around Shrewsbury as part of her Leadership challenge.



In Spring 2022 Mythstories' volunteers worked in partnership with **The Hive** a creative venue running wellbeing projects based in Shrewsbury, to facilitate a series of workshops for home-educating families which looked at the history and legacy of the now redundant Newport - Shrewsbury canal. The **Hidden Waterways** project, funded by the **Lottery Fund for Heritage**, involved many different artforms and the home educating families chose to use pottery. Three workshops were held in March 2022 (a further two workshops took place after year end during April), with all being fully booked and 19 different families attending, some on multiple occasions.



6. Volunteers

In general, all routine work was undertaken by two key volunteers. Projects were delivered by self-employed artists and other professionals, or by suitably experienced Mythstories volunteers. 17 artists were contracted, and a further 17 volunteers were involved during the year.

In May / June 2021 Mythstories' volunteers mentored a work-based learning student from the University during a six-week remote work placement. The student researched facts behind the story of a 6th Century Saint - St. Rumwald - whose short life is commemorated in medieval Shrewsbury street names. The student then wrote a Mummer's Play based on his research.

A professional storyteller spent time with volunteers further developing her ideas for storytelling in education with artefacts. She has since used these in her one-to-one tutoring with Children with Special Needs. She helped devise and will ultimately deliver Mythstories' CPD programme for school teaching staff, which is currently on hold pending the research project by the University of Chester

Volunteers attended one-to-one mentoring sessions run by **The Space** and funded by **Arts Council England**. Volunteers also attended webinars run by **The Digital Cultural Network**. These have resulted in a new Digital Engagement Strategy which, when fully implemented, will bring Mythstories work to the attention of a wider audience.

Following the decision to disperse the collection, Volunteers attended a training session on dispersal of museum collections organised by the **West Midlands Museum Development** and received one to one advice from their officers and **Arts Council England** representatives. Mythstories remains in contact with them and thanks them for their support.

8. Financial Review

Income

Mythstories has no guaranteed regular funding and there were no opportunities for earned income, as the University buildings were closed to the general public

Arts Council England made the final payment to their grant for the programme 'Wise Words in Wild Places'. And Mythstories was successful in obtaining a follow-up grant for further storywalks from the **National Lottery Fund Local Connections** grant strand.

A small amount of donations came via the **SmileAmazon** website, and some sales revenue via prints sold through **Art UK**. With the dispersal of the collection, Trustees are investigating ways to increase this income strand.

The final project fund came from the **Arnold Clark Community Fund**, and was in respect to the Zoom Away With Words on-line storytelling club.

Expenditure

Mythstories has minimum overheads, with the major on-going cost being insurance.

Project costs formed the bulk of expenditure (95%) during the year.

The small amount of payment to Staff shown in the accounts relate to work undertaken in March 2021 but paid during the first week of April.

Reserves

Mythstories aims to hold unrestricted reserves to a maximum of 3 months' running costs plus 10% of its average annual project funding. Most of these reserves were expended on relocation and, with no visitor income since the onset of the Covid pandemic, have not been rebuilt.

9. Future Plans

The primary task for 2022/23 is the dispersal of the collection in such a way as to maximise its benefit to the public.


The first phase will take place in April 2022, when the **Centre for Folklore, Myth and Magic** in Todmorden will take possession of Mythstories' library, the Society for Storytelling library and the audio archive of the London Centre for International Storytelling. All 3,000 books will be kept together, be accessible to the public and available to storytellers and researchers.

Since year end the **University of Chester** has agreed to fund a research project exploring the use of storytelling objects in the Primary curriculum, which will involve many of the items in the collection being dispersed to two Primary schools. Part of the process will involve looking at the type of digital resources that schools need, and the results of this will feed into the development of the Mythstories' website.

And **La Maison Des Geants** in Belgium has agreed to host Mythstories' two processional giants, their relocation is planned for September 2022.

We will continue to develop the website resources, using the results of the research project, and refining our use of social media to raise the profile of Mythstories and its work.

Approved by the Board 28th September 2022 (date)

Signed: 
.....
JOE WHITE (trustee)
28 SEP 2022

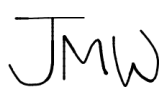
Signed: 
.....
PHILIP JEFFERIES (trustee)
28.09.22

MYTHSTORIES - CHARITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

| | Unrestricted | 2022 Restricted | Total | 2021 Total |
|--|--------------|--------------------|---------|---------------|
| Arts Council England | | 1490 | 1490 | 15705 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | | 1290 | 1290 | 6000 |
| Sales | 97 | | 97 | |
| Donations | 12 | | 12 | 35 |
| Interest Earned | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Arnold Clark | | 750 | 750 | |
| Community Fund for Staffordshire | | | | 1000 |
| HMRC Furlough Fund | | | | 458 |
| Heritage Emergency Fund | | | | 6400 |
| Energise | | | | 500.00 |
| Total | 110 | 3530 | 3640 | 30099 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Employee Costs | | 650 | 650 | 6563 |
| Training | | | | |
| Premises | | | | |
| General Administration - insurance, maintenance etc. | 963 | | 963 | 1051 |
| Travel | 5 | | 5 | 17 |
| Artists/Project Costs | | 18630 | 18630 | 4886 |
| Advertising | 120 | | 120 | |
| Accounts | 500 | | 500 | |
| Other | 149 | | 149 | 139 |
| Depreciation | | | | |
| Total | 1738 | 19280 | 21017 | 12656 |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | (1628) | (15750) | (17377) | (17443) |
| FULL COST RECOVERY/TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS | 364 | (364) | | |
| FUNDS B/FWD | 1926 | 16366 | 18292 | 849 |
| FUNDS C/FWD | 662 | 252 | 915 | 18292 |


 09 / 28 / 2022


 28.09.22

MYTHSTORIES - CHARITY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st MARCH 2022

| | 2022 | | 2021 | |
|--------------------|------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | | 0 | 0 |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Stock | | | | |
| Bank and cash | 1165 | | 17542 | |
| Debtors | | | 1000 | |
| | | <u>1165</u> | | <u>18542</u> |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Creditors | | | | |
| Accruals | 250 | 250 | 250 | |
| | | <u>250</u> | | <u>250</u> |
| Net Current Assets | | <u>915</u> | | <u>18292</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u><u>915</u></u> | | <u><u>18292</u></u> |
| Funds | | | | |
| Unrestricted | | | 662 | 1926 |
| Restricted | | | 252 | 16366 |
| Total Funds | | <u><u>915</u></u> | | <u><u>18292</u></u> |



Joe White 09 / 28 / 2022

Trustee



PHILIP JEFFERIES
(TRUSTEE)

28.09.22

MYTHSTORIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1161594

Accounts



where
words
work

Mythstories

museum of myth and fable

**University Centre Shrewsbury
Guildhall
Frankwell Quay
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ**

Charity Reg. No. 1161594

**Annual Report
Year ended 31st March 2021**

1. Our Mission

Mythstories works with the spoken word; in a museum, on-line and in outreach projects.

We encourage our users to be storytellers themselves, passing on oral heritage and keeping it alive.

2. Status of the Charity

Mythstories is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a standard 'Foundation' constitution.

Mythstories began as a website in June 1998, before opening as a museum in February 1999. The original Charity was created by a Deed of Trust in 2001 and merged with the CIO in 2015.

3. Governance and Management

Contact c/o Mr. S. Poole, Fullersmoor Cottage, Smithy Lane, Brown Knowl, Broxton, Cheshire, CH3 9JY info@mythstories.com

During the year 9 Trustees held office:

Peter John Roscoe (resigned 9th February 2021)

Geoffrey Arthur Hardy (resigned 9th February 2021)

Pauline Ann Rigby (resigned 31st March 2021)

Jacob Edward Owen Williams (first term – ends 15th May 2021)

Zara Bannu (appointed 1st September 2020)

Philip Leslie Jefferies (appointed 1st September 2020)

Simon Poole (appointed 1st September 2020)

Jennifer Watson (appointed 10th February 2021)

Joseph White (appointed 10th February 2021)

The maximum number of Trustees that can serve is 7.

The Trustees cover the following skill areas: cultural education, diversity, health psychology and resilience, legal expertise, verbal arts practice. Some have experience as former or practising young storytellers, some have current experience of academic life as students, researchers and lecturers.

Physical meetings have not been possible due to Covid-19 restrictions and during the year Trustees met electronically to conduct business. Key policy documents and governance information are maintained on cloud storage, together with day-to-day and management accounts and are accessible to all Trustees.

During the year the Charity moved to on-line banking. Three Trustees and a key volunteer have access to the bank accounts, with payments due being reviewed and authorised monthly.

Day-to-day management continues to be delegated to two key volunteers.

4. Objectives

The primary focus of **Mythstories** is educational; preserving and disseminating traditional tales. It does this by:

A Maintaining a publicly accessible collection of storytelling artefacts which introduce visitors to traditional tales and folklore and a library which includes volumes of stories as well as books on the theory and application of storytelling. The current collection incorporates the **Society for Storytelling Library** and a copy of the audio archive of performance storytelling created by the **London Centre for International Storytelling**.

B Maintaining a website, free at the point of use, disseminating traditional tales and ideas for their use in formal and informal educational settings.

C Initiating outreach projects in the Shropshire/Mid-Wales borders area, which focus on the region's oral heritage.

D Working with other organisations to promote storytelling in the United Kingdom.

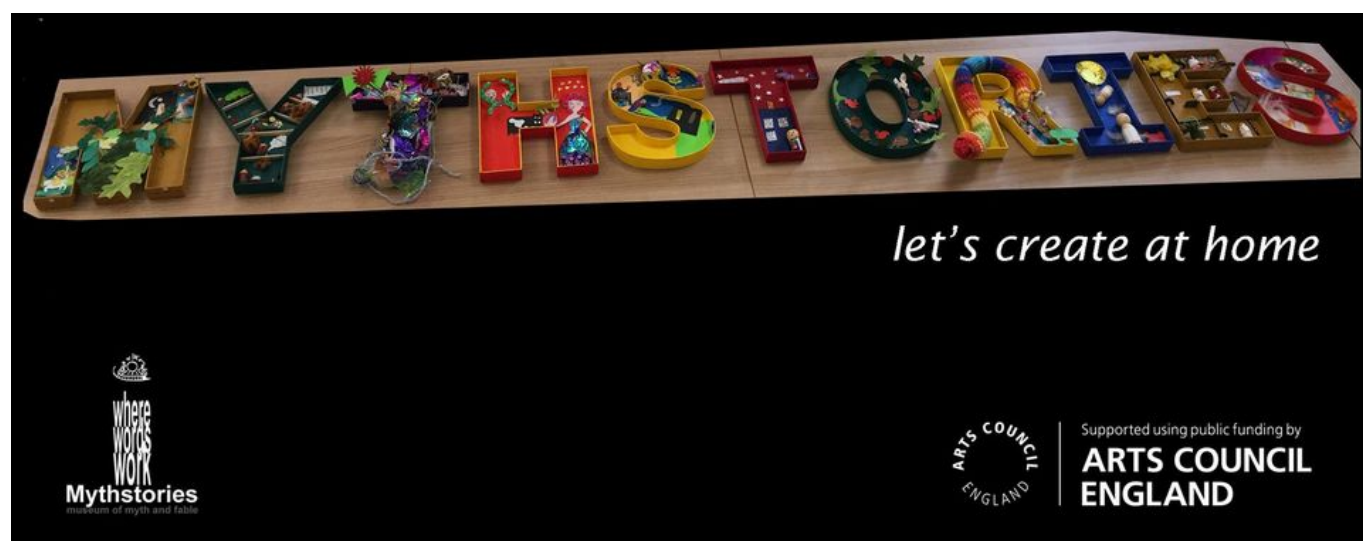
E Exploring the educational uses of storytelling, as a gateway to literacy and to develop 'soft' life-skills.

The Trustees and management keep in mind the **Charity Commission's** guidance on public benefit when designing and delivering activities that flow from these objectives.

5. Achievements and Performance

University Centre Shrewsbury closed to students and the public just before the start of this year, on 14th March 2020, in response to a suspected case of Covid-19 and has since remained closed to the public due to the pandemic.

Consequently, the year started in responsive fashion, all planned events and museum openings were cancelled and Trustees and volunteers concentrated on updating policy documents while assimilating the impact of the new situation. It soon became apparent that during 2020-21 the Charity's public-facing work would need to be exclusively on-line.



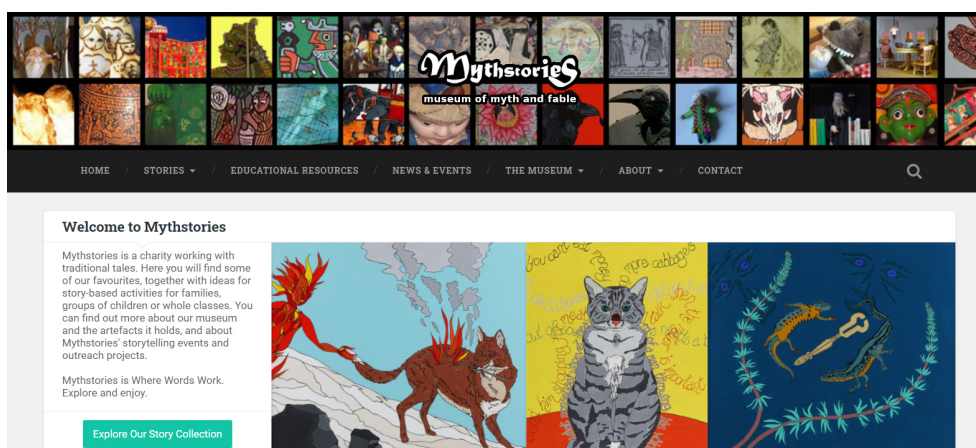
Having established a monthly **Home-Ed group**, we were keen to keep these families engaged with **Mythstories'** work and in regular contact with each other. With the aid of a grant from the **Arts Council England's Covid-19 Response Fund** we organised monthly on-line Facebook Live sessions during May, June and July under the banner '**Let's Create At Home**'. These were complemented with workshop outlines from three previous sessions being added to the website.



These proved popular with the families and in August we received funding from the **Shropshire Emergency Arts Grant** to cover the costs of two more sessions, this time led by two guest Shropshire Storytellers. We created a closed group FB page and membership grew to over 60 families – some of the extra number coming from families home educating as a result of Covid-19. Membership of the on-line group has now increased to 72 families and the page continues to be active. Volunteers continue to set monthly family creativity challenges that can be completed at any time, rather than during a live event.



As a result of receiving the **Arts Council England** grant we were able to access free help and advice from the **Digital Culture Network** and volunteers participated in several webinars. We also had one-to-one mentoring which focused on the architecture of www.mythstories.com, which needed re-designing to bring the educational content forward, and re-platforming to ensure improved access to users on mobile device. Following the advice we drew up a plan and received a grant under the **Heritage Emergency Fund**, administered by **The Lottery Fund for Heritage**, which enabled us to undertake the work to make the plan a reality. <https://mythstories.com> launched in late December.



During this half of the year, we were actively planning how to safely recommence live events, and we submitted a grant application to the **Shropshire Arts Grant** for a project entitled '**Wise Words in Wild Places**'. This would incorporate live storywalks together with on-line storyfilms of site-specific stories. These would be used to signpost families to places unlikely to be overrun by visitors and therefore suitable for those coming out of shielding. Our grant application was successful and **Wise Words in Wild Places** grew to a larger project with additional funding from **Arts Council England** and **Energize, Shropshire Telford & Wrekin**. Work on the project began in December 2020 and is on-going.

Also during this period, we joined with fellow-members of **FEST** (the Federation of European Storytelling organisations) and their newly-appointed England Ambassador to explore opportunities for advocacy in the education sector demonstrating the benefit of more storytellers and storytelling in schools.

Finally, in response to a request from a former member of our **Away With Words young storytellers club**, we successfully applied to the **Community Fund** for equipment and a Zoom subscription which enabled us to restart the club on-line. **Zoom Away With Words** held its first meeting in May 2021, after year end.

6. Staff and Volunteers

One key employee was furloughed during April and was able to resume work on specific funded projects in May. The other key employee retired in April, but continued with the Charity's day-to-day administration as part of a new voluntary post.

The three original Trustees all retired during the year and we welcomed five new Trustees, bringing the total Board to six. Three trustee-designates, who had been shadowing the Board's work the previous year, took up post in September 2020 with two others joining in February 2021. The new Trustees have brought with them a fresh perspective that will be invaluable as **Mythstories** continues.

The 'silver lining' of the Covid-19 pandemic has been that many funders and arts organisations are providing free training with workshops and seminars on-line. With a shorter time commitment and no travel expenses volunteers were able to take advantage of many of these:

West Midlands Museums Development:

- Exceeding visitor expectations
- Engaging your audiences during lockdown
- Business Planning in challenging times

Shropshire Cultural Consortium

- Virtual Schools and looked-after children

Federation of European Storytelling Organisations

- Storytelling competencies
- Storytelling, sexuality and gender identity

Culture Live

- Moving arts and culture online
- Audiences now and in the future
- Evolving business models and new revenue streams

Beyond The Border

- Podcasting

Arts Connect

- Arts Award on-line moderation

Arts Connect/Birmingham Education Partnership

- Storytelling as a teaching tool

Shropshire Council

- Arts fundraising and philanthropy

And, as a result of our successful application to the **Heritage Emergency Fund**, we were able to take up an offer of free one-to-one sessions with a Financial Consultant, a Fundraising webinar and a one-to-one session with a charity fundraiser.

All this learning is gradually being factored into the way we work and plan our future projects.

And notably it has already resulted in **Mythstories** setting up Fundraising pages with **CAF donate** and **Amazon Smile**, and appearing in the **Arts UK** on-line shop where supporters can buy prints of paintings from the collection.

Finally, A **University of Chester** student was interviewed and accepted a six-week volunteer work-based learning placement that commenced after year-end.

7. Financial Review

Expenditure

Mythstories has minimal overheads; in general building costs are covered by **University Centre Shrewsbury**, artists and staff are employed on a project-by-project basis. Our major annual overheads remain Insurances and Telephones. This 'sustainable' model gave **Mythstories** the financial resilience needed to weather the Covid-19 pandemic during the year and to continue into the foreseeable future.

Skilled volunteers keep the Charity on course. Employee costs for 2020/21 amounted to approx. £7,000 and related predominantly to work on funded projects. There were no Trustee expenses paid.

Income

Mythstories has no guaranteed regular funding and is primarily project funded. Earned income is normally generated through chargeable curator-led public tours and school and group visits. These were not possible during the year due to the closure of the building to the public as part of the University's Covid-19 response.

Our low turnover while relocating in 2019/20 made us ineligible for payments from the Covid Recovery Fund, however we were awarded £1,000 from **Shropshire Council** under their **Emergency Arts Grants**. We also benefited from £458 from the Government's Furlough Fund.

We were able to continue our core work on-line with the help of two specific grants; £2,295 from the **Arts Council England Covid-19 Response Fund** and £6,400 from the **Heritage Emergency Fund** administered by the **Lottery Fund for Heritage**. We were also awarded £1,000 from the **Community Fund for Staffordshire**, who were administering the Shropshire Community Fund, to meet general running costs and to fund the set up of **Zoom Away With Words**, our on-line storytelling club for young people.

And we began work on **Wise Words in Wild Places**, an on-going year-long project with financial support from: **Sport England** via **energize Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin** (£500), **Shropshire Council Arts Grant** (£5,000) and an **Arts Council England Lottery Funded Project Grant** (£14,900).

Reserves

Mythstories aims to hold unrestricted reserves to a maximum of 3 months' running costs plus 10% of its average annual project funding. Most of these reserves were expended on relocation and will need to be rebuilt once the museum is fully operational.

8. Covid-19 and Beyond

In April 2021 we heard informally that **the University of Chester**, the lead partner in **University Centre Shrewsbury**, no longer wished to continue housing our collection in the Guildhall when the building reopens. This was formally confirmed in September 2021, and discussions as to how this can be implemented have started. We are investigating the possibility of moving to a more culturally democratic model of operation by relocating the artefacts in the collection into public spaces throughout Shropshire and possibly beyond, while keeping the collection together digitally. We have been accepted on to an Arts Council funded mentoring programme run by **The Space** which will help us identify appropriate digital solutions.

Our application for Accredited Museum status expires in December 2021 and without a legally secure and publicly accessible location for the Collection, the application will lapse.

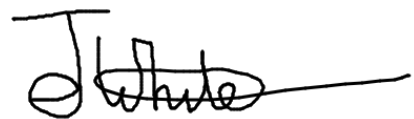
Mythstories priorities for 2021 and beyond are to resolve the museum's location, develop our audience, maximise our earned income opportunities and raise the profile of **Mythstories** and its work.

Approved by the Board30 SEPTEMBER 2021..... (date)



Signed:
(trustee)

PHILIP JEFFERIES.



Signed:
(trustee)

JOE WHITE

MYTHSTORIES - CHARITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021

| | Unrestricted | 2021 Restricted | Total | 2020 Total |
|--|--------------|--------------------|--------|---------------|
| Arts Council England | | 15705 | 15705 | 1482 |
| Shropshire Council | 2000 | 4000 | 6000 | 900 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | | | | 12521 |
| Co-op Communities Fund | | | | 43 |
| Sales | | | | 1119 |
| Donations | 35 | | 35 | 46 |
| Interest Earned | 1 | | 1 | 14 |
| Community Fund for Staffordshire | 600 | 400.00 | 1000 | |
| HMRC Furlough Fund | 458 | | 458 | |
| Heritage Emergency Fund | | 6400.00 | 6400 | |
| Energise | | 500.00 | 500.00 | |
| | | | | |
| Total | 3094 | 27005 | 30099 | 16125 |
| | | | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Employee Costs | 1023 | 5540 | 6563 | 8896 |
| Training | | | | |
| Premises | | | | 167 |
| General Administration - insurance, maintenance etc. | 1051 | | 1051 | 1226 |
| Travel | 17 | | 17 | 1900 |
| Artists/Project Costs | 532 | 4354 | 4886 | 22515 |
| Advertising | | | | |
| Accounts | | | | 250 |
| Other | 139 | | 139 | 273 |
| Depreciation | | | | 24.00 |
| | | | | |
| Total | 2762 | 9894 | 12656 | 35251 |
| | | | | |
| NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | 332 | 17111 | 17443 | (19127) |
| | | | | |
| FULL COST RECOVERY/TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS | 745 | (745) | | |
| | | | | |
| FUNDS B/FWD | 849 | | 849 | 19975 |
| | | | | |
| FUNDS C/FWD | 1926 | 16366 | 18292 | 849 |

MYTHSTORIES - CHARITY

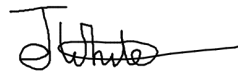
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st MARCH 2021

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Fixed Assets | 0 | 0 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Stock | | |
| Bank and cash | 17542 | 538 |
| Debtors | 1000 | 561 |
| | <u>18542</u> | <u>1099</u> |
| Liabilities | | |
| Creditors | | |
| Accruals | 250 | 250 |
| | <u>250</u> | <u>250</u> |
| Net Current Assets | <u>18292</u> | <u>849</u> |
| Net Assets | <u><u>18292</u></u> | <u><u>849</u></u> |
| Funds | | |
| Unrestricted | 1926 | 849 |
| Restricted | 16366 | 0 |
| Total Funds | <u><u>18292</u></u> | <u><u>849</u></u> |



Philip Jefferies
Trustee
30.09.21



Joe White
Trustee
30.09.21

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Mythstories

Charity Number 1161594

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2021

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement


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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

have not been met; or

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


John Higson
Bank Accounts
Oak Ridge, Horderley
Craven Arms
Shropshire
SY7 8HW

1st October 2021

Date: