

AGATHA CHRISTIE FESTIVAL LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1165573

Details

Other names INTERNATIONAL AGATHA CHRISTIE FESTIVAL LIMITED

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [09245332](#)

Registered 2016-02-15

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

Contact

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30 The Terrace
Torquay
TQ1 1BS

Phone 01803213251

Email katrina.vollentine@wollenmichelmore.co.uk

Website <https://www.iacf-uk.org>

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF, AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS OF LITERATURE, POETRY, CREATIVE WRITING, PERFORMING ARTS AND DIGITAL MEDIA BY ORGANISING AN ANNUAL LITERARY FESTIVAL IN TORBAY.

Activities: To deliver an internationally acclaimed festival which celebrates Agatha Christie's great legacy as a crime writer and cultural icon and promotes Torquay as her birthplace and inspiration.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Torbay

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£130,899	£142,588	-	-
2024-04-30	£107,187	£89,145	-	-
2023-04-30	£107,094	£104,075	-	-
2022-04-30	£66,409	£66,106	-	-
2021-04-30	£15,099	£14,841	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Heather Norman-Soderlind	Chair	2018-11-26
CHRISTOPHER DUNCAN HART		2016-01-25
Carolyn Custerson		2020-01-07
DAVID HEWITT BRAWN		2015-05-08
Dr Rachael Kiddey		2025-03-24
JOHN NEIL ROWE		2015-05-08
MATHEW CARADOC THOMAS PRICHARD CBE DL		2016-02-15

AGATHA CHRISTIE FESTIVAL LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1165573

Accounts

Agatha Christie Festival Limited
(A company Limited by Guarantee)

Unaudited Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 April 2025

Charity Number 1165573
Company Number 09245332 (England & Wales)

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Financial Statements

Year Ended 30 April 2025

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Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Company Information

Year Ended 30 April 2025

Company Registration Number	09245332
Charity Registration Number	1165573
Governing Document	Memorandum & Articles of Association
Trustees	Heather Norman-Soderlind (Chair) Mathew Prichard CBE Christopher Hart David Brawn John Rowe Carolyn Custerson Martin Thomas (resigned 22 May 2024) Dr Rachael Kiddey (appointed 24 March 2025)
Registered Office	Sigma House Oak View Close Edginswell Park Torquay Devon TQ2 7FF
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc Bristol City Office South West RCSC 740 Waterside Drive Aztec West Bristol BS99 5BD
Solicitors	Wollen Michelmore LLP At Harbourside 67 The Terrace Torquay Devon TQ1 1DP
Accountants	Francis Clark LLP Sigma House Oak View Close Edginswell Park Torquay TQ2 7FF

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

Status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, having no share capital. In the event of the company being wound up the liability of each member is limited to £10. The governing document of the charitable company is the memorandum and articles of association, dated 2 October 2014, as amended by written resolution dated 25 January 2015.

Objects and Activities of the Charity

The Charity's objects are to promote the public appreciation of, and to educate the public in the arts of literature, poetry, creative writing, performing arts, film and digital media by organising a year-round programme of cultural activities with communities across South Devon and with national and international partners which culminates in a festival of arts and literature each year in Torquay and at venues across the English Riviera.

Directors are appointed by the members or co-opted by the trustees.

Principal activities

The charity produces the annual Agatha Christie Festival, using the extraordinary power and reach of Torquay-born Agatha Christie's global reputation to promote local and international engagement and participation in literature and the arts, contributing to the growth of the local economy and wider efforts to increase tourism, and support work to understand and promote the area's literary and geological heritage.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited delivers its charitable mission with the support of a number of strategic partners as well as many local charities and businesses in the entertainment and hospitality sectors. Chief among our strategic partners are:

- Agatha Christie Limited and The Christie Archive Trust.
- Torbay Council
- English Riviera Business Improvement District (BID) Company
- English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark of which we are an Associate Partner
- Exeter UNESCO Creative City of Literature of which we are a Project Partner
- Library services across Devon, particularly Libraries Unlimited
- Literature Works, literature development agency for South West England

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2025

Financial Review

The income of the Festival during the year under review was £130,899. The total resources expended amounted to £142,588 and consequently there was a deficit for the year of £11,689.

Adequate funding has been received since the year end to ensure the charity's finances remain sufficient to enable it to continue operating, set out in further detail below.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees of Agatha Christie Festival Limited has reviewed its reserves policy in line with guidance issued by the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

We require reserves in order to:

1. Ensure continuity of business provision by covering running costs during periods of lower income, such as a fall in fundraising, failure to renew an anticipated major grant, or fall in earned income in any one year.
2. Ensure that any existing freelance staff contracts may be honoured up to the end of any one-month wind-down period.
3. Ensure there are sufficient unrestricted cash reserves in the current account to cover 'troughs' in the cash budget.

In April 2024 we estimated the full extent of reserves required for the above at a minimum of £10,000. For reserves above this minimum, the Board of Trustees has discretion over their transfer to a Designated Fund known as the Development Fund. Any such transfer requires a quorate decision by Trustees and will be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

Achievements and Performance

Our work in 2024-25 was supported by sponsorships from Torbay Council, English Riviera BID Company and by grants awarded by the Colwinston Charitable Trust, the Rosalind Hicks Charitable Trust, the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and the Torbay Local Heritage Grant Scheme. We continued for a second year the format we introduced in 2024: a five day 'Fringe' festival, followed by a four-day literary festival bridging two weekends in September.

The Agatha Christie Festival was delivered 7th-15th September, preceded by creative arts education projects for young people in July/August and followed by a new 'study day' in October, designed for those studying GCSE English Literature at secondary schools in Torbay. In April 2025, for the first time, we introduced a 'Spring Gathering' – a mini-Festival programmed to coincide with the unveiling of a major new public artwork, commissioned by Torbay Council, a bronze figure of a seated Agatha Christie on Torquay's harbourside made by local sculptor, Elisabeth Hadley.

We delivered 52 live events across the 9-day September Festival (talks, outdoor events, 'in conversations', masterclasses, theatre performances) at venues across the English Riviera (Torquay, Paignton, Brixham), engaging a total of 35 writers, speakers, actors, creative practitioners. Ticket sales improved by 45% on our previous year, grossing £55,100. We sold a total of 4,297 tickets (vs 2,988 in 2023). This year's Festival welcomed more international visitors than ever before, encompassing 24 countries. The largest overseas contingent was from USA. 23% of our audience came from Torbay and South Devon; 21% rest of England; 2% Home Countries; 54% international.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2025

Additionally, funded by a small grant from the Torbay Local Heritage Scheme, the Festival delivered a series of 10 podcasts which explored through interviews with Christie experts the life and legacy of Agatha Christie in the context of her authentic Devon provenance. Led by the Festival's Creative Director, Matt Newbury, the podcasts were well received and remain continuously available for download.

Our new one-day Spring Gathering, held in April at Torquay Museum, was a limited offer, restricted to 130 tickets. This new event was highly rated by participants (89% excellent rating) with ticketing income covering its costs.

Running in parallel with the September Festival, funded by a grant from The Rosalind Hicks Charitable Trust, we engaged 240 children from Torbay schools at Year 6 through our creative writing residency delivered in partnership with The Writers Block and Torre Abbey. In collaboration with Daisi and MED Theatre, funded by The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, 40 children and young people aged 9-16 years took part in an urban/rural performance writing exchange during the summer of 2024. On 14 October we hosted 30 young people at Palace Theatre Paignton from three secondary schools for a 'Study Day Out, focussing on GCSE A-Level set text 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'.

Plans for the Future

Longer term our aim is to offer more opportunities throughout the year for local people, national and international visitors to engage with the authentic provenance of Agatha Christie, her life and legacy, across the English Riviera. We anticipate the opening in 2026 of Paignton Picture House, a heritage cinema with Christie associations, restored through a DCMS Cultural Development Fund grant and Torbay Council and the potential restoration of Torquay's Pavilion, a focal point of the Christie story. Both local heritage buildings offer the Festival opportunities to enrich and enlarge our events programme and creative arts education offer beyond the September festival period. Supported by a grant from Great Western Railway's Community Investment fund, we are working with partners to digitise and enhance the 'Agatha Christie Mile', a heritage walk in the Bay.

Trustees and Governance

The Directors who served the company during the year are as disclosed on page 1.

Directors' interest

No director had a material interest in any contract or arrangement during the year to which the Charity is or was a party.

Small Companies Provision

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 23 June 2025 and signed on behalf of the Board by:



H Norman-Soderlind
Chair

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Year Ended 30 April 2025

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

Company and charity law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its net income and expenditure for the year.

In preparing these accounts the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the charities SORP;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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 and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable; and
- the Charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

Year Ended 30 April 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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



Christopher Watts CTA TEP
94 Forest Road
Torquay
Devon
TQ1 4JX

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Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

Year Ended 30 April 2025

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Income from:					
Donations and grants		22,000	26,862	48,862	69,284
Festival income		-	82,037	82,037	37,903
Total income		22,000	108,899	130,899	107,187
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on non-charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	22,000	120,588	142,588	89,145
Total expenditure		22,000	120,588	142,588	89,145
Net income		-	(11,689)	(11,689)	18,042
Net movement in funds		-	(11,689)	(11,689)	18,042
Reconciliation of funds					
Total surplus brought forward	9	-	4,891	4,891	4,891
Total surplus carried forward	9	-	11,244	11,244	22,933

The incoming resources of the charity are classified above between restricted and unrestricted funds. All the above results derive from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above. The results for the year for Companies Act purposes is equivalent to the net incoming resources.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Stock		-	140
Debtors and prepayments		12,060	23,774
Cash at bank and in hand		23,384	27,459
		<u>35,444</u>	<u>51,373</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(24,200)	(28,440)
		<u>11,244</u>	<u>22,933</u>
Total net assets		<u>11,244</u>	<u>22,933</u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	9	-	-
Unrestricted funds	10	11,244	22,933
		<u>11,244</u>	<u>22,933</u>
Total charity funds		<u>11,244</u>	<u>22,933</u>

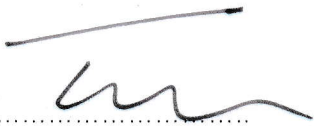
The trustees are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the audit of the financial statements for the period by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to Section 476 of the Act.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibility for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- (ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act.

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on 23 June 2025 and are signed on its behalf by:


.....
J N Rowe FCA CTA
Director

Company Registration Number: 09245332

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 30 April 2025

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(a) Basis of preparation of financial statements and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The functional and presentational currency of these financial statements is sterling.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. In the opinion of the trustees, the company has sufficient working capital within existing reserves to continue to trade for the foreseeable future, and therefore the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

(b) Income

Income is the amount derived from ordinary activities. Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from fees is recognised according to the period over which the course is held and where fees are received in advance, they are deferred.

On receipt, donated services and facilities are valued at their estimated gross value to the charity. A corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

(c) Expenditure

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

(d) Creditors

Creditors are recognised when the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2. Legal Status of the charity

Agatha Christie Festival Limited is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the company being wound up the liability of the members is limited to £10 each. The address of the registered office of the charity is given on page 1.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 30 April 2025

3. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Artistic and creative spend	40,458	36,632
Festival development costs	61,812	27,952
Insurance	3,475	2,454
Technical support costs	10,125	6,395
Website costs	9,613	3,950
Printing, postage and stationery	301	705
Sundry expenses	47	35
Marketing spend	8,031	4,923
Bank charges	4,526	69
Accountancy and Independent examiner's fee	4,200	3,600
	<u>142,588</u>	<u>89,145</u>

4. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiner's fee	<u>600</u>	<u>-</u>

5. Staff costs, Trustee's remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	8,600	-
Social security costs	-	-
	<u>8,600</u>	<u>-</u>

Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, two Trustees were paid remuneration of £8,600 (2024: none). No other benefits were received from the Charity (2024: none). During the year, no expenses were reimbursed to any of the trustees other than minor, incidental costs of the festival (2024: £nil).

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 30 April 2025

6. Corporation tax

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

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	-	-
Accruals	4,200	5,940
Grant income received in advance	20,000	22,500
	<u>24,200</u>	<u>28,440</u>

8. Ultimate Controlling Party

There is no single controlling party.

9. Restricted Funds

The movements on restricted funds are shown below.

	30 April 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	30 April 2025
Restricted Funds	<u>-</u>	<u>15,260</u>	<u>15,260</u>	<u>-</u>

General funds of the charity are not designated for any particular purpose.

10. Unrestricted Funds

The movements on unrestricted funds are shown below.

	30 April 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	30 April 2025
Unrestricted Funds	<u>22,933</u>	<u>130,899</u>	<u>(142,588)</u>	<u>11,244</u>

AGATHA CHRISTIE FESTIVAL LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1165573

Accounts

Agatha Christie Festival Limited
(A company Limited by Guarantee)

Unaudited Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 April 2024

Charity Number 1165573
Company Number 09245332 (England & Wales)

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Financial Statements

Year Ended 30 April 2024

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Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Company Information

Year Ended 30 April 2024

Company Registration Number	09245332
Charity Registration Number	1165573
Governing Document	Memorandum & Articles of Association
Trustees	Heather Norman-Soderlind (Chair) Mathew Prichard CBE Christopher Hart John Rowe David Brawn Kevin Mowat (resigned 1 August 2023) Carolyn Custerson Martin Thomas (appointed 1 August 2023, resigned 22 May 2024)
Registered Office	Sigma House Oak View Close Edginswell Park Torquay Devon TQ2 7FF
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc Bristol City Office South West RCSC 740 Waterside Drive Aztec West Bristol BS99 5BD
Solicitors	Wollen Michelmore LLP At Harbourside 67 The Terrace Torquay Devon TQ1 1DP
Accountants	Francis Clark LLP Sigma House Oak View Close Edginswell Park Torquay TQ2 7FF

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

Status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, having no share capital. In the event of the company being wound up the liability of each member is limited to £10. The governing document of the charitable company is the memorandum and articles of association, dated 2 October 2014, as amended by written resolution dated 25 January 2015.

Objects and Activities of the Charity

The Charity's objects are to promote the public appreciation of, and to educate the public in the arts of literature, poetry, creative writing, performing arts, film and digital media by organising a year-round programme of cultural activities with communities across South Devon and with national and international partners which culminates in a festival of arts and literature each year in Torquay and at venues across the English Riviera.

Directors are appointed by the members or co-opted by the trustees.

Principal activities

The charity produces the annual International Agatha Christie Festival (IACF), using the extraordinary power and reach of Torquay-born Agatha Christie's global reputation to promote local engagement and participation in literature and the arts, help the recovery and growth of the local economy and wider efforts to increase tourism, and support work to understand and promote the area's literary and geological heritage.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited delivers its charitable mission with the support of a number of strategic partners as well as many local charities and businesses in the entertainment and hospitality sectors. Chief among our strategic partners are:

- English Riviera Business Improvement District (BID) Company
- Torbay Council
- Torbay Culture
- English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark of which we are an Associate Partner
- Exeter UNESCO Creative City of Literature of which we are a Project Partner
- Literature Works, literature development agency for South West England
- Library services across Devon, particularly Libraries Unlimited
- Agatha Christie Limited and The Christie Archive Trust.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2024

Financial Review

The income of the Festival during the period under review, was £107,187. The total resources expended amounted to £89,145 and consequently there was a surplus for the year of £18,042.

Adequate funding has been received since the year end to ensure the charity's finances remain sufficient to enable it to continue operating, set out in further detail below.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees of Agatha Christie Festival Limited has reviewed its reserves policy in line with guidance issued by the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

We require reserves in order to:

1. Ensure continuity of business provision by covering running costs during periods of lower income, such as a fall in fundraising, failure to renew an anticipated major grant, or fall in earned income in any one year.
2. Whilst the charity has no employees, we wish to ensure that any existing freelance staff contracts may be honoured up to the end of any one-month wind-down period.
3. Ensure there are sufficient unrestricted cash reserves in the current account to cover 'troughs' in the cash budget.

In April 2024 we estimated the full extent of reserves required for the above at a minimum of £10,000. For reserves above this minimum, the Board of Trustees has discretion over their transfer to a Designated Fund known as the Development Fund. Any such transfer requires a quorate decision by Trustees and will be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

Achievements and Performance

Our work in 2023-24 was supported by a one-year project grant in the amount of £29,000 from Arts Council England through the National Lottery. We shaped the financial year as a 'transitional' one, intended to embed a new strategic approach, introducing a fringe programme preceding a focussed intensive four-day literature programme, lengthening our festival season to ten days. Torbay Council and the English Riviera BID Company both became cash sponsors of the Festival alongside Arts Council England, so improving the Festival's resilience and aligning it with the local cultural ecology and destination economy. The charity further benefitted from grants from The Colwinston Charitable Trust, The Rosalind Hicks Charitable Trust, The Elmgrant Trust and The Linbury Trust. A grant from The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust was repurposed, with their permission, to 2024-25.

The International Agatha Christie Festival was delivered 8th-17th September. Led by our new Creative Director, Matt Newbury, our new format Festival enabled us both to grow earned income by 30% and improve audience numbers by 49% on the previous year. The diversity of the fringe offer, which included physical activity and social interaction (swimming, dancing, walking, golf) enabled us to reach a wider social demographic; we improved our age range appeal to under 30's, welcoming FE students of English Literature; our school engagement project in partnership with Kernow Education Arts Partnership (KEAP/The Writers Block), funded by The Rosalind Hicks Charitable Trust and The Elmgrant Trust, benefitted 247 Year 6 pupils from Torbay schools and remains in high demand. Older people from Torbay helped create and perform a flashmob dance on the seafront 'Anything Goes', funded by The Linbury Trust. 30% of our audience came from Torbay and South Devon with 70 % national or international visitors.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2024

Our profile was boosted in the national press through three partnership events in September 2023: the 70th anniversary production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* at the Princess Theatre and the naming of GWR Intercity train 'Dame Agatha Christie' at Paignton Station. We hosted the South West premiere of the new Kenneth Branagh/20th Century Studios production based on an Agatha Christie novel *A Haunting in Venice*, in partnership with Agatha Christie Limited.

Plans for the Future

Trustees continue to meet with our licensor Agatha Christie Limited, Torbay Council and other stakeholders to review and renew the charity's long-term strategy. Our aim is to better root our work within the local community as well as grow our earned income through higher profile promotion nationally and internationally. The Festival charity is a member of the Project Board for the capital development and programming plans for heritage building Paignton Picture House which was awarded £3m public funding from the government's Capital Development Fund. The Paignton Picture House will form a crucial element of our future festival planning from 2025. Festival programming for the years 2024-25 is in place and we have seen healthy audience take up. We are expanding our year-round participatory arts engagement with young people in Torbay, including secondary school-age students from 2024.

Trustees and Governance

The Directors who served the company during the year are as disclosed on page 1.

Directors' interest

No director had a material interest in any contract or arrangement during the year to which the Charity is or was a party.

Small Companies Provision

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 6 December 2024 and signed on behalf of the Board by:



H Norman-Soderlind
Chair

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Year Ended 30 April 2024

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

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In preparing these accounts the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the charities SORP;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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 and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable; and
- the Charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

Year Ended 30 April 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

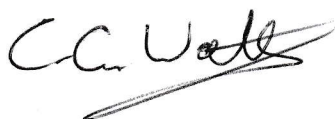
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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



Christopher Watts CTA TEP
204 Newton Road
Torquay
Devon
TQ4 5BW

24 December2024

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

Year Ended 30 April 2024

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Income from:					
Donations and grants		15,260	54,024	69,284	76,687
Festival income		-	37,903	37,903	30,407
Total income		15,260	91,927	107,187	107,094
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on non-charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	15,260	73,885	89,145	104,075
Total expenditure		15,260	73,885	89,145	104,075
Net income		-	18,042	18,042	3,019
Net movement in funds		-	18,042	18,042	3,019
Reconciliation of funds					
Total surplus brought forward	9	-	4,891	4,891	1,872
Total surplus carried forward	9	-	22,933	22,933	4,891

The incoming resources of the charity are classified above between restricted and unrestricted funds. All the above results derive from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above. The results for the year for Companies Act purposes is equivalent to the net incoming resources.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Stock		140	140
Debtors and prepayments		23,774	8,021
Cash at bank and in hand		27,459	14,993
		<u>51,373</u>	<u>23,154</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(28,440)</u>	<u>(18,263)</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>22,933</u></u>	<u><u>4,891</u></u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	9	-	-
Unrestricted funds	10	22,933	4,891
Total charity funds		<u><u>22,933</u></u>	<u><u>4,891</u></u>

The trustees are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the audit of the financial statements for the period by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to Section 476 of the Act.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibility for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- (ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act.

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on 6 December 2024 and are signed on its behalf by:



.....
J N Rowe FCA CTA
Director

Company Registration Number: 09245332

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 30 April 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(a) Basis of preparation of financial statements and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The functional and presentational currency of these financial statements is sterling.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. In the opinion of the trustees, the company has sufficient working capital within existing reserves to continue to trade for the foreseeable future, and therefore the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

(b) Income

Income is the amount derived from ordinary activities. Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from fees is recognised according to the period over which the course is held and where fees are received in advance, they are deferred.

On receipt, donated services and facilities are valued at their estimated gross value to the charity. A corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

(c) Expenditure

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

(d) Creditors

Creditors are recognised when the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2. Legal Status of the charity

Agatha Christie Festival Limited is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the company being wound up the liability of the members is limited to £10 each. The address of the registered office of the charity is given on page 1.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 30 April 2024

3. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Artistic and creative spend	36,632	33,706
Festival development costs	27,952	49,835
Insurance	2,454	1,143
Technical support costs	6,395	6,750
Website costs	3,950	6,525
Printing, postage and stationery	705	409
Sundry expenses	35	138
Marketing spend	4,923	649
Bank charges	69	420
Accountancy fees	6,030	4,500
	<u>89,145</u>	<u>104,075</u>

4. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

5. Staff costs, Trustee's remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries	-	-
Social security costs	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, none of the Trustees were paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from the Charity (2023: none). During the year, no expenses were reimbursed to any of the trustees (2023: £nil).

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 30 April 2024

6. Corporation tax

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

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	-	-
Accruals	5,940	4,513
Grant income received in advance	22,500	13,750
	<u>28,440</u>	<u>18,263</u>

8. Ultimate Controlling Party

There is no single controlling party.

9. Restricted Funds

The movements on restricted funds are shown below.

	30 April 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	30 April 2024
Restricted Funds	-	15,260	15,260	-

General funds of the charity are not designated for any particular purpose.

10. Unrestricted Funds

The movements on unrestricted funds are shown below.

	30 April 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	30 April 2024
Unrestricted Funds	4,891	91,927	73,885	22,933

11. Related Party Transactions

Francis Clark LLP, a firm in which the company director Mr J Rowe was a partner until 31 March 2024, charged the company £5,025 for accountancy services (2023: £3,750).

AGATHA CHRISTIE FESTIVAL LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1165573

Accounts

Agatha Christie Festival Limited
(A company Limited by Guarantee)

Unaudited Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 April 2023

Charity Number 1165573
Company Number 09245332 (England & Wales)

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Financial Statements

Year Ended 30 April 2023

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Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Company Information

Year Ended 30 April 2023

Company Registration Number	09245332
Charity Registration Number	1165573
Governing Document	Memorandum & Articles of Association
Trustees	Heather Norman-Soderlind (Chair) Mathew Prichard CBE Christopher Hart John Rowe David Brawn Kevin Mowat (resigned 1 August 2023) Carolyn Custerson Martin Thomas (appointed 1 August 2023)
Registered Office	Sigma House Oak View Close Edginswell Park Torquay Devon TQ2 7FF
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc Bristol City Office South West RCSC 740 Waterside Drive Aztec West Bristol BS99 5BD
Solicitors	Wollen Michelmore LLP At Harbourside 67 The Terrace Torquay Devon TQ1 1DP
Accountants	Francis Clark LLP Sigma House Oak View Close Edginswell Park Torquay TQ2 7FF

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

Status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, having no share capital. In the event of the company being wound up the liability of each member is limited to £10. The governing document of the charitable company is the memorandum and articles of association, dated 2 October 2014, as amended by written resolution dated 25 January 2015.

Objects and Activities of the Charity

The Charity's objects are to promote the public appreciation of, and to educate the public in the arts of literature, poetry, creative writing, performing arts, film and digital media by organising a year-round programme of cultural activities with communities across South Devon and with national and international partners which culminates in a festival of arts and literature each year in Torquay and at venues across the English Riviera.

Directors are appointed by the members or co-opted by the trustees.

Principal activities

The charity produces the annual International Agatha Christie Festival (IACF), using the extraordinary power and reach of Torquay-born Agatha Christie's global reputation to promote local engagement and participation in literature and the arts, help the recovery and growth of the local economy and wider efforts to increase tourism, and support work to understand and promote the area's literary and geological heritage.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited delivers its charitable mission with the support of a number of strategic partners as well as many local charities and businesses in the entertainment and hospitality sectors. Chief among our strategic partners are:

- English Riviera Business Improvement District (BID) Company
- Torbay Council
- Torbay Culture
- English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark of which we are an Associate Partner
- Exeter UNESCO Creative City of Literature of which we are a Project Partner
- Literature Works, literature development agency for South West England
- Library services across Devon, particularly Libraries Unlimited
- Agatha Christie Limited and the Christie Archive Trust.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2023

Financial Review

The income of the Festival during the year under review, was £107,094. The total resources expended amounted to £104,075 and consequently there was a surplus for the year of £3,019.

Adequate funding has been received since the year end to ensure the charity's finances remain sufficient to enable it to continue operating, set out in further detail below.

Reserves Policy

At present it is unlikely that the Charity will generate any substantial reserves and a reserves policy will be developed when it is required.

Achievements and Performance

Our work in 2022-23 was supported by the second year of a two-year grant from Arts Council England National Lottery, awarded in the amount of £78,000 across the period. A final outcomes report was delivered to Arts Council England in December 2022. A new one year grant application was submitted to Arts Council in February and a grant in the amount of £29,000 awarded for our programme 2023-24. Trustees met in August 2022 to discuss a longer term strategy for the charity, reviewing risk management and bolstering sustainability and resilience. As a result, both Torbay Council and the English Riviera BID Company have agreed to invest cash sponsorship in the Festival for 2023 and 2024, improving the Festival's alignment with the local cultural ecology and destination economy.

The International Agatha Christie Festival was delivered 10th-17th September and met both income and audience development targets. Over 2,000 tickets were sold, earning £27,873. Highlights of the Festival included the launch of historian Lucy Worsley's new biography of Agatha Christie, the publication of a series of new short stories, commissioned from a selection of high profile contemporary female authors, featuring Christie's detective Miss Marple, a panel discussion with Christie experts hosted by US podcaster Kemper Donovan. Additionally the charity commissioned an interactive theatrical performance from Paddleboat Theatre Company, designed to engage children and young families, a performance which subsequently toured local schools. Dr Ruby Gupta, crime novelist from Dehradun, India, was appointed the Festival's International Writer in Residence; the Festival subsequently received a reciprocal invitation for the Festival to send a UK-based author to the Dehradun Literature Festival in 2023.

Further grant funding in the year was raised from The Colwinston Charitable Trust, the Rosalind Hicks Charitable Trust and the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.

The Festival worked in partnership with Kernow Education Arts Partnership and The Writers Block to deliver a week of creative writing workshops designed for Year 6 pupils at primary schools in disadvantaged wards of Torbay. There was high demand for places and we were able to engage 357 young people across the period. In collaboration with Doorstep Arts (Torbay) and Beyond Face (Plymouth), the Festival delivered a further iteration of our Young Writers Exchange, a summer school intensive, reaching young people 8-18 years of age, providing them with writing and performing skills, culminating in a performance of resultant work on stages in both Torquay and Plymouth. We also delivered a successful Young People's Mystery Story Writing Competition targeted at young talent across Devon with prizes supported through sponsorship from Wollens, PKF Francis Clark, Waterstones and LK Publishing.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2023

Plans for the Future

Trustees met in August to review and renew the charity's long term strategy. Our aim is to better root our work within the local community as well as grow our earned income through higher profile promotion nationally and internationally. Following the award of a one year grant from Arts Council England National Lottery for 2023 we will be submitting a further two-year application for the years 2024 and 2025, setting out our ambition for sustainability, inclusion and growth. The Festival charity is a member of the Project Board for the capital development and programming plans for heritage building Paignton Picture House which was awarded £3m public funding from the government's Capital Development Fund. The Paignton Picture House will form a crucial element of our future festival planning from 2025. Festival programming for the years 2023 is in place and we have seen healthy audience take up. A draft programme for 2024 is in production as are plans to expand our local community project work with a particular focus on young people.

Trustees and Governance

The Directors who served the company during the year are as disclosed on page 1.

Directors' interest

No director had a material interest in any contract or arrangement during the year to which the Charity is or was a party.

Small Companies Provision

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 22 November 2023 and signed on behalf of the Board by:



H Norman-Soderlind
Chair

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Year Ended 30 April 2023

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

Company and charity law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its net income and expenditure for the year.

In preparing these accounts the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the charities SORP;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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 and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable; and
- the Charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

Year Ended 30 April 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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



Accounting4Everything
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors
13 Hyde Road
Paignton
Devon
TQ4 5BW

24 November 2023

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

Year Ended 30 April 2023

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Income from:					
Donations and grants		7,518	69,169	76,687	42,532
Festival income		-	30,407	30,407	23,877
Total income	9	<u>7,518</u>	<u>99,576</u>	<u>107,094</u>	<u>66,409</u>
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on non-charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	7,518	96,557	104,075	66,106
Total expenditure		<u>7,518</u>	<u>96,557</u>	<u>104,075</u>	<u>66,106</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		-	3,019	3,019	303
Net movement in funds		-	3,019	3,019	303
Reconciliation of funds					
Total surplus brought forward	9	-	1,872	1,872	1,569
Total surplus carried forward	9	<u>-</u>	<u>4,891</u>	<u>4,891</u>	<u>1,872</u>

All of the incoming resources of the charity are unrestricted. All of the above results derive from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above. The results for the year for Companies Act purposes is equivalent to the net incoming resources.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 30 April 2023

6. Corporation tax

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

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors		-
Accruals	4,513	4,513
Grant income received in advance	13,750	61,200
	<u>18,263</u>	<u>65,713</u>

8. Ultimate Controlling Party

There is no single controlling party.

9. Restricted Funds

The movements on restricted funds are shown below.

	30 April 2022	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	30 April 2023
Restricted Funds	-	7,518	7,518	-

General funds of the charity are not designated for any particular purpose.

10. Unrestricted Funds

The movements on unrestricted funds are shown below.

	30 April 2022	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	30 April 2023
Unrestricted Funds	1,872	99,576	96,557	4,891

11. Related Party Transactions

Francis Clark LLP, a firm in which the company director Mr J Rowe is a partner, charged the company £3,750 for accountancy services (2022: £3,750).

AGATHA CHRISTIE FESTIVAL LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1165573

Accounts

Agatha Christie Festival Limited
(A company Limited by Guarantee)

Unaudited Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 April 2022

Charity Number 1165573
Company Number 09245332 (England & Wales)

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Financial Statements

Year Ended 30 April 2022

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Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Company Information

Year Ended 30 April 2022

Company Registration Number	09245332
Charity Registration Number	1165573
Governing Document	Memorandum & Articles of Association
Trustees	Heather Norman-Soderlind Mathew Prichard CBE Christopher Hart John Rowe David Brawn Kevin Mowat Carolyn Custerson
Registered Office	Sigma House Oak View Close Edginswell Park Torquay Devon TQ2 7FF
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc Bristol City Office South West RCSC 740 Waterside Drive Aztec West Bristol BS99 5BD
Solicitors	Wollen Michelmore LLP At Harbourside 67 The Terrace Torquay Devon TQ1 1DP
Accountants	Francis Clark LLP Sigma House Oak View Close Edginswell Park Torquay TQ2 7FF

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2022

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

Status

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, having no share capital. In the event of the company being wound up the liability of each member is limited to £10. The governing document of the charitable company is the memorandum and articles of association, dated 2 October 2014, as amended by written resolution dated 25 January 2015.

Objects and Activities of the Charity

The Charity's objects are to promote the public appreciation of, and to educate the public in the arts of literature, poetry, creative writing, performing arts, film and digital media by organising a year-round programme of cultural activities with communities across South Devon and with national and international partners which culminates in a festival of arts and literature each year in Torquay and at venues across the English Riviera.

Directors are appointed by the members or co-opted by the trustees.

Principal activities

The charity produces the annual International Agatha Christie Festival (IACF), using the extraordinary power and reach of Torquay-born Agatha Christie's global reputation to promote local engagement and participation in literature and the arts, help the recovery and growth of the local economy and wider efforts to increase tourism, and support work to understand and promote the area's literary and geological heritage.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited delivers its charitable mission with the support of a number of strategic partners as well as many local charities and businesses in the entertainment and hospitality sectors. Chief among our strategic partners are:

- English Riviera Business Improvement District (BID) Company
- Torbay Council
- Torbay Culture
- Torquay Business Forum and the English Riviera Attractions Partnership
- English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark of which we are an Associate Partner
- Exeter UNESCO Creative City of Literature of which we are a Project Partner
- Literature Works, literature development agency for South West England
- Library services across Devon, particularly Libraries Unlimited
- Agatha Christie Limited and the Christie Archive Trust.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2022

Financial Review

The income of the Festival during the period under review, was £66,409. The total resources expended amounted to £66,106 and consequently there was a surplus for the year of £303.

Adequate funding has been received since the year end to ensure the charity's finances remain sufficient to enable it to continue operating, set out in further detail below.

Reserves Policy

At present it is unlikely that the Charity will generate any substantial reserves and a reserves policy will be developed when it is required.

Achievements and Performance

In May 2021 we received news that our application for a grant from Arts Council England's National Lottery Grant Programme for 2021 and 2022 was successful. We were awarded £78,000 for the two-year period. The first tranche of £39,000 for the financial year 2021-22 was complemented by a final payment from our previous Arts Council Grant 2018-2020, which Arts Council agreed we could repurpose to 2021, owing to the curtailment of live programming the previous year due to government regulations to combat the spread of Covid 19. Additionally we raised a further £16,500 towards 2021 community engagement projects from D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, The Linbury Trust, The Rosalind Hicks Charitable Trust, The Elmgrant Trust and The Colwinston Charitable Trust.

Additionally, with the financial and curatorial support of The Christie Archive Trust, we staged in partnership with Torre Abbey Museum 11 September – 28 November 2021 an exhibition 'Destination Unknown: a Journey in Poetry, Pictures and Archaeology', highlighting Agatha Christie's travels to Syria and the Middle East.

We were able to programme and deliver to scale and in person a 7-day Festival, 11th-17th September 2021, taking into account prevailing pandemic risks. We engaged a total of 38 writers/creative practitioners and reached an onsite ticket-buying audience of 2,000, alongside a further 3,000 exhibition visitors and online attendees. We exceeded by 33% our budgeted ticketing income from the Festival at £20,000 which, together with our privately raised income outlined above, matched the £39,000 grant for 2021 from Arts Council.

Between July and November 2021 we delivered three arts-participation projects with the local community, variously engaging 119 young children at Key Stage 3 from disadvantaged wards of Torbay with creative writing in partnership with Kernow Arts Education Partnership; 28 young adults with a summer school known as The Young Writers Exchange, in partnership with Doorstep Arts; and 99 older people at risk of isolation (the eldest 96 years of age) in a community choreography project in partnership with Dance in Devon. Each of the community projects culminated in live performances of the work created before Festival audiences during Festival Week.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Trustees' Report

Year Ended 30 April 2022

Plans for the Future

Our 2022 Festival is set to run 10th -17th September at venues across the English Riviera. Essential programming for 2022 was put in place during FY 2021-22 according to our plans set before Arts Council England. Whilst we acknowledge the Covid 19 risk remains, we are hopeful of delivering the programme in full, supplemented by an energetic fringe programme, totalling over 40 events and activities. This includes an invitation to Dr Ruby Gupta, the Festival's International Writer in Residence from Dehradun, India, who will be able to travel to the 2022 Festival when such international travel was not possible in 2021.

In December 2021 we recruited a new Festival Director, Daniel Schumann.

We are commissioning a Devon-based theatre group, Paddleboat Theatre, to create a new genre-appropriate theatrical work in 2022, designed to engage young families, in order to broaden our audience reach.

We have forged a new relationship with Exeter, UNESCO City of Literature, and we are programming parallel events and performances in that City as a result of our new association.

We continue to raise funds from trusts and foundations in support of our community engagement projects and have confirmed funding from The Colwinston Charitable Trust, The Rosalind Hicks Charitable Trust and the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust in place for 2022.

The Board of Trustees is meeting in 2022-23 to design and develop a 5-year strategy for the Festival.

Trustees and Governance

The Directors who served the company during the year are as disclosed on page 1.

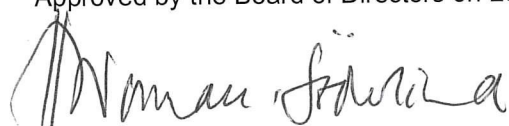
Directors' interest

No director had a material interest in any contract or arrangement during the year to which the Charity is or was a party.

Small Companies Provision

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 26 August 2022 and signed on behalf of the Board by:



H Norman-Soderlind
Chair

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Year Ended 30 April 2022

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

Company and charity law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its net income and expenditure for the year.

In preparing these accounts the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the charities SORP;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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 and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the Charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable; and
- the Charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

Year Ended 30 April 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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



Accounting4Everything
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors
13 Hyde Road
Paignton
Devon
TQ4 5BW

25 January 2023 *

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

Year Ended 30 April 2022

	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Income from:					
Donations and grants		9,000	33,532	42,532	14,000
Festival income		-	23,877	23,877	1,099
Total income	9	9,000	57,409	66,409	15,099
Expenditure on:					
Expenditure on non-charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	9,000	57,106	66,106	14,841
Operation of the festival		-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		9,000	57,106	66,106	14,841
Net income/(expenditure)		-	303	303	258
Net movement in funds		-	303	303	258
Reconciliation of funds					
Total surplus brought forward	9	-	1,569	1,569	1,311
Total surplus carried forward	9	-	1,872	1,872	1,569

All of the incoming resources of the charity are unrestricted. All of the above results derive from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above. The results for the year for Companies Act purposes is equivalent to the net incoming resources.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Balance Sheet as at 30 April 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Current assets			
Stock		675	675
Debtors and prepayments		13,744	5,635
Cash at bank and in hand		53,166	17,760
		<u>67,585</u>	<u>24,070</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(65,713)</u>	<u>(22,501)</u>
Total net liabilities		<u>1,872</u>	<u>1,569</u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted Funds	9	-	-
Unrestricted Funds	10	1,872	1,569
Total charity funds		<u>1,872</u>	<u>1,569</u>

The trustees are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the audit of the financial statements for the period by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to Section 476 of the Act.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibility for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- (ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act.

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on 26 August 2022 and are signed on its behalf by:



J N Rowe
Director

Company Registration Number: 09245332

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 30 April 2022

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

(a) Basis of preparation of financial statements and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The functional and presentational currency of these financial statements is sterling.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees have considered the impact of COVID-19. In the opinion of the trustees, the company has sufficient working capital within existing reserves to continue to trade for the foreseeable future, and therefore the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

(b) Income

Income is the amount derived from ordinary activities. Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from fees is recognised according to the period over which the course is held and where fees are received in advance, they are deferred.

On receipt, donated services and facilities are valued at their estimated gross value to the charity. A corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

(c) Expenditure

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

(d) Creditors

Creditors are recognised when the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2. Legal Status of the charity

Agatha Christie Festival Limited is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of the company being wound up the liability of the members is limited to £10 each. The address of the registered office of the charity is given on page 1.

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 30 April 2022

3. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Artistic and creative spend	22,447	812
Festival development costs	27,327	8,750
Insurance	791	-
Technical support costs	4,479	-
Website costs	4,168	228
Printing, postage and stationery	314	74
Sundry expenses	48	48
Marketing spend	1,627	408
Bank charges	405	21
Accountancy fees	4,500	4,500
	<u>66,106</u>	<u>14,841</u>

4. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees - independent examination	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

5. Staff costs, Trustee's remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries	-	-
Social security costs	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, none of the Trustees were paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from the Charity (2021: none). During the year, no expenses were reimbursed to any of the trustees (2021: £nil).

Agatha Christie Festival Limited

Notes and Accounting Policies

Year Ended 30 April 2022

6. Corporation tax

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

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors		-
Accruals	4,513	4,513
Grant income received in advance	61,200	17,988
	<u>65,713</u>	<u>22,501</u>

8. Ultimate Controlling Party

There is no single controlling party.

9. Restricted Funds

The movements on restricted funds are shown below.

	30 April 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	30 April 2022
Restricted Funds	<u>-</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>(9,000)</u>	<u>-</u>

General funds of the charity are not designated for any particular purpose.

10. Unrestricted Funds

The movements on unrestricted funds are shown below.

	30 April 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	30 April 2022
Unrestricted Funds	<u>1,569</u>	<u>57,409</u>	<u>(57,106)</u>	<u>1,872</u>

11. Related Party Transactions

Francis Clark LLP, a firm in which the company director Mr J Rowe is a partner, charged the company £3,750 for accountancy services (2021: £3,750).