

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

Contents	Page
Company Information	1
Trustees' Report	2
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9

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 Michelmores 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).