

**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

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
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 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 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 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 8<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 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 70<sup>th</sup> 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/20<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 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").

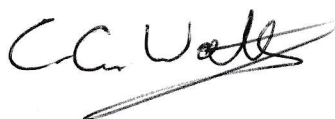
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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 December .....2024



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

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 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
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>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	7	<u>(28,440)</u>	<u>(18,263)</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>22,933</u></u>	<u><u>4,891</u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
Restricted funds	9	-	-
Unrestricted funds	10	22,933	4,891
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<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>

#### 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
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	-	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
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	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).