

**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

<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 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 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 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 7<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 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 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and grants		22,000	26,862	48,862	69,284
Festival income		-	82,037	82,037	37,903
<b>Total income</b>		<u>22,000</u>	<u>108,899</u>	<u>130,899</u>	<u>107,187</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Expenditure on non-charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	22,000	120,588	142,588	89,145
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>22,000</u>	<u>120,588</u>	<u>142,588</u>	<u>89,145</u>
Net income		-	(11,689)	(11,689)	18,042
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>(11,689)</u>	<u>(11,689)</u>	<u>18,042</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total surplus brought forward	9	-	4,891	4,891	4,891
<b>Total surplus carried forward</b>	9	<u>-</u>	<u>11,244</u>	<u>11,244</u>	<u>22,933</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 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
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>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	7	<u>(24,200)</u>	<u>(28,440)</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>11,244</u></u>	<u><u>22,933</u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
Restricted funds	9	-	-
Unrestricted funds	10	11,244	22,933
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u><u>11,244</u></u>	<u><u>22,933</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 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
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<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
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>22,933</u>	<u>130,899</u>	<u>(142,588)</u>	<u>11,244</u>