

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

England & Wales · Charity number 1165632

Details

Other names APPLAUSE

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-02-18

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

Contact

Address 137 London Road
Southborough
Tunbridge Wells
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Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTS TO THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN RURAL AND/OR ISOLATED COMMUNITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND BY, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, PROGRAMMING, COMMISSIONING AND FACILITATING DELIVERY OF ARTISTIC EXPERIENCES; WORKING WITH ARTISTS TO HELP DEVELOP THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF, AND WORK FOR, THESE COMMUNITIES; AND BY EXTENDING THE REACH OF ARTS PROVISION BY DEVELOPING LOCAL VENUES AND SUPPORTING AND TRAINING VOLUNTEER ORGANISERS. ISOLATED IN THIS CONTEXT MEANS ISOLATED FROM ARTS PROVISION BY PHYSICAL, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC REASONS.

Activities: Main areas of activity1. Delivery of Touring Activity2. Promoter and Volunteer Engagement3. Delivery of Artistic Development

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- East Sussex
- Essex
- Kent
- Medway
- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£594,284	£463,771	£431,438	6
2024-03-31	£454,808	£423,389	-	-
2023-03-31	£294,159	£445,214	-	-
2022-03-31	£287,708	£381,423	-	-
2021-03-31	£537,819	£272,945	£514,276	6

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Amanda Cusimano		2024-06-18
Daniel King		2021-04-27
Elizabeth Newall		2023-09-12
Elizabeth Pencavel		2023-09-12
Katherine Portman Smith		2018-10-18
Louise Knight		2019-05-02
Louise Searle		2024-09-10

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

England & Wales - Charity number 1165632

Accounts

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity number 1165632



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Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the charity's constitution, and 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).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity registration number: 1165632

Principal address: Southborough Civic Centre, 137 London Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0NA

Director: Dawn Badland

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution dated 27 January 2016. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 18 February 2016.

The charity is governed by the board of trustees. The board meets quarterly (and more often if required) and decides on the strategic direction the charity should take, the performance targets that should be set and examines the recent activities and performance of the charity. The day to day operations of the charity are delegated to the Director.

Recruitment & appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited in conjunction with ongoing needs and skills analysis to provide balanced and informed Governance for the Charity. No more than 12 and no less than 3 persons may be elected. Appointments are agreed by the Trustees for a fixed term after which Trustees may be re-elected.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis and assess any risks to the Charity including monitoring of the Risk Register, the content of which is informed by consultation with staff, Board and stakeholders.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and to the date of this report were:

Amanda Cusimano (appointed 18 June 2024)
Daniel King
Louise Knight
Elizabeth Newall
Elizabeth Pencavel
Louise Searle (appointed 10 September 2024)
Kat Portman Smith

OBJECT AND ACTIVITIES

The object of Applause Rural Touring as set out in its constitution is:

The advancement of arts to the benefit of the general public in rural and/or isolated communities in the South East of England by, in particular but not exclusively, programming, commissioning and facilitating delivery of artistic experiences; working with artists to help develop their understanding of, and work for, these communities; and by extending the reach of arts provision by developing local venues and supporting and training volunteer organisers. Isolated in this context means isolated from arts provision by physical, social or economic reasons.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission, including public benefit guidance. We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

The charity furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit by: opening up artistic opportunities to rural communities in Kent, Sussex and Essex and working with high quality cultural practitioners to develop and champion their work in rural areas.

Our Mission

To deliver a transformative creative and cultural programme that positively benefits peoples' lives. Inspire and develop rich cultural engagement in rural areas and those areas with limited access to cultural opportunity.

The charity delivers its Mission through 3 key STRATEGIC AIMS, these are;

- Increase access and participation for and with rural and isolated communities across Kent, Sussex, Essex and the wider southeast.
- Support the development of artists making and touring work into rural and underserved locations.
- Enhance the wider cultural rural ecology through partnership with others.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Review of Achievement 2024-25

We are an Arts Council England NPO National Portfolio Organisation for the current NPO period (2024-2027). This means we receive funding through a multi-year agreement following an NPO application process. NPO funding ensures we are able to forward plan and grow our organisation responsibly.

We continue to be high reaching in our approach to creating creative and cultural opportunities for people in rural and culturally under-served neighbourhoods across Sussex, Kent, Essex and the wider southeast. Our artist development delivery is increasingly relevant to the health of the sector and our partnerships are further strengthened throughout 2024-25.

Our achievements in the financial year to March 2025 align with our annual Objectives. The majority of this work forms the Activity Plan presented as part of our funding agreement with Arts Council England. In addition to our core delivery, we undertake project work with a range of partners.

Increase access and participation for and with rural and isolated communities across Kent, Sussex, Essex and the wider southeast.

Our work across Kent, Sussex, Essex and neighbouring counties reached over 46,000 people. There were 311 community hosted performances and events taking place in 126 places. Performances were chosen from a curated menu of high-quality touring professional small-scale theatre, dance, music, storytelling and other artforms. We worked with 103 unique local hosts; a host survey reports that 100% of respondents agreed the show was relevant to their communities and more that 95% said the shows were accessible and inclusive.

Our core indoor and outdoor touring programmes resulted in 115 indoor and 105 outdoor performances in community settings, hosted locally by community groups, voluntary and professional led bodies in a vast range of spaces and venues.

We maintained additional staffing capacity for developing our work in Essex which led to increased activity in the area.

We exceeded our target activity for the ReKindle partnership programme supporting 34 events with Medway library services. These ranged from work for children and young people as well as adults.

Our participation programme saw 55 activities over the year. In partnership with Gravesham Borough Council 21 sessions took place with Enter Eden outdoor theatre company. The company worked with participants across age ranges and 3 local practitioners to develop Plankton & Aquanauts. The work culminated in a mass participatory session and performance at Gravesham Light Festival.

We developed a new relationship with Ebbsfleet Development Corporation for delivery to new communities later in the year. We were successful with a proposal to Creative Estuary for a community co-creation project in Thurrock which straddles this reporting year and next.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

Furthermore, a range of workshops in schools and community sharings in Dover, Sompting, Thurrock, Medway and Southborough took place across the year. Partners included Men in Sheds, libraries, Big Locals, Arts and community organisations and schools.

Support the development of artists making and touring work into rural and underserved locations.

During this year we rationalised our programmes of artist development to improve the clarity of our offer.

Our Outdoor Touring Programme supported artists developing small-scale work designed for outdoor and community settings and including commissions of up to £5,000 to create small-scale outdoor work. In addition, development funding of up to £2,500 was used to adapt existing shows for small-scale touring.

Outdoor commissioning programme was awarded to Vagabond Puppets, Bootworks, Scratchbuilt, Sonia Sabri, Working Boys Club, LAS Theatre and AKA Dance. 70% of applicants identified as having one or more protected characteristics and 65 % of selected companies included at least one member of the company who identified as having one or more protected characteristics.

We offered seed funding – small grants (up to £500) to support early-stage development of new ideas for artists based in Kent, Essex and Sussex. And 1:1 Mentoring sessions – tailored advice from our Programme Lead to help artists navigate funding, producing, and touring. In partnership we worked with Brighton Fringe Bursary – supporting theatre-makers creating work for adult audiences to showcase their shows at Brighton Fringe and Looping the Loop and Making More Waves Festival 2024, supporting artists through small awards.

We held our Annual Symposium artists lab in partnership with 101 creation space – a one-day event offering practical advice and inspiration for artists curious about rural touring outdoors. This free to attend event offered the opportunity to learn how rural touring works across the UK and highlighted outdoor production requirements for artists looking to work in this space.

Enhance the wider cultural rural ecology through partnership with others.

Applause is committed to creating a rural touring model which is resilient and sustainable and we continued to develop exciting partnerships which served to underpin resilient and sustainable activity.

We were successful in a national touring project application to Arts Council England and awarded c£300,000 to develop Create Tour Connect. It supports the creation of new shows which will tour across the national rural touring network. The project was launched to respond to the growing reduction in smaller cast touring shows seen over recent years due to factors such as high costs, the pandemic, and the lack of available strategic funds.

Applause has devised and will manage the national project. One show will be chosen from each of the North, Midlands, South East and South West regions and they will then tour throughout the country highlighting the range and talent of touring theatre companies and artists. Each region will lead the selection process within their areas and bring together neighbouring rural touring schemes to share local knowledge, resources, and expertise.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

It will mean that for the first time, four new theatre shows will together tour to rural areas nationwide, reaching an expected 12,000 people, with 140 touring dates throughout 2025-27. To March 2025 the project has agreed the first two commissions, set up the regional hubs of rural touring schemes and begun to schedule the first commission.

We contributed strategic and wider ecology input to Creative East Sussex and Creative Tunbridge Wells as well as our national rural touring network with whom we continued to work closely.

Policy Areas

Our policies and procedures are reflective of an organisation of our size and work in the rural arts sector and these are overseen and monitored by the Board.

Equality Diversity & Inclusion

We are committed to genuine equality of opportunity for all sections of the population and we value the many cultural and social aspects found within the large geographical area in which we operate.

We are working in predominantly rural settings where isolation or disadvantage affects many people including older people and the young. Through our existing partnerships and by building others, our ability to connect with people can offer exciting and challenging opportunities to support us to be diverse and reflective of contemporary British society.

Applause has historically operated an Equality Action Plan which has served us in collecting baseline data from 2018/19. We have redeveloped our methods of analysing our data and monitoring our practice across all our programmes of work and adopted a refreshed EDI Approach and Action Plan.

We understand diversity in relation to the protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. In addition, we recognise class and socio-economic status as important factors shaping inequality.

Environmental Approach

In this period Applause developed a Sustainability Approach paper with a set of principles and a related action plan. This is a formal document available on our website. The plan can also be seen on our website and is adopted, delivered and updated by our board and staff.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The income of the charity amounted to £594,284 (2024: £454,808) with expenditure of £463,771 (2024: £423,389).

Reserves policy

The policy of the charity as at 31 March 2025 was to have free reserves of five months' operating costs to fund its work (currently budgeted at £102,263). Unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2025 were £289,839 (2024: £300,537) of which £102,263 (2024: £94,410) has been designated by the trustees to set aside the free reserves of five months' operating costs with a further £76,954 (2024: £88,039) designated for development of activity in Essex and driving a new outdoor touring model for future inclusivity and sustainability. As at 31 March 2025 the assets of the charity are considered adequate to fulfil its obligations and the trustees consider the state of our financial affairs to be satisfactory.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Our core delivery will be activity on a similar scale to this year although we anticipate further in-depth community engagement through a range of partnerships.

These are;

- The continued development working in Ebbsfleet. Activity supported by Creative Estuary for a community co-creation project in Thurrock.
- ReKindle legacy project will be explored with Medway Library Service.
- An exploratory extension of community engagement in Wealden with Wealden District Council which could see an extension of our offer.
- Create Tour Connect will be in its most active year with the first of three tours taking place and the selection of the remaining two commissions.
- We will launch our digital project relating to this work, a wider CTC platform in partnership with the rural touring sector. The intention is for this to become a nationally used platform for rural and community touring companies and schemes.
- Our staff and Trustees will continue to develop our EDI and Environmental actions plans.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

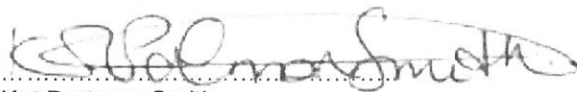
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures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

Applause Rural Touring
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kat Portman Smith", written over a horizontal dotted line.

Kat Portman Smith
Trustee
8 January 2026

Applause Rural Touring

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	341,063	149,351	490,414	325,647	54,487	380,134
Charitable activities	96,002	-	96,002	64,993	7,263	72,256
Investments	7,868	-	7,868	2,418	-	2,418
TOTAL INCOME	444,933	149,351	594,284	393,058	61,750	454,808
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities	456,171	7,600	463,771	374,879	48,510	423,389
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	456,171	7,600	463,771	374,879	48,510	423,389
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(11,238)	141,751	130,513	18,179	13,240	31,419
Transfers between funds	540	(540)	-	36,174	(36,174)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(10,698)	141,211	130,513	54,353	(22,934)	31,419
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 APRIL 2024	300,537	388	300,925	246,184	23,322	269,506
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2025	289,839	141,599	431,438	300,537	388	300,925

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Applause Rural Touring
Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025



	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	10,657		3,511	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>458,690</u>		<u>316,761</u>	
		469,347		320,272	
LIABILITIES					
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year					
	7	<u>(37,909)</u>		<u>(19,347)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>431,438</u>		<u>300,925</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>431,438</u>		<u>300,925</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted funds	9		141,599		388
Unrestricted funds	10				
		General	110,622	118,088	
		Designated	<u>179,217</u>	<u>182,449</u>	
			<u>289,839</u>		<u>300,537</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>431,438</u>		<u>300,925</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Kat Portman Smith
Trustee
8 January 2026

Applause Rural Touring
Statement Of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2025



	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	134,061	25,221
Investment income		7,868	2,418
Net cash provided by investing activities		7,868	2,418
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		141,929	27,639
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	B	316,761	289,122
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	B	458,690	316,761

Notes to the statement of cash flows for the year to 31 March:

A Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash provided by operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net movement in funds (as per the statement of financial activities)	130,513	31,419
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(7,868)	(2,418)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors (note 6)	(7,146)	9,212
Increase(decrease) in creditors (note 7)	18,562	(12,992)
Net cash provided by operating activities	134,061	25,221

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Total cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank and in hand	458,690	316,761

C Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	316,761	141,929	458,690
Total	316,761	141,929	458,690

1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

a) **Accounting Basis**

i) *Basis of preparation*

The accounts have been prepared 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 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. Applause Rural Touring 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 note(s).

ii) *Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis*

It is the trustees' view that there are no material uncertainties regarding Applause Rural Touring's ability to continue in business for the foreseeable future taking into account all available information, and have neither the intention nor the need to liquidate or curtail materially the scale of its operations, and have prepared the accounts on that assumption. The trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position for the coming year and are satisfied that the charity will have sufficient funds, largely due to the continued investment from Arts Council England and our main Local Authority contributors from whom grant funding is largely received in advance.

b) **Fund Accounting**

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.
- Restricted Funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or grant award or through the terms of an appeal.

c) **Income**

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income from fees received for future events are recognised as income in the accounting period in which the event takes place.

d) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. It is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

e) **Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

f) Cash At Bank And In Hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

g) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where 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.

h) Contributions to pension funds

The charity makes available to all employees a defined contribution pension scheme operated by NEST. The pension costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represent the amount of the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

i) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor have been charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

j) Corporation tax

Applause Rural Touring is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives.

2. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs:		
Touring programme artists' fees	157,268	119,848
Artist development	47,196	40,020
Audience development & marketing	10,759	22,493
Salaries & freelance staff costs	102,095	92,938
Travel costs	7,698	4,477
Premises costs	1,847	1,259
	326,863	281,035
Support costs:		
Salaries & freelance staff costs	111,930	113,915
Staff training & development	4,814	5,729
Premises and office costs	19,318	21,613
Professional fees	126	377
Governance costs	720	720
	136,908	142,354
Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities	463,771	423,389

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025



3. NET EXPENDITURE

Net expenditure is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Rent payable under operating lease:		
- Property	10,000	10,339
- Equipment	1,438	1,438
Independent Examiner's fee	720	720

4. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and Salaries	180,017	168,093
Social Security Costs	12,362	11,518
Pension Costs	3,981	4,048
	196,360	183,659

The average number of staff employed during the year was 6 (2024: 5). There were no employees with emoluments exceeding £60,000 per annum during the year.

Employee benefits totalled £51,006 (2024: £48,942) for the key management personnel of the charity.

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year 2 trustees were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £80 (2024: 2 trustees were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £54).

6. DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	5,993	2,156
Prepayments	4,664	1,355
	10,657	3,511

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025



7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Creditors	7,213	1,480
Other Taxes and Social Security	4,067	3,847
Accruals and Deferred Income	26,629	13,226
Pension Contributions	-	794
	37,909	19,347

Included in creditors above is deferred income relating to income received in advance for events to be held in the following financial year as follows:-

	£	£
Brought forward at 1 April 2024	7,727	1,650
Released to income during the year	(7,727)	(1,650)
Receipts in the year deferred – events in 2025/26	9,004	7,727
At 31 March 2025	9,004	7,727

8. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Future minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	12,359	-
Within two to five years	54,000	11,797
	66,359	11,797

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025



9. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2024	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Rother District Council	388	-	-	(388)	-
Create, Tour, Connect	-	149,351	(7,600)	(152)	141,599
	388	149,351	(7,600)	(540)	141,599

	At 1 April 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Rother District Council	388	-	-	-	388
Inn Crowd Pubs+	22,934	61,750	(48,510)	(36,174)	-
	23,322	61,750	(48,510)	(36,174)	388

Restricted funds consist of funds given by a donor to be spent on specific projects.

Transfers between funds represent:

Rother District Council – to release remaining funds to general funds to be used in core activity.

Create, Tour, Connect - contribution from project to unrestricted funds towards staff costs & overheads in line with the original agreed project budget approved by the funder.

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025



10. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2024	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	118,088	444,933	(456,171)	3,772	110,622
Designated fund – 5 month reserve	94,410	-	-	7,853	102,263
Designated fund – Essex/outdoors	88,039	-	-	(11,085)	76,954
	300,537	444,933	(456,171)	540	289,839

	At 1 April 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
<i>General funds</i>	71,130	393,058	(374,879)	28,779	118,088
<i>Designated fund – 5 month reserve</i>	87,015	-	-	7,395	94,410
<i>Designated fund – Essex/outdoors</i>	88,039	-	-	-	88,039
	246,184	393,058	(374,879)	36,174	300,537

Transfers between funds represent:

Contribution from Create, Tour, Connect project to unrestricted general funds towards staff costs & overheads in line with the original agreed project budget approved by the funder.

Transfer from general funds to 5 month reserve designated fund to set aside the free reserves of five months' operating costs.

Transfer to general funds from Essex/outdoors designated fund to use the funds previously set aside for the planned deficit in the year.

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year other than reimbursement of trustee expenses – see note 4 (2024: none).

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Applause Rural Touring
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 10 to 18.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of International Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Paul Baker FAIA

Applied Accountancy Limited
50a Clifford Way
Maidstone
Kent ME16 8GD

Dated: 8th January 2026

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

England & Wales - Charity number 1165632

Accounts

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Charity number 1165632



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Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024



The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the charity's constitution, and 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).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity registration number: 1165632

Principal address: Southborough Civic Centre, 137 London Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0NA

Director: Dawn Badland

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution dated 27 January 2016. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 18 February 2016.

The charity is governed by the board of trustees. The board meets quarterly (and more often if required) and decides on the strategic direction the charity should take, the performance targets that should be set and examines the recent activities and performance of the charity. The day to day operations of the charity are delegated to the Director.

Recruitment & appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited in conjunction with ongoing needs and skills analysis to provide balanced and informed Governance for the Charity. No more than 12 and no less than 3 persons may be elected. Appointments are agreed by the Trustees for a fixed term after which Trustees may be re-elected.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis and assess any risks to the Charity including monitoring of the Risk Register, the content of which is informed by consultation with staff, Board and stakeholders.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024



Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and to the date of this report were:

Nigel Bolton (resigned 12 December 2023)
Amanda Cusimano (appointed 18 June 2024)
Hannah Deeble (resigned 12 December 2023)
Helen Graves (resigned 12 September 2023)
Daniel King
Louise Knight
Elizabeth Newall (appointed 12 September 2023)
Elizabeth Pencavel (appointed 12 September 2023)
Louise Searle (appointed 10 September 2024)
Kat Portman Smith

OBJECT AND ACTIVITIES

The object of Applause Rural Touring as set out in its constitution is:

The advancement of arts to the benefit of the general public in rural and/or isolated communities in the South East of England by, in particular but not exclusively, programming, commissioning and facilitating delivery of artistic experiences; working with artists to help develop their understanding of, and work for, these communities; and by extending the reach of arts provision by developing local venues and supporting and training volunteer organisers. Isolated in this context means isolated from arts provision by physical, social or economic reasons.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission, including public benefit guidance. We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

The charity furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit by: opening up artistic opportunities to rural communities in Kent and Sussex and working with high quality cultural practitioners to develop and champion their work in rural areas.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our work creates opportunities for rural and culturally under-served neighbourhoods to be empowered to reimagine their community through creative engagement. From halls to pubs to libraries, from fetes and festivals to village greens and to wide open spaces. We connect exceptional artists and performers with a network of passionate volunteers and programmers. Our work with artists and performers helps connect the dots to tour performance as well as develop new creations that empower people to reimagine where they live.

Communities are at the heart of everything we do and being far flung from a building for culture shouldn't be a barrier to experiencing it. Our work offers the opportunity to bring people together for inspiring, shared experiences celebrating the positive impacts culture has for a community. Through our touring programmes we reach over 140 communities, 35,000 audience members and more than 500 volunteers for culture each year.

We operate 3 key delivery routes, these are – to support and create excellent artistic and creative opportunity. To increase participation & engagement opportunities for rural communities and to create a rural touring model which is resilient and sustainable.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024



Increase participation & engagement opportunities for rural communities

2023-24 was year 1 of our new Arts Council England NPO phase (2023-2026) and we were delighted to receive a 120% uplift in ACE funding to support the county of Essex as a new delivery area and a range of Community Co-creation work in specific priority areas.

We achieved a good proportion of our targets with 57 indoor performance bookings and 78 outdoor performance bookings made. We created additional staffing capacity for Essex which began to see an increase of activity in that area. Our ReKindle partnership programme with a range of Medway libraries became fully embedded, continuing to grow with a range of free access work in partnership with Medway libraries. As part of this we commissioned The Library at the Edge of the World by Touched Theatre, a magical pop-up interactive show and writing experience for young audiences of all backgrounds that celebrates the power of stories to reconnect us to the world around us. We reached 32,656 audience members across 100 unique venues with 87 unique hosts across our programmes.

Support and create excellent artistic and creative opportunity

We held a well-attended artists' Lab in partnership with 101 Creation space in Reading which took the form of a 1 Day symposium for artists and producers interested in creating and touring small scale work outdoors.

Alongside re-touring some previously commissioned work, 9 companies were selected to receive support for reshapes and commissions to tour outdoor work in 2024. Two of these companies are supported in partnership with 1 Degree East. Never a Gull Moment by Feasible Ferret Theatre, Emoto-matic by Four Eyed Theatre, Arcade Mini by Casson & Friends, Doris Drake and Daria the Dragon by Rust and Stardust, The Ukulele Apothecary by Karina Garnett, Cracking the Crinoline by Moving Memory Dance Theatre, Memories with Connor by Connor Turansky and Puppet Petting Farm by Handmade Theatre.

Create a rural touring model which is resilient and sustainable

Applause moved office spaces in April 2023 which transformed staff wellbeing and effective working due to the vast improvement of the working environment. We developed a programme of delivery in partnership with Southborough Town Council within the building and our Director chaired the wider area Arts Council Cultural Compact, Creative Tunbridge Wells in partnership with numerous councils and creative and cultural organisations. We have further developed our board of Trustees.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024



FINANCIAL REVIEW

The income of the charity amounted to £454,808 (2023: £294,159) with expenditure of £423,389 (2023: £445,214).

Reserves policy

The policy of the charity as at 31 March 2024 was to have free reserves of five months' operating costs to fund its work (currently budgeted at £94,410). Unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2024 were £300,537 (2023: £246,184) of which £94,410 (2023: £87,015) has been designated by the trustees to set aside the free reserves of five months' operating costs with a further £88,039 (2023: £88,039) designated for development of activity in Essex and driving a new outdoor touring model for future inclusivity and sustainability. As at 31 March 2024 the assets of the charity are considered adequate to fulfil its obligations and the trustees consider the state of our financial affairs to be satisfactory.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Our newly drafted Sustainability policy and re-drafted Equality Diversity and Inclusion policy will both be worked up over the coming year.

We have a draft 2024-2027 business plan which outlines the development opportunities we are experiencing in an accelerating take up of our programme across all the areas within which we work. Our initial numbers for 2024-25 have already exceeded our targets and so we must plan for further growth in our rural touring activity. This includes leading on a national performance work commissioning programming for which we have submitted a 17 partner strong application to ACE project funds. We will also focus on developing our work through local partnerships for delivery within our building and our Community Co-Creation programme, supporting community volunteers and artists to work together forging shared cultural ambition and creative leadership.

Applause Rural Touring
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024



TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kat Portman Smith", written over a horizontal dotted line.

Kat Portman Smith
Trustee
4 December 2024

Applause Rural Touring

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
INCOME:						
Grants and donations	325,647	54,487	380,134	196,320	-	196,320
Touring programme income	64,993	7,263	72,256	80,127	16,740	96,867
Bank interest	2,418	-	2,418	972	-	972
TOTAL INCOME	393,058	61,750	454,808	277,419	16,740	294,159
EXPENDITURE:						
Touring programme artists' fees	102,348	17,500	119,848	113,915	36,782	150,697
Artist development	32,020	8,000	40,020	30,670	24,022	54,692
Audience development & marketing	8,942	13,551	22,493	7,184	28,067	35,251
Staff training & development	3,979	1,750	5,729	3,444	56	3,500
Professional fees	1,097	-	1,097	3,170	-	3,170
Salaries & freelance staff costs	200,853	6,000	206,853	142,866	32,606	175,472
Travel costs	4,080	397	4,477	1,809	1,174	2,983
Premises costs	21,560	1,312	22,872	16,965	2,484	19,449
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	374,879	48,510	423,389	320,023	125,191	445,214
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	18,179	13,240	31,419	(42,064)	(108,451)	(151,055)
Transfers between funds	36,174	(36,174)	-	28,537	(28,537)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	54,353	(22,934)	31,419	(14,067)	(136,988)	(151,055)
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 APRIL 2023	246,184	23,322	269,506	260,251	160,310	420,561
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2024	300,537	388	300,925	246,184	23,322	269,506

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Applause Rural Touring
Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024



	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	3,511		12,723	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>316,761</u>		<u>289,122</u>	
			320,272	301,845	
LIABILITIES					
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(19,347)</u>		<u>(32,339)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>300,925</u>		<u>269,506</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>300,925</u>		<u>269,506</u>
 FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted funds	8		388		23,322
Unrestricted funds	9				
		General	118,088	71,130	
		Designated	<u>182,449</u>	<u>175,054</u>	
			<u>300,537</u>		<u>246,184</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>300,925</u>		<u>269,506</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Kat Portman Smith
Trustee
4 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Accounting Basis

i) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared 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 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. Applause Rural Touring 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 note(s).

ii) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

It is the trustees' view that there are no material uncertainties regarding Applause Rural Touring's ability to continue in business for the foreseeable future taking into account all available information, and have neither the intention nor the need to liquidate or curtail materially the scale of its operations, and have prepared the accounts on that assumption. The trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position for the coming year and are satisfied that the charity will have sufficient funds, largely due to the continued investment from Arts Council England and our main Local Authority contributors from whom grant funding is largely received in advance.

b) Fund Accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

- Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

- Restricted Funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or grant award or through the terms of an appeal.

c) Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income from fees received for future events are recognised as income in the accounting period in which the event takes place.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. It is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

e) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

f) Cash At Bank And In Hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

g) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where 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.

h) Contributions to pension funds

The charity makes available to all employees a defined contribution pension scheme operated by NEST. The pension costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represent the amount of the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

i) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor have been charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

j) Cash Flow Statement

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing a cash flow statement in accordance with FRS 102 on the basis that it qualifies as a small entity.

k) Corporation tax

Applause Rural Touring is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives.

2. NET EXPENDITURE

Net expenditure is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Rent payable under operating lease:		
- Property	10,339	4,071
- Equipment	1,438	1,586
Independent Examiner's fee	720	720

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024



3. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	168,093	143,654
Social Security Costs	11,518	8,939
Pension Costs	4,048	3,153
	183,659	155,746

The average number of staff employed during the year was 5 (2023: 5). There were no employees with emoluments exceeding £60,000 per annum during the year.

Employee benefits totalled £48,942 (2023: £41,688) for the key management personnel of the charity.

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year 2 trustees were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £52 (2023: £nil).

5. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Debtors	2,156	11,445
Prepayments	1,355	1,278
	3,511	12,723

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditors	1,480	14,743
Other Taxes and Social Security	3,847	3,031
Accruals and Deferred Income	13,226	13,978
Pension Contributions	794	587
	19,347	32,339

Included in creditors above is deferred income relating to income received in advance for events to be held in the following financial year as follows:-

	£	£
Brought forward at 1 April 2023	1,650	-
Released to income during the year	(1,650)	-
Receipts in the year deferred – events in 2024/25	7,727	1,650
At 31 March 2024	7,727	1,650

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024



7. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Future minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	-	-
Within two to five years	11,797	3,235
	11,797	3,235

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
		£	£	£	£
Rother District Council	388	-	-	-	388
Inn Crowd Pubs+	22,934	61,750	(48,510)	(36,174)	-
	23,322	61,750	(48,510)	(36,174)	388

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
		£	£	£	£
<i>Rother District Council</i>	388	-	-	-	388
<i>Inn Crowd Pubs+</i>	159,922	16,740	(125,191)	(28,537)	22,934
	160,310	16,740	(125,191)	(28,537)	23,322

Restricted funds consist of funds given by a donor to be spent on specific projects.

Transfers between funds represent:

Inn Crowd Pubs+ - contribution from project to unrestricted funds towards staff costs & overheads in line with the original agreed project budget approved by the funder.

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024



9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	71,130	393,058	(374,879)	28,779	118,088
Designated fund – 5 month reserve	87,015	-	-	7,395	94,410
Designated fund – Essex/outdoors	88,039	-	-	-	88,039
	246,184	393,058	(374,879)	36,174	300,537

	At 1 April 2022	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
<i>General funds</i>	260,251	277,419	(320,023)	(146,517)	71,130
<i>Designated fund – 5 month reserve</i>	-	-	-	87,015	87,015
<i>Designated fund – Essex/outdoors</i>	-	-	-	88,039	88,039
	260,251	277,419	(320,023)	28,537	246,184

Transfers between funds represent:

Contribution from Inn Crowd Pubs+ project to unrestricted general funds towards staff costs & overheads in line with the original agreed project budget approved by the funder.

Transfer from general funds to designated fund to set aside the free reserves of five months' operating costs.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year other than reimbursement of trustee expenses – see note 4 (2023: none).

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Applause Rural Touring for the year ended 31 March 2024

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

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- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Paul Baker FAIA

Applied Accountancy Limited
50a Clifford Way
Maidstone
Kent ME16 8GD

Dated: 4th December 2024

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

England & Wales - Charity number 1165632

Accounts

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Charity number 1165632



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Applause Rural Touring

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Director: Dawn Badland

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Recruitment & appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited in conjunction with ongoing needs and skills analysis to provide balanced and informed Governance for the Charity. No more than 12 and no less than 3 persons may be elected. Appointments are agreed by the Trustees for a fixed term after which Trustees may be re-elected.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis and assess any risks to the Charity including monitoring of the Risk Register the content of which is informed by consultation with staff, Board and stakeholders.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023



Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and to the date of this report were:

Nigel Bolton
Rachel Daly (resigned 14 March 2023)
Hannah Deeble
Julie Flower (resigned 13 September 2022)
Helen Graves (resigned 12 September 2023)
Daniel King
Louise Knight
Elizabeth Newall (appointed 12 September 2023)
Elizabeth Pencavel (appointed 12 September 2023)
Kat Portman Smith

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission, including public benefit guidance. We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

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Communities are at the heart of everything we do and being far flung from a building for culture shouldn't be a barrier to experiencing it. Our work offers the opportunity to bring people together for inspiring, shared experiences celebrating the positive impacts culture has for a community. Through our touring programmes we reach over 140 communities, 35,000 audience members and more than 500 volunteers for culture each year.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023



We operate 3 key delivery routes, these are – to support and create excellent artistic and creative opportunity. To increase participation & engagement opportunities for rural communities and to create a rural touring model which is resilient and sustainable.

Increase participation & engagement opportunities for rural communities

Our delivery in 2022-23 saw the end of our Arts Council England NPO phase which was extended to 5 years due to the COVID pandemic. In this final year of NPO delivery 224 events were programmed through Indoor, Outdoor and Inn Crowd strands of work. Our outdoor touring programme continued to grow and we gradually were able to begin touring indoor seasons building back community promoting groups.

Replay, a discrete project supporting young people to attend school took place in partnership with Fabulous Projects.

Planning began for the next phase of our NPO arrangement with Arts Council England, having been granted a large uplift from April 2023 to both extend our work into Essex and to deliver specific programmes of work within areas of Levelling Up. Our 3-year planning focussed on developing a 3-year strategy to increase diversity amongst both the artistic companies supported by Applause and the range of communities we work with.

Support and create excellent artistic and creative opportunity

We held an artists' Lab in partnership with Queens Theatre Hornchurch to support diverse companies to access our commissioning opportunities.

We continued a programme of commissions for our outdoor touring programme. The following companies were supported to make work for 2023 touring. Disabled led company Darly & Co creating Classic Connee, Dubious Dolphins by Frank Wurzinger, The Woolly Mammoth by Enter Edem and Laika the Space dog by Lori Hopkins.

The Allotment Project by Casson & Friends and Mughal Miniatures Walkabout by Sonia Sabri Company were co-commissioned with through a partnership with Creative Estuary which sought to reach diverse artists and artists working in collaboration with communities.

Create a rural touring model which is resilient and sustainable

Applause is in an excellent position having developed a new 3-year plan and secured further investment from ACE. Our work has a clear direction and our ambitions are well articulated to a range of stakeholders. We expect that the coming years will be challenging and expect there will be pressures on funding sources. However, we are in a strong position to deliver our ambitions with a growing network of partnerships in progress.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The income of the charity amounted to £294,159 (2022: £287,708) with expenditure of £445,214 (2022: £381,423). A large proportion of the excess expenditure over income was due to upfront project funding grant payments received in previous financial years. The remainder forms part of our business investment plan to extend the network and develop long term community co-creation activity.

Reserves policy

The policy of the charity as at 31 March 2023 was to have free reserves of five months' operating costs to fund its work (currently budgeted at £87,015). Unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2023 were £246,184 (2022: £260,251) of which £87,015 (2022: £nil) was designated during the year by the trustees to set aside the free reserves of five months' operating costs with a further £88,039 (2022: £nil) designated for development of activity in Essex and driving a new outdoor touring model for future inclusivity and sustainability. As at 31 March 2023 the assets of the charity are considered adequate to fulfil its obligations and the trustees consider the state of our financial affairs to be satisfactory.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Our move of location to the Southborough Civic Centre in April 2023 will benefit the organisation greatly and make a real difference to the working environment for a growing staff team. The new space is also vastly more environmentally friendly and also allows us the opportunity to work with the Town Council to develop a programme of work for the community space on site.

Over the next 4 years we will focus on developing our work both through our extension into Essex and through a Community Co-Creation programme, supporting community volunteers and artists to work together forging shared cultural ambition and creative leadership. We will continue to develop and diversify our board of Trustees, workforce and our partnerships. The Inn Crowd Pubs + project will wrap up for the time being with the option of developing legacy delivery once partners have been fully consulted.

Applause Rural Touring
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023



TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Kat Portman Smith", written over a dotted line.

Kat Portman Smith
Trustee
12 December 2023

Applause Rural Touring

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	
Note							
INCOME:							
Grants and donations	196,320	-	196,320	207,473	13,559	221,032	
Touring programme income	80,127	16,740	96,867	57,474	8,075	65,549	
Bank interest	972	-	972	1,127	-	1,127	
	<u>277,419</u>	<u>16,740</u>	<u>294,159</u>	<u>266,074</u>	<u>21,634</u>	<u>287,708</u>	
TOTAL INCOME							
EXPENDITURE:							
Touring programme artists' fees	113,915	36,782	150,697	81,284	29,950	111,234	
Artist development	30,670	24,022	54,692	21,150	18,349	39,499	
Audience development & marketing	7,184	28,067	35,251	15,095	19,893	34,988	
Staff training & development	3,444	56	3,500	2,150	1,000	3,150	
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	177	-	177	
Professional fees	3,170	-	3,170	720	-	720	
Salaries & freelance staff costs	142,866	32,606	175,472	131,105	39,799	170,904	
Travel costs	1,809	1,174	2,983	656	2,824	3,480	
Premises costs	16,965	2,484	19,449	14,922	2,349	17,271	
	<u>320,023</u>	<u>125,191</u>	<u>445,214</u>	<u>267,259</u>	<u>114,164</u>	<u>381,423</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE							
NET EXPENDITURE	2	(42,604)	(108,451)	(151,055)	(1,185)	(92,530)	(93,715)
Transfers between funds		28,537	(28,537)	-	32,654	(32,654)	-
		<u>(14,067)</u>	<u>(136,988)</u>	<u>(151,055)</u>	<u>31,469</u>	<u>(125,184)</u>	<u>(93,715)</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS							
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 APRIL 2022		260,251	160,310	420,561	228,782	285,494	514,276
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2023		<u>246,184</u>	<u>23,322</u>	<u>269,506</u>	<u>260,251</u>	<u>160,310</u>	<u>420,561</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Applause Rural Touring
Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023



	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	12,723		13,175	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>289,122</u>		<u>433,241</u>	
		301,845		446,416	
LIABILITIES					
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year					
	6	<u>(32,339)</u>		<u>(25,855)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>269,506</u>		<u>420,561</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>269,506</u>		<u>420,561</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted funds	8		23,322		160,310
Unrestricted funds	9				
		General	71,130	260,251	
		Designated	<u>175,054</u>	<u>-</u>	
			<u>246,184</u>		<u>260,251</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>269,506</u>		<u>420,561</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Kat Portman Smith
Trustee
12 December 2023

1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

a) **Accounting Basis**

i) *Basis of preparation*

The accounts have been prepared 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 Charities Act 2011. Applause Rural Touring 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 note(s).

ii) *Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis*

It is the trustees' view that there are no material uncertainties regarding Applause Rural Touring's ability to continue in business for the foreseeable future taking into account all available information, and have neither the intention nor the need to liquidate or curtail materially the scale of its operations, and have prepared the accounts on that assumption. The trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position for the coming year and are satisfied that the charity will have sufficient funds, largely due to the continued investment from Arts Council England and our main Local Authority contributors from whom grant funding is largely received in advance.

b) **Fund Accounting**

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

- Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

- Restricted Funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or grant award or through the terms of an appeal.

c) **Income**

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income from fees received for future events are recognised as income in the accounting period in which the event takes place.

d) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. It is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

e) **Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

f) Cash At Bank And In Hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

g) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where 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.

h) Contributions to pension funds

The charity makes available to all employees a defined contribution pension scheme operated by NEST. The pension costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represent the amount of the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

i) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor have been charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

j) Cash Flow Statement

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing a cash flow statement in accordance with FRS 102 on the basis that it qualifies as a small entity.

k) Corporation tax

Applause Rural Touring is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives.

2. NET EXPENDITURE

Net expenditure is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Rent payable under operating lease:		
- Property	4,071	4,071
- Equipment	1,586	2,030
Independent Examiner's fee	720	720

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023



3. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	143,654	136,751
Social Security Costs	8,939	7,644
Pension Costs	3,153	2,974
	155,746	147,369

The average number of staff employed during the year was 5 (2022: 6). There were no employees with emoluments exceeding £60,000 per annum during the year.

Employee benefits totalled £41,688 (2022: £34,421) for the key management personnel of the charity.

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year a total of £nil (2022: £nil) was paid to no (2022: none) trustee for reimbursement of travel expenses.

5. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade Debtors	11,445	11,850
Prepayments	1,278	1,325
	12,723	13,175

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade Creditors	14,743	12,499
Other Taxes and Social Security	3,031	3,099
Accruals and Deferred Income	13,978	9,663
Pension Contributions	587	594
	32,339	25,855

Included in creditors above is deferred income relating to income received in advance for events to be held in the following financial year as follows:-

	£	£
Brought forward at 1 April 2022	-	-
Receipts in the year deferred – events in 2023/24	1,650	-
At 31 March 2023	1,650	-

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023



7. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Future minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	-	1,861
Within two to five years	3,235	-
	3,235	1,861

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2022	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Rother District Council	388	-	-	-	388
Inn Crowd Pubs+	159,922	16,740	(125,191)	(28,537)	22,934
	160,310	16,740	(125,191)	(28,537)	23,322

	At 1 April 2021	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Rother District Council	388	-	-	-	388
Inn Crowd Pubs+	285,106	21,634	(114,164)	(32,654)	159,922
	285,494	21,634	(114,164)	(32,654)	160,310

Restricted funds consist of funds given by a donor to be spent on specific projects.

Transfers between funds represent:

Inn Crowd Pubs+ - contribution from project to unrestricted funds towards staff costs & overheads in line with the original agreed project budget approved by the funder.

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023



9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2022	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	260,251	277,419	(320,023)	(146,517)	71,130
Designated fund – 5 month reserve	-	-	-	87,015	87,015
Designated fund – Essex/outdoors	-	-	-	88,039	88,039
	260,251	277,419	(320,023)	28,537	246,184

	At 1 April 2021	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
<i>General funds</i>	228,782	266,074	(267,259)	32,654	260,251

Transfers between funds represent:

Contribution from Inn Crowd Pubs+ project to unrestricted general funds towards staff costs & overheads in line with the original agreed project budget approved by the funder.

Transfer from general funds to designated fund to set aside the free reserves of five months' operating costs.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year (2022: none).

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Applause Rural Touring
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of International Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Paul Baker FAIA

Applied Accountancy Limited
50a Clifford Way
Maidstone
Kent ME16 8GD

Dated: 12 December 2023

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

England & Wales - Charity number 1165632

Accounts

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Charity number 1165632



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Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022



The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the charity's constitution, and 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).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity registration number: 1165632

Principal address: The Yard, 2a Speldhurst Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0DP

Director: Dawn Badland

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution dated 27 January 2016. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 16 February 2016.

The charity is governed by the board of trustees. The board meets quarterly (and more often if required) and decides on the strategic direction the charity should take, the performance targets that should be set and examines the recent activities and performance of the charity. The day to day operations of the charity are delegated to the Director.

Recruitment & appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited in conjunction with ongoing needs and skills analysis to provide balanced and informed Governance for the Charity. No more than 12 and no less than 3 persons may be elected. Appointments are agreed by the Trustees for a fixed term after which Trustees may be re-elected.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis and assess any risks to the Charity including monitoring of the Risk Register the content of which is informed by consultation with staff, Board and stakeholders.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022



Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and to the date of this report were:

Nigel Bolton
Amanda Carpenter (resigned 20 July 2021)
Rachel Daly
Hannah Deeble
Julie Flower (resigned 13 September 2022)
Helen Graves
Daniel King (appointed 27 April 2021)
Louise Knight
Kat Portman Smith

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The object of Applause Rural Touring as set out in its constitution is:

The advancement of arts to the benefit of the general public in rural and/or isolated communities in the South East of England by, in particular but not exclusively, programming, commissioning and facilitating delivery of artistic experiences; working with artists to help develop their understanding of, and work for, these communities; and by extending the reach of arts provision by developing local venues and supporting and training volunteer organisers. Isolated in this context means isolated from arts provision by physical, social or economic reasons.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission, including public benefit guidance. We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

The charity furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit by: opening up artistic opportunities to rural communities in Kent and Sussex and working with high quality cultural practitioners to develop and champion their work in rural areas.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our vision is to inspire and develop cultural engagement in rural areas and those areas with limited access to cultural opportunity across Kent, Sussex and the wider southeast. We achieve our vision by developing opportunities for rural and other communities to work with us as volunteers and professional partners creating great cultural experiences for audiences and participants. We work with cultural practitioners and arts and non-arts partners to progress meaningful and relevant cultural activity.

We operate 3 key delivery routes, these are – to support and create excellent artistic and creative opportunity. To increase participation & engagement opportunities for rural communities and to create a rural touring model which is resilient and sustainable.

Increase participation & engagement opportunities for rural communities

During 2021-2022 we began to rebuild our network as the restrictions caused by COVID 19 increasingly loosened. This largely took place through our outdoor programme from April – September 2021 with over 100 performances being booked at outdoor celebratory events. Whilst some of these included village and community fetes there remained cautiousness amongst rural communities to host these events, however, we had a large take up by events hosted in mixed use public spaces as a range of public sector promoters sought to provide interesting and engaging content for the public. Our indoor programme began to resume with community hosts engaging again with a reduced programme. Publicans reengaged through our Inn Crowd project as pubs made a strong return, Inn Crowd delivered the library element of delivery with 26 libraries taking part.

Support and create excellent artistic and creative opportunity

Our artist development LAB was held in partnership with Marlowe and Creation Space 101 and supported artists interested in applying to our commissioning programme. The residential LAB tested a model we will take forward into coming years as a way to address gaps in the range of artists we attract to the outdoor commission opportunities as well as given themes for content or form. The artists taking part in our summer touring season received a large number of bookings finally after their touring work with Applause the previous year had been reduced to almost zero. We continued to develop Inn Crowd commissions in partnership with National Centre for Writing as the programme increased scale of activity.

Create a rural touring model which is resilient and sustainable

A key development in the organisation during this period involved the full implementation of a new website and CRM system and consequently a new booking and administration system for both promoter and artist users and Applause staff. Our intention is that this major development will ensure we manage and promote our work efficiently and effectively in future years as we grow as an organisation. Partnerships have continued to feature strongly in our work and both established ones such as the Inn Crowd partnerships as well as new strategic and artistic partnerships and opportunities. Our contribution to wider strategic groups has continued and developed including working with Creative Estuary in North Kent and South Essex.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The income of the charity amounted to £287,708 (2021: £537,819) with net expenditure of £93,715 (2021: net income of £264,874).

Reserves policy

The policy of the charity as at 31 March 2022 was to have free reserves of six months' operating costs to fund its work (budgeted at £85,693). The policy was revised from 1 April 2022 to have free reserves of five month's operating costs to enable further investment of unrestricted reserves. Unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2022 were £260,251 (2021: £228,782). As at 31 March 2022 the assets of the charity are considered adequate to fulfil its obligations and the trustees consider the state of our financial affairs to be satisfactory.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Business planning for 23-26 began in 2022 as a precursor to an application to Arts Council England for the next National Portfolio period. Our outcome, in October 2022 for National Portfolio funding was favourable and will see an extension of our delivery both across Kent and Sussex and more formally into Essex. There is a significant development to extend our work across all of the areas we cover and the organisation will grow in line with this new delivery. A partial restructure of staffing and an office move will happen imminently. In 2022-23 we will be delivering a programme of work aligned much closer to Pre COVID 19 outputs and remain dedicated to rebuilding our core network of communities for longer term development.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by



.....
Kat Portman Smith
Trustee
13 December 2022

Applause Rural Touring

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Note						
INCOME:						
Grants and donations	207,473	13,559	221,032	185,363	347,060	532,423
Touring programme income	57,474	8,075	65,549	4,425	(700)	3,725
Bank interest	1,127	-	1,127	1,671	-	1,671
TOTAL INCOME	266,074	21,634	287,708	191,459	346,360	537,819
EXPENDITURE:						
Touring programme artists' fees	81,284	29,950	111,234	7,400	2,400	9,800
Artist development	21,150	18,349	39,499	17,255	49,999	67,254
Audience development & marketing	15,095	19,893	34,988	13,066	22,886	35,952
Staff training & development	2,150	1,000	3,150	57	2,600	2,657
Fundraising costs	177	-	177	455	-	455
Professional fees	720	-	720	720	-	720
Salaries & freelance staff costs	131,105	39,799	170,904	105,485	34,996	140,481
Travel costs	656	2,824	3,480	147	332	479
Premises costs	14,922	2,349	17,271	11,653	3,494	15,147
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	267,259	114,164	381,423	156,238	116,707	272,945
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME	(1,185)	(92,530)	(93,715)	35,221	229,653	264,874
Transfers between funds	32,654	(32,654)	-	30,713	(30,713)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	31,469	(125,184)	(93,715)	65,934	198,940	264,874
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 APRIL 2021	228,782	285,494	514,276	162,848	86,554	249,402
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2022	260,251	160,310	420,561	228,782	285,494	514,276

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Applause Rural Touring
Balance Sheet at 31 March 2022



	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	13,175		768	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>433,241</u>		<u>530,291</u>	
		446,416		531,059	
LIABILITIES					
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(25,855)</u>		<u>(16,783)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>420,561</u>		<u>514,276</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>420,561</u>		<u>514,276</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted funds	8		160,310		285,494
Unrestricted funds			<u>260,251</u>		<u>228,782</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>420,561</u>		<u>514,276</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Kat Portman Smith
Trustee
13 December 2022

1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

a) **Accounting Basis**

i) *Basis of preparation*

The accounts have been prepared 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 Charities Act 2011. Applause Rural Touring 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 note(s).

ii) *Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis*

It is the trustees' view that there are no material uncertainties regarding Applause Rural Touring's ability to continue in business for the foreseeable future taking into account all available information, and have neither the intention nor the need to liquidate or curtail materially the scale of its operations, and have prepared the accounts on that assumption. The trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position for the coming year and are satisfied that the charity will have sufficient funds, largely due to the continued investment from Arts Council England and our main Local Authority contributors from whom grant funding is largely received in advance.

b) **Fund Accounting**

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

- Restricted Funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or grant award or through the terms of an appeal.

c) **Income**

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income from fees received for future events are recognised as income in the accounting period in which the event takes place.

d) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. It is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

e) **Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022



1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

f) Cash At Bank And In Hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

g) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where 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.

h) Contributions to pension funds

The charity makes available to all employees a defined contribution pension scheme operated by NEST. The pension costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represent the amount of the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

i) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor have been charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

j) Cash Flow Statement

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing a cash flow statement in accordance with FRS 102 on the basis that it qualifies as a small entity.

k) Corporation tax

Applause Rural Touring is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives.

	Year Ended <u>31.03.22</u>	Year Ended <u>31.03.21</u>
2. NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging:		
Rent payable under operating lease		
- Property	4,071	4,971
- Equipment	2,030	2,030
Independent Examiner's fee	<u>720</u>	<u>720</u>

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022



	Year Ended <u>31.03.22</u>	Year Ended <u>31.03.21</u>
3. <u>STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS</u>	£	£
Wages and Salaries	136,751	111,139
Social Security Costs	7,644	4,477
Pension Costs	<u>2,974</u>	<u>2,258</u>
	<u>147,369</u>	<u>117,874</u>

The average number of staff employed during the year was 6 (2021: 6). There were no employees with emoluments exceeding £60,000 per annum during the year.

Employee benefits totalled £34,421 (2021: £32,635) for the key management personnel of the charity.

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year a total of £nil (2021: £nil) was paid to no (2021: none) trustee for reimbursement of travel expenses.

	<u>31.03.22</u>	<u>31.03.21</u>
	£	£
5. <u>DEBTORS</u>		
Trade Debtors	11,850	20
Other Debtors	-	7
Prepayments	<u>1,325</u>	<u>741</u>
	<u>13,175</u>	<u>768</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Trade Creditors	12,499	3,924
Other Taxes and Social Security	3,099	2,605
Accruals and Deferred Income	9,663	9,689
Pensions Contributions	<u>594</u>	<u>565</u>
	<u>25,855</u>	<u>16,783</u>

Included in creditors above is deferred income relating to income received in advance for events to be held in the following financial year as follows:-

Brought forward at 1 April 2021	-	275
Released to SOFA in year	-	-
Refunded in year	-	(275)
Receipts in the year deferred – events in 2022/23	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022



7. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Future minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	<u>31.03.22</u>	<u>31.03.21</u>
	£	£
Within one year	1,861	2,444
Within two to five years	-	<u>1,522</u>
	<u>1,861</u>	<u>3,966</u>

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
		£	£	£	£
Rother District Council	388	-	-	-	388
Inn Crowd Pubs+	285,106	21,634	(114,164)	(32,654)	159,922
	285,494	21,634	(114,164)	(32,654)	160,310

	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2021
		£	£	£	£
Rother District Council	388	-	-	-	388
Inn Crowd Pubs+	86,166	346,360	(116,707)	(30,713)	285,106
	86,554	346,360	(116,707)	(30,713)	285,494

Restricted funds consist of funds given by a donor to be spent on specific projects.

Transfers between funds represent:

Inn Crowd Pubs+ - contribution from project to unrestricted funds towards staff costs & overheads in line with the original agreed project budget approved by the funder.

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Applause Rural Touring
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

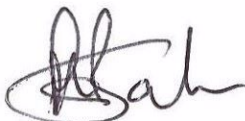
Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of International Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Paul Baker FAIA

Applied Accountancy Limited
50a Clifford Way
Maidstone
Kent ME16 8GD

Dated: 13/12 2022

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

England & Wales - Charity number 1165632

Accounts

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Charity number 1165632



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Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021



The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the charity's constitution, and 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).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity registration number: 1165632

Principal address: The Yard, 2a Speldhurst Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0DP

Director: Dawn Badland

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution dated 27 January 2016. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 16 February 2016.

The charity is governed by the board of trustees. The board meets quarterly (and more often if required) and decides on the strategic direction the charity should take, the performance targets that should be set and examines the recent activities and performance of the charity. The day to day operations of the charity are delegated to the Director.

Recruitment & appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited in conjunction with ongoing needs and skills analysis to provide balanced and informed Governance for the Charity. No more than 12 and no less than 3 persons may be elected. Appointments are agreed by the Trustees for a fixed term after which Trustees may be re-elected.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis and assess any risks to the Charity including monitoring of the Risk Register the content of which is informed by consultation with staff, Board and stakeholders.

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021



Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and to the date of this report were:

Nigel Bolton
Amanda Carpenter (resigned 20 July 2021)
Rachel Daly (appointed 2 February 2021)
Hannah Deeble (appointed 16 March 2021)
Julie Flower
Helen Graves
Daniel King (appointed 27 April 2021)
Louise Knight
Kat Portman Smith

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The object of Applause Rural Touring as set out in its constitution is:

The advancement of arts to the benefit of the general public in rural and/or isolated communities in the South East of England by, in particular but not exclusively, programming, commissioning and facilitating delivery of artistic experiences; working with artists to help develop their understanding of, and work for, these communities; and by extending the reach of arts provision by developing local venues and supporting and training volunteer organisers. Isolated in this context means isolated from arts provision by physical, social or economic reasons.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission, including public benefit guidance. We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

The charity furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit by: opening up artistic opportunities to rural communities in Kent and Sussex and working with high quality cultural practitioners to develop and champion their work in rural areas.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our vision is to inspire and develop cultural engagement in rural areas and those areas with limited access to cultural opportunity across Kent, Sussex and the wider southeast. We achieve our vision by developing opportunities for rural and other communities to work with us as volunteers and professional partners creating great cultural experiences for audiences and participants. We work with cultural practitioners and arts and non-arts partners to progress meaningful and relevant cultural activity.

We operate 3 key delivery routes, these are – to support and create excellent artistic and creative opportunity. To increase participation & engagement opportunities for rural communities and to create a rural touring model which is resilient and sustainable

Applause Rural Touring

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021



Increase participation & engagement opportunities for rural communities

During 2020 and 2021, the restrictions caused by COVID 19 led us to find delivery solutions as we reimagined how we work with a growing range of partners and people. We rethought our offer to communities and how we could work across indoor and outdoor touring in a more integrated way to increase promoter participation. We began our journey into digital work and successfully developed audio work for radio. With the anticipation that a regular touring programme would not take place in spring 2021 we developed a hugely successful and exquisite set of podcasts in partnership with South Downs National Park Authority. We reimagined the Inn Crowd partnership project by devising 10 remote residences and a campaign with Pub is the Hub called Winter Warmers, both with national reach. We have continued to rebuild our promoter and community engagement plans with a refreshed forward looking focus. Initial activity indicates a large take up of our work for summer 2021 with new markets opening up such as back to the High Street initiatives and Library based activity.

Support and create excellent artistic and creative opportunity

During 2020/21 one of our priorities focussed on supporting the artists we work with, particularly those commissioned by us, we continued to do this and in addition developed new partnerships to deliver a specifically designed learning opportunity for artists to engage with the unique concept driving our successful outdoor model. Our commissioned artists were fully supported during the latter part of the year to finalise their work ready for touring in summer 2021. Through our Inn Crowd project we supported newly devised remote residencies and a poems for pubs campaign as well as digital works. There was considerable artistic output during 2020-21 given the difficult circumstances under which we were operating. This continued work has set us in a strong position to deliver a fast growing set of touring opportunities in 2021.

Create a rural touring model which is resilient and sustainable

With a history of artistically ambitious work, a shift in gear and outlook within the Applause team has enabled it to devise refreshed priorities and maximize multiple opportunities that have emerged over the course of 12 months. A small workforce presents challenges but a reworking of roles and engagement of new staff structure has enabled Applause to engage in new partnerships and opportunities driving forward a greater presence, enhanced programme and increased engagement potential. Growth in both our staff and board of Trustees has also enabled us to embed confident and informed business planning for the coming period.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The income of the charity amounted to £537,819 (2020: £447,237) with net income of £264,874 (2020: net expenditure of £8,714).

Reserves policy

The policy of the charity is to have free reserves of six months' operating costs to fund its work (currently budgeted at £83,719). Unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2021 were £228,782 (2020: £162,848). As at 31 March 2021 the assets of the charity are considered adequate to fulfil its obligations and the trustees consider the state of our financial affairs to be satisfactory.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Our output during the year has remained high despite the continuation of restrictions due to COVID 19. We will be devising a 2022-23 business plan in full consultation with staff and trustees to be submitted to Arts Council England for the extension period of NPO agreements. A range of new partnerships developed during the past year will be a significant development for our work moving forward.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by



Kat Portman Smith
Trustee
2 December 2021

Applause Rural Touring

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
INCOME:						
Grants and donations	185,363	347,060	532,423	180,116	203,472	383,588
Touring programme income	4,425	(700)	3,725	49,116	13,450	62,566
Bank interest	1,671	-	1,671	1,083	-	1,083
TOTAL INCOME	191,459	346,360	537,819	230,315	216,922	447,237
EXPENDITURE:						
Touring programme artists' fees	7,400	2,400	9,800	84,129	45,062	129,191
Artist development	17,255	49,999	67,254	28,530	53,297	81,827
Promoter training & development	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
Audience development & marketing	13,066	22,886	35,952	10,361	26,823	37,184
Staff training & development	57	2,600	2,657	3,747	7,561	11,308
Fundraising costs	455	-	455	-	12,834	12,834
Professional fees	720	-	720	720	-	720
Salaries & freelance staff costs	105,485	34,996	140,481	97,982	41,959	139,941
Travel costs	147	332	479	2,569	7,625	10,194
Premises costs	11,653	3,494	15,147	16,063	14,689	30,752
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	156,238	116,707	272,945	244,101	211,850	455,951
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	35,221	229,653	264,874	(13,786)	5,072	(8,714)
Transfers between funds	30,713	(30,713)	-	56,222	(56,222)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	65,934	198,940	264,874	42,436	(51,150)	(8,714)
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 APRIL 2020	162,848	86,554	249,402	120,412	137,704	258,116
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2021	228,782	285,494	514,276	162,848	86,554	249,402

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Applause Rural Touring
Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021



	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	768		5,014	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>530,291</u>		<u>287,539</u>	
		531,059		292,553	
LIABILITIES					
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year					
	6	<u>(16,783)</u>		<u>(43,151)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>514,276</u>		<u>249,402</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>514,276</u>		<u>249,402</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted funds	8		285,494		86,554
Unrestricted funds			<u>228,782</u>		<u>162,848</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>514,276</u>		<u>249,402</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Kat Portman Smith
Trustee
2 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Accounting Basis

i) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared 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 Charities Act 2011. Applause Rural Touring 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 note(s).

ii) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

It is the trustees' view that there are no material uncertainties regarding Applause Rural Touring's ability to continue in business for the foreseeable future taking into account all available information, and have neither the intention nor the need to liquidate or curtail materially the scale of its operations, and have prepared the accounts on that assumption. This has included a review of the effect of the COVID19 pandemic on the charity's operations. The trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position for the coming year and are satisfied that the charity will have sufficient funds, largely due to the continued investment from Arts Council England and our main Local Authority contributors from whom grant funding is largely received in advance.

b) Fund Accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

- Restricted Funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or grant award or through the terms of an appeal.

c) Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income from fees received for future events are recognised as income in the accounting period in which the event takes place.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. It is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

e) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

f) Cash At Bank And In Hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

g) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where 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.

h) Contributions to pension funds

The charity makes available to all employees a defined contribution pension scheme operated by NEST. The pension costs charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represent the amount of the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

i) Operating Leases

Rentals under operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor have been charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

j) Cash Flow Statement

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing a cash flow statement in accordance with FRS 102 on the basis that it qualifies as a small entity.

k) Corporation tax

Applause Rural Touring is a registered charity and as such its income and gains falling within Sections 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 are exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives.

	Year Ended <u>31.03.21</u>	Year Ended <u>31.03.20</u>
2. <u>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</u>	£	£

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

Rent payable under operating lease		
- Property	4,971	4,971
- Equipment	2,030	1,872
Independent Examiner's fee	<u>720</u>	<u>720</u>

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021



	Year Ended <u>31.03.21</u>	Year Ended <u>31.03.20</u>
3. <u>STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS</u>	£	£
Wages and Salaries	111,139	84,685
Social Security Costs	4,477	2,736
Pension Costs	<u>2,258</u>	<u>1,577</u>
	<u>117,874</u>	<u>88,998</u>

The average number of staff employed during the year was 6 (2020: 5). There were no employees with emoluments exceeding £60,000 per annum during the year.

Employee benefits totalled £32,635 (2020: £30,853) for the key management personnel of the charity.

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year a total of £nil (2020: £15) was paid to no (2020: 1) trustee for reimbursement of travel expenses.

	<u>31.03.21</u>	<u>31.03.20</u>
	£	£
5. <u>DEBTORS</u>		
Trade Debtors	20	4,148
Other Debtors	7	21
Prepayments	<u>741</u>	<u>845</u>
	<u>768</u>	<u>5,014</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Trade Creditors	3,924	21,594
Other Taxes and Social Security	2,605	1,676
Accruals and Deferred Income	9,689	19,533
Pensions Contributions	<u>565</u>	<u>348</u>
	<u>16,783</u>	<u>43,151</u>

Included in creditors above is deferred income relating to income received in advance for events to be held in the following financial year as follows:-

Brought forward at 1 April 2020	275	1,725
Released to SOFA in year	-	(1,725)
Refunded in year	(275)	-
Receipts in the year deferred – events in 2021/22	<u>-</u>	<u>275</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>275</u>

Applause Rural Touring
Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021



7. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Future minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	<u>31.03.21</u>	<u>31.03.20</u>
	£	£
Within one year	2,444	2,444
Within two to five years	<u>1,522</u>	<u>3,552</u>
	<u>3,966</u>	<u>5,996</u>

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2020	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Rother District Council	388	-	-	-	388
Inn Crowd Pubs+	86,166	346,360	(116,707)	(30,713)	285,106
	86,554	346,360	(116,707)	(30,713)	285,494

	At 1 April 2019	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
<i>Inn Crowd</i>	125,326	44,206	(121,136)	(48,396)	-
<i>Giving It Large</i>	11,990	1,410	(12,834)	(566)	-
<i>Rother District Council</i>	388	-	-	-	388
<i>Inn Crowd Pubs+</i>	-	171,306	(77,880)	(7,260)	86,166
	137,704	216,922	(211,850)	(56,222)	86,554

Restricted funds consist of funds given by a donor to be spent on specific projects.

Transfers between funds represent:

Inn Crowd Pubs+ - contribution from project to unrestricted funds towards staff costs & overheads in line with the original agreed project budget approved by the funder.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Applause Rural Touring for the year ended 31 March 2021

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of International Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Paul Baker FAIA

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Dated: 15 December 2021