

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

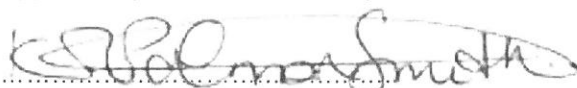
Applause Rural Touring

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 £
	Note						
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	2	456,171	7,600	463,771	374,879	48,510	423,389
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	3	(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.

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



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
	<u>326,863</u>	<u>281,035</u>
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
	<u>136,908</u>	<u>142,354</u>
Total Expenditure on Charitable Activities	<u>463,771</u>	<u>423,389</u>

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	<u>720</u>	<u>720</u>

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
	<u>196,360</u>	<u>183,659</u>

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
	<u>10,657</u>	<u>3,511</u>

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
	<u>37,909</u>	<u>19,347</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 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	<u>9,004</u>	<u>7,727</u>

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
	<u>66,359</u>	<u>11,797</u>

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
		£	£	£	£
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

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