

**Registered Charity Number 1166449**

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**For the 11 months ended 31 March 2024**

# **ALPHABETTI THEATRE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **11 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the 11 months ended 31 March 2024.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Charity number** 1166449 (England & Wales)

**Principal address** Alphabetti Theatre, St James Boulevard, Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 4HP

#### **Trustees**

The Trustees of the charity during the period and to the date of signing this report are as follows:

Mr Jon Farthing (Chair)  
Mr Hamish Carter  
Ms Christina Dawson  
Ms Ruth Patterson

**Independent Examiner** Pete O'Hara FCA, Chartered Accountant, 26 La Sagesse,  
Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AF

**Bankers** HSBC, 110 Grey Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6JG

#### **Governing Documents**

Theatre In Motion was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 8 April 2016. The company subsequently changed its name to Alphabetti Theatre. As a CIO it is governed by its constitution.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The charity's objects are to promote, develop and maintain the public's understanding and appreciation of the arts, in particular the dramatic arts.

#### **Activities for the Public Benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit are as follows:

- Working with local communities to engage individuals in the arts
- Making work to provoke new thinking about how cultures interact
- Developing audiences for contemporary performance

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

**Recruitment & Appointment of Trustees**

New Trustees are identified and appointed on the recommendation of the existing Trustees.

**Operation of the Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees typically meets four times per year and, additionally, holds an Annual General Meeting.

**Trustee Induction & Training**

In the first year of appointment an induction and training year is provided, covering both the distinctiveness of the organisation, as well as the duties and responsibilities of acting as a charity Trustee.

**Risk Management**

The Trustees of the charity regularly review the major governance, operational and financial risks which the charity faces as part of its annual business planning process and confirm that systems have been established to mitigate these risks.

Alphabetti Theatre has a risk management strategy in place, which comprises:

- an annual review of the strategic risks the charity may face via the business plan
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate financial systems and controls are in place.

The Trustees consider the key risks facing the charity at this time to be the financial risks arising if the organisation is unable to attract sufficient income to realise its planned projects to the scale and quality to which the organisation aspires.

The Trustees have managed the potential impact of these risks by ensuring that:

- Prudent budgets have been set for the next financial year
- The charity maintains a low cost base
- Contingency plans are in place for the actions which would be taken if income appears unlikely to reach its target

# ALPHABETTI THEATRE

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### 11 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Below are just a few of the highlights of the past 12 months:

This has all been made possible by the incredibly hard-working small team who all play an integral role in the organisation. A special thanks to the Alphabetti Theatre Board of Trustees who continue to guide the theatre from strength-to-strength, supporting all around it. A final thanks to all of the funders, artists, participants and audience members who invested time, money and emotion to make something special.

- We had 411 performances over the period. 270 Theatre, 33 Comedy, 45 Music, 33 Cabaret, 30 Community.
- All of these were socio-economically accessible performances, with 35% Pay What You Feel, with the remaining 65% being ticketed with prices ranging from £15 - £3.
- 67% were accessible performances (captioned, audio described or relaxed)
- We worked with 607 artists, of these 82% are from under-represented backgrounds in the performing arts ecology, by this we mean identifying as: from the global majority, living with a disability, as a woman, as part of the LGBTQ+ community, as coming from a working-class background.
- We welcomed 12,188 audience members – this is an average audience capacity of 52% across the period. This is slightly lower than we aimed for (60%), however, on talking at Venues North (a network of 43 venues from across the North of England), this is higher than the majority as we are all still battling the Covid-19 hangover and the cost of living crisis.
- We engaged with 1,980 community participants who may not normally attend arts & culture, were able to attend and participant in making art.
- We were awarded The Best North East Cultural Venue of 2024, at the North East Culture Awards competing against some of the best funded institutions in the UK.

Below are the 12 main productions of the year and one festival - all ran for a minimum of two weeks.

**Faun By Vinnie Heaven**, directed by Debbie Hannan, performed by Aitch Wylie, Afton Moran & Nyah Randon. Cardboard Citizens, Alphabetti Theatre and Theatre503 co-production and a World premiere. (28th March - 15th April 2023) - A celebration of queer community, full of heart, youth and pan pipes. A joyful show that explores being trans and sofa surfing.

*"A tender and scintillating work of empathy"* Theatre Weekly ★★★★★

*"Joyous"* The Stage ★★★★★

*"Charming and funny story that will fill you with joy and pure happiness"* Everything Theatre  
★★★★★

- 100% performances socioeconomically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 33% average audience capacity
- 27% accessible performances
- 7 Community engagement groups, 73 participants, 5 workshops

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)**

**Soapbox Racer by Ben Schwarz** directed by Rosie Bowden, performed by Harrison Rowley-Lynn. Alphabetti Theatre production and a North East premiere. (25th April - 13th May 2023). Soapbox Racer is the story of a teenage girl building a soapbox car in a wild attempt to win back her ex, accidentally reconnecting with her estranged Dad in the process, and finding her inner daredevil.

- *"a brilliant, contemporary play"* NE B\*\*P ★★★★★
- *"Soapbox Racer has heroism, humour and the right amount of heartache. It's a short, sweet show with an engaging take-home message for all."* Theatre & Tonic. ★★★★★
- *"Soapbox Racer is a delight from the opening announcement to the very satisfactory conclusion and is well worth a watch before the beautiful soapbox is taken into the pitstop and dismantled for the final time"*

In Newcastle

- 100% performances socioeconomically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 42% average audience capacity
- 100% accessible performances
- 5 Community engagement groups, 71 participants, 5 workshops

**The Lies by Degna Stone** directed by Matt Jamie, performed by Luca Rutherford & Degna Stone. Alphabetti Theatre & Degna Stone co-production and a World Premiere. (23rd May - 10th June 2023) - an incredibly beautiful poetic two-hander looking at the lies and half-truths we tell ourselves from the Tooth Fairy to politics.

- *"Playful but poignant two-hander that tackles big issues with inventiveness and energy"*  
The Stage ★★★★★
- *"The nature and reimagination of the mythical beings put me in mind of the writing of Terry Pratchett and I cannot pay a greater compliment to the author for their thoughtful and skilled writing"*

In Newcastle

- 100% performances socio-economically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 28% average audience capacity
- 27% accessible performances
- 6 Community engagement groups, 37 participants.

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**11 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)**

**Chop, Dissolve, Burn By Lissette Auton & Richard Boggie** directed by Paul James, performed by Steven George & Helen Fox. WANCs & Alphabetti co-production and a World premiere. (20th June - 8th July 2023) - a comedy that pokes fun at society's attitudes towards disability, whilst exposing the truth about the impacts of inequality on disabled people's lives. Created by an all-disabled creative team.

- *"Laugh out loud and razor-sharp", The Stage. ★★★★★*
- *"...perfectly flawed and infectious. It brings crucial topics to the forefront with brutal comedy that will keep you laughing all the way home." Theatre & Tonic ★★★★★*
- *"a fantastic piece where we witness a dark comedic production that allows you to laugh and enjoy the highs and lows of the situation while being reminded of the inequalities that exist."*

**In Newcastle**

- 100% performances socio-economically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 41% average audience capacity
- 100% accessible performances
- 12 Community engagement groups, 90 participants

**2023 Newcastle Fringe Festival** produced by Newcastle Fringe Festival Ltd & Alphabetti Theatre. (18th - 29th July 2023). 5 venues, 119 artists, 73 Individual Shows, 1,827 tickets sold

**Feedback from the artists:**

- *"I really enjoyed taking part in Newcastle Fringe. I've been doing various fringes around the country for the past year and Newcastle has been my favourite in terms of the application process, organisation, and promotion. As someone working as an independent artist, it has been the most stress-free process I've had this year and I really thank you and the whole team for that. I really hope Newcastle Fringe returns next year, it's been great!"*
- *"...was a really special event and we all thoroughly enjoyed it."*
- *"It's been an absolute pleasure working with you"*
- *"I thoroughly enjoyed my time performing in Newcastle. I would be very happy to come back again!"*
- *"The whole Newcastle Fringe experience was great. Was particularly blown away by the Alphabetti Theatre both as a venue and how great all the staff and volunteers are."*
- *"Thank you again, it was one of my favourite weekends I have done for a while."*
- *"Just wanted to say a big thank you the team were super hospitable and were a great pleasure to work with."*
- *"Just wanted to say thanks so much for all of your help and for the Fringe Festival opportunity."*

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)**

**Raven by Danielle Slade** directed by Stan Hodgson, performed by Maya Torres, Calum Howard & Ruth Mary Johnson. An Alphabetti Theatre co-production and a World premiere. (15th August - 2nd Sept 2023). A beautiful and mischievous show focused on children's mental health for children and their adults, filled with live music, puppetry, and a talking gargoyle..

*"Raven is wild entertainment with a huge heart. Pure joy from start to finish."* Theatre & Tonic.★★★★

*"At the very beginning of this play I really wasn't sure I was going to enjoy the performance, however within a few minutes I was hooked! As the story unfolds, the play works on several levels, appealing to different sections of the audience."* Fairy Powered Reviews. ★★★★★

*"...joyous celebration of discovery, bravery and understanding your true self."*

In Newcastle

- 100% performances socio-economically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 81% average audience capacity
- 100% accessible performances
- 4 Community engagement groups, 190 participants, 4 workshops

**Alphabetti Soup 10 year celebration Written by Ali Pritchard & Wilf Stone.** Performed by Wilf Stone. (15th Aug - 2nd Sept). A cabaret night celebrating the past ten years of Alphabetti Theatre. Host and co-writer Wilf Stone told the tale of the theatre, interspersed with three different guest artists each night who have helped put us on the map in total 54 different artists.

*"A Delicious mix of theatre, music and comedy."* NARC

*"I found the story of the theatre hugely interesting, entertaining and helpful."* A Blind Catch in the Sun

- 100% performances socio-economically accessible (pay what you feel for 3 weeks)
- 40% average audience capacity
- 100% accessible performances

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)**

**Mr Punch by Steve Byron developed in collaboration with Joana Geronimo** directed by Paula Penman, performed by Steve Byron & Joana Geronimo. Alphabetti Theatre in association with The Worriers present a World premiere. (12th - 30th September 2023). Mr Punch tells the story of Norman, a solitary and now lonely figure of fun, with a dependence for drink and a long life of self-destruction and small mindedness. Norman has returned from a funeral carrying his recent departed father's life in a suitcase. A father whom he blames for his actions, situations and what the world might call a 'wasted life'. When a faraway family move in next door – Norman's attitudes, pity-party and beliefs may have to change. But there's no show without Punch. Told against the backdrop of 21st century Britain, with the use of puppetry and extremely dark humour.

*"Both actors do a wonderful job bringing these real world characters to life, with great emotion and darkly comic beats, that break up the tension so well."* Theatre & Tonic ★★★★★

*"These are two striking personalities both beautifully acted and who come together beautifully, and realistically, in the depths of need."* A Blind Catch in the Sun

*"There is a devastating message in the telling, a wonderful finding of minds and you will laugh, cry and maybe even challenge yourself as you see the performers do the same throughout this carefully constructed, and beautifully crafted play."*

*"It is hard to fault its ultimately uplifting message – that in finding community, there is hope for us all."* The Stage

**In Newcastle**

- 100% performances socio-economically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 52% average audience capacity
- 27% accessible performances
- 7 Community engagement groups, 193 participants, 1 workshop



**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)**

**FLIP! By Racheal Ofori** directed by Emily Aboud, performed by Leah St Luce & Jadesola Odunjo. Fuel, Alphabetti Theatre and Soho Theatre co-production and a World premiere. (10th October - 28th October 2023). A sharp satire that asks how we can live our best authentic lives in a world of algorithms intent on proving just how disposable we all are...

*"In Racheal Ofori's bright new play, Leah St Luce and Jadesola Odunjo delight as wannabe influencers whose friendship is tested by the temptations of fame and fortune"* The Guardian ★★★★★

*"Sharply written social-media satire"* The Stage ★★★★★

*"Flip is a fiercely relevant journey into the dark depths of social media, handled with sharp wit and careful consideration"* Theatre & Tonic

- 100% performances socioeconomically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 28% average audience capacity
- 27% accessible performances
- 4 Community engagement groups, 65 participants, 3 workshops

**Angela by Charlotte Small** directed by Ruth Mary Johnson, performed by Rebecca Glendenning-Laycock. Alphabetti Theatre production and a World premiere. (7th November - 25th November 2023). A hilarious, heart wrenching yet uplifting tale of talking eggcups, a beatboxing Spiderman, and finding your power when you feel powerless. The play originated from a short that won November 2022 Alphabetti's Response Writing competition

*"Delightfully dark solo comedy with killer lines"* The Stage ★★★★★

*"a comedy triumph of the side-splitting proportions. A true joy from start to finish."* Theatre & Tonic ★★★★★

- 100% performances socio-economically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 52% average audience capacity
- 27% accessible performances
- 7 Community engagement groups, 87 participants, 4 workshops

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
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**11 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)**

**Puddle written & directed by Ali Pritchard, developed in collaboration with pupils from Hotspur Primary, Hawthorn Primary & West Jesmond Primary**, performed by Paula Penman & Calum Howard. Alphabetti Theatre production and World premiere. (6th December 23- 6th January 2024). Puddle was co-created by an award-winning creative team and 130 children (who've collaborated in the writing, designing, building of set and writing / recording of the music for the production) from Hotspur Primary School, Hawthorn Primary School and West Jesmond Primary, all based in Newcastle, out of the children involved 69.7% receive Pupil Premium which is well above the national average.

Puddle follows Heather's mission to fix the world's fast-accumulating faults, while learning to embrace her childish impulses without guilt. At its core, it is a tale about the ecosystem we share, and the many ways we interact with and impact it. Told through music, magic and a lot of whimsy!

*"It is relentless fun. I enjoyed how it moves forward all the time and maybe just like childhood does so leaving some things unexplained but somehow open, and that's fine. There are things for adults (or is that older children) to take from it too, and fun, did I say that. At its best it has a zany freedom, there as I look back on it too."* A Blind Catch in The Sun

- 100% performances socio-economically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 62% average audience capacity
- 100% accessible performances
- 5 Community engagement groups, 352 participants, 23 workshops

**Disco Pigs by Enda Walsh** directed by Ali Pritchard, performed by Amy McAllister & Ben Gettins. Alphabetti Theatre production and a North East Premiere. (20th February - 9th March 2024). A furious, funny and violent dash through a friendship that may be too close to survive. Exploring the story of two Irish disaffected teenagers - hypnotic and poetic.

*"A stylistic piece that packs a dark punch."* Theatre & Tonic ★★★★★

*"Abrasive, poetic two-hander, Disco Pigs is a bullet-train ride of extremes."* Broadway World

*"Pritchard never lets the pace sag, while giving the emotional beats time to land. Whilst Gettins and McAllister bring a suitably edgy chemistry to their roles."* The Stage

- 100% performances socio-economically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 43% average audience capacity
- 27% accessible performances
- 6 Community engagement groups, 106 participants, 4 workshops

# **ALPHABETTI THEATRE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **11 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

##### **Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)**

**Imaginary Friends written & performed by Daniel Bye.** Daniel Bye, Arc Stockton & Alphabetti co-production and a World premiere. (19th March – 6th April 2024). Daniel Bye's first solo show for seven years - A wild hallucinatory ride through the looking glass of twenty-first century culture. It tells the story of a floundering TV comic who after a tragic event, find comfort in his imaginary friends. Not the nice sort, like you had when you were a kid. These are terrible people, and he knows it.

*"This solo show from Daniel Bye is a surreal and often very funny take on deeply unfunny subjects"* The Stage.

*"a rollercoaster of a show that swings from the poignant to the peculiar"* Theatre & Tonic

*"A unique storytelling adventure that asks whether, in the end, people aren't quite as bad as they seem."*

In Newcastle

- 100% performances socio-economically accessible (pay what you feel for 1 week)  
Ticketed £3 - £15 (2 weeks)
- 28% average audience capacity
- 100% accessible performances
- 5 Community engagement groups, 60 participants, 3 workshops

#### **Financial Review**

The financial result for the year is a surplus on Unrestricted Funds of £55,882 (2023: deficit of £137,770). As a result, the charity's Unrestricted Funds at 31 March 2024 are £84,314.

#### **Reserves Policy**

As Trustees, we have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees aim to retain sufficient Unrestricted Reserves to cover all known liabilities and to provide for a degree of contingency to complete the charity's existing operations in an orderly manner in the event of an unforeseen reduction in income, which has been quantified as a total requirement of £120,000. This figure is to cover which includes employee notice periods, redundancy entitlements, potential production cancellation or postponement costs, rent notice period and utilities / other contract notice periods.

In addition, the Trustees now aim to retain a further allowance of £30,000 to enable Alphabetti to re-invest in programme with our new Artistic Director in post.

This means a total requirement of approximately £150,000.

# **ALPHABETTI THEATRE**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **11 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)**

##### **Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year (Cont.)**

##### **Reserves Policy (Cont.)**

The statement of financial activities shows total unrestricted funds of £84,314 at 31 March 2024. Free unrestricted reserves, defined as unrestricted funds, less any designated funds and the value of Tangible Fixed Assets, are £78,815.

The charity intends, through its budgeting processes to create the required level of Reserves with 3 years.

This policy is reviewed by the Trustees on a quarterly basis, whilst we are still in the state of crisis and, once we are fully recovered, it will revert back to annually as part of the charity's budgeting processes.

#### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

At time of writing this report (June 2024), Alphabetti Theatre is thrilled to announce the appointment of Edward Cole as its new Artistic/Executive Director, succeeding the theatre's founder, Ali Pritchard. This significant leadership transition marks an exciting new chapter in Alphabetti's story.

Ed brings a wealth of experience to Alphabetti. After graduating from the University of Hull with a degree in Drama and studying for a Masters at Drama Centre London, he co-founded Middle Child Theatre, now one of the UK's foremost new writing theatre companies. Since then, he has worked with numerous theatrical institutions across the country as a director, producer, actor and theatre maker.

Ed grew up in County Durham, and throughout his career has developed an intimate knowledge of the performing arts sector in the North East. He is passionate about theatre, performance and the local region, and he is ideally positioned to maintain and develop Alphabetti's already prestigious reputation for supporting emerging artists, programming bold new work, and acting as a trailblazer for progression and accessibility in the arts.

Ali Pritchard, the outgoing Artistic/Executive Director and founder, shared his thoughts on this transition: *"Founding Alphabetti Theatre and serving as its Artistic/Executive Director has been an incredible journey. I am immensely proud of what we've achieved together – creating a space where creativity thrives, and diverse voices are heard. Ed's vision, passion, and commitment to the arts make him the perfect leader to carry forward Alphabetti's legacy. I am confident that under Ed's direction, the theatre will continue to grow and inspire our community in new and exciting ways."*

# ALPHABETTI THEATRE

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### 11 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (CONTINUED)

Ed expressed his enthusiasm for joining Alphabetti Theatre: *"Stepping into the role of Artistic/Executive Director at Alphabetti Theatre is the honour of a lifetime. This theatre has a unique and vibrant spirit, and I can't pay enough tribute to Ali and the tireless work he has put in over the years to develop it into the essential facility it is today. The talent and dedication of the team at Alphabetti is humbling, and it will be a privilege to build on the strong foundations already in place while exploring new horizons. I am particularly looking forward to engaging with our artists and audiences - understanding what the venue means to them - and working together to ensure Alphabetti Theatre continues to be a beacon of creativity, development, inclusivity and accessibility for Newcastle and the North East."*

Christina Dawson from the Alphabetti Board of Trustees, added her support for the new appointment: *"This is a very exciting time for Alphabetti. Ed is a vibrant and passionate cultural leader and I'm really looking forward to seeing what this new relationship looks like. Ed has got so much to offer our community. Welcome, Ed!"*

Ali will remain with Alphabetti Theatre until November 2024, after which he will embark on a freelance career. His final season at Alphabetti, "Joyful Punk", will begin in August 2024 and run until the end of the year. Ali leaves us having just been presented to King Charles at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party celebrating The Creative Industries in May 2024, in recognition of Ali's services to grassroots arts and culture through Alphabetti Theatre.

Under Ed's guidance, Alphabetti Theatre is now looking to develop our economic resilience after another turbulent financial year.

We're extremely aware that artists, audiences and participants are struggling. We look to the future to continue to help artists survive financially, advocating to use creativity to tell the stories that need to be heard in interesting and entertaining ways, ensuring that we continue to support more artists, participants, audiences, and our local community each year.

We will do this through four key targets – to:

- develop and continue to improve our organisational structure, understanding that we are a training theatre and looking to support all our employees, volunteers, artists and participants in expanding their skill set.
- continue to produce high quality socio-economically accessible art – primarily focussed on theatre.
- continue the expansion of our artists and audiences.
- continue to identify and improve the social impact that Alphabetti has as a culturally significant venue, not just regionally but also nationally.

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**11 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES**

The Trustees shall manage the business of the Charity and may exercise all the powers of the Charity unless restricted by the Charities Act or the constitution of the Charity.

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparation of the financial statements the Trustees should follow best practice and:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them.
2. Make judgements and exercises that are reasonable and prudent.
3. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005 by the Charities Commission England and Wales).

**Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees**



**Jon Richard Farthing, Trustee**

**07 August 2024**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF ALPHABETTI THEATRE FOR THE 11 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

I hereby report to the Trustees/Members of Alphabetti Theatre (Charity Registration Number 1165934) on the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 16 to 27.

### **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

As the charity's trustees (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

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 Institute of Chartered Accountant in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods or principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)).

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.



**Pete O'Hara, FCA, Chartered Accountant  
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales**

26 La Sagesse, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AF

31 July 2024

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**11 MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Income from Investments	2	307	-	307	83
Income from Grants, Donations & Legacies	3	93,930	119,362	213,292	318,178
Income from Charitable Activities	4	85,965	-	85,965	86,479
Other Income	5	93,207	-	93,207	105,458
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>273,409</b>	<b>119,362</b>	<b>392,771</b>	<b>510,198</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Expenditure on Raising Funds	6	-	-	-	1,750
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	7	217,527	162,822	380,349	627,763
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>217,527</b>	<b>162,822</b>	<b>380,349</b>	<b>629,513</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	8	<b>55,882</b>	<b>(43,460)</b>	<b>12,422</b>	<b>(119,315)</b>
Balance brought forward		28,432	57,205	85,637	204,952
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<b>£84,314</b>	<b>£13,745</b>	<b>£98,059</b>	<b>£85,637</b>

The notes on pages 18 to 27 form part of the financial statements.

There are no recognised gains and losses during the year other than as shown above.

All the activities for the year are continuing activities.



**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET**  
**AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	12	5,498	9,561
Investments	13	1	1
		<hr/> 5,499	<hr/> 9,562
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	14	106,952	122,614
Cash at Bank and In Hand		4,410	6,707
		<hr/> 111,362	<hr/> 129,321
<b>Creditors:</b>			
Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year	15	(18,802)	(53,246)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<hr/> 92,560	<hr/> 76,075
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<hr/> <b>£98,059</b>	<hr/> <b>£85,637</b>
<b>Represented By:</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	16, 17	84,314	28,432
Restricted Funds	16, 17	13,745	57,205
		<hr/> <b>£98,059</b>	<hr/> <b>£85,637</b>

The notes on pages 18 to 27 form part of the financial statements.

**The financial statements were approved by the Trustees, and authorized for issue, on 31 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:**



**Jon Richard Farthing, Trustee**

**07 August 2024**

# **ALPHABETTI THEATRE**

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **AT 31 MARCH 2024**

#### **1. Accounting Policies**

##### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements 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)), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Alphabetti Theatre 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.

##### **Income**

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Such income is only deferred when the donor or funder has specified that the grant or donation can only be used in future accounting periods or where the donor or funder has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income, including interest on funds held on deposit, is recognised on a receivable basis.

##### **Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised when a liability is incurred.

- Expenditure on raising funds are those costs of seeking potential funders and applying for funding
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the planning and delivery of artistic productions and associated activities. This includes both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.
- Support or Indirect costs are those costs incurred in support of the charitable objectives. These have been allocated to the resources expended on a consistent basis that fairly reflects the true use of those resources within the organisation, such as allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.
- Governance costs are those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with the constitutional and statutory requirements.

##### **Irrecoverable VAT**

All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

##### **Taxation**

Alphabetti Theatre meets the definition required of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes. Consequently, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively for charitable purposes.

# **ALPHABETTI THEATRE**

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **AT 31 MARCH 2024**

#### **1. Accounting Policies (Continued)**

##### **Pensions**

Alphabetti Theatre contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. Further details can be found in Note 9.

For the defined contribution scheme, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension costs is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the Balance Sheet.

##### **Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on any fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the assets over their remaining useful lives as follows:

Theatre & Bar Equipment	- 20% per annum straight line
IT & Office Equipment	- 33% per annum straight line

A full year's depreciation charge is applied in the year of acquisition and no charge is made in the year of disposal.

##### **Financial Instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind which qualify as basic financial instruments. Such instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

##### **Fund Accounting**

General Funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated Funds comprise unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for a specific purpose.

Restricted Funds reflect income received which a funder or donor requires must be spent on a particular purpose or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose. Such income and associated expenditure is shown as Restricted in the Statement of Financial Activities, whilst any unspent balances at the year-end are carried forward as Restricted Funds.

##### **Going Concern**

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

##### **Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

There are no significant judgements or estimation uncertainty included within the financial statements.

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**AT 31 MARCH 2024**

**2. Income from Investments**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest Receivable	307	-	307	83
	<b>£307</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£307</b>	<b>£83</b>

The 2023 total of £83 was wholly attributable to Unrestricted Funds.

**3. Income – Grants, Donations & Legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Grant Income</b>				
1989 Willan Charitable Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-
Arts Council England (ACE) - Emergency Fund	-	-	-	98,000
ACE – Brolly Season	-	90,000	90,000	-
ACE via Allison Davies – Tiny Fragments of Beautiful Light	-	-	-	39,480
ACE via Hazel Monaghan – This Show Is Rubbish	-	-	-	18,802
ACE via Kay Greyson – Brotherhood	-	-	-	25,620
ACE via Kemi-Bo Jacobs – All White Everything But Me	-	-	-	15,000
ACE via Richard Boggie – Chop Dissolve Burn	-	-	-	36,000
ACE via Rosie Bowden – Soapbox Racer	-	-	-	23,215
Catherine Cookson Foundation	-	-	-	5,000
Collier Charitable Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	30,000	-	30,000	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	25,000	-	25,000	-
Newcastle CC – Open Call	-	15,816	15,816	-
Newcastle CC – Warm Hub	-	1,750	1,750	-
Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund	-	-	-	18,000
Street Games UK	-	1,796	1,796	-
<b>Donations</b>				
Alphabetti Trading Limited	28,636	-	28,636	20,930
General Donations	8,294	-	8,294	18,131
	<b>£93,930</b>	<b>£119,362</b>	<b>£213,292</b>	<b>£318,178</b>

Of the 2023 total of £318,178, £137,061 is attributable to Unrestricted Funds and £181,117 to Restricted Funds.

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**AT 31 MARCH 2024**

**4. Income from Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Venue Hire & Rental Income	31,983	-	31,983	10,869
Workshops, Lectures & Consultancy	-	-	-	9,660
Project Contributions	-	-	-	9,950
Other Earned Income	52	-	52	-
Box Office Income	53,930	-	53,930	56,000
	<b>£85,965</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£85,965</b>	<b>£86,479</b>

The 2023 total of £86,479 is wholly attributable to Unrestricted Funds.

**5. Other Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Theatre Tax Relief	93,207	-	93,207	105,458
	<b>£93,207</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£93,207</b>	<b>£105,458</b>

The 2023 total of £105,458 is wholly attributable to Unrestricted Funds.

**6. Expenditure on Raising Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising Consultancy Fees	-	-	-	1,750
	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£1,750</b>

The 2023 total of £1,750 is wholly attributable to Unrestricted Funds.

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**AT 31 MARCH 2024**

**7. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Direct Project Costs</b>				
Salaries & On Costs	172,396	12,380	184,776	192,366
Alphabetti Production Costs	-	120,421	120,421	222,643
Artists' Fees	-	18,340	18,340	32,902
Theatre Tax Relief Splits	6,590	-	6,590	50,264
Technical Costs	-	1,864	1,864	3,000
Marketing & Communication Costs	-	8,067	8,067	28,486
<b>Support Costs</b>				
Premises Costs	15,558	1,750	17,308	70,579
Overheads & Administration Costs	15,761	-	15,761	19,146
Depreciation	5,371	-	5,371	5,073
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Independent Examination Fees	900	-	900	900
Legal & Professional	13	-	13	-
Other Accountancy Fees	360	-	360	600
Payroll Processing Costs	578	-	578	1,804
	<b>£217,527</b>	<b>£162,822</b>	<b>£380,349</b>	<b>£627,763</b>

Of the 2023 total of £627,763, £465,101 is attributable to Unrestricted Funds and £162,662 to Restricted Funds.

**8. Staff Costs/Trustees' Remuneration**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross Salary Costs	175,565	-	175,565	182,757
Social Security Costs	6,505	-	6,505	7,047
Employer's Pension Contributions	2,706	-	2,706	2,562
	<b>£184,776</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£184,776</b>	<b>£192,366</b>

The 2023 total of £192,366 is wholly attributable to Unrestricted Funds.

The average number of staff employed in the year on Artistic Direction and Venue Management was 8 (2023: 8)

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**AT 31 MARCH 2024**

**8. Staff Costs/Trustees' Remuneration (Cont.)**

No staff received remuneration in excess of £60,000 in the year (2023: None).

No remuneration was paid to or waived by Trustees/Directors in the year (2023: £Nil).

Trustees are able to claim re-imbursement at cost for any out-of-pocket expenses they incur in the course of their Trustee duties, but no such costs were incurred/claimed in the year (2023: £Nil).

**9. Pension Scheme**

Pension benefits are provided through a Group Personal Pension Scheme, which is a defined contribution scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in a separately administered fund. In the year to 31 March 2024, Alphabetti Theatre made an employer's contribution of 3% of pensionable pay, provided that the employee makes a minimum contribution of 5%.

These amounts are paid over to the scheme on a monthly basis.

Contributions totalling £683 were outstanding at 31 March 2024 (2023: £644).

**10. Net Income/(Expenditure)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Net Income/(Expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation	5,371	5,073
Independent Examiner's Fees	900	900

**11. Taxation**

Alphabetti Theatre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and, therefore, is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income or gains derived from its activities as they fall within the exemptions available.

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**AT 31 MARCH 2024**

**12. Fixed Assets**

	<b>Theatre, IT &amp; Office Equipment £</b>	<b>Total Fixed Assets £</b>
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 May 2023	27,278	27,278
Additions in year	1,308	1,308
At 31 March 2024	<u>28,586</u>	<u>28,586</u>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>		
At 1 May 2023	17,717	17,717
Charge for year	5,371	5,371
At 31 March 2024	<u>23,088</u>	<u>23,088</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>		
At 31 March 2024	<u><b>£5,498</b></u>	<u><b>£5,498</b></u>
At 1 May 2023	<u>£9,561</u>	<u>£9,561</u>

**13. Investments**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Investment in trading subsidiary – Alphabetti Trading Limited	1	1
	<u>£1</u>	<u>£1</u>

Alphabetti Theatre owns 100% of the share capital of Alphabetti Trading Limited (Company Number 11214355), which is responsible for bar and catering operations.

Alphabetti Trading Limited will typically donate some or all of its profits to Alphabetti Theatre.

**14. Debtors**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Accrued Income – Theatre Tax Relief	93,207	105,458
Accrued Income - Other	13,745	17,156
Prepayments	-	-
	<u><b>£106,952</b></u>	<u><b>£122,614</b></u>

All sums are due within 1 year.



**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**AT 31 MARCH 2024**

**15. Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade Creditors	-	11,480
Other Taxes & Social Security Costs	5,835	1,486
Other Creditors	683	644
Intercompany Loan – Alphabetti Trading	3,880	5,912
Accruals	8,404	33,724
	<b>£18,802</b>	<b>£53,246</b>

**16. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed Assets	5,498	-	5,498	9,561
Investments	1	-	1	1
Debtors	93,207	13,745	106,952	122,614
Cash at Bank and In Hand	4,410	-	4,410	6,707
Creditors – Due Within 1 Year	(18,802)	-	(18,802)	(53,246)
	<b>£84,314</b>	<b>£13,745</b>	<b>£98,059</b>	<b>£85,637</b>

**17. Analysis of Charitable Funds**

	<b>At 1 May 2023</b>	<b>Income for Period</b>	<b>Expended in Period</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Unrestricted General Fund</b>	<b>28,432</b>	<b>273,409</b>	<b>(217,527)</b>	<b>84,314</b>
<b>Movement on Restricted Funds</b>				
1989 Willan Charitable Trust	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
ACE – Brolly Season	-	90,000	(81,000)	9,000
ACE via Richard Boggie – Chop Dissolve Burn	33,965	-	(33,965)	-
ACE via Rosie Bowden – Soapbox Racer	18,240	-	(18,240)	-
Catherine Cookson Trust	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Newcastle CC – Open Call	-	15,816	(11,071)	4,745
Newcastle CC – Warm Hub	-	1,750	(1,750)	-
Street Games UK	-	1,796	(1,796)	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>57,205</b>	<b>119,362</b>	<b>(162,822)</b>	<b>13,745</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£85,637</b>	<b>£392,771</b>	<b>£(380,349)</b>	<b>£98,059</b>

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**AT 31 MARCH 2024**

**17. Analysis of Charitable Funds (Cont.)**

<b>Name of Restricted Fund</b>	<b>Description, Nature &amp; Purpose of the Restricted Fund</b>
1989 Willan Charitable Trust	To enable disadvantaged people in the West End of Newcastle to have access to theatre
ACE – Brolly Season	Towards the cost of Brolly Season
ACE via Richard Boggie – Chop Dissolve Burn	Towards the cost of Chop Dissolve Burn
ACE via Rosie Bowden – Soapbox Racer	Towards the cost of Soapbox Racer
Catherine Cookson Trust	Towards the cost of capital development including triple-glazed windows
Newcastle CC – Open Call	Towards the cost of the Dark Arts of How To Get Programmed, Fundraising, Community & Marketing
Newcastle CC – Warm Hub	Towards the costs of providing a Warm Hub facility
Street Games UK	Towards the costs of Newcastle’s Best Ever Holiday Activity and Food Programme 2023

**18. Financial Commitments**

No material financial commitments have been made in respect of future financial years.

**ALPHABETTI THEATRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**AT 31 MARCH 2024**

**19. Related Parties**

Alphabetti Theatre has identified the following relationship which should be disclosed as a related party:

Party: Alphabetti Trading Limited  
Relationship: 100% Owned Subsidiary

Nature of Transactions in the year: Donation of subsidiary profits

- In the period to 31 March 2024, Alphabetti Trading donated profits of £28,636 (2023: £20,930) to Alphabetti Theatre.
- At 31 March 2024, Alphabetti Trading owed £Nil (2023: £Nil) to Alphabetti Theatre in respect of unpaid donation of profits.

Nature of Transactions in the year: Costs paid by charity on behalf of subsidiary

- In the period to 31 March 2024, Alphabetti Theatre paid costs of £Nil (2023: £540) on behalf of Alphabetti Trading.
- At 31 March 2024, Alphabetti Trading owed £Nil (2023: £Nil) to Alphabetti Theatre in respect of reimbursement of these costs.
- In the period to 31 March 2024, Alphabetti Trading paid costs of £3,880 (2023: £5,912) on behalf of Alphabetti Theatre.
- At 31 March 2024, Alphabetti Theatre owed £3,880 (2023: £5,912) to Alphabetti Trading in respect of reimbursement of these costs.

There were no other transactions in the year with related parties, such as are required to be disclosed under the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (Effective April 2008) (2023: None).