

STORIES FOR LIFE  
TRUSTEES REPORT AND  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

## **STORIES FOR LIFE**

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## STORIES FOR LIFE

### TRUSTEES REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Our trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with receipts and payments accounts for the charitable Incorporated Organisation ( the charity) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

This report and receipts and payments accounts have been prepared in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

#### Legal and administrative information

Charity name	Stories for Life	
Charitable Incorporated		
Organisation registration no.	1169750	
Registered Office:	25 Combermartin Road	
	London	
	SW18 5PP	
Trustees:	Claire Ryan-Cater	Chair
	Barbara Altounyan	
	Louise Gloyne	Resigned
	Sunil Sheth	
	David Smith	
	Andrew Snelgrove	Resigned
	Pamela Rothwell	Appointed

#### Charity review - Annual Review

For Stories for Life the challenges of the pandemic, have resulted in positive change, and greater potential to positively impact more lives. We emerged from the pandemic with plans to expand our remit from recording the life stories of those in hospices, to include those in care homes , hospitals and other charities and multi faith organisations.

The pandemic and restricted access to those cared for in the hospices, limited the potential of our network of 60 hospices and 100+ hospice biographers we had trained .

This led us to look at how we could continue working with hospices, while using our skills and learning to increase our impact, resulting in this positive growth and potential with new working partnerships.

To this end we changed the name from The Hospice Biographers to "Stories for Life" with a mission to give everyone the opportunity to record their life story and memories. Capturing their precious voice as a legacy to cherish for families and loved ones for generations to come.

This has meant a change in some of our methods, format and growth of the core team so that we can record more lives that would otherwise be forgotten.

In 2023 - running into 2024 we ran a seven-month pilot to test our plans, funded by a donation from Pure Cremation.

## **STORIES FOR LIFE**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

This included expanding the number of life stories we recorded by testing the introduction of a paid Regional Biographer to be responsible for building relationships with partners across a geography, in addition to recording at least 100 stories each year and growing that number over time. Working alongside and mentoring our volunteer network.

The pilot has been a success and provided invaluable learning. We are now actively planning the growth of this model.

Being able to grow our impact and unlock the extraordinary tales of our storytellers. The changes they have lived through, experienced and seen is invaluable, not only to our storytellers but their families, friends and loved ones. It plays an important role in passing on the enriching and valuable learning and stories of life and lives, which give families, children and young people a sense of who they are in the world.

We are looking forward to continuing to learn, grow our impact and measuring the benefits our work brings to individuals, families, loved ones and communities.

Our Pure Cremation donation has led to a small excess of expenditure over income.

We have adequate unrestricted funds to support our plans. The trustees have sought to ensure that Stories for Life has policies and procedures to ensure good governance and financial practices to give confidence to future potential donors and funders and this coupled with the future donations from Pure Cremations will strengthen the charities position further

#### **Reserves Policy**

As required by the Charities Commission, the trustees have considered the need to ensure sufficient reserves are in place to safeguard the Charity's ongoing operations. It is the aim of the Charity's Trustees to hold unrestricted funds at a level sufficient to cover six months operating costs once sufficient incoming resources have been achieved.

#### **Investment Policy**

The trustees are aware that the Charity aims to retain a prudent amount of reserves and will seek to optimise a safe return on any available funds in the low return investment market that presently exists.

#### **Going Concern**

The Trustees continue to limit expenditure to the level of incoming resources to ensure the Charity is able to continue in operation

#### **Structure of government and management**

##### **Governing document**

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (the Charity) operates under its own constitution and is registered with the Charities Commission in England. The Charity was registered on 18th October 2018

### **Members of the Board of Trustees**

The members of the board of trustees who served during the period and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1

### **Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees**

The Charity's policy is to invite suitable qualified professionals to become Trustees to the Charity. Trustees are initially appointed for a term of 2 to 4 years. The Trustees are encouraged to ensure they understand their responsibilities for governance and also the sector in which the charity operates.

## **STORIES FOR LIFE**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

##### **Organisational structure and decision-making**

Decisions are taken by the Trustee Board as a whole. Trustees meet at least quarterly

The Trustees are responsible for the management of the risks faced by the Charity, including new and existing projects

Procedures and written policies are in progress to ensure compliance with the safeguarding of vulnerable beneficiaries and the General Data Protection Regulation.

Remuneration of key management personnel of the Charity comprises the Board of Trustees. No salaries were paid to the key management personnel in relation to the financial year ended 31st December 2023. The founder, who is also a Trustee, is due accrued fees for services supplied in 2017 to set up the Charity under the provisions of the governing document, which are detailed in note 2 to the accounts. No further payments were made against the outstanding balance during 2023

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's report above

Approved by the Board of Trustees for issue on 24 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by



C Ryan-Carter

Chair of the Board of Trustees

# STORIES FOR LIFE

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Note			2023	2022
1	£	£	£	£
Total Receipts	41,415	-	41,415	81,803
Operating expenditure				
Funding Commissions	300	-	300	750
Story Liaison and pilot preparation	36,124	-	36,124	31,316
Training Costs	964	-	964	810
Fundraising and administration	5,127	-	5,127	9,739
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Payments	42,515	-	42,515	42,615
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Income (expenditure)	( 1,100)	-	( 1,100)	39,168
Cash Funds at 1 st January 2023	59,790	-	59,790	22,312
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash funds at 31st December 2023	58,690	-	58,690	61,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The notes on page 5-6 form part of these accounts



## STORIES FOR LIFE

### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 ST DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	
Note			2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds				
Barclays Current Account 1,252	555	-		555
Barclays Deposit Account	58,135	-	58,135	60,248
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	58,690	-	58,690	61,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Liabilities				
Creditors	1,040	-	1,040	-
Accrued Expenses 2				
Hospice liaison and charity set up fees	13,200	-	13,200	13,200
Expenses in respect of the foregoing	879	-	879	879
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14,079	-	14,079	14,079
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Charity Reserves at 31st December 2023	43,571	-	43,571	47,421
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The receipts and payments accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees for issue on 24th September 2024.

And signed on their behalf by

C- Ryan-Cater

## STORIES FOR LIFE

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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#### 1. Transactions with related parties and trustees

The Charity has accrued fees of £13,200 at 31st December 2023 (2022 £13,200) relating to an agreed payment for services supplied at a substantial discount by the founder, Barbara Altounyan for work undertaken in setting up the Hospice Network and volunteer training programmes. The liability remains outstanding at the date of signing of the accounts. Unpaid operational expenses incurred during the initial set up phase by the founder totalling £879 are an accrued liability as at 31st December 2023 (2022 £ 879)

#### 2. Information required by the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations, 2012

No guarantees have been given by the Charity and there are no secured liabilities at 31st December 2023 (2022 £ nil)

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS RREPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
STORIES FOR LIFE

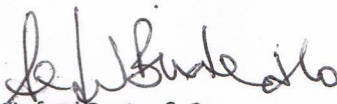
The financial statements of Stories for Life for the year ended 31st December 2023 comprising the Receipts and Payments Account, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and related notes set out on pages 1 – 6. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities ( FOSSE ) effective April 2006 under the historical cost convention.

Opinion

(i) The financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 comprising the Receipts and Payments Account, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the related notes on pages 1 to 5 are in agreement with the books of account kept by the charity

(ii) On the basis of the information contained in those books of account the Receipts and Payments Account, Statement of Asserts and Liabilities the related notes on pages 1 to 5 for the year ended 31 st December 2023 comply with the requirements

(iii) The financial criteria allowing the production of accountants report instead of a full audit has been met

  
Axford Baxter & Co  
Deerleap Bank  
Halstead Lane  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN14 7EP

Date 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024