

# ARKBOUND FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1173072

## Details

---

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2017-05-17

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

## Contact

---

**Address** Ambition House  
2 Stile Acres  
Lawrence Weston  
Bristol  
BS11 0PZ

**Phone** 0117 4637197

**Email** [info@arkfound.org](mailto:info@arkfound.org)

**Website** [www.arkfound.org](http://www.arkfound.org)

## Activities

---

**Objects:** a. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION for the public benefit by working with people across the UK of all age groups who are socially excluded on the grounds of disability, poverty, criminal background, ethnicity or any other characteristic, and to relieve the needs of these groups to assist them to integrate more effectively into society, particularly by:-i. Empowering these groups through workshops and events to convey their personal stories in a way that can be understood and appreciated by the wider community.ii. Providing mentoring whereby individuals from these groups can fairly access the means to publish their work for the wider community to read and to develop their writing skills in a manner that improves their wellbeing.iii. Providing a means by which these groups can convey their stories through books and the media at large, thereby helping to tackle stigma, misunderstanding and discrimination.iv. Engaging these groups in discussions regarding climate change and the environment and promoting good environmental practice and awareness of related issuesb. FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION: For the public benefit to promote learning for people of all age-groups from disadvantaged backgrounds through the continued development of their individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding in subjects of educational value.

**Activities:** Our activities widen access to literature and improve diversity within publishing. We run projects that empower people from disadvantaged backgrounds and deprived communities to get their voices heard, mentor aspiring authors so that they can produce books that are widely read and which dispel negative stereotypes, as well as supporting books with important social and environmental themes.

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-20	£197,103	£221,402	-	-
2024-10-20	£276,473	£226,321	-	-
2023-10-20	£211,240	£241,413	-	-
2022-10-20	£159,349	£138,192	-	-
2021-10-20	£110,345	£91,669	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Amanda Thomas</b>	Chair	2019-03-15
Dr Renuka Thakore		2023-05-30
Tevfick Souleiman		2025-06-24
WALTRAUD POSPISCHIL		2017-05-17

**ARKBOUND FOUNDATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1173072

---

# Accounts

---



---

# **TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

21st October 2024 to 20th October 2025

---

## Arkbound Foundation

### Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025

---

**Charity number** 1173072 (England and Wales)  
SC049523 (Scotland)

<b>Address and contact details</b>	Arkbound Foundation Future Leap Sustainable Hub 1-3 Gloucester Road Bristol BS7 8AA	Arkbound Foundation Rogart Street Campus 4 Rogart Street Glasgow G40 2AA
	0117 4637197 info@arkfound.org	0141 5724602 info@arkfound.org

### The trustees who served for the period of this report are as follows: -

Waltraud Pospischil  
Amanda Thomas  
Dr Renuka Thakore  
Tevfick Souleiman (appointed 24.06.25)  
*Jim Dempsey (stepped down 12.06.25)*  
*Rula Abdulrazak (stepped down 30.04.25)*  
*Lena Grey (stepped down 12.02.25)*

### Patrons

Anthony Hopkins CBE  
Jane Hatton  
Eoin McLennan-Murray  
Lucy Watts MBE

### Independent Examiner

Ahmed Khan CIMA  
Capital Office  
124 City Rd  
London EC1V 2NX

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2024 - 20th October 2025**

---

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

**Type of governing document:** Constitution

**How the charity is constituted:** CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) - only voting members are charity trustees

**Trustee selection method:** Appointed through open, full board meeting decisions

#### **Objects and activities**

**The charitable objects of the CIO are: -**

a. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION for the public benefit by working with people across the UK of all age groups who are socially excluded on the grounds of disability, poverty, criminal background, ethnicity, or any other characteristic, and to relieve the needs of these groups to assist them to integrate more effectively into society, particularly by: -

i. Empowering these groups through workshops and events to convey their personal stories in a way that can be understood and appreciated by the wider community.

ii. Providing mentoring whereby individuals from these groups can fairly access the means to publish their work for the wider community to read and to develop their writing skills in a manner that improves their wellbeing.

iii. Providing a means by which these groups can convey their stories through books and the media at large, thereby helping to tackle stigma, misunderstanding and discrimination.

iv. Engaging these groups in discussions regarding climate change and the environment and promoting good environmental practice and awareness of related issues

b. FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION: For the public benefit to promote learning for people of all age-groups from disadvantaged backgrounds through the continued development of their individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding in subjects of educational value.

#### **How the charity implemented the objectives and the main activities undertaken for the public benefit over the last year(s):**

Arkbound Foundation remains a grassroots-founded organisation shaped by lived experience, equality, and inclusion. The charity works directly with individuals and communities experiencing structural disadvantage, including those affected by poverty, disability, racial or ethnic inequality, refugee status, involvement with the criminal justice system, long-term unemployment, addiction, and social exclusion. Throughout the year, activities were delivered with the intention of increasing access to creative expression, improving confidence and wellbeing, and enabling pathways toward education, employment, and social participation.

Across all programmes during the year, the charity directly engaged over 160 individuals through mentoring, workshops, publishing participation, and events, while a substantially larger audience was reached indirectly through publications, digital dissemination, and public engagement activity. A significant proportion of trustees, staff, volunteers, and collaborators continue to identify as having lived experience of disability, exclusion, or other equality-protected characteristics, ensuring that programme design remains informed by the communities served.

#### ***Publishing and dissemination of under-represented voices***

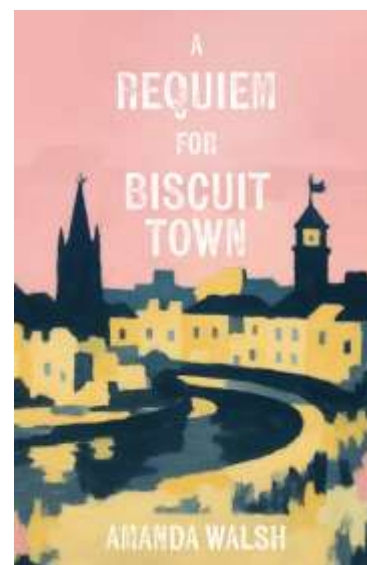
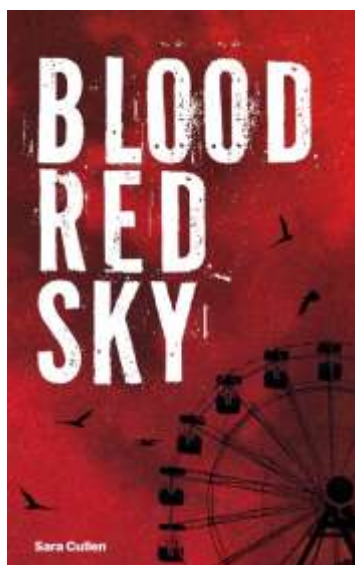
## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2024 - 20th October 2025

---

During the year, Arkbound Foundation published ten new titles spanning fiction, poetry, memoir, and social-justice commentary, with a further six titles in editorial development or production for the subsequent year. These publications centred voices and lived experiences frequently absent from mainstream publishing, addressing themes including inequality, disability, migration, homelessness, mental health, and economic justice.



Several titles achieved external recognition through literary awards, festival participation, or sector partnerships, contributing to the visibility of authors from disadvantaged backgrounds. Distribution extended across community networks, libraries, educational settings, independent retailers, and online platforms. Through these channels, Arkbound publications reached many hundreds of readers nationally and internationally, extending the public-benefit impact beyond direct programme participants.

Volunteer reviewers and community advocates continued to support dissemination, with over 60 active volunteer reviewers contributing written reviews, promotional content, and peer-to-peer circulation of titles, widening readership organically and strengthening community ownership of the charity's cultural output.

### ***Digital outreach and community engagement***

Public engagement through digital platforms continued to expand. Social media audiences grew across major platforms, supported by an increase in volunteer-led communications activity and regular publication of book reviews, author features, and programme updates. Combined online audiences across platforms exceeded several thousand followers, enabling the charity to reach individuals who may otherwise face barriers to cultural participation due to geography, disability, or financial constraints.

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2024 - 20th October 2025

---



This digital engagement functioned not only as promotion but also as a participatory pathway, allowing volunteers and readers from disadvantaged backgrounds to contribute to cultural dialogue, develop confidence in writing and reviewing.

### Creative writing workshops and community learning

Alongside ongoing open-access writing provision, the charity delivered structured workshop activity designed to combine creative development with reflection on social and economic themes. These workshops were provided free of charge to individuals from marginalised or under-represented backgrounds.

During the year, workshop programmes engaged over 20 direct participants, the majority of whom completed multiple sessions and developed original written work. Several participants progressed toward publication, further mentoring, or continued creative engagement. Participant feedback consistently indicated improvements in confidence, creative ability, and willingness to share lived experience through writing, alongside strengthened peer connection and mutual support.

### Writing Within Walls mentoring programme

The Writing Within Walls mentoring programme continued to provide structured one-to-one creative mentorship for individuals currently in prison and those with lived experience of incarceration. During the year, the programme supported approximately 12 active mentoring partnerships, facilitating regular written exchange between mentees and trained volunteer mentors.

In addition to creative development, the programme contributed to addressing isolation, low self-esteem, and limited access to educational or cultural opportunity within custodial environments. Safeguarding procedures remained central, with correspondence mediated through the charity and personal data protected. Referrals and engagement continued through partnerships with arts-in-justice organisations and criminal-justice professionals.

The programme also created progression opportunities for volunteers, including coordination and facilitation experience, strengthening Arkbound's long-term delivery capacity.

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2024 - 20th October 2025

---

#### ***Mentoring, participation, and progression***

Broader mentoring activity beyond custodial settings supported a further group of approximately 10 individuals seeking to develop writing skills, publishing knowledge, or confidence in creative participation. Outcomes included manuscript development, increased understanding of publishing pathways, and in some cases progression to publication or external creative opportunities.



Across programmes, mentoring activity contributed to measurable improvements in confidence, self-esteem, and community participation, aligning with the charity's objective of enabling individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to become active cultural contributors rather than passive service recipients.

#### ***Events and public engagement***

Arkbound Foundation delivered a programme of public-facing engagement including book launches, literary discussions, sector-focused events, and volunteer open days. Across the year, the charity hosted more than 15 events in combined in-person and online formats, with total attendance exceeding 900 participants.

These events enabled authors from marginalised backgrounds to present their work publicly, facilitated dialogue around inequality and representation within publishing and society, and created accessible entry points for volunteers, readers, and community members to engage with the charity's mission.

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2024 - 20th October 2025**

---

#### **Governance**

During the reporting period the charity's governance arrangements remained stable and effective, with trustee meetings held regularly and attendance consistently above quorum. Formal board meetings continued to take place on a monthly basis, providing oversight of strategy, finance, safeguarding, and programme delivery. Decisions were taken collectively through majority vote, and all trustees retained the ability to introduce agenda items or request further scrutiny of operational matters. Minutes were recorded for each meeting, formally reviewed for accuracy, and circulated to the full board to ensure transparency and accountability.

Trustee development and regulatory awareness remained an ongoing priority. Board members continued to engage with guidance and training resources provided by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), and sector support organisations including Charity Excellence. This supported continued compliance with governance, safeguarding, financial management, and public-benefit requirements across both jurisdictions in which the charity is registered.

Core organisational policies were reviewed and maintained throughout the year. These included safeguarding, equality, diversity and inclusion, data protection, complaints handling, conflicts of interest, expenses, and volunteering. Each policy identifies clear internal responsibilities, designated safeguarding and reporting contacts, and appropriate external escalation routes where required. Regular review of these frameworks ensures that the charity's governance and operational practice remain aligned with current legal and sector standards.

Operational coordination continued through structured staff communication. Whole-team meetings were held on a bi-weekly basis to review activity, share updates, and identify emerging risks or opportunities, supplemented by weekly project-specific meetings where required. Performance monitoring and delivery oversight were maintained through regular internal review, with summary updates reported to the board of trustees to support informed decision-making and strategic planning.

In addition to formal governance structures, the charity continued to benefit from participatory input through an informal steering group composed of volunteers, trustees, staff members, and individuals with lived experience of the charity's programmes. This forum provided reflective feedback on delivery, accessibility, and emerging community needs, helping to ensure that governance and strategy remained informed by the perspectives of those the charity seeks to serve.

Overall, the trustees consider that governance arrangements during the year were appropriate to the size and complexity of the organisation, and that effective oversight, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder participation were maintained throughout the period.

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2024 - 20th October 2025**

---

#### **Achievements and performance**

The past year unfolded not as a single defining success, but as a steady deepening of the work Arkbound Foundation exists to do: creating space for voices that are too often unheard, and demonstrating that writing can become a pathway toward confidence, belonging, and participation in society. Across publishing, mentoring, environmental action, and community engagement, the charity continued to support individuals whose experiences are frequently shaped by exclusion, poverty, disability, or contact with the justice system.

Again and again, the most meaningful outcomes were not only the visible outputs - books, workshops, or events - but the quieter internal changes that writing can make possible. One participant described this transformation in the following way:

*“Before this, writing was something I did in secret, almost like it didn’t count. I never imagined anyone would read my words, let alone take them seriously. Through Arkbound I was given time, feedback, and the sense that my experiences were not something to hide but something that could help someone else feel less alone. That changed how I see myself. I’m now applying for further education, which is something I would never have believed possible a year ago.”*

#### **Crowdbound and direct support to authors**

Crowdbound continued to function as a vital bridge between private creativity and public authorship. During the year, campaigns supported seven publishing projects, drawing support from hundreds of readers and backers whose contributions enabled new voices to reach publication. Linked donations and community advocacy further strengthened the support available to participating writers.

For many authors, the significance of publication extended far beyond the book itself. One writer reflected:

*“Seeing my book exist in the real world did something I can’t fully explain. It wasn’t just about being published. It was proof that my life hadn’t been meaningless, that the years I thought were wasted could still become something of value. Since then, I’ve started speaking at small community events and thinking seriously about training to work with others who have been through similar things.”*

Alongside campaign delivery, the Crowdbound platform underwent technical and design improvements to enhance accessibility and long-term sustainability. Although this required a temporary pause in campaign activity, the developments position the platform for expanded reach and stronger outcomes in the coming years.

#### **Literary community, collaboration, and access to publishing**

The Arkbound Writers’ Group continued to grow as a space of shared learning, peer encouragement, and professional insight. Participants were able to receive editorial feedback, develop manuscripts, and gain clearer understanding of publishing pathways - opportunities that are often inaccessible to those without financial or social capital.

Collaborative partnerships also expanded, including engagement with university-based social-impact consultancy initiatives that supported research into funding and sustainability. These relationships strengthened organisational resilience while preserving Arkbound’s grassroots ethos.

#### **Publishing programme and cultural reach**

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year 21st October 2024 - 20th October 2025**

---

Arkbound sustained a significant publishing output across the year, releasing multiple new titles across fiction, poetry, memoir, and social commentary, with further works progressing toward publication. These works explored themes of inequality, migration, disability, homelessness, mental health, and environmental crisis - realities deeply present in lived experience yet often marginalised in mainstream cultural production.

Through libraries, community organisations, educational institutions, and online readership, Arkbound publications reached audiences numbering in the hundreds and thousands, extending public benefit well beyond direct programme participants. Several titles received external recognition through awards, festival inclusion, or sector collaboration, amplifying voices historically excluded from literary visibility.

#### **Environmental responsibility and climate action**

Environmental responsibility remained embedded within both mission and practice. As part of international environmental networks connected to the United Nations Environment Programme, Arkbound continued to foreground ecological themes in its publishing and advocacy work.

The charity sustained its commitment to operating as a carbon-negative organisation, supported by ethical supply-chain practices and ecological restoration activity.

#### **Recognition and sector influence**

Arkbound's work continued to receive recognition across social-enterprise, academic, and voluntary-sector networks. The charity remained listed among the SE100 top UK social enterprises, alongside further acknowledgements connected to diversity, lived-experience leadership, and ethical practice. Accreditations relating to disability inclusion, fair employment, and organisational quality were maintained, reinforcing both credibility and values.

#### **The meaning of the year**

Taken together, the achievements of the year point toward something more enduring than statistics alone. Each mentored writer, published book, supported campaign, or planted tree represents a movement - from silence toward expression, from exclusion toward participation, and from isolation toward community.

One mentee wrote near the close of the year:

*"Nothing in my external circumstances has changed quickly. But inside, something has shifted. I feel less invisible. I feel like there might still be a place for me in the world. That feeling is small, but it is real, and it is enough to keep going."*

It is within these interior changes that Arkbound Foundation's public benefit most clearly resides. In a period marked by social fracture and environmental uncertainty, the charity's work continues to affirm a simple but profound truth: that when people are given the means to tell their stories, dignity can return - and from dignity, wider change quietly begins.

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2024 - 20th October 2025**

---

#### **Overcoming challenges and obstacles**

As in previous years, time invested in securing grant funding does not guarantee financial return, and the wider funding landscape remains increasingly competitive. Larger organisations are often able to dedicate specialist resources to bid writing and development, while technological change - including the growing use of artificial intelligence within fundraising - continues to reshape expectations around capacity and responsiveness. Despite these challenges, grant income received during the accounting period remained broadly comparable with the previous year and enabled continuation of key programme activity. However, the charity continues to operate without core funding sufficient to meet overall staffing costs or provide predictable multi-year support for general operations. As has been the case historically, restricted, project-specific funding remains more accessible than flexible funding for organisational sustainability.

In response, the trustees continue to explore adaptive approaches to income generation, including strengthening internal fundraising capacity, responsibly integrating emerging digital tools where appropriate, and aligning project leadership with resource development. The intention is not to replace the relational and values-based nature of charitable funding, but to ensure that Arkbound remains capable of sustaining delivery within a rapidly evolving funding environment.

Beyond the immediate funding landscape, the charity's work continues to be shaped by a wider social context marked by persistent under-investment in public services, deepening inequality, and growing polarisation affecting already marginalised communities. At the same time, the accelerating climate and ecological crisis presents long-term risks to social stability, wellbeing, and access to opportunity, particularly for those with the least structural protection. These intersecting pressures reinforce the importance of Arkbound's mission: enabling expression, dignity, and participation for people who might otherwise remain unheard. They also point toward the need for resilience at a community level. Over the longer term, the trustees therefore continue to consider strategic development that strengthens local presence, environmental responsibility, and sustainable infrastructure for programme delivery.

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2024 - 20th October 2025

---

#### Financial review

The Arkbound Foundation aims to maintain reserves equivalent to at least three months' running costs in order to safeguard continuity of charitable delivery and to provide resilience against unexpected fluctuations in income or expenditure. The trustees are satisfied that this minimum reserves threshold was maintained throughout the reporting period, while recognising that a planned and proportionate use of reserves formed part of the charity's delivery strategy during the year.

Total receipts for the year amounted to £197,103 (2024: £276,473). The reduction compared with the previous year reflects the absence of loan finance and a lower level of grant income, with grants totalling £35,000 (2024: £65,000). Despite this, the charity continued to demonstrate the strength of its diversified earned-income model. Revenue from book sales and publishing reached £57,106 (2024: £53,423), while Crowdbound generated £33,915 (2024: £31,682) and workshop income totalled £10,712 (2024: £10,000). Donations and corporate sponsorship provided £49,812 (2024: £47,002), remaining a vital source of flexible support for core charitable activity. Support in kind was conservatively valued at £3,500 (2024: £4,275), and other trading income, including online sales, totalled £7,058 (2024: £10,090). No internship placement income or loan funding was received during the period.

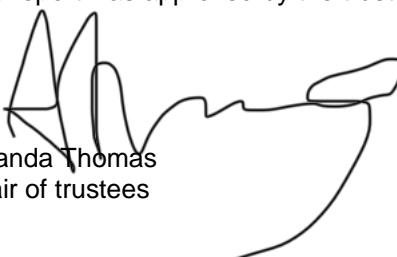
Total payments for the year were £221,402 (2024: £226,321). Expenditure continued to be primarily people-focused, with staff costs of £98,555 (2024: £83,016) reflecting programme coordination, publishing activity, mentoring delivery, safeguarding, and organisational management across a largely part-time team. Delivery costs also increased in key programme areas, including writing and journalism workshops (£20,894) and mentoring programme costs (£22,830), demonstrating continued investment in direct charitable impact. Book publication costs totalled £41,200 (2024: £32,986), consistent with an active publishing year while remaining proportionate to overall activity. Core operational costs such as rent, utilities, administration, digital infrastructure, and fundraising remained controlled and broadly in line with organisational scale. The charity therefore recorded net payments of £24,299 for the year (2024: net receipts of £50,152), representing a planned and measured use of reserves to sustain programme delivery during a period of reduced external funding. As a result, cash funds at 20 October 2025 stood at £93,998 (2024: £118,297).

The trustees consider the charity's overall financial position to remain stable. The continued strength of earned income streams, combined with careful cost management and an intentional approach to reserve utilisation, provides a sound platform for future activity. Strategic priorities remain focused on strengthening unrestricted income, securing longer-term funding partnerships, and progressing plans that would enhance organisational resilience and social impact over the medium to long term.

#### Independent examiner

Ahmed Khan was appointed as independent examiner for the charity in this period.

This report was approved by the trustees on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

  
Amanda Thomas  
Chair of trustees

## **Independent examiner's report**

### **To the trustees of the Arkbound Foundation**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Arkbound Foundation ('the charity') for the year ended 20th October 2025, which are set out on pages 14 to 19.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 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 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Ahmed Khan CIMA  
Capital Office  
124 City Rd  
London EC1V 2NX

**Arkbound Foundation**  
**Receipts and payment account (cont.)**

**For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Receipts and payment account**

**For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

	<b>12 months to 20/10/2025 Total £</b>	Restated [Period in last accounts] Total £
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations and corporate sponsorships	<b>49,812</b>	47,002
Grants <b>(1)</b>	<b>35,000</b>	65,000
Revenue from book sales and publishing	<b>57,106</b>	53,423
Support in kind	<b>3,500</b>	4,275
Other sales (including eBay)	<b>7,058</b>	10,090
Internship placement support	<b>0.00</b>	5,000
Crowdbound	<b>33,915</b>	31,682
Workshops	<b>10,712</b>	10,000
Loans	<b>0.00</b>	50,000
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>197,103</b>	276,473
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>197,103</u></b>	<u>276,473</u>
<b>Payments</b>		
Book publication costs (all elements)	<b>41,200</b>	32,986
Advertising and promotion	<b>4,782</b>	4,500
Writing and journalism workshops	<b>20,894</b>	11,273
Staff salaries	<b>98,555</b>	83,016
Training costs	<b>612</b>	550
Volunteer and trustee expenses	<b>4,318</b>	4,056
Mentoring programme delivery costs	<b>22,830</b>	12,355
Rental and utilities	<b>7,924</b>	7,692
Insurance and legal costs	<b>400</b>	350
Admin (incl. Postage, stationery & franking)	<b>6,786</b>	4,098
Website costs	<b>5,611</b>	5,326
Equipment and materials	<b>2,404</b>	1,966
Environmental projects	<b>750</b>	2,000
Membership fees	<b>325</b>	325

**Arkbound Foundation**  
**Receipts and payment account (cont.)**

**For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

---

Small grants and prizes	<b>0</b>	500
Fundraising costs	<b>3,995</b>	3,000
Loan repayments	<b>0</b>	52,328
<b>Total payments</b>	<b><u>221,402</u></b>	226,321

<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>(-£24,299)</b>	<b>£50,152</b>
<b>Cash funds at 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024</b>		118,297.00
<b>Cash funds at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>	<b><u>£93,998</u></b>	

## Arkbound Foundation

### Balance sheet

As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025

---

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors: amounts falling due within 1 year (3)	9,068	12,723
Cash at hand and in bank	93,998	118,297
	<u>103,066</u>	<u>131,020</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year (4)	3,383	7,038
	<u>103,066</u>	<u>131,020</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>103,066</b>	131,020
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>99,683</b>	123,982
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b><u>99,683</u></b>	<b><u>123,982</u></b>
<b>Charity funds</b>		
Restricted funds (5)	82,279	76,273
Unrestricted funds (6)	17,404	47,709
<b>Total funds</b>	<b><u>99,683</u></b>	<b><u>123,982</u></b>

The notes on pages 15 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Notes to the financial statements**

**As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

---

**(1)**

**Grants received**

<b>Name of source</b>	<b>Amount received (£)</b>	<b>Funding purpose</b>
The National Lottery	20,000	Workshops and Publishing (restricted)
Quartet Community Foundation	5000	Mentoring (restricted)
Big Give	5000	General (unrestricted)
Phoenix Foundation	5000	Writing Within Walls (restricted)

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Notes to the financial statements (cont.)**

**As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

---

**(3)**

**Debtors**

<b>Due within 1 year</b>	<b>2025 (£)</b>	<b>2024 (£)</b>
Trade debtors	5,279	6,590
Prepayments and accrued income	3,789	6,133
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b><u>9,068</u></b>	<b><u>12,723</u></b>

**(4)**

**Creditors**

<b>Due within 1 year</b>	<b>2025 (£)</b>	<b>2024 (£)</b>
Book royalties	2,437	5,022
Trade creditors	946	2,016
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b><u>3,383</u></b>	<b><u>7,038</u></b>

**(5)**

**Restricted funds**

**Current year (as at 20/10/25)**

	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Writing Within Walls	5,000
Mentoring	12,110
Book publishing	11,288
Rental	3,700
Workshops	12,521
Staff	32,895
Placements	4,765
	<hr/>
	<b><u>82,279</u></b>

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Notes to the financial statements (cont.)**

**As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

---

**(6)**

**Unrestricted funds**

**Current year (as at 20/10/25)**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Donations	7,222
Trading revenue	10,182
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>17,404</u></b>

**ARKBOUND FOUNDATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1173072

---

# Accounts

---



)

---

# **TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

21st October 2023 to 20th October 2024

---

## Arkbound Foundation

### Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024

---

**Charity number** 1173072 (England and Wales)  
SC049523 (Scotland)

### Address and contact details

Arkbound Foundation  
Future Leap Sustainable  
Business Hub  
1-3 Gloucester Road  
Bristol BS7 8AA

0117 4637197  
info@arkfound.org

Arkbound Foundation  
Rogart Street Campus  
4 Rogart Street  
Glasgow  
G40 2AA

0141 5724602  
info@arkfound.org

### The trustees who served for the period of this report are as follows: -

Jim Dempsy, Chair  
Waltraud Pospischil  
Amanda Thomas  
Lena Gray  
Matthew Lepley  
Claire Harris  
Dr Rula Abdulrazak  
Dr Renuka Thakore  
Beth Cowen (Stepped down 30 January 2024)

### Patrons

Anthony Hopkins CBE  
Jane Hatton  
Eoin McLennan-Murray  
Lucy Watts MBE

### Independent Examiner

Ahmed Khan CIMA  
Capital Office  
124 City Rd  
London EC1V 2NX

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2023 - 20th October 2024**

---

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

**Type of governing document:** Constitution

**How the charity is constituted:** CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) - only voting members are charity trustees

**Trustee selection method:** Appointed through open, full board meeting decisions

#### **Objects and activities**

**The charitable objects of the CIO are: -**

a. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION for the public benefit by working with people across the UK of all age groups who are socially excluded on the grounds of disability, poverty, criminal background, ethnicity, or any other characteristic, and to relieve the needs of these groups to assist them to integrate more effectively into society, particularly by: -

i. Empowering these groups through workshops and events to convey their personal stories in a way that can be understood and appreciated by the wider community.

ii. Providing mentoring whereby individuals from these groups can fairly access the means to publish their work for the wider community to read and to develop their writing skills in a manner that improves their wellbeing.

iii. Providing a means by which these groups can convey their stories through books and the media at large, thereby helping to tackle stigma, misunderstanding and discrimination.

iv. Engaging these groups in discussions regarding climate change and the environment and promoting good environmental practice and awareness of related issues

b. FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION: For the public benefit to promote learning for people of all age-groups from disadvantaged backgrounds through the continued development of their individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding in subjects of educational value.

**How the charity implemented the objectives and the main activities undertaken for the public benefit over the last year(s):**

- The charity is grassroots founded, with lived experience core team members, as well as equality and diversity led. It works directly with people from a range of disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds, principally those who suffer social exclusion because of poverty, disability, ethnic and any other equality rights protected features, also those with refugee status, a conviction or criminal record, addictions, drug abuse, living in poverty, experiencing homelessness or being long-term unemployed.
- We are actively involved in disability activism, providing ongoing peer support, proactive engagement, writing for wellbeing guidance, and advice leading towards a publication. The majority of our trustees and staff identify as having a disability or other protected equality characteristics.
- In 2024 we have published eleven titles, with seven already in production/planning for 2025. Of the eleven titles, nine are single-author works and two are multi-author collections. Examples of the titles published during 2024 include:-

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2023 - 20th October 2024

---

#### 1. *Perestroika*, João Cerqueira

*Perestroika* is a gripping historical fiction novel set in the late Communist era. Beginning in 1978, it follows Slavian citizens like artist Ludwig Kirchner, enduring oppression under a brutal regime. By 1989, *Perestroika* ushers in revolutionary chaos, as former crime boss Ivan Fiorov's 'Freedom Party' mirrors the dictatorship it replaced. Themes of revenge, redemption, and catharsis intertwine with history, offering sharp parallels to modern crises like Putin's invasion of Ukraine and rising populism.

Author João Cerqueira, with a PhD in Art History, is published in eight countries and has won multiple awards, including the 2020 Indie Reader Awards. The book itself has already won several awards since its release: American Writing Award 2024, Independent Author Award 2024, Best Book Awards 2024, the Firebird Book Award winner 2024, and getting awarded as a 'citizen of merit' in Vienna.

#### 2. *Govanhill Mythology*, Shane Johnstone

*Govanhill Mythology* is a poetry collection exploring the impact of change on Glasgow's Govanhill community. Once plagued by poverty and crime, Govanhill has transformed into a vibrant, diverse neighbourhood. Poet and linguist Shane Johnstone captures the struggles and resilience of its people, reflecting on their cultures, languages, and the seismic shifts that redefined their lives. His multilingual poetry, in Gaelic, Scots, and English, resonates deeply, evoking universal themes of alienation, loss, and adaptation.

Johnstone, a Glaswegian poet and translator, is widely published in Scotland. He also authored *The Gods of Frequency* (2020) and works in a Gaelic immersion nursery.

#### 3. *Value Beyond Money*, Diana Finch

In 2009, the Bristol Pound was launched to transform the economic system. By 2015, it was among the world's leading local currencies, featured in major outlets like *Time Magazine* and Chinese state television. Despite its success, the currency ceased circulation in 2021, and the organization closed in 2023.

Drawing from her time as Managing Director, Diana Finch explores alternative economic models, questioning the nature of money and imagining systems that prioritize non-financial value. Her insights offer a transformative understanding of money and the economy, challenging readers to envision a post-market world that addresses environmental and social challenges.

#### 4. *The Muffin Man*, André Rostant

Set in London's Soho, André Rostant's novella explores the lives of society's marginalized, from street beggars to a Big Issue vendor struggling with delusions, ultimately leading to his suicide. The story highlights enduring issues of poverty, exclusion, gender, sexuality, and mental health against a backdrop of rising fascism.

A transgressive work, it confronts cultural and religious hypocrisy, urging readers to rethink their perceptions of homelessness and poverty and to consider driving change.

Rostant, of Irish and West-Indian heritage, draws on his experiences as a Big Issue vendor. A published poet and musician, he performs regularly in London's vibrant calypso scene. The book featured in the 30th annual celebration of the International Network of Street Papers in Glasgow, who invited Arkbound Foundation to co-present their event.

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

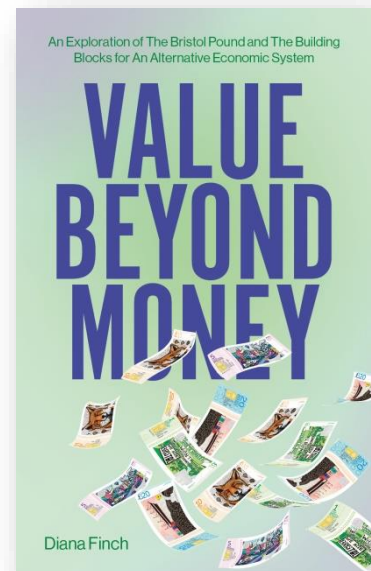
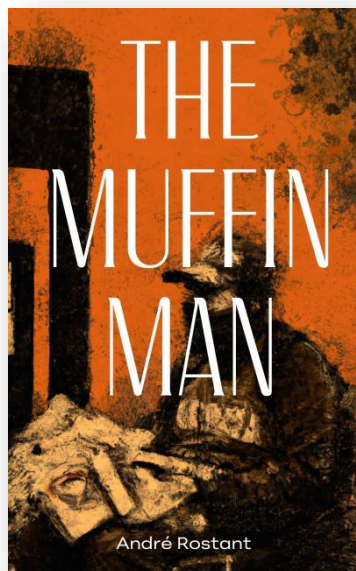
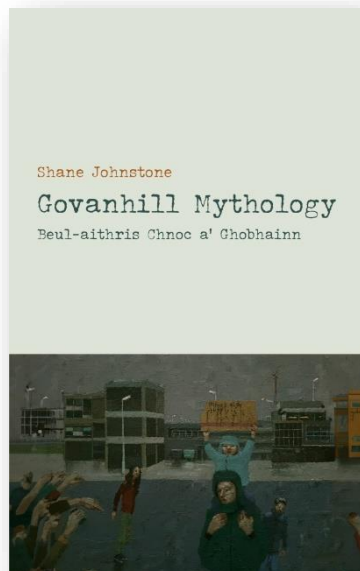
For the year 21st October 2023 - 20th October 2024

---

#### 5. *Cameron's Choice*, Angela Bettoni

Twelve-year-old Cameron's life is in turmoil. His dad has left, his friendship with Daniel is strained, and his bond with his older brother Derek worsens. Desperate to impress Derek, Cameron tries to reinvent himself, making poor choices that alienate those who care about him. As he navigates identity and adolescence, Cameron must decide if he can rebuild his relationships and trust his new friends.

Written by Angela, a 22-year-old writer and performer with Down Syndrome, *Cameron's Choice* explores family, growth, and inclusion. Angela, a passionate advocate, has self-published four books and won awards for her groundbreaking work in creative arts and advocacy.



Our outreach to more audiences was spear-headed by a comprehensive social media strategy. By growing our social media volunteers from 6 to 37, it has led to a big increase in both followers and engagement:

- Our followers on Instagram have grown from 889 to 1581, Facebook has increased from 658 to 1.4K while X doubled to nearly 5k followers and LinkedIn steadily increased from 1.8k to 2.6 connections.
- We are now part of a growing community on Facebook and LinkedIn groups where daily engagement and uploading book reviews have resulted in a greater presence and understanding of the work Arkbound does.
- During the summer of 2024, adverts were placed specifically for the volunteer role of Book Reviewers. This saw a huge increase in the number of books being reviewed with volunteer numbers now standing at 69 and many volunteers committing to writing future reviews. These reviews are posted on many different sites as well as our own social media platforms, highlighting a wide range of our publications. Volunteers are then encouraged to pass the books on with a view to organically grow our audience.

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2023 - 20th October 2024

---

Examples of the reviews are:

*“All throughout the book, you are struck by the quiet, unexpected ways in which the worst effects of the pandemic have fallen on the shoulders of women and pregnant people. From being forced to go to ultrasounds alone to losing the support of local mum’s groups, the little everyday agonies of raising a baby during this time come to light in a way I haven’t really seen happen anywhere else.”* – Rainbow Punch

*“Perspective shifts are a key reason I enjoy reading and this book allows the reader to see the homeless population in a different dynamic- some people may have their own version of how to ‘do’ life that is outside societal expectations, and many of us aren’t brave enough to imagine that break away from the norm”* – Beggar Bee Nameless

### Writing Workshops

Alongside an ongoing programme of creative writing workshops, we also finished delivering a specific programme called ‘Our Economy’. This was a workshop series that we ran in Glasgow during the summer of 2024. The focus of the 8 workshops was split between developing creating writing skills and discussing ideas about how the economy could work for everyone, with a different facilitator for each session. The workshops were free to attend and aimed at people who identify as coming from an under-represented, marginalised or disadvantaged background. We confirmed 10 participants from 19 applicants and we had 9 participants who attended at least 6 sessions. In the first 6 sessions, we had at least 8 out of 10 participants in attendance.



One of the outcomes of the project is a collection, *Our Economy*, that will be published in 2025 on the themes of the workshops. We invited participants and economics facilitators to contribute chapters or creative texts and received contributions from 6 of the participants. This will be the first time many of them have been published. The participants were encouraged to share their work with our creative writing facilitators for their feedback in advance of submitting, which they found helpful.

*“It was good and nerve wracking submitting work to professionals however the feedback I got was very helpful and built up my confidence.”* – Participant

*“I really enjoyed the creative writing specific workshops – particularly the exercises surrounding character and writing non-fiction.”* – Participant

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2023 - 20th October 2024

---

*"I have met some great authors who have given me great feedback and advice!"* –

Participant

*"I really enjoyed connecting with other people and listening about their points of view even though we might disagree at some point. Also, the [facilitators] were experts that shared their experiences and knowledge, that was very enriched experience."* – Participant

### Writing Within Walls

Our Writing Within Walls prisoner writing mentorship programme was restarted on a voluntary basis in 2024 after a break. We've had 10 active partnerships this year, with people currently in prison and people with experience of incarceration being mentored by experienced writers. Alongside the actual sending of writing samples and giving feedback in response, mentors and mentees send letters that enable them to develop relationships, helping to address issues around isolation and poor mental health that are so rife in prisons. All correspondence is sent via Arkbound and mentees and mentors only share their first names, ensuring that safeguarding standards are maintained. The programme is now coordinated by a dedicated volunteer, who is gaining valuable administration and coordination experience, and we hope to continue to expand our pool of mentees and mentors in 2025. Koestler Arts has been signposting prisoners interested in writing and publishing to Arkbound Foundation, and we also receive enquiries from prison and probation officers.

*"Thank you so much for your helpful and insightful responses to my ideas. It's reassuring to know that I'm making some kind of sense!"* – mentee

### Mentoring and events

We continued a programme of general mentoring, supporting 9 people on this across the year. Some mentees went on to develop their work with other publishers, whilst we were able to support 2 to achieve publication with us. In other cases, the mentorship allowed participants to gain better insights and understanding of the publishing process, as well as to develop their abilities and contacts within the industry. The aim of the programme, like WWW, is to empower people to have their voices heard through writing; to bolster confidence and self-esteem; to open up publishing opportunities after their writing is developed sufficiently; to improve wider community participation and cohesion as a result of the journey (events from publishing, material that is published, etc). An important part of the process is also to challenge discrimination, negative stereotyping, or general lack of understanding towards those who come from backgrounds where this is likely to occur.

With respect to events, we held:

- 12 book launch events, both online and offline, with a total attendance of 907 people.
- 4 industry specific publishing events, to help raise awareness of barriers that people from disadvantaged backgrounds face. These saw a total of 86 participants.
- 2 'open day' events, focused on supporting volunteers and attracting interest from volunteers. Both these events were attended by 16 people.

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2023 - 20th October 2024**

---

#### **Governance**

Over the last 12 months the charity's governance was stable, with meetings held of consistent attendance above quorum. Our general board meetings take place every month. Important decisions are made by majority vote and every trustee can bring up agenda points. All meetings are properly recorded through minutes which get taken during the meetings, then circulated to all trustees a few days later, once they are written out and confirmed to be accurate.

We also advanced through regular trustee training opportunities, and every board member is made aware of the resources and regulations which are available through the CCEW gov.uk pages, OSCR and Charity Excellence. Our policies get regularly updated and we have all essential ones in comprehensive forms, like safeguarding, EDI (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion), data protection, complaints, conflicts of interests, expenses, volunteering, together with internal contacts, designated persons, as well as outside contacts for emergencies.

There is an all-staff team meeting held bi-weekly, where each member can share details of their activities, together with weekly meetings for specific operational and project areas. Performance is regularly assessed by a general operations staff member, with monthly updates relayed to the board of trustees. Alongside this, the charity operates an informal steering group, comprised of (currently) four volunteers, two trustees, two staff members and a rotating number of beneficiaries. This group helps feed into the charity's work and direction.

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2023 - 20th October 2024

---

#### Achievements and performance

Our Crowdbound initiative saw us successfully raise £18,554 from a total of 787 backers, in addition to £11,247 in linked donations. This enabled the full support of 7 campaigns.

#### *Breakdown of campaigns*

Product title	Items sold	Net sales	Orders
Ecological crisis, revolutionary change & collapse: diverse global perspectives	176	5155	176
The In-Between	54	3018	54
Where Do My Roots Go?	51	486	50
Back to the Fuchsia	49	1075	49
Govanhill Mythologies	38	2005	38
Talking to a Pie about Walking the Dog	22	3023	22
Value Beyond Money	397	3810	101
<b>Totals</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>£18,554</b>	<b>£390</b>

The Crowdbound website was also upgraded, allowing an enhanced user experience and the addition of new elements. Whilst the upgrade period of two months necessitated a pause in campaigns, the long-term difference is projected to see an increase in both the number of campaigns and returns next year.

#### *Writers' Group & Literary Magazine*

In collaboration with an Arkbound trustee, the Publishing Executive co-founded the Arkbound Writers' Group. This innovative group provides members with industry insights, one-on-one publishing guidance, Crowdbound campaign support, and guaranteed publication in the Arkbound Literary Magazine, which was also developed as part of this initiative.

#### *Grant Writing Partnership*

A partnership was established with 180 Degrees Consulting, the world's largest university-based consultancy for social impact organizations. This collaboration focuses on researching and securing grant funding for Arkbound's initiatives.

#### *Arkbound's Latest Collection: Scottish Landscapes*

Arkbound's latest multi-author collection will be published in autumn 2025. The collection will include 15+ poems and short prose pieces exploring the historical significance and cultural emphasis on Scotland's natural landscapes. The call for submissions requested pieces analysing and reflecting on:

1. Landscape memory: How the landscape holds collective memory, how historical events and environmental changes are etched into the landscape, and how these memories shape contemporary Scottish identity.
2. Intangible cultural heritage: Culture passed through generations, tied to the landscape—from oral storytelling, traditional music, and landscape-based skills (such as peat cutting)—and how these traditions are preserved, adapted, or lost.

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year 21st October 2023 - 20th October 2024**

---

3. Urban & rural landscapes: Tension between development and preservation, including how modern infrastructure can either threaten or integrate with the greater natural landscape. We were overwhelmed by the quality and diversity of submissions we received. Fundraising for the Scottish landscape collection will begin in early Spring 2025.

These initiatives have strengthened Arkbound's operations, expanded its community engagement, and advanced its mission to empower authors and foster meaningful connections.

As the UK's only literature organization part of the United Nations Environmental Programme, we continue to take our environmental and climate responsibilities very seriously. This is reflected through our ongoing support of works that cover environmental themes – climate change being the prominent subject – through titles including 'Ellie and Sapiens' and 'Value Beyond Money'.

Likewise, we honored our yearly commitment to be a carbon negative organization (one that absorbs or offsets more carbon than it produces) through a highly proactive supply chain policy and the supported planting of trees in the now 4-year-old 'Oakupy' project. Just like in 2021-3, we were able to replant 1000 oak saplings purchased from Maelor Forest Nurseries. With the help of volunteers working with Arkbound on this project, we were able to donate the saplings to a variety of organisations such as Pod Micro School, YACWAG (Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group) and Bristol Tree Forum who were able to distribute the donated trees through their annual tree giveaway project.

Our part as a member in networks such as Ecolise (pan-European) and Scotland Community Climate Actions Network (national action in Scotland) gives us many opportunities to stay abreast of what other organisations are doing, partake in all possible collaborative opportunities, and be at the forefront of real actions to tackle the climate emergency. The charity was one of the first, both in its sector and as a general NGO, to highlight the importance of climate change even before climate emergency declarations were made, with its efforts in this area acknowledged by awards going back to 2016. The inertia and insufficient effort made by many other organisations, even those in receipt of much higher levels of funding and with far greater capacity, continues to be a cause of mounting concern and one that the charity regularly draws attention to through social media, reports on our academic branch, and feedback provided to bodies such as the Environmental Funders Network and directly to funders themselves.

For the Social Enterprise UK 2023 awards we got nominated for "Best Social Enterprise Building Diversity, Inclusion, Equity & Justice", and we were also selected for a case study on 'Lived Experience Charities Undertaking Social Impact Work' by St Anne's College of Oxford University, which follows in the wake of us being featured in previous academic studies (as referenced on other annual reports). We got awarded as SE100 2024, listed in the top 100 UK social enterprises for the third year in a row. Other recognitions include becoming a global "People and Planet First" enterprise, the Charity Excellence quality mark, Disability Confident - and Living Wage employer accreditations.

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2023 - 20th October 2024**

---

#### **Overcoming challenges and obstacles**

As with previous years, the time spent applying for funding is never certain to result in any gain. With the advent of AI tools and larger organisations able to afford a paid grant writer, it is a challenging situation that requires ongoing adaptations to overcome. Nonetheless, grants received in this accounting period fell broadly in line with the last period. It is still the case that the charity receives no core funding to cover its overall staff costs, nor any rolling yearly funding to help with general areas. It appears to be far easier to gain project specific, restricted funding. It may be necessary in the future to utilise AI tools and expect staff managing projects to be responsible in acquiring the funds to keep their allotted projects going.

The wider societal background, of on-going lack of investment into key services, alienation and discrimination towards marginalised groups, deepening extremist narratives, alongside a climate and ecological emergency of growing severity, has presented a range of other problems. Long-term, the impacts from these areas may require a shift in focus, towards supporting communities at a more localised level, and being capable of gaining resilience to climate change. The charity's business plan, of acquiring property, has this in mind, and efforts to secure investment are hoped to bear fruition in 2025.

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2023 - 20th October 2024**

---

#### **Financial review**

The Arkbound Foundation aims to keep at least three months running costs in reserves, so as to cover emergency or unexpected costs. We have managed to continue doing that throughout this period.

During the last financial year, we were successfully able to repay a social investment loan from Social Investment Business early, which allowed us to bolster our operations and develop areas of income. The loan had an accompanying grant element of £20,000, which, in addition to other grants made, saw a total of £65,000 in this category (compared with £47,000 in the last accounting period).

Trading revenue continued to increase, principally around book sales, Crowdbound and publishing. Total trading revenue was £105,195. Alongside this, donations made up £41,003 with Gift Aid included, corporate sponsorship £5,999 and support in kind calculated at £4,275.

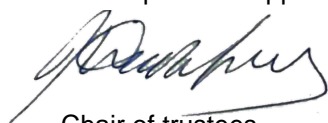
The main area of expenses has been staff expenditure (£83,016). By accounting year end we had a total of seven staff, the majority working part time. Various project running related costs, as detailed below at 13-14, made up the second largest area of expenditure.

Comparatively high financial resilience can be seen through the charity's multiple income streams, since the grant making landscape continues to be highly competitive (as noted herein). The long-term financial plan continues to be acquisition of a property, through which additional revenue streams can be made, as well as more far reaching social and environmental impact.

#### **Independent examiner**

Ahmed Khan was appointed as independent examiner for the charity in this period.

This report was approved by the trustees on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Chair of trustees  
Jim Dempsey

## **Independent examiner's report**

### **To the trustees of the Arkbound Foundation**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Arkbound Foundation ('the charity') for the year ended 20th October 2024, which are set out on pages 13 to 17.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 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 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

Ahmed Khan CIMA  
Capital Office  
124 City Rd  
London EC1V 2NX

**Arkbound Foundation**  
**Receipts and payment account (cont.)**

**For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Receipts and payment account**

**For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

	<b>12 months to 20/10/2024</b>	Restated
	<b>Total £</b>	[Period in last accounts] Total £
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations and corporate sponsorships	<b>47,002</b>	50,061
Grants <b>(1)</b>	<b>65,000</b>	42,000
Revenue from book sales and publishing	<b>53,423</b>	49,697
Support in kind	<b>4,275</b>	2,175
Other sales (including eBay)	<b>10,090</b>	11,757
Internship placement support	<b>5,000</b>	19,950
Crowdbound	<b>31,682</b>	28,600
Workshops	<b>10,000</b>	7,000
Loans	<b>50,000</b>	0
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>276,473</b>	211,240
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>276,473</u></b>	<b><u>211,240</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Book publication costs (all elements)	<b>32,986</b>	30,399
Advertising and promotion	<b>4,500</b>	2,966
Writing and journalism workshops	<b>11,273</b>	4,236
Staff salaries	<b>83,016</b>	70,949
Training costs	<b>550</b>	1,080
Volunteer and trustee expenses	<b>4,056</b>	2,009
Mentoring programme delivery costs	<b>12,355</b>	12,372
Rental and utilities	<b>7,692</b>	7,692
Insurance and legal costs	<b>350</b>	1,001
Admin (incl. Postage, stationery & franking)	<b>4,098</b>	3,014
Website costs	<b>5,326</b>	2,625
Equipment and materials	<b>1,966</b>	1,457
Environmental projects	<b>2,000</b>	2,062
Membership fees	<b>325</b>	325

**Arkbound Foundation****Receipts and payment account (cont.)****For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

---

Small grants and prizes <b>(2)</b>	<b>500</b>	6,000
Fundraising costs	<b>3,000</b>	5,188
Loan repayments	<b>52,328</b>	88,038
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>226,321</b>	241,413

<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		
<b>Cash funds at 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023</b>		68,145
<b>Cash funds at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>	<b>118,297</b>	

## Arkbound Foundation

### Balance sheet

As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024

---

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors: amounts falling due within 1 year (3)	12,723	17,839
Cash at hand and in bank	118,297	68,145
	<u>131,020</u>	<u>85,984</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year (4)	7,038	16,401
	<u>131,020</u>	<u>85,984</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>131,020</b>	<b>85,984</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>123,982</b>	<b>69,583</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b><u>123,982</u></b>	<b><u>69,583</u></b>
<b>Charity funds</b>		
Restricted funds (5)	76,273	26,975
Unrestricted funds (6)	47,709	42,608
<b>Total funds</b>	<b><u>123,982</u></b>	<b><u>69,583</u></b>

The notes on pages 15 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Notes to the financial statements**

**As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

---

**(1)**

**Grants received**

<b>Name of source</b>	<b>Amount received (£)</b>	<b>Funding purpose</b>
The National Lottery	20,000	Workshops and Publishing
Social Investment Business Grant	20,000	Development of income and workshops
Quartet Community Foundation	5000	Mentoring (restricted)
Foundation Scotland	10,000	Workshops and events (restricted)
Friends Provident	10,000	Our Economy (restricted)

**(2)**

**Grants given**

<b>Recipient name</b>	<b>Amount given (£)</b>	<b>Funding purpose</b>
Just Collapse	500	Towards operations as part of contribution to book

## Arkbound Foundation

### Notes to the financial statements (cont.)

As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024

---

(3)

#### Debtors

Due within 1 year	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Trade debtors	6,590	13,279
Prepayments and accrued income	6,133	4,560
Grants	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b><u>12,723</u></b>	<b><u>17,839</u></b>

(4)

#### Creditors

Due within 1 year	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Book royalties	5,022	7,254
Trade creditors	2,016	9,147
Loan repayments	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b><u>7,038</u></b>	<b><u>16,401</u></b>

(5)

#### Restricted funds

Current year (as at 20/10/24)

	Amount (£)
Writing Within Walls	3,073
Mentoring	9,011
Book publishing	16,854
Rental	3,414
Workshops	9,083
Staff	28,772
Placements	6,066
	<hr/>
	<b><u>76,273</u></b>

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Notes to the financial statements (cont.)**

**As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

---

**(6)**

**Unrestricted funds**

**Current year (as at 20/10/24)**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Donations	18,498
Trading revenue	29,211
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>47,709</u></b>

**ARKBOUND FOUNDATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1173072

---

# Accounts

---



---

# **TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

21 October 2022 to 20 October 2023

---

## Arkbound Foundation

### Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 20 October 2023

---

**Charity number** 1173072 (England and Wales)  
SC049523 (Scotland)

<b>Address and contact details</b>	Arkbound Foundation Future Leap Sustainable Business Hub 1-3 Gloucester Road Bristol BS7 8AA	Arkbound Foundation Rogart Street Campus 4 Rogart Street Glasgow G40 2AA
	0117 4637197 info@arkfound.org	0141 5724602 info@arkfound.org

### The trustees who served for the period of this report are as follows:-

Jim Dempsey, chair  
Waltraud Pospischil  
Amanda Thomas  
Beth Cowen  
Lena Gray  
Matthew Lepley  
Claire Harris  
Dr Rula Abdulrazak  
Dr Renuka Thakore (joined 24th April 2023)  
Mike Findlay (stepped down 26th September 2023)  
Anila Arshad-Mehmood (stepped down 28th March 2023)

### Patrons

Anthony Hopkins CBE  
Jane Hatton  
Eoin McLennan-Murray  
Lucy Watts MBE

### Independent Examiner

Ahmed Khan CIMA  
Capital Office  
124 City Rd  
London EC1V 2NX

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21 October 2022 - 20 October 2023

---

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

**Type of governing document:** Constitution

**How the charity is constituted:** CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) - only voting members are charity trustees

**Trustee selection method:** Appointed through open, full board meeting decisions

#### **Objects and activities**

**The charitable objects of the CIO are: -**

a. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION for the public benefit by working with people across the UK of all age groups who are socially excluded on the grounds of disability, poverty, criminal background, ethnicity, or any other characteristic, and to relieve the needs of these groups to assist them to integrate more effectively into society, particularly by: -

i. Empowering these groups through workshops and events to convey their personal stories in a way that can be understood and appreciated by the wider community.

ii. Providing mentoring where individuals from these groups can fairly access the means to publish their work for the wider community to read and to develop their writing skills in a manner that improves their wellbeing.

iii. Providing a means by which these groups can convey their stories through books and the media at large, thereby helping to tackle stigma, misunderstanding and discrimination.

iv. Engaging these groups in discussions regarding climate change and the environment and promoting good environmental practice and awareness of related issues

b. FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION: For the public benefit to promote learning for people of all age-groups from disadvantaged backgrounds through the continued development of their individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding in subjects of educational value.

#### **How the charity implemented the objectives and the main activities undertaken for the public benefit over the last year(s):**

The charity is grassroots founded, with lived experience core team members, and is equality and diversity led. It works directly with people from a range of disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds, principally those who suffer social exclusion because of poverty, disability, ethnic and any other equality rights protected features, also those with refugee status, a conviction or criminal record, addictions, drug abuse, living in poverty or being long-term unemployed.

Between October 2022-23 we have published 8 authors, with a further two due to be published by year's end. Example of the titles published in this period include:-

1. 'Beggar Bee Nameless' by Stephen Easterbrook. A debut fiction novel by someone from a disadvantaged background that explores themes around homelessness, poverty, substance misuse and community fragmentation. It was accompanied by a widely attended launch event.
2. 'The Shadow of My Ancestral Tree' by Nasha Solim: An amalgamation of diary entries that the author composed between the ages of twenty-one to twenty-four. It speaks of the experiences that many young women go through. A collection of poetry about life: Generational trauma,

## Arkbound Foundation

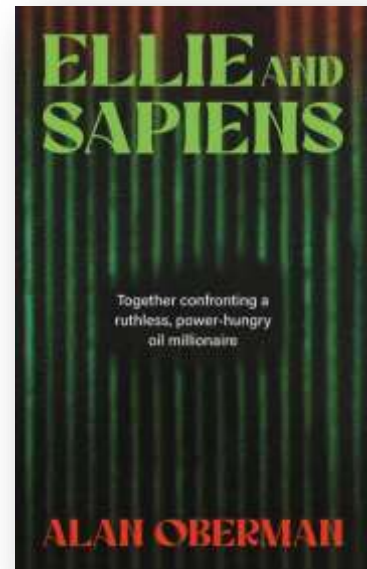
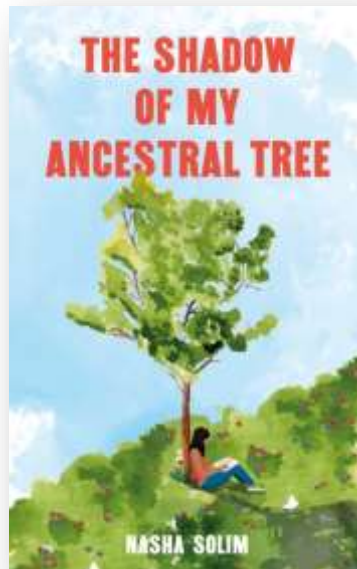
### Report of the trustees

For the year 21 October 2022 - 20 October 2023

---

grief, heartbreak, politics, family, hope, feminism, race, diaspora and love.

3. 'Ellie and Sapiens' by Alan Oberman: Written by a long time environmental activist and youth worker, the fiction book explores the theme of climate change in a manner that is unique and accessible to young readers.



Alongside these publications, we have delivered three mentoring programmes:-

#### 1. Bridging Literary Divides ('BLD')

BLD focuses on supporting aspiring disadvantaged writers who are based in Scotland. The feedback received from mentees notes they have experienced an overall increase with their skill and confidence in writing to pursue wider publishing opportunities. One of BLD mentees – Imma J. Lopez – recently published 'Viento de levante' in the summer edition of Unpsychology Magazine. This autumn, we will host an online creative writing workshop along with peer support sessions for the programme users to share their work, practice and experience with each other as the programme reaches its final quarter. Responding to feedback from mentees surrounding their overall experience and specific ambitions with their work, future planning of the programme will include supplementary industry focused events/workshops/sessions for writing career development. Our future planning for the programme and its funding will also consider small grant support and a pilot fellowship programme to include: mentoring, info sessions, residency, stipend and a publishing opportunity.

*"My time in this programme exceeded all my expectations! This is my first time in a programme like this and didn't know what to expect, although I had [specific] areas that I knew I needed more help with the support I received through this as I expanded my writing and myself so much more." – Mentee*

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21s October 2022 - 20 October 2023

---

## 2. Writing Within Walls

Following the success of last year's National Writing Competition, we have organised for the publication of the writing collection, titled 'Enduring Words', in December 2023. The book, which features 10 of the winning entrants (out of over 80 submissions received):

*'This collection of writings, from incarcerated individuals, offers a glimpse into the transformative power of creative writing in prison. Within these pages, the stories, poems, and reflections transport us to the depths of human experiences, bridging the gap between confinement and freedom. These voices demand to be heard, reminding us of the resilience and potential for growth that reside within each person, regardless of their past.'* – Sarah Hartley, Competition judge

Alongside this publication and the connections formed as a result of the competition, we have mentored 12 people with direct experience of custody, pairing them with mentors who can develop their writing skills with the aim to enable a means for them to access publishing opportunities.

*'For maybe the first time in my life [I've] felt supported to express myself in a way that doesn't lead to some cell or drug. I am so appreciative for this chance you have given me and the dream of being able to write a book.'* – Mentee

*'Being a trans person inside is no easy ride, and I have to spend most of the time locked up. There's not much to do, so I wrote to get on this programme. Little did I know the difference it would make.'* – Mentee

One of the project's principal aims is also to address issues around isolation and poor mental health, which the Prison Reform Trust estimates to affect over 65% of the UK prison population. At the same time, by steering creative energies into writing and beginning a journey of positive personal development with a connection to the outside world, the project has a powerful rehabilitative impact on those who take part. Indeed, we have so far recorded that all prior mentees who have been released from custody have not returned. Two of those who were previously mentees have now become paid mentors themselves, which the charity coordinates as part of this project.

## 3. General mentoring programme

The general mentoring programme is provided to everyone else not part of BLD or WWW, who identifies as coming from an under-represented, marginalised or disadvantaged background. These are usually people who experience a disability, are neuro-divergent, members of the LGBTQ+ community, long-term carers, on very low incomes, with prior experience of being in custody, refugees and asylum seekers. After an initial assessment, we then match these individuals up to a mentor who has relevant experience – usually a published author, experienced publishing professional, or literary agent. The aim of the programme, like BLD and WWW, is to empower people to have their voices heard through writing; to bolster confidence and self-esteem; to open up publishing opportunities after their writing is developed sufficiently;

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

#### For the year 21 October 2022 - 20 October 2023

---

to improve wider community participation and cohesion as a result of the journey (events from publishing, material that is published, etc). An important part of the process is also to challenge discrimination, negative stereotyping, or general lack of understanding towards those who come from backgrounds where this is likely to occur. The general mentoring programme had no funding from February 2023 onwards, though we have made frequent applications to many funders without success so far. It has a waiting list of 21 fully eligible individuals. Despite the absence of funding, the charity has still been able to deliver limited, unstructured mentoring from the voluntary input of one staff member and one trustee.

\* \* \*

With the support of Quartet Community Foundation, and after considering the feedback we received from workshop leaders and participants from the first round of the creative writing workshops held at the Wild Goose last year, we were excited to launch the revamped second-set of eight sessions which began in September. Unlike the first round, these sessions were more malleable and gave the participants greater autonomy over what each session would entail. With a less rigid, more frequent programme and more opportunities for participants to write and share their thoughts with the group, participants have become more involved and dedicated to the programme, with the majority returning every week. The workshops have proven again how beneficial community activities and projects are to bridging connections from diverse backgrounds and giving everyone an opportunity to connect and create.

*"I found the course really helpful in so many ways, from boosting my confidence to trying different areas in writing. I usually write real life but it taught me to try poetry and fiction, etc. I really appreciate everything I was taught and the feedback on what I wrote, too. I look forward to more courses in the future and achieving my dream of writing a book one day." – Participant*

*"It's been a real honour to be part of the creative writing workshops at The Wild Goose. The drop-in style worked really well, I was able to be adaptable to attendee's wants and needs. The group were keen to get writing, so we did various writing exercises, some of them scribbling pages of words! Their enthusiasm and the stories they shared were inspiring. I feel these writing workshops are so important for mental health, wellbeing and to help people who may be isolated. It's been a real privilege to be part of."- Mel Ciavucco, Facilitator*



## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21 October 2022 - 20 October 2023**

---

#### **Governance**

Over the last 12 months the charity's governance was stable, with meetings held of consistent attendance above quorum. Our general board meetings take place every month. Important decisions are made by majority vote and every trustee can bring up agenda points. All meetings are properly recorded through minutes which get taken during the meetings, then circulated to all trustees a few days later, once they are written out and confirmed to be accurate.

We also advanced through regular trustee training opportunities, and every board member is made aware of the resources and regulations which are available through the CCEW gov.uk pages. Our policies get regularly updated and we have all essential ones in comprehensive forms, like safeguarding, data protection, complaints, conflicts of interests, expenses, volunteering, together with internal contacts, designated persons, as well as outside contacts for emergencies.

There is an all-staff team meeting held bi-weekly, where each member can share details of their activities, together with weekly meetings for specific operational and project areas. Performance is regularly assessed by a general operations staff member, with monthly updates relayed to the board of trustees. Alongside this, the charity operates an informal steering group, comprised of (currently) four volunteers, two trustees, two staff members and a rotating number of beneficiaries. This group helps feed into the charity's work and direction.

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21 October 2022 - 20 October 2023

---

#### Achievements and performance

Our Crowdbound initiative saw us successfully raise £28,600, from a total of 616 backers. This enabled the full support of 13 campaigns.

#### *Breakdown of campaigns*

- Beggar Bee Nameless – Stephen K. Easterbrook: £2,765 (23 backers)
- Muffin Man - André Rostant: £2,175 (109 backers)
- Ellie & Sapiens – Alan Oberman: £2,420 (77 backers)
- When Wealth Dissipated Like Morning Dew – Ndaba Sibanda: £1,525 (20 backers)
- Crown & Scalpel - Caroline J. L. Thomason: £2,190 (64 backers)
- The Shadow of My Ancestral Tree – Nasha Solim: £1,290 (50 backers)
- Silenda - Kelsie Stoker: £2,500 (27 backers)
- Perestroika - Joao Cerqueira: £2,500 (21 backers)
- A Collection of Wildflowers - Charly White: £815 (33 backers)
- Serendipity - Maria de Fátima Santos: £2,250 (28 backers)
- The Reporter - Rachel Francis: £2,500 (32 backers)
- Show Me Heaven - Donna Taylor: £3,030 (78 backers)
- ArkHub – Arkbound Community Hub: £2,640 (54 backers)

The total of 13 successful campaigns from October 2022 is consistent with the aim of at least one campaign per month. From these campaigns, 7 have raised well above the set target.

We also proceeded with our year-long plan to open a venue in Glasgow, called the ArkHub, formerly the Glasgow Zine Library. After a month-long search, a property was secured in July. Over the following three months, from August to October, the ArkHub team carried out comprehensive renovations, including wall fixes, interior and exterior design planning, painting, and furniture procurement, all with the invaluable assistance of dedicated team members and, at a later stage, volunteers. Beyond the physical transformation, ArkHub also focused on community building by forging partnerships with local charities. We have also recruited a team of volunteers interested in contributing to the day-to-day management of our community space. The culmination of these efforts were celebrated with the opening of ArkHub on the 26 October, followed by a launch event on the 16 November. Although the space requires further development before it can become as envisioned,



## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21 October 2022 - 20 October 2023

---



we are pleased to have finally obtained a customer-facing venue that is capable of serving as a location for events and workshops, together with a way for the charity to make a new revenue stream.

As the UK's only literature organisation part of the United Nations Environmental Programme, we continue to take our environmental and climate responsibilities very seriously. This is reflected through our ongoing support of works that cover environmental themes – climate change being the prominent subject – through titles including 'Ellie and Sapiens' and 'Value Beyond Money' (forthcoming).

Likewise, we honored our yearly commitment to be a carbon negative organisation (one that absorbs or offsets more carbon than it produces) through a highly proactive supply chain policy and the supported planting of trees in the now 3-year-old 'Oakupy' project. Just like in 2021-2, we were able to replant 1,000 oak saplings purchased from Maelor Forest Nurseries. With the help of volunteers working with Arkbound on this project, we were able to donate the saplings to a variety of organisations such as Pod Micro School, YACWAG (Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group) and Bristol Tree Forum who were able to distribute the donated trees through their annual tree giveaway project.

In addition, the charity funded 11 placements for a 2-week course at Rubha Phoil on the Isle of Skye. This funding, of £5000, allowed participants to experience regenerative permaculture in harmony with nature, allowing their creativity to flow. In the words of the center manager:

*"I'm really grateful to Arkbound for the financial support to be able to run this program for people who need it the most and often can't afford it. Literally, bridging literary divides."*

Our part as a member in networks such as Ecolise (pan-European) and Scotland Community Climate Actions Network (national action in Scotland) gives us many opportunities to stay abreast of what other organisations are doing, partake in all possible collaborative opportunities, and be at the forefront of real actions to tackle the climate emergency. The charity was one of the first, both in its sector and as a general NGO, to highlight the importance of climate change even before climate emergency declarations were made, with its efforts in this area acknowledged by awards going back to 2016. The inertia and insufficient effort made by many other organisations,



## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

**For the year 21 October 2022 - 20 October 2023**

---

even those in receipt of much higher levels of funding and with far greater capacity, continues to be a cause of mounting concern and one that the charity regularly draws attention to through social media, reports on our academic branch, and feedback provided to bodies such as the Environmental Funders Network and directly to funders themselves.

Our titles were represented at the annual Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany by Gazelle Book Services, which were very well received and generated a lot of interest. The book fair is recognised as the largest in the industry across the world, and is attended by over 105,000 trade visitors as well as 110,000 general public attendees.



*“Gazelle is proud to support the work of Arkbound, whose mission to give a voice to authors from a wide range of backgrounds sets them apart and creates a unique offering within the book industry.” - Billy Howorth, sales and operations manager*

Among our book launches, Nasha Solim's had a high turnout and the book itself achieved national media coverage. Nasha reflected:

*“Everyone is very friendly and warm. I believe in the core values of the publisher, which is apparent in the staff. Riyan [the book editor] is a very supportive editor who gave very useful feedback whilst also accepting my views. The book has turned out much better than the original manuscript because of her. Riyan has been incredible throughout this whole process of guiding me, answering my questions, going above and beyond for the book and for me. I am very ambitious and she has been the driving force of everything in helping me achieve my aspirations.”*



For the Social Enterprise 2023 awards, we were nominated for Best Social Enterprise Building Diversity, Inclusion, Equity & Justice, and we were also selected for a case study on Lived Experience Charities Undertaking Social Impact Work by St Anne's College of Oxford University, which follows in the wake of us being featured in previous academic studies (as referenced on other annual reports).

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21 October 2022 - 20 October 2023**

---

#### **Overcoming challenges and obstacles**

The ability to access funding this year was hampered by various factors, both within and outside of the charity. Although multiple applications were lodged, it seemed many funders had placed their priorities elsewhere, in the background of a 'cost of living emergency' and sentiments that literature related activities lacked as much urgency as other forms of intervention. The amount of time spent writing often very lengthy funding applications, only to invariably result in refusals, has represented a sizable operational drain on the charity. Although some funding has been provided, it does not fully account for the amount of time and effort that has been made in writing applications, since the overwhelming majority of funding received is restricted and can only go towards set projects rather than our general administration and operations. For this reason, an increasing amount of hope and time has been devoted to building areas of income. Unlike funding, the effort expended in these areas almost always results in a positive gain.

Just as a cost of living crisis has shifted the priorities of many funders, it has also posed internal challenges for our team. Not only must we look to offset higher living costs with higher wages – in the background of reduced funding – but we are also finding ourselves part of a competitive employer landscape whereby there is financial temptation for high performing employees to seek out better paying roles. The reduction of workforce caused by Brexit has not aided this situation. Although we do our utmost to provide ample opportunities and bonuses, which many of these higher paying organisations cannot offer, one long-term member of our staff ended up moving to a different organisation during this period. We came to be reliant on relatively young and inexperienced people to fill some of the gaps created by her absence, and several problems arose that negatively affected the charity. However, robust steps were put in place and the team has been reconfigured, with new supervision procedures implemented. Although previously we encouraged a 'sociocratic' model based on horizontal and circular management structure, the experience in this period highlighted the need for a more clearly defined managerial tier and mandatory reporting requirements for all staff. This does, however, open up the ongoing challenge of how we can retain reliable, driven and high performing people in the absence of sufficient funding to pay them what many other organisations can offer. We hope to solve this by growing our income areas, together with creative means to keep employees invested in what the charity does.

Our steps to address these challenges include:-

- Reconfiguring the staff team after a careful, multi-person examination of what each team member does.
- Allocating more hours to key team members with proven track record, experience and performance, as the wider team is reduced in number.
- Creating a more defined management structure, but which nonetheless incentivises and empowers team members.
- Obtaining assistance from a freelance grant writer to reduce the amount of operational time that is often spent writing failed applications.
- Working with a pro bono HR expert to carefully assess candidates before they are offered roles, with further reference checks, together with addressing any issues that may arise afterwards.
- Working with a dedicated volunteer platform, Ethical Angel, to set up team leaders for volunteer groups.
- Restructuring certain areas, so that less time is spent on those that have minimal income or social impact, and more is spent in those areas that have higher income or impact.

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21 October 2022 - 20 October 2023**

---

#### **Financial review**

The Arkbound Foundation aims to keep at least three months running costs in reserves, so as to cover emergency or unexpected costs. We have managed to continue doing that throughout this period.

During the last financial year, we were successfully able to repay two social investment loans early, which had allowed us to bolster our operations and develop areas of income. Full reports were supplied to the funding bodies and we have been invited to access further funding should we need it in the future, with plans that include a property purchase. The loans had accompanying grant elements, which accounts for the sizable decrease in grant related revenue for this year (£42,000 versus £103,687 for last year). The early settlement of social investment loans caused there to be more expenditure than income this year, by £30,166, but this fell in line with our cash flow and with us still maintaining a healthy £69,583 positive fund balance by year end.

At the same time, our trading revenue has increased significantly – representing £78,830 across the year – which includes book sales revenue, publishing services, workshop fees paid by companies, other item sales (including eBay), and Crowdbound revenue. Income from corporate sponsorship was the highest of any year, at £11,200. We also continued our year-by-year upward trend of donations, which comprised a total of £38,861 with the inclusion of eligible Gift Aid.

The main area of expenses has been staff expenditure (£70,949) followed by project delivery costs (£46,004). By accounting year end we had a total of seven staff, the majority working part time, and we will be looking to reduce this number to five staff in the short term whilst overall increasing total hours for key roles.

The comparative absence of grant funding to sustain delivery of charitable work posed challenges, but our prior investment and focus in building multiple areas of trading revenue has helped us significantly through this period. Moreover, the monthly income generated in these areas shows continuing increase, with scope for further development. Nonetheless, as a charity that endeavors to deliver free and accessible services to people from highly disadvantaged backgrounds, there is still a need to access a level of grant funding, at least for the intermediate future (plans around a property purchase in the future are envisioned to remove almost all pressure to obtain grants). To year end the charity has complied with its minimum reserves policy and the cashflow forecast to six months ahead will maintain it.

#### **Independent examiner**

Ahmed Khan was appointed as independent examiner for the charity in this period.

This report was approved by the trustees on 8 November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Chair of trustees



## **Independent examiner's report**

### **To the trustees of the Arkbound Foundation**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Arkbound Foundation ("the charity") for the year ended 20th October 2023, which are set out on pages 13 to 17.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 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 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Date: 8 November 2023

Ahmed Khan CIMA  
Capital Office  
124 City Rd  
London EC1V 2NX

**Arkbound Foundation**  
**Receipts and payment account (cont.)**  
**For the year ended 20 October 2023**

---

**Arkbound Foundation**  
**Receipts and payment account**  
**For the year ended 20 October 2023**

---

	12 months to 20/10/2023 Total £	Restated [Period in last accounts] Total £
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations and corporate sponsorships	50,061	30,045
Grants <b>(1)</b>	42,000	103,687
Revenue from book sales and publishing	49,697	19,848
Support in kind	2,175	2,388
Other sales (including eBay)	11,757	924
Internship placement support	19,950	0
Crowdbound	28,600	2,457
Workshops	7,000	0
Loans	0	95,000
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>211,240</b>	<b>254,349</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>211,240</u></b>	<b><u>254,349</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Book publication costs (all elements)	30,399	32,986
Advertising and promotion	2,966	4,736
Writing and journalism workshops	4,236	5,349
Staff salaries	70,949	48,254
Training costs	1,080	0
Volunteer and trustee expenses	2,009	2,105
Mentoring programme delivery costs	12,372	6,098
Rental and utilities	7,692	5,614
Insurance and legal costs	1,001	257
Admin (incl. Postage, stationery & franking)	3,014	2,056
Website costs	2,625	1,480
Equipment and materials	1,457	1,720
Environmental projects	2,062	6,477
Membership fees	325	270

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Receipts and payment account (cont.)**

**For the year ended 20 October 2023**

---

Small grants and prizes <b>(2)</b>	<b>6,000</b>	2,500
Fundraising costs	<b>5,188</b>	8,650
Loan repayments	<b>88,038</b>	9,640
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>241,413</b>	138,192

<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		
<b>Cash funds at 21 October 2022</b>		116,157
<b>Cash funds at 20 October 2023</b>	<b>68,145</b>	

## Arkbound Foundation

### Balance sheet

As at 20 October 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors: amounts falling due within 1 year (3)	17,839	11,278
Cash at hand and in bank	68,145	116,157
	<u>85,984</u>	<u>116,157</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year (4)	16,401	21,948
	<u>16,401</u>	<u>21,948</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>85,984</u>	<u>127,435</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>69,583</u>	<u>105,487</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>69,583</u>	<u>105,487</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>		
Restricted funds (5)	26,975	83,958
Unrestricted funds (6)	42,608	21,529
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>69,583</u>	<u>105,487</u>

The notes on pages 15 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

## Arkbound Foundation

### Notes to the financial statements

As at 20 October 2023

---

(1)

#### Grants received

<b>Name of source</b>	<b>Amount received (£)</b>	<b>Funding purpose</b>
The Endrick Trust	2000	Writing Within Walls project (restricted)
Quartet Community Foundation	5000	Writing workshops (restricted)
Amazon Literature Partnerships	5000	Publishing (restricted)
Culture and Business Scotland	10,000	Corporate sponsorship match funding (restricted)
Full Circle	10,000	Core operations (unrestricted)
Royal Society of Literature	10,000	Publishing (restricted)

(2)

#### Grants given

<b>Recipient name</b>	<b>Amount given (£)</b>	<b>Funding purpose</b>
Rubha Phoil	5000	Supporting 11 placements at center on Isle of Skye
Pod Micro School and Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group	1000	Tree planting

## Arkbound Foundation

### Notes to the financial statements

(cont.) As at 20 October 2023

---

(3)

#### Debtors

Due within 1 year	2023 (£)	2023 £
Trade debtors	13,279	6068
Prepayments and accrued income	4,560	210
Grants	0	5000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b><u>17,839</u></b>	<b><u>11,278</u></b>

(4)

#### Creditors

Due within 1 year	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Book royalties	7,254	2100
Trade creditors	9,147	0
Loan repayments	0	19,848
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b><u>16,401</u></b>	<b><u>21,948</u></b>

(5)

#### Restricted funds

Current year (as at 20/10/23)

	Amount (£)
Writing Within Walls	859
Mentoring	3,074
Book publishing	1,250
Rental	7,807
Workshops	7,000
Staff	5,035
Placements	1,950
	<hr/>
	<b><u>26,975</u></b>

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Notes to the financial statements**

**(cont.) As at 20 October 2023**

---

**(6)**

**Unrestricted funds**

**Current year (as at 20/10/23)**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Full Circle	6,058
Sponsorships	2,856
Donations	15,755
Trading revenue	23,997
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>42,608</u></b>

**ARKBOUND FOUNDATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1173072

---

# Accounts

---

*Charity number 1173072 (England and Wales)  
and SC049523 (Scotland)*



---

# **TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**21st October 2021 to 20th October 2022**

---

## Arkbound Foundation

### Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

---

**Charity number** 1173072 (England and Wales)  
SC049523 (Scotland)

<b>Address and contact details</b>	Arkbound Foundation Redbrick House, York Court 6 Wilder Street Bristol BS2 8QH	Arkbound Foundation Rogart Street Campus 4 Rogart Street Glasgow G40 2AA
	0117 4637197 info@arkfound.org	0141 5724602 info@arkfound.org

### The trustees who served for the period of this report are as follows:-

Mike Findlay, Chair  
Jim Dempsey  
Waltraud Pospischil  
Amanda Thomas  
Michael Craig  
Beth Cowen  
Lena Gray (joined 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021)  
Anila Arshad-Mehmood (joined 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022)  
Matthew Lepley (joined 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022)  
Claire Harries (joined 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022)  
Dr Rula Al Abdulrazak (joined 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022)  
Tom Burgess (stepped down 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022)  
Eilidh Akilade (stepped down 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022)  
Ross Tanner (stepped down 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022)

### Patrons

Anthony Hopkins CBE  
Jane Hatton  
Eoin McLennan-Murray  
Lucy Watts MBE

### Independent Examiner

Ahmed Khan CIMA  
Capital Office  
124 City Rd  
London EC1V 2NX

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

---

#### Structure, Governance and Management

**Type of governing document:** Constitution

**How the charity is constituted:** CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) - only voting members are charity trustees

**Trustee selection method:** Appointed through open, full board meeting decisions

#### Objects and activities

**The charitable objects of the CIO are: -**

a. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION for the public benefit by working with people across the UK of all age groups who are socially excluded on the grounds of disability, poverty, criminal background, ethnicity, or any other characteristic, and to relieve the needs of these groups to assist them to integrate more effectively into society, particularly by: -

i. Empowering these groups through workshops and events to convey their personal stories in a way that can be understood and appreciated by the wider community.

ii. Providing mentoring whereby individuals from these groups can fairly access the means to publish their work for the wider community to read and to develop their writing skills in a manner that improves their wellbeing.

iii. Providing a means by which these groups can convey their stories through books and the media at large, thereby helping to tackle stigma, misunderstanding and discrimination.

iv. Engaging these groups in discussions regarding climate change and the environment and promoting good environmental practice and awareness of related issues

b. FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION: For the public benefit to promote learning for people of all age-groups from disadvantaged backgrounds through the continued development of their individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding in subjects of educational value.

**How the charity implemented the objectives and the main activities undertaken for the public benefit over the last year(s):**

The charity is grassroots founded, with lived experience core team members, as well as equality and diversity led. It works directly with people from a range of disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds, principally those who suffer social exclusion because of poverty, disability, ethnic and any other equality rights protected features, also those with refugee status, a conviction or criminal record, addictions, drug abuse, living in poverty or being long-term unemployed.

We provide ongoing writing, mentoring and publishing support to those with experience of the criminal justice system through our Writing Within Walls project, this year running our second National Writing Competition. With 16 mentees supported and over 80 submissions to the competition, it will result in a published anthology planned for 2023. In the words of one mentee:-

*“The programme has been a lifeline of hope for me. It gave me contact to the real world and that push I needed in bringing something new to my life – writing.”*

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

---

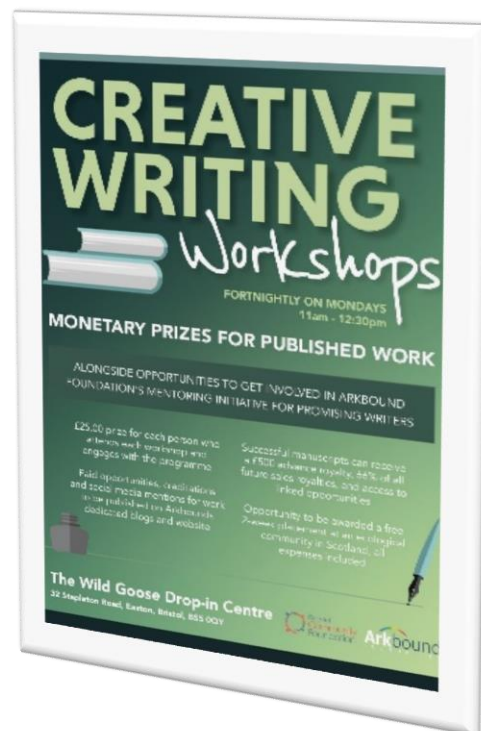
Our mentors themselves also come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have been supported to widen their own skills:-

*"I felt like I gained skills in giving feedback and constructive criticism. I am more confident now in using my experience to enable others. The fact that I thought I was being a positive influence was good for my self-esteem."*

We ran a series of 8 writing workshops in partnership with Wild Goose café in Bristol, targeted at people with experience of homelessness. Sessions were facilitated by expert writers, allowing participants to gain a wide range of writing experience that aligned with their interests and needs. 3 participants have gone on to be mentored, with the opportunity of any written work receiving an advance royalty. The workshops were part funded by Quartet Community Foundation.

*"The workshops have been great, and I have looked forward to going each time. They are interactive and have helped me to get going again with my imagination and story-building."* – Participant

*"Our first session was a full house, all keen to learn and engage, so there was lots of creative energy in the room! Sometimes people can be quite nervous about sharing things they've written, but the attendees were keen to take part in writing exercises and share after. There was lots of discussion about their writing, and their passion really came through, which was a real joy to see. Facilitating these workshops has been really enjoyable and has inspired me greatly. I feel writing is so important for mental well-being, so I passionately feel these workshops are so important."* - Facilitator



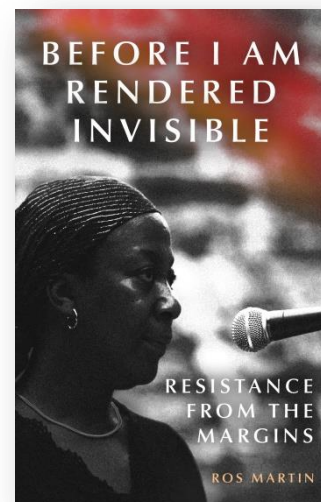
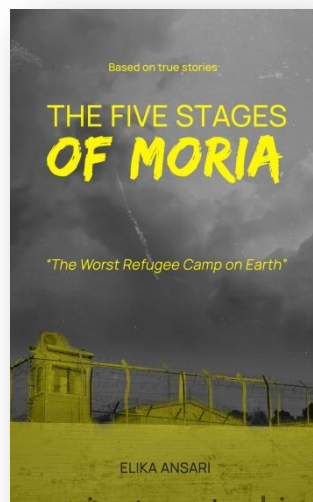
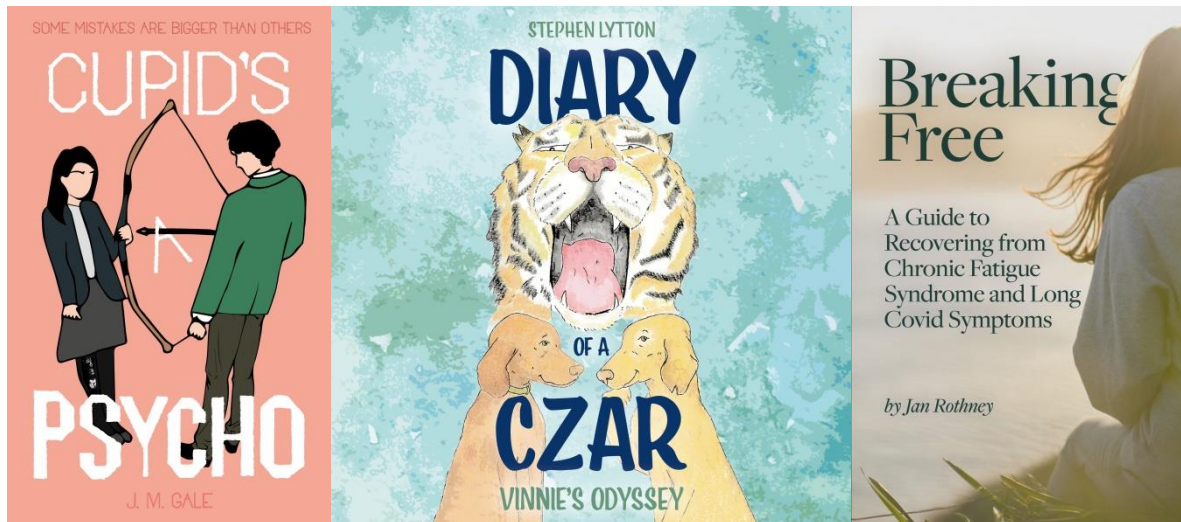
We managed to publish 6 titles, on themes ranging from teenage exclusion to the health impacts of COVID-19. Additional attention was given to expanding the promotional reach and distribution of each title, in part through our new distributor Gazelle and through the efforts of a dedicated promotional coordinator.

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

---



Continued support and open access for people from all backgrounds to volunteer for the charity, alongside facilitating paid internships, saw the charity take on board a total of 64 people across the year. As noted by one volunteer:-

*“Volunteering with Arkbound has been such an enlightening experience: I’ve gained so much insight, confidence and fulfilment in knowing what Arkbound stands for. I’ve also had the pleasure of getting to know so many people who are always supportive and helpful in every way.”*

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

**For the year 21st October 2021 - 20th October 2022**

---

The above included participation in a special initiative of the Job Center to support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, one of whom we took on as a permanent member of the year. Later in the year, we collaborated with Graduate Career Advantage in Scotland to support the placement of one young person facing unemployment.

### Governance

Over the last 12 months the charity's governance was stable, with meetings held at regular throughout the year. Our general board meetings take place every month. Important decisions are made by majority vote and every trustee can bring up agenda points. All meetings are properly recorded through minutes which get taken during the meetings, then circulated to all trustees a few days later, once they are written out and confirmed to be accurate.

We also advanced through regular trustee training opportunities, and every board member is made aware of the resources and regulations which are available through the CCEW gov.uk pages. Our policies get regularly updated and we have all essential ones in comprehensive forms, like safeguarding, data protection, complaints, conflicts of interests, expenses, volunteering, together with internal contacts, designated persons, as well as outside contacts for emergencies.

### Achievements and performance

Amongst our titles published, we supported the Bristol BAME author Ros Martin and her book "Before I am Rendered Invisible", which was released during Black History Month 2022. By presenting the author's personal journey, the book throws a harrowing spotlight on issues behind racial inequality. It was celebrated through a well-attended book launch in Bristol Waterstones, where Ros presented her inspirational volume of spoken word, social commentary, play, essay, and memoir and sold 80 signed copies of her publication at the event, with spotlights in regional media.



## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2021 - 20th October 2022

---

We also celebrated the life of our late author David Onamade, who we supported while he had been homeless, employed him as admin in our Bristol office and published his book "Sorrow, Tears & Blood". David's book got shortlisted for the prestigious New Kavya Prize this year and we attended the awards ceremony at Glasgow Mitchell Library.

Arkbound Foundation's support tackling the refugee crisis and providing a clear, unbiased picture of the overall situation has seen us support the publication of 'The Five Stages of Moria by Elika Ansari:

*"A multi-POV reflection of a complex and multi-faceted refugee experience, based on true stories of despair and resilience. Using the first-hand insight, the author gained in the years she spent working there as a humanitarian aid worker, she resurrects the largest refugee camp in Europe through its stories".*



We were successful in our bid to be awarded funding by the Postcode Lottery and Big Issue, receiving a grant and loan that has enabled the charity to develop significantly. Through this support, we have a stronger staff team and outreach, as well as the launch of new initiatives. Two of these include the launch of Palavro – a dedicated imprint that overcomes the former challenges of postage and distribution in Europe caused as a consequence of Brexit – as well as the launch of a brand new crowdfunding platform called Crowdbound.

The new platforms allows us to support books and projects that cover social and environmental themes. Most projects to date are related to books written by people from disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds, predominantly those have sought publication through Arkbound. It is a way to support book publication costs without being reliant on grants, whilst improving reader interest and demand for the books when published. By donating, people can receive a reward – varying from a signed copy of a book for lower amounts, to a dedicated writing session for higher amounts. Gift Aid can also be applied to some donations. Our first campaign, for the book 'Invisible Schemes' by John McGlade, raised over its target. John noted:-

*"I used Crowdbound to launch my first crowdfunder effort for my novel, 'Invisible Schemes', and also in support of a charity initiative called 'Power Over Poverty'. I hit my target in 10 days, three weeks inside the target date! The site played in a big part in my success - I found it easy to use, and the team was helpful with a query that I had. I would recommend this site to anyone running a crowdfunding effort!" – John McGlade, author of Invisible Schemes*

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2021 - 20th October 2022

---

The site had some initial launch teething problems but despite this has been an overwhelming success. 90% of subsequent campaigns have reached or surpassed their targets, with the remainder still raising more than 50% and going ahead. User feedback has been excellent, and it has enabled us to raise additional amounts in donations whilst also covering the charity's publishing costs. We plan to introduce new elements and to expand promotion, further building on Crowdbound's success.



Crowdbound has also enabled publication of other books from different publishers by authors experiencing disadvantage or under-representation, including one in support of our founding grant makers - the Princes' Trust, with this and other book projects part-funded via a grant made by Amazon's Partnerships. Arkbound Foundation has also enabled the support of a tree planting initiative in Nepal, providing an additional £1000 in funding.

Our environmental efforts, following on from the leading projects last year and recognition by the United Nations Environmental Programme, have also included running our own tree planting project in Bristol, comparable to our last 'Oakupy' planting round, with 1000 native saplings scheduled for collection in November.

Operational support and development of projects has been further bolstered by funding from the Big Issue, who continue to provide on-going advice to help the charity reach its targets. Examples of success in our presence and operations include a Japanese company buying the translation rights to 'Great Adaptations', a book we published last year and promoted widely, together with our nomination as one of the top 100 UK social enterprises: [Top 100 social enterprises in UK revealed: NatWest SE100 2022 | The Social Enterprise Magazine - Pioneers Post](#).

This August we were also chosen as a Finalist for the Social Enterprise Champion Award: [The 2022 Social Enterprise Awards Scotland Shortlist - Social Enterprise Awards Scotland](#) with an awards ceremony at the Scottish Parliament. This continues a series of award-winning selections for the charity.



## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2021 - 20th October 2022**

---

#### **Overcoming challenges and obstacles**

Continuing impacts from COVID-19 and Brexit represented challenges to the charity's operations, both on a staffing and income level. We managed to overcome these by continuing to offer staff the chance to work from home. With Brexit, it became the case that books sent to customers in Europe were subject to import fee tariffs, something that was both a disruption and a financial drain with around 28% of our books ordered by European customers in 2022, which could only be circumvented by creating a dedicated imprint (Palavro) in Europe, with printing and distribution within the EU to those customers.

We have found throughout this period a shift in the needs of our beneficiaries, represented in part by the worsening of a cost of living crisis. This has made it necessary in many cases to focus our attention on improving access to essential services, by working closely with other organisations. Likewise we have found a greater need to enhance the ways in which writing can improve mental health, confidence and community connections – drawing more on its individual therapeutic elements than the wider, societal changes it can make. Nonetheless, we succeeded in holding book launches again, which were well attended and featured publications covering wider social themes. We continued providing frequent free events and engagement opportunities online, like in the year before, and increased our outreach through facilitating multiple ways (all social media channels, YouTube, TikTok) to get informed about and to engage with meaningful content.

Recognising the impacts of cost of living, we have kept pace with inflation and ensured all our staff receive the current Living Wage, whilst also offering expanded hours to key staff. This has, in turn, increased our charity's running costs, which has put pressure to ensure our regular monthly income continues to build in line with our business plans and the requirements of our investment.

Operationally, we hope to address the following challenges next year:-

- High staff turnover – we have to date used an employment model of part time, remote based hours. Increased funding can allow us to increase staff hours to improve retention and more closely implement the sociocratic governance method we aspire to (<https://www.sociocracyforall.org>). The flexibility of remote based work should not be removed, but greater levels of structured supervision and training will sought to be provided to core staff.
- Reliance on grant income – we will focus on expanding book sales through adequate promotion and distribution, developing our corporate sponsorship offering through enhanced outreach to organisations, together with ensuring all aspects of our business plan are implemented.
- No dedicated fundraising – despite the aim of reducing reliance on grant income, we recognise the importance of a diverse array of grants that can, where possible, support projects. For that reason, next year, we will ensure there is a dedicated fundraising plan with professional assistance.

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2021 - 20th October 2022**

---

#### **Financial review**

The Arkbound Foundation aims to keep at least three months running costs in reserves, so as to cover emergency or unexpected costs. We have managed to continue doing that throughout this period.

During the last financial year, we were able to arrange two social investment loans, which both came together with a grant and free training support, which covered the extra costs of the loan repayment interests. The loans - a total of £95,000 - provided security for Arkbound Foundation's outreach plans, improved staff and human resources capacity, and updated our organisation's financial image on a cooperate level. The grants received alongside these totalled £55,000, with a further £31,250 received in other grants across the year. We also received an extra £17,437 on support to deliver salaried employment training opportunities through the DWP Kickstart Scheme, which makes it a total of £103,687, most of it received as restricted fundings. The principal single source of income, except our social investment loans, was through grants.

Even though the economic climate has not been favourable, we managed to make a move away from the unpredictability of grants with new incentives, like through establishing Crowdbound - our own crowdfunding platform - and by drawing upon growing trading income and improving networking links to cooperate sponsorship partners.

The charity's principal expenditure was direct project delivery costs from book publications, workshop delivery and mentoring. The secondary expense was staff salaries for administration and coordination, followed by office rent (loan repayments as single expense came up higher than rent). As before, all these areas were kept at a very economical level, under the principle that internal operational costs must always come second to actually delivering projects that generate social impact.

#### **Independent examiner**

Ahmed Khan was appointed as independent examiner for the charity in this period.

This report was approved by the trustees on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Chair of Trustees

## **Independent examiner's report**

### **To the trustees of the Arkbound Foundation**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Arkbound Foundation ('the charity') for the year ended 20th October 2022, which are set out on pages 12 to 17.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 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 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Date: 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Ahmed Khan CIMA  
Capital Office  
124 City Rd  
London EC1V 2NX

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Receipts and payment account**

**For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

	<b>12 months to 20/10/2022</b>	Restated
	<b>Total £</b>	[Period in last accounts] Total £
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations and corporate sponsorships	<b>30,045</b>	36,089
Grants <b>(1)</b>	<b>103,687</b>	56,718
Revenue from book sales and publishing	<b>19,848</b>	16,500
Support in kind	<b>2,388</b>	1,038
Ebay sales	<b>924</b>	0
Crowdfunder	<b>2,457</b>	0
Loans	<b>95,000</b>	0
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>254,349</b>	110,345
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>254,349</u></b>	<u>110,345</u>
<b>Payments</b>		
Book publication costs (all elements)	<b>32,986</b>	18,578
Advertising and promotion	<b>4736</b>	3,341
Writing and journalism workshops	<b>5349</b>	2,870
Staff salaries	<b>48,254</b>	36,460
Volunteer and trustee expenses	<b>2105</b>	1,772
Mentoring network costs	<b>6098</b>	4,809
Office rent	<b>5614</b>	2,243
Insurance	<b>257</b>	150
Postage and stationery	<b>2056</b>	1,390
Website costs	<b>1480</b>	465
Equipment and materials	<b>1720</b>	1,206
Environmental projects	<b>6477</b>	7154
Membership fees	<b>270</b>	0
Small grants and prizes <b>(2)</b>	<b>2500</b>	1,591
Fundraising costs	<b>8650</b>	9,490
Loan repayments	<b>9640</b>	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>138,192</b>	91,669

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Receipts and payment account (cont.)**

**For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

---

<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		
<b>Cash funds at 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021</b>		51,268
<b>Cash funds at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b>	<b>116,157</b>	

## Arkbound Foundation

### Balance sheet

As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

---

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors: amounts falling due within 1 year <b>(3)</b>	11,278	0
Cash at hand and in bank	116,157	51,268
	<u>116,157</u>	<u>51,268</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year <b>(4)</b>	21,948	(0)
	<u>21,948</u>	<u>(0)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>127,435</u>	<u>51,268</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>105,487</u>	<u>51,268</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>105,487</u>	<u>51,268</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>		
Restricted funds <b>(5)</b>	83,958	36,600
Unrestricted funds <b>(6)</b>	21,529	12,668
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>105,487</u>	<u>51,268</u>

The notes on pages 15 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

## Arkbound Foundation

### Notes to the financial statements

As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

---

(1)

#### Grants received

<b>Name of source</b>	<b>Amount received (£)</b>	<b>Funding purpose</b>
Old Possum's Charitable Trust	5000	Writing Within Walls project (restricted)
Quartet Community Foundation	5000	Writing workshops (restricted)
Amazon Literature Partnerships	5000	Publishing (restricted)
Big Issue Access	21,250	Core operations, workshops and staff (restricted)
Big Issue Invest	5000	Core operations (unrestricted)
People's Postcode Lottery	45,000	Core operations, business plan (restricted)
Kickstart	17,437	Employment and training (restricted)

(2)

#### Grants given

<b>Recipient name</b>	<b>Amount given (£)</b>	<b>Funding purpose</b>
Jasami Publishing	800	Book publishing
Glacier Trust	1000	Tree planting
Prince's Trust	500	Supporting young people in publishing
Govanhill Community Center	800	Supporting disadvantaged people into writing
Arts Alliance	750	Supporting placement for disabled carer

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Notes to the financial statements (cont.)**

**As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

---

**(3)**

**Debtors**

<b>Due within 1 year</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>(£)</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	6068	0
Prepayments and accrued income	210	0
Grants	5000	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b><u>11,278</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>

**(4)**

**Creditors**

<b>Due within 1 year</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>(£)</b>	<b>(£)</b>
Book royalties	2100	0
Loan repayments	19,848	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b><u>21,948</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>

**(5)**

**Restricted funds**

**Current year**

	<b>Amount</b>
	<b>(£)</b>
Writing Within Walls	10,000
Creative Writing Mentoring	8500
Book publishing	12,986
Writing workshops	7000
Staff	28,035
Work placements	17,437
	<hr/>
	<b><u>83,958</u></b>

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Notes to the financial statements (cont.)**

**As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

---

**(6)**

**Unrestricted funds**

**Current year**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Big Issue Invest	5000
Sponsorships	5000
Donations	11,529
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>21,529</u></b>

**ARKBOUND FOUNDATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1173072

---

# Accounts

---

*Charity number 1173072 (England and Wales)  
and SC049523 (Scotland)*



---

# RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNTS

21st October 2020 to 20th October 2021

---

## Arkbound Foundation

### Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

---

**Charity number** 1173072 (England and Wales)  
SC049523 (Scotland)

<b>Address and contact details</b>	Arkbound Foundation Backfields House Upper York Street Bristol BS2 8QJ	Arkbound Foundation Rogart Street Campus 4 Rogart Street Glasgow G40 2AA
	0117 290 0386 info@arkfound.org	0871 268 9869 info@arkfound.org

### The trustees who served for the period of this report are as follows:-

Mike Findlay, Chair  
Waltraud Pospischil  
Shaun Clarke  
Amanda Thomas  
Tom Burgess  
Eilidh Akilade  
Ross Tanner  
Jim Dempsey  
Michael Craig (joined 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2021)  
Soffi James (stepped down 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021)

### Patrons

Anthony Hopkins CBE  
Jane Hatton  
Eoin McLennan-Murray  
Lucy Watts MBE

### Independent Examiner

Barbara Sheen CGMA  
Pithay Studios  
All Saints' St  
Bristol BS1 2LZ

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

---

### Structure, Governance and Management

**Type of governing document:** Constitution

**How the charity is constituted:** CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) - only voting members are charity trustees

**Trustee selection method:** Appointed through open, full board meeting decisions

### Objects and activities

**The charitable objects of the CIO are:-**

a. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION for the public benefit by working with people across the UK of all age groups who are socially excluded on the grounds of disability, poverty, criminal background, ethnicity or any other characteristic, and to relieve the needs of these groups to assist them to integrate more effectively into society, particularly by: -

i. Empowering these groups through workshops and events to convey their personal stories in a way that can be understood and appreciated by the wider community.

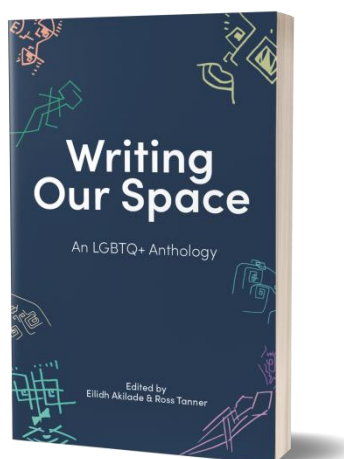
ii. Providing mentoring whereby individuals from these groups can fairly access the means to publish their work for the wider community to read and to develop their writing skills in a manner that improves their wellbeing.

iii. Providing a means by which these groups can convey their stories through books and the media at large, thereby helping to tackle stigma, misunderstanding and discrimination.

iv. Engaging these groups in discussions regarding climate change and the environment and promoting good environmental practice and awareness of related issues

b. FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION: For the public benefit to promote learning for people of all age-groups from disadvantaged backgrounds through the continued development of their individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding in subjects of educational value.

**How the charity implemented the objectives and the main activities undertaken for the public benefit over the last year(s):**



- The charity is grassroots founded, with lived experience core team members, as well as equality and diversity led. It works directly with people from a range of disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds, principally those who suffer social exclusion because of poverty, disability, ethnic and any other equality rights protected features, also those with refugee status, a conviction or criminal record, addictions, drug abuse, living in poverty or being long-term unemployed.

- We are actively involved in disability activism, providing ongoing peer support, proactive engagement, writing for wellbeing guidance, and advice leading towards a publication.

## Arkbound Foundation

### Report of the trustees

For the year 21st October 2020 - 20th October 2021

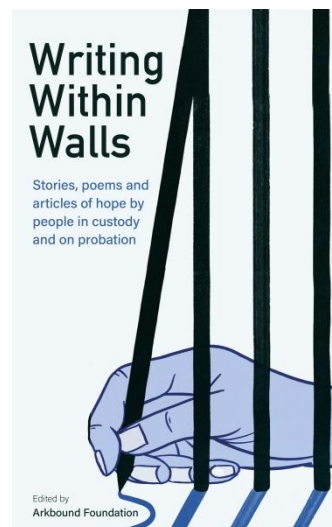
---

- We have trustees representing all equality main characteristics, including those identifying as LGBTQ+, who initiated ongoing online and writing involvement opportunities for the public, tackling stigma, and sharing experiences. 'Writing Our Space', a book that presents accounts of people within the LGBTQ+ community across the UK, was published in September 2021.
- Amongst other titles published, we supported a refugee and woman with experience of ethnic and gender discrimination to convey a powerful account of her experiences, 'Lullaby in the Desert'. In her words:-

*"The Arkbound Foundation is an amazing team who provided me with lots of support, which was crucial as a first-time author new to the world of publishing and editing. The Arkbound foundation is building bridges and connecting people from different backgrounds to make the world a better place for everyone, supporting authors like me and giving voices to the voiceless."* – Mojgan Azar

- We run on-going writing and publishing opportunities for prisoners and ex-offenders, as well as workshops and offer mentoring. We published Writing Within Walls, a collection of stories by prisoners on the theme "hope", in August 2021. The book was also made into an audio version later in the year: *our very first audio book*.
- Our mentoring scheme for the most marginalised people with experience of custody or probation, where we employed 3 lived experience mentors, has continued throughout the year – with currently 9 individual mentees enrolled, and several working towards publications.
- With financial support through National Lottery Scotland, we provided a mental health and wellbeing related mentoring scheme "Power of the Pen", for disadvantaged people and deprived communities: <https://arkbound.com/arkbound-foundation-awarded-national-lottery-funding/>
- Our landmark project in Scotland, **Bridging Literary Divides**, has progressed as planned: employing 6 writing mentors, each of whom is paired with an aspiring writer from a disadvantaged background. Already one of these writers has signed a publishing representation agreement with an established literary agent. In the words of one mentee:-

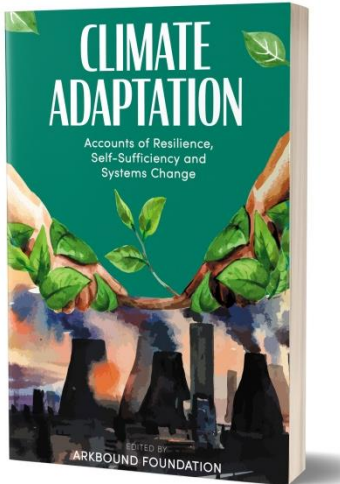
*"When I first began this programme back in October I didn't realize that I would grow to love it. During the process I really learnt a lot and gained new skills which I now integrate into my writing. What also really helped is that I also have an amazing mentor who has always been very encouraging and is able to really 'get' my characters like me and also understands my writing."* - Angela Bettoni



*“The meetings with Jim are fantastic, he is really helping me to draw the story out and develop my writing.” – Christina C*

To find out more about this initiative, visit <https://bridgingdivides.scot/>

- Continued support and open access for people from all backgrounds to volunteer for the charity, alongside facilitating paid internships, saw the charity take on board a total of 73 people across the year. In the words of one volunteer:-



*“Working at Arkbound has been instrumental in helping me discover where my interests lie. I am so fortunate to have found such an incredible opportunity that has allowed to develop new skills and make an effective contribution to a valuable charitable organization.” - Davinia Fernandes*

- Our work around climate change and the environment has been significant this year. We published two major titles, each receiving large amounts of national coverage and promotion:-
  - Great Adaptations by Dr Morgan Phillips
  - Climate Adaptation by Arkbound Foundation (multiple authors from around the world featured across the book)

*“Working with Arkbound was an exceptionally engaging and rewarding time. Easy to approach, ready to help staff and volunteers make your work easy to publish books while you focus on core writing.” – Dr Renuka Thakore, author in Climate Adaptation*

*“I am so glad I got to work with Arkbound publications. Having been an activist/environmentalist from the Global South hasn't been easy and especially when it came to telling our side of the struggle on how the climate crisis was affecting communities and wildlife in Kenya, so I was delighted when Emily reached out to me so I can tell my story, in my own words to the world. Emily and her team have been incredible with their support.” – Fazeela Mubarak, author in Climate Adaptation*

- These books are scheduled for two launch events, one at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow on 25th October, and the other at Waterstones Bristol on 9<sup>th</sup> November. An online event in September was also held, attracting 44 participants.
  - Extensive participation and cross-publicity has been seen as a result of these titles, with the second time for the international climate summit in Glasgow (COP26) held at the end of October. As part of this work, we recorded interviews and made dedicated videos to raise awareness of climate change and the need for communities to prepare for the impacts.
-

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2020 - 20th October 2021**

---

#### **Governance**

Over the last 12 months the charity's governance was stable, with meetings held at regular intervals throughout the year. Our previous vice-chair Mike Findlay got voted in as chair last year in November 2020, at a full board meeting. Our general board meetings take place every 2-3 months: we successfully switched to holding them via Zoom, in response to Covid-19. Important decisions are made by majority vote and every trustee can bring up agenda points. All meetings are properly recorded through minutes which get taken during the meetings, then circulated to all trustees a few days later, once they are written out and confirmed to be accurate.

We also advanced through regular trustee training opportunities, and every board member is made aware of the resources and regulations which are available through the CCEW gov.uk pages. Our policies get regularly updated and we have all essential ones in comprehensive forms, like safeguarding, data protection, complaints, conflicts of interests, expenses, volunteering, together with internal contacts, designated persons, as well as outside contacts for emergencies.

#### **Achievements and performance**

We are proud that the charity has continued its founding mission of empowering people from the most marginalised and under-represented backgrounds to make a positive difference – in their lives and others – through writing. The charity's underlying belief in the power of writing to dispel stereotypes, improve awareness of important issues and bring people together has been reaffirmed through the work and projects we have delivered throughout this period.

Our track record is also an example of working closely alongside people who suffer multiple disadvantages and under-representation, as well as being informed by lived experience of the same issues on a management level.

Other notable achievements across this period include:-

- Publishing our very first audio book, 'Writing Within Walls'. The process was more accessible than previously thought, thanks to the recruitment of a new member of staff familiar with audio book production and publishing. We have seen sales from the audio version commence from its launch, increasing on a weekly basis, and we plan to make additional audio versions of other books.
- Formal accreditation with the United Nations Environmental Programme. Only a handful of organisations in the UK have this status and it was gained after proving our pioneering efforts, principally around the COP26 project. The accreditation will strengthen our awareness of environmental issues and representation of communities in the UK who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It also enables early access to documentation and events undertaken by the UN, which we have begun to attend.



## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year 21st October 2020 - 20th October 2021**

---

- National and international coverage of multiple publications, with our highest levels of recorded book sales. Of particular highlight is 'Great Adaptations' and 'Climate Adaptation', both featured in The International Journal of Environmental Studies, The Big Issue, Nature, The Times Literary Supplement, The Ecologist, amongst many others. Pre-orders for both books exceeded 1000. For comparison, our highest selling previous publication totalled 300. We have great expectations for these two landmark titles on climate change.
- We were accepted onto the Charity Excellence framework (quality mark) and also gained both Disability Confident and Living Wage Employer marks. This was in recognition of our commitment to providing a fair, open and accessible workplace to disabled people, together with ensuring all employees receive a living wage.
- Thanks to a renewed outreach effort to networks, organisations and individuals, the charity achieved the highest level of yearly donations and corporate sponsorships in its history: £36,089. Through such efforts, we have developed a growing support base who can be relied upon in the years ahead to sustain the charity's work.

#### **Overcoming challenges and obstacles**

Although less than the previous year, impacts from COVID-19 caused a degree of disruption and income loss to the charity. This was mainly as a result of events having to be held online or with restrictions, causing lower attendance, engagement and book sales. It was also the case that many book stores – including independent venues that we relied upon in the past – were closed. As before, we dealt with this by holding online replacements and organising for additional health and safety protections for the physical events that could be held. To counteract the closure of stores, we put a lot of effort into online promotion, with extensive usage of social media.

At the beginning half of the year, our offices continued to be shut or with major restrictions, resulting in a continuance of staff having to work remotely. There were no major negative impacts from this, although it caused an increase in the length and frequency of emailing, with occasional delays in organising things. To counteract this, we endeavoured to hold regular meetings by Zoom.

An additional challenge came in the form of a budget deficit for the COP26 project. Through delivery of this project and liaising with other organisations, we found that access to funding for any kind of environmental project is extremely difficult – with the bulk of it being reserved for larger organisations or those who are specially invited to apply. At the same time, those funders within our core sphere of operations – social impact and cultural activities – often seemed to find it hard to see a connection with the environment and how it impacted people/communities (including climate change).

We did not expect this when planning the project and it resulted in having to draw upon unrestricted reserves. It also meant planned aspects had to be lessened – such as cutting the length of the (physical version) book to save print costs and reducing the level of advance royalties paid to authors. Regretfully, one was unhappy with these changes, making hostile communications with multiple staff and volunteers, but we were able to draw upon the support of our pro bono solicitors to resolve the situation.

## **Arkbound Foundation**

### **Report of the trustees**

**For the year 21st October 2020 - 20th October 2021**

---

The publication of 8 titles and delivery of so many projects also represented an operational drain on our limited staff team, all of whom work part-time. Getting a balance between budgetary limitations and ability to deliver projects was sometimes a juggling act, requiring the intervention of trustees and volunteers. Going forward, we hope to create some full time positions, with potentially the role of a CEO to oversee operations and support all staff consistently. This will, however, be dependent on levels of income and/or additional funding.

### **Financial review**

The Arkbound Foundation aims to keep at least three months running costs in reserves, so as to cover emergency or unexpected costs. We have managed to continue doing that throughout this period.

Increased promotion and outreach saw a growth in book sales, donations and corporate sponsorship: £8070 for the first and £36,089 for donations and sponsorships. This represents the highest levels in the charity's history, with further growth expected for the next year.

The principal source of income during this period was grants. This comprised £56,718. As a relatively new charity, the trustees nonetheless regarded the proportion of grant funding (at 63% of income) as a good sign, proving that there is strong future potential to move away from the unpredictability of grants and instead draw upon growing trading income.

The charity's principle expenditure was direct project delivery costs from book publications, workshop delivery and mentoring. The secondary expense was staff salaries, followed by office rent. As before, all these areas were kept at a very economical level, under the principle that internal operational costs must always come second to actually delivering projects that generate social impact.

### **Independent examiner**

Ms Barbara Sheen was appointed as independent examiner for the charity in this period.

This report was approved by the trustees on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

*Mike Findlay*

Mike Findlay, Chair of Trustees

## **Independent examiner's report**

### **To the trustees of the Arkbound Foundation**

---

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Arkbound Foundation ('the charity') for the year ended 20th October 2021, which are set out on pages 10 to 11.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the trustees of the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 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 Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

*Barbara Sheen*

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Barbara Sheen CGMA  
Pithay Studios  
All Saints' St  
Bristol BS1 2LZ

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Receipts and payment account**

**For the year ended 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

	<b>12 months to 20/10/ 2021</b>	Restated [Period in last accounts] Total £
	<b>Total £</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations and corporate sponsorships	<b>36,089</b>	11,778
Grants	<b>56,718</b>	51,366
Revenue from book sales and publishing	<b>16,500</b>	3495
Support in kind	<b>1038</b>	5297
Subletting	<b>0</b>	630
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>110,345</b>	72,566
<b>Payments</b>		
Book publication costs (all elements)	<b>18,578</b>	5295
Advertising and promotion	<b>3341</b>	0
Writing and journalism workshops	<b>2870</b>	695
Staff salaries	<b>36,460</b>	20,716
Volunteer and trustee expenses	<b>1772</b>	75
Mentoring network costs	<b>4809</b>	1015
Office rent	<b>2243</b>	1875
Insurance	<b>150</b>	0
Postage and stationery	<b>1390</b>	75
Website costs	<b>465</b>	180
Equipment and materials	<b>1206</b>	3,396
Environmental projects (incl. COP26 project)	<b>7154</b>	0
Small grants and prizes	<b>1591</b>	1500
Fundraising costs	<b>9490</b>	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>91,669</b>	41,982
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		
<b>Cash funds at 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020</b>	<b>30,584</b>	30,584
<b>Cash funds at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>	<b>51,268</b>	

**Arkbound Foundation**

**Statement of assets and liabilities**

**As at 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

---

	<b>2021</b> £	Restated 2020 £
<b>Cash funds</b>	<b>51,268</b>	30,584
In bank and on hand		
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>51,268</b>	30,584
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Unrestricted	<b>12,668</b>	4534
Restricted	<b>38,600</b>	26,050

The above report was approved by the trustees on 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 and signed by:

*Mike Findlay*

Mike Findlay, Chair of Trustees