

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

P B Syddall & Co
Chartered Accountants
Grafton House
81 Chorley Old Road
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 3AJ

PARALLEL HISTORIES

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 12
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	13

PARALLEL HISTORIES
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

To advance the education of young people in controversial history topics by means of researching and creating free educational materials including interactive videos and distributing these to teachers.

Significant activities

Parallel Histories is a UK educational charity, founded in 2017, to improve the life chances of disadvantaged young people and promote social cohesion through innovation in humanities teaching. We empower teachers to teach controversial history by providing training, educational resources, and debating for young people. Through these three main activities, we work with over 1114 secondary schools.

The charity works with a network of teachers in secondary schools who use Parallel Histories materials and teaching methods in their classrooms.

Public benefit

The main activities undertaken for public benefit are the creation and distribution of educational materials, providing teacher training and running inter-school debating.

The trustees take action to monitor and ensure that the charity acts to further these objectives in all its activities and have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

PARALLEL HISTORIES
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Introduction

In our eighth year of operation, we continued to grow strongly. In leadership terms our founder Michael Davies sadly died and he was succeeded as Chief Executive by Bill Rammell.

The Israel-Hamas war continued to lead to a particular demand from schools for the resources and method to teach the Israel-Palestine conflict. 19,758 downloads in total. We strongly continue to work with schools to help them strengthen social cohesion.

Our work with schools develops critical thinking skills, oracy skills and confidence in young people, and helps their development in civic and political life.

Jonathon Powell has been succeeded as Patron by the Right Honourable David Blunkett, Former Secretary of State for Education 97-2001 and Jo Berry CBE, a British peace builder and public speaker. The work of Parallel Histories has also been publicly endorsed by the Right Honourable Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education 2010-2014.

Growth

	March 2025	March 2024	March 2023	March 2022	March 2021	March 2020
Schools working with us	1594	1114	660	335	172	28

Media coverage and endorsements

Educate Against Hate, a website developed by the Department of Education and the Home Office, has quality checked our resources and promotes them to schools.

The Hannah Arendt Institute and Human Rights Watch have endorsed us.

We were partners with the 24/25 Guardian/Observer Charity appeal which boosted our income and greatly increased our reach and profile. This included multiple articles and a podcast.

The guardian, the Times, BBC Northern Ireland, ITV Granada, the National, and the Jewish Telegraph have covered our work this year. The work of Parallel Histories was also mentioned in parliamentary debates in the context of library services and education.

Launch of new resources

We have continued to work on the development of further eBooks on controversial history: Cromwell, Ghandi, Elisabeth, Columbus and a series on the contested history of Empire. These will be published in the next year.

In a significant endorsement of our approach we continue to partner with Pearson, the largest education publisher in the world, to create resources for the Edexcel iGCSE History unit: Conflict, crisis and change: the Middle East, 1919-2012.

Young people debating controversial history

We delivered debating workshops for 1385 students (a 177% increase on the previous year).

A continuing highlight was bringing together Protestant and Catholic students to debate the legacy of the Good Friday Agreement in the Parliament Buildings, Stormont, at a debate conference hosted by Robbie Butler MLA.

Impact

Our aims are to improve the life chances of disadvantaged young people and promote social cohesion. To achieve these aims, we work towards the following impacts:

- Young people equipped to be active citizens in healthy democracies
- Young people enabled to realise their ambitions in work and further study,
- Schools equipped to teach controversial history and change how the history of conflict is taught.

We are confident that we are achieving these impacts. The outcomes for young people and teachers from our work are identified as strong factors in causing these impacts by research from leading institutions such as the Education Endowment Foundation and the Sutton Trust. These outcomes are:

PARALLEL HISTORIES
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- Improved ability of young people to analyse evidence, form and present their opinions, to listen and disagree robustly but respectfully, and to understand different perspectives on controversial history.
- Improved confidence of teachers to teach controversial history and use debating in teaching.

In a sample of 135 young people participating in our debating, comparing before and after, there was:

- A 20% rise in confidence in ability to draw inferences. (87%).
- A 13% rise in confidence to ability to analyse the usefulness and reliability of historical sources as evidence. (86%).
- A 26% rise in confidence in ability to construct a historical claim. (81%).
- A 16% rise in confidence in ability to "listen to views different to my own and engage in healthy, respectful debate." (90%).
- A 30% rise in "confidence in ability to articulate different points of view in a public setting." (90%).

Overall:

90% agreed "my confidence in meeting and working with people from different backgrounds has grown".

88% agreed "my knowledge and understanding of the topic have grown through Parallel Histories".

Teacher and student quotes of endorsement

Teacher: "I think that Parallel Histories is taking a very fresh original approach to this, and I do think it can really play a role in the healing process in Northern Ireland. Every generation, even today, still feels what happened in Northern Ireland so its very important that you hear the story from every perspective and you're able to make your own balanced conclusions about things."

Student: "'Definitely,that stuff was new and brought new perspectives of how people would think"

Student: "I think its like important to look at things from everybody's perspective ...obviously everybody's got an argument about why they feel a certain way or why they think a certain way.."

Student: "I found it good because I'm allowed to say what i want to say and people are allowed to hear what i want to say without judging me"

Teacher: "From speaking to my students, they had a fantastic day which really fired up their passion for history. They were also very excited to see inside an Oxford College for the first time, and left the day much better informed about what studying at Oxford is really like."

Teacher: "My students really developed their skills in regard to analysing sources and evaluating which we have continued to develop in class. I would 100% recommend the event."

Events

May '24: Christ Church conference:

July: PTI History conference York University

Edgehill CPD: trainee teachers

December: Guardian LRGS schools conference

Outreach Scottish schools Feb 2025

March: PTI Leeds Primaries conference

March 25-Chief Executive and Director of Education presented in Hungary at Geography, cartography and politics symposium: Upon what historical foundations? Published in European Encounters 2025; Collected papers of the Joseph Karolyi Foundation.

April 1st '25: ITV LRGS schools conference

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:

Create educational resources

We create educational resources (ebooks, videos, lesson plans and source packs) for studying and teaching controversial historical topics. These are topics which are disputed by historians, have partisan interpretations, and may cause emotional responses. We now provide all our resources and EBooks (with the exception of Israel/Palestine) free of charge to grow participation.

Deliver debating for young people

PARALLEL HISTORIES
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We deliver online and in-person debating workshops for young people. They study different perspectives on these topics, evaluate the evidence, and argue for different perspectives. The workshops are collaborative rather than competitive. The young people receive individual feedback from our team and teacher volunteers to track their progress over the workshops.

We delivered debating workshops for 1385 students this year.

We have delivered workshops in partnership with PwC, Naval Children's Charity, and Forward Assist.

Train teachers

We train teachers in teaching controversial history through regular online workshops. We trained over 192 teachers (a 113% increase on last year) this year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and fundraising

We continued to strengthen our financial sustainability through broadening the sources of our income. We expect this diversity to enable us to meet our fundraising growth targets, as we grow our operations in the next two years. We were particularly helped by being partners in the Guardian/Observer 24/25 charity appeal.

We are grateful to the following trusts, foundations and organisations for their support this year: the Persula Foundation, The Community Relations Council, The Siegfried Rausing Trust, the Irelands Funds, Christ Church Access Hub, the Big Give Foundation and the Guardian/Observer Charity Appeal. We are grateful to the individuals who supported our work this year. Our income from individual donations grew this year through participating in the Big Give Christmas Challenge, and on the back of the Guardian/Observer Charity Appeal.

Reserves policy

The trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity in its formative years and with the position of the reserves at the end of March 2025.

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds at a level which the trustees believe appropriate after considering the future commitments of the charity and the likely administrative costs of the charity in the coming year. In the year to March 2025, the Trustees looked to maintain general reserves in excess of £25,000. At the year end Parallel Histories had £33,340 in unrestricted funds.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document and constitutes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This is not a company incorporated under the Companies Acts and it is therefore not subject to company regulation. Neither its existence nor any charges it creates have to be registered at Companies House.

Decision making

Decision making is carried out by the board of trustees who meet regularly throughout the year. Staff members acting in an administrative capacity are also invited to Trustee meetings.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1174481

Principal address

1 The Brickett
Sheering Road
Hatfield Heath
Bishops Stortford
CM2 27LJ

PARALLEL HISTORIES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees

Ms C O'Sullivan

T Ramsey

P Franek

Ms S Tariq

H Edmondson

W Albion (resigned 18.9.24)

J Hillis (appointed 18.9.24)

Ms C Davies (appointed 18.9.24)

Independent Examiner

Adam J Syddall M.A., F.C.A.

P B Syddall & Co

Chartered Accountants

Grafton House

81 Chorley Old Road

Bolton

Lancashire

BL1 3AJ

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 14 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Joshua Hillis

J Hillis - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF PARALLEL HISTORIES

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Parallel Histories

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Parallel Histories (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Adam J Syddall M.A., F.C.A.

P B Syddall & Co
Chartered Accountants
Grafton House
81 Chorley Old Road
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Lancashire
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9 January 2026

PARALLEL HISTORIES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		73,650	9,391	83,041	8,376
Charitable activities					
Digital Debating		54,997	-	54,997	26,260
Enhancing the digital capabilities of teachers		-	2,000	2,000	20,373
Northern Ireland Stormont conference		-	3,000	3,000	-
Other trading activities	2	15,867	6,190	22,057	52,791
Total		144,514	20,581	165,095	107,800
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Digital Debating		153,165	6,933	160,098	114,120
Other		7,992	3,000	10,992	4,935
Total		161,157	9,933	171,090	119,055
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(16,643)	10,648	(5,995)	(11,255)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		49,983	11,430	61,413	72,668
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		33,340	22,078	55,418	61,413

The notes form part of these financial statements

PARALLEL HISTORIES

BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	-	-	-	95
Cash at bank		<u>38,846</u>	<u>22,078</u>	<u>60,924</u>	<u>63,952</u>
		38,846	22,078	60,924	64,047
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(5,506)</u>	-	<u>(5,506)</u>	<u>(2,634)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>33,340</u>	<u>22,078</u>	<u>55,418</u>	<u>61,413</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>33,340</u>	<u>22,078</u>	<u>55,418</u>	<u>61,413</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>33,340</u></u>	<u><u>22,078</u></u>	<u><u>55,418</u></u>	<u><u>61,413</u></u>
FUNDS	7				
Unrestricted funds				<u>33,340</u>	<u>49,983</u>
Restricted funds				<u>22,078</u>	<u>11,430</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u><u>55,418</u></u>	<u><u>61,413</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 9 January 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

Joshua Hillis

J Hillis - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

PARALLEL HISTORIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Fees for services	<u>22,057</u>	<u>52,791</u>

PARALLEL HISTORIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	8,376	-	8,376
Charitable activities			
Digital Debating	-	26,260	26,260
Enhancing the digital capabilities of teachers	-	20,373	20,373
Other trading activities	52,791	-	52,791
Total	<u>61,167</u>	<u>46,633</u>	<u>107,800</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Digital Debating	83,817	30,303	114,120
Other	878	4,057	4,935
Total	<u>84,695</u>	<u>34,360</u>	<u>119,055</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(23,528)	12,273	(11,255)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	73,511	(843)	72,668
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>49,983</u></u>	<u><u>11,430</u></u>	<u><u>61,413</u></u>

PARALLEL HISTORIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		31.3.25	31.3.24
		£	£
Trade debtors		-	95
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		31.3.25	31.3.24
		£	£
Other creditors		5,506	2,634
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			
	At 1.4.24	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	49,983	(16,643)	33,340
Restricted funds			
Enhancing the digital capabilities of teachers	1,154	2,000	3,154
Digital debating	10,276	(743)	9,533
Michael Davis annual memorial debate	-	9,391	9,391
	<u>11,430</u>	<u>10,648</u>	<u>22,078</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>61,413</u>	<u>(5,995)</u>	<u>55,418</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	144,514	(161,157)	(16,643)
Restricted funds			
Enhancing the digital capabilities of teachers	2,000	-	2,000
Digital debating	-	(743)	(743)
National Union of Students project	6,190	(6,190)	-
Northern Ireland stormont debates	3,000	(3,000)	-
Michael Davis annual memorial debate	9,391	-	9,391
	<u>20,581</u>	<u>(9,933)</u>	<u>10,648</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>165,095</u>	<u>(171,090)</u>	<u>(5,995)</u>

PARALLEL HISTORIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	73,511	(23,528)	49,983
Restricted funds			
Enhancing the digital capabilities of teachers	(18,517)	19,671	1,154
Digital debating	17,674	(7,398)	10,276
	<u>(843)</u>	<u>12,273</u>	<u>11,430</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>72,668</u>	<u>(11,255)</u>	<u>61,413</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	61,167	(84,695)	(23,528)
Restricted funds			
Enhancing the digital capabilities of teachers	20,373	(702)	19,671
Digital debating	26,260	(33,658)	(7,398)
	<u>46,633</u>	<u>(34,360)</u>	<u>12,273</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>107,800</u>	<u>(119,055)</u>	<u>(11,255)</u>

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

PARALLEL HISTORIES

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	83,041	6,633
Gift aid	-	1,743
	<u>83,041</u>	<u>8,376</u>
Other trading activities		
Fees for services	22,057	52,791
Charitable activities		
Grants	59,997	46,633
Total incoming resources	<u>165,095</u>	<u>107,800</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	108,152	83,327
Pensions	3,024	2,416
Advertising	-	3,186
Sundries	1,438	82
Teacher fellowship	-	150
IT and software	6,124	2,663
Consultancy	37,057	21,013
	<u>155,795</u>	<u>112,837</u>
Other		
Books and research	-	91
Conferences and travel	10,992	4,844
	<u>10,992</u>	<u>4,935</u>
Support costs		
Management		
Insurance	442	435
Postage and stationery	1,368	250
	<u>1,810</u>	<u>685</u>
Finance		
Bank charges	1,773	58
Governance costs		
Independent examination	720	540
Total resources expended	<u>171,090</u>	<u>119,055</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(5,995)</u>	<u>(11,255)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements