

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LTD

England & Wales · Charity number 1180001

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [10599285](#)

Registered 2018-09-20

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

Contact

Address Dance City
Temple Street
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 4BR

Phone 01912695581

Email ad@fertileground.org.uk

Website www.fertileground.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE ARTS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY THE PROMOTION IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, OF THE ART OF DANCE.

Activities: Fertile Ground Dance Limited aims to advance the arts for the public benefit by the promotion in particular, but not exclusively, of the art of dance. FG offers performances and workshops across the North-East region and beyond, showcasing great talent performing in theatres, galleries and outdoor spaces.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-02-28	£57,667	£46,187	-	-
2024-02-29	£38,198	£40,580	-	-
2023-02-28	£20,927	£31,602	-	-
2022-02-28	£87,093	£98,666	-	-
2021-02-28	£53,051	£28,749	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Elizabeth Jane Highmore		2022-08-24
Jennifer Gabbitus		2022-08-24
Niamh Michelle Cunningham		2023-08-02
Sue Hurrell		2017-05-16

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1180001

Accounts

Company Registration Number 10599285

Registered Charity Number 1180001

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ending 28 February 2025

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2025.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Fertile Ground Dance Limited
Charity registration number	1180001
Company registration number	10599285
Registered office	2nd Floor, Dance City, Temple Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BR

Trustees

For the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, the Board of Trustees is the Board of Directors of the charitable company and is referred to as "the Trustees" throughout this report.

The Trustees of Fertile Ground Dance Limited during the year and to the date of signing this report are as follows:

Niamh Cunningham
Camille De Groote
Jennifer Gabbitus
Elizabeth Highmore
Sue Hurrell
Ann Schofield
Lisa-Marie Tonelli

Bankers Barclays Bank plc, 49-51 Northumberland Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7AF

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

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Documents

The Company is a Company Limited by Guarantee and was incorporated on 3 February 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 20 September 2018.

The charitable company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, as registered with Companies House on 3 February 2017 and as amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 25 June 2018. The Directors of the company are also Trustees of the charity.

Eligibility for membership of the charity and membership of the Board of Trustees is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. There are no restrictions in the governing document on the operation of the charity other than those imposed by general charity law.

Governance

Fertile Ground (FG) currently has seven Trustees.

The charity regularly reviews the Board's skillset in order to strengthen its governance, approaching individuals and advertising the opportunity through the company website and social media channels (LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), alongside voluntary sector, business, and arts and culture channels when skills gaps are identified.

Current Board Members have experience in external relations, strategic development, project management, financial management, stakeholder management, producing, programming, film production and distribution, and accessible dance, offering a wide skill set available to the charity. The Board has identified some skills gaps, notably in marketing and communication and in education, and is therefore continuing its recruiting effort.

The Board meets a minimum of four times per year and conducts an AGM. The quorum is at least three Trustees and meetings may be held in person or remotely via video call.

At Trustees' meetings, held at least quarterly, the Trustees agree on the broad strategy and areas of activity for the charity, including but not limited to the consideration of artistic activity and engagement, projects, fundraising, governance, reserves, risk management, policies, performance, and business planning.

Detailed written reports and an agenda are prepared by senior staff and these are circulated in advance of Board meetings in accordance with the notice periods defined in the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Appointment and Induction of Trustees

The appointment of Trustees is carried out at regular Trustee meetings and is by unanimous agreement of the existing Trustees. Trustees are appointed for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election at the end of that term.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association determine that the Board is made up of no less than three Trustee Directors.

Trustees are nominated by invitation given that they have the necessary skills and expertise to contribute to the charity's activities and to be able to discharge their obligations as Trustees. The skills and composition of the Board is reviewed on a regular basis, taking into consideration succession planning, representation and experience, empathy and knowledge of the charity.

Management and Organisational Structure

Day-to-day management is delegated to Artistic Director Renaud Wisser, who is responsible for most of the key activities of the charity including the content of the artistic and engagement programme, recruiting and appointing FG artistic and administrative freelance staff, tour booking, working with fundraising consultants and learning and participation manager and, jointly with the Finance Manager, for regulatory compliance.

Across the year, fundraising activities have been supported by Sam Hobrough, a freelance arts sector fundraising consultant who works predominantly in the North East with a range of arts and charity organisations. Since December 2024, engagement activities have been supported by freelance Learning and Participation Manager consultant Giulia Cotti Zelati, who is a Fertile Ground alumnus with good experience in the dance engagement sector.

Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Artistic Director as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

All Trustees give their time freely. No Trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Chair, and in accordance with the charity's Conflict of Interests policy, withdraw from decisions where any such conflict of interest arises.

Grant-making

The charity does not currently engage in grant-making activity.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Policies on Reserves

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

The Trustees aim to hold a level of Unrestricted Reserves which enables the charity to have sufficient financial resources to meet various liabilities which would crystallise if FG Dance Limited were unable to continue operating, together with an allowance to enable the charity to respond flexibly to issues or appropriate initiatives which might be identified outside of its annual budgeting process.

At present, the Trustees estimate that the Unrestricted Reserves required to cover all known liabilities amount to approximately £2,500. In addition, the Trustees consider that a contingency of at least £10,000 is prudent, resulting in an optimum level of Unrestricted Reserves in the region of £12,500.

Fertile Ground Dance Limited currently holds Unrestricted Reserves of £20,641 at 28 February 2025 (2024: £17,776). Free reserves, defined as non-designated Unrestricted Reserves, minus the value of Tangible Fixed Assets, are £20,641 (2024: £15,650 which provides a small additional level of contingency).

The Trustees believe that Unrestricted Reserves should, wherever possible, be maintained at least at this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet the needs of the beneficiaries. FG will continue to use reserves, where necessary, to support the annual programme, but the objective is to achieve 100% funding for each programme.

This policy will be reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis as part of the charity's budgeting processes.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Fertile Ground Dance Limited aims to advance the arts for the public benefit by the promotion, in particular, but not exclusively, of the art of dance.

Fertile Ground (FG) is the North East's only contemporary touring dance company which specialises in creating opportunities for young professional dancers to develop their early careers.

FG offers performances and workshops across the North East region and beyond, showcasing great talent performing in theatres, galleries and outdoor spaces.

The vision that shapes our annual activities remains working with emerging dance artists, creating and touring contemporary dance across the North East and removing barriers for children and young people to access high quality contemporary dance.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Aims & Objectives

Our organisational objectives remain to:

- Provide professional opportunities for emerging dancers who are native to, have trained or are based in the North East;
- Inspire children and young people through engagement programmes where interaction with professional dancers and choreographers promote creativity and encourage physical well-being;
- Continue to increase the artistic profile and visibility of FG by working with internationally recognised collaborators
- Create, produce and present inspiring and innovative dance programmes toured in North East and beyond

Public Benefit

The Trustees understand and have discussed the implications of the provisions of the Charities Act 2006, which state that all charities must demonstrate that they are established for public benefit, and have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees believe that the charity meets both of the key principles.

Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit, or benefits

Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public

The charity's principal public benefits are:

- Education and development of young people - The charity's participatory activities focus on strengthening the social and emotional capabilities of young people – such as confidence, resilience, creativity, communication, managing feelings, problem-solving, relationship-building, responsibility and perseverance - through participation in creative activities.
- Performances for the general public - The charity produces performances and events which are delivered to a high standard by paid professional staff.

The main beneficiaries are:

- Members of the public who attend our events and performances and who engage with FG online
- Emerging dancers from the North East of England who form the FG Company
- Emerging dancers from the North East of England who are the beneficiaries of the professional development programme (360 programme)
- Children and young people and adult participants who take part in our workshops and residencies in education settings
- Artists and crew who create and contribute to our touring programmes

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Impact and Value

FG remains dedicated to creating a lasting impact and providing significant value through its focus on talent development and the empowerment of young dancers in the North East.

For each artistic programme, we make it a priority to select a minimum of four promising emerging young dancers who have strong connections to our region, either through their birthplace, training, or current residency. These talented individuals are given a remarkable opportunity to join our company as members for a 12 to 18 months intensive program. Throughout this transformative experience, they collaborate closely with experienced and acclaimed dance artists, honing their skills.

Our young dancers not only gain invaluable artistic growth, but they also have the chance to showcase their talent on a regional or national tour, bringing their innovative performances to audiences across the country. Moreover, they actively contribute to our educational initiatives by assisting in the delivery of workshops and educational programs. As believers in the value of ethical employment practices, we ensure that our dancers receive professional fees.

In our ongoing efforts to break down barriers and make high-quality dance accessible to all, we offer a range of free educational activities in local schools, community centres, and in collaboration with our partners. These initiatives aim to eliminate obstacles that may prevent young people from accessing the transformative power of dance. By engaging directly with professional dancers, our programs inspire young individuals, promote their overall well-being, and nurture their creativity.

Recognising the challenges that newly trained dancers aged 18-25 often face when trying to establish themselves in the industry, we have established the '360 professional development program.' This unique initiative is specifically designed to provide support to young dancers including those who may struggle to secure their first professional job due to a variety of socio-economic factors. By offering comprehensive assistance and mentorship, we equip these individuals with the resilience and essential skills needed to navigate the early stages of their careers successfully.

Through our unwavering commitment to talent development and the provision of inclusive opportunities, we create a profound impact on the lives of young dancers in our community. By investing in their growth, we not only foster the next generation of exceptional dancers but also contribute to their personal and professional development, ultimately enriching the cultural landscape of the North East.

The work of FG is rooted in its artistic programme. The Artistic Director collaborates with diverse international guests each year to curate a fresh repertoire, delving into various cross-genre art forms such as film, theatre, digital media, and live music. These guest artists actively participate in our engagement initiatives, infusing their specialised expertise into workshops and school residencies.

Our ultimate goal is to produce exceptionally high-quality work that is both captivating and unpredictable. We aspire to present dance that pioneers unexplored territories, captivating audiences through a multitude of formats and venues, and challenging their preconceptions of contemporary dance.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Testimonials

“Having the opportunity to work with professional companies and artists massively strengthens the work we do at Gosforth Civic Theatre. Sharing new styles and ways of working, as well as giving our younger participants with learning disabilities and Autism a chance to work alongside young dancers of a similar age to themselves as they have with Fertile Ground has been so inspirational. Performing as a curtain raiser to Fertile Ground gave us the opportunity to perform outside of our usual platform events and show our work to a wider audience as well as giving our participants the chance to experience work, they wouldn't normally get to see.” Kelly Turnbull, Deputy CEO and Head of Delivery - Gosforth Civic Theatre/Liberdade

“Absolutely 100% glad I came with my 13 year old. I used to do contemporary dance in my teens but my daughter was new to it. I'm glad we shared this experience. Very special.” Audience member - The Maltings, Berwick

“It's given me another foot in the door in the North East, I will be forever grateful for the opportunity. Local artists and choreographers watched me perform which is really helpful for future work. I feel more seen in the NE which is helping my confidence in looking for work.” Company dancer 2024-25

Wider Operating Context

In 2024, the UK dance sector faced significant challenges linked to funding cuts, rising costs, and shifting audience behaviour. Changes in Arts Council England's funding priorities, particularly the redistribution of resources outside London, left many established companies with reduced support. Combined with the cost-of-living crisis, this created financial strain, especially for freelance artists who make up a large part of the sector.

Audience attendance remained below pre-pandemic levels, with mainstream productions recovering more successfully than independent or contemporary works. Digital performances, once vital during lockdowns, saw declining engagement, though some hybrid formats persisted. Younger and more diverse audiences showed interest, particularly in socially engaged or culturally relevant dance, but attracting and retaining them remained a challenge.

Fundraising became more competitive, with limited access to public grants and fewer corporate sponsorship opportunities. Many organisations turned to individual giving, crowdfunding, and commercial diversification—such as workshops, touring, or brand partnerships—to supplement income. Despite these pressures, the sector demonstrated resilience, creativity, and a commitment to accessibility and inclusion, even if resources for such efforts were often constrained.

Overall, the dance landscape in 2024 was one of adaptation and persistence, as companies and artists navigated a rapidly evolving cultural and economic environment while striving to sustain their practice and reach new audiences.

In this challenging context, Fertile Ground was able to continue artistic and engagement activities, touring our artistic programme and strategizing for the future.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Risk Management

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

The charity has a risk management strategy in place which comprises:

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

Trustees are satisfied that appropriate financial systems and controls and employment policies and practices are in place. They consider the key risks facing the charity at this time to be:

- Financial capacity - New sources of income are needed to make give the charity's operations long term security, however the risk here is a lack of available funds to support research, investment, and speculative ideation
- Increased competition for funding - This applies to most of our funders who experience significant oversubscription to their programmes (resulting in project funding success rates being highly reduced)

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

- Sufficient investment is put in place to sustain year-long fundraising activities which have proved to yield sufficient results to support artistic and engagement activities, focusing on a diversity of funders locally and nationally;
- Conservative budgets have been set for the next financial year which recognise a difficult funding landscape for the cultural sector;
- The charity maintains a low-cost base, using freelancers and minimising liabilities;
- Regular management accounts are produced, demonstrating performance against budget, allowing for interrogation, challenge, and advice from Trustees;
- Contingency plans and alternative ways forward are discussed among the Executive and Trustees ahead of major commitments on spend and activity
- A reserves policy is in place providing for an appropriate amount of uncommitted reserves to enable the charity to meet all liabilities if income targets are not achieved

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

Artistic Achievements

Following the receipt of the Dance City and the Gillian Dickinson Trust commission in 2023-24, which gave Fertile Ground the opportunity to develop an ambitious artistic programme of stage works and engagement activities titled *Play, Pause, Repeat*, the company decided to focus its artistic planning on presenting and touring the existing works, therefore creating a legacy from the initial investment.

The programme premiered on 8 March 2024 at Dance City, providing employment to 5 emerging artists from the North East to rehearse and perform the work. They worked with established choreographers Patricia Okenwa and Jamaal Burkmar, as well as with artistic director Renaud Wisser, taking part in daily training and performing at Dance City, Benfield School, Sunderland College's Visual and Performing Arts Academy and The Maltings in Berwick in spring 2024 and at The Alnwick Playhouse, The Queens Hall Art Centre in Hexham and the Gosforth Theatre in autumn 2024.

The pieces part of the programme were:

- *How to Decouple in an Ethical Way*: Choreographed by international award-winning choreographer Jamaal Burkmar, this work is a millennial love story told in 3 sessions and 3 songs. In a mix of improvisation and choreography, music and text, the piece goes on a journey exploring the short life of a new relationship.
- *The Messiest Drawer*: Choreographed by former Rambert Dancer Patricia Okenwa, this work is a tender look at the objects, memories, sensations, that we have tucked away in our secret drawer. In *The Messiest Drawer* we find clutter, tangles, precious knick knacks - all the things we hang on to, as well as the many stories that tell us why and how. As we unpack, rediscover, and reposition, memories bubble up and move us in many ways: from getting stuck in a moment to holding them dear to our heart.

The programme was presented live to 646 audience members across the region. In addition, in May 2025, BA students from Dance City performed the work created by Fertile Ground guest choreographer Patricia Okenwa on two occasions at the FUZION FESTIVAL 2024 at Dance City (151 audience members), extending our engagement programme with Dance City BA which had started earlier in the year.

Engagement

During the year, the company conducted 53 engagement sessions for children aged 6 to 18, young dancers in training or in search of employment aged 18 to 25, older adults and young people with learning disabilities (37 in Newcastle, 5 in Alnwick, 5 in Hexham, 1 in Berwick and 5 in London for a total of 561 participants over all the sessions).

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR (CONTINUED)

Engagement (Cont.)

They consisted of:

- 15 open company classes, experiencing training with our professional dancers delivered by our FG artistic director Renaud Wisser and company members.
- Rehearsals with Dance City BA students towards their performance at the FUZION FESTIVAL 2024.
- 4 creative sessions to children aged 6 to 13 at Alnwick Playhouse.
- Delivery of 3 mock auditions to dance students at Newcastle College.
- 2 creative sessions, q&a with students and delivery of a short video interview on the dancer's profession at the Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham.
- 2 creative sessions with over 55 community dance groups in Hexham.
- weekly creative sessions over two months with learning disability group Liberdade towards a curtain raiser for the performance at the Gosforth Civic Theatre, delivered by company dancers and FG artistic director Renaud Wisser.
- An intensive day with introduction to contemporary dance and the practice of the company at Pimlico Academy.

Emerging Artists Professional Development

360 Programme - This year saw four 360 professional development programme participants complete their placement with the company. The programme includes taking part in company class, watching rehearsals and performances, getting a first hand knowledge of a professional creative process, taking part in engagement activities and mentoring sessions with Artistic Director Renaud Wisser.

Emerging professional dancers - This year five emerging professional dancers worked for the company as paid cast members. One had been a member of FG's 2024 360 professional development programme and was able to successfully start her professional career as a performer, testimony of the programme's success as a pathway into the professional world.

Fundraising

Working with freelance fundraising consultant Samantha Hobrough in 2024/25, we submitted 7 funding applications to trusts and foundations to support Fertile Ground's charitable activities. In addition, we continued to receive support from the Newcastle Culture Investment Fund 2022 - 2025.

In 2024/2025 Fertile Ground received:

- £10,000 from Backstage Trust towards organisational development in the next 18 months.
- £12,000 over three years from Sir James Knott Trust towards core funding.
- £10,000 from Newcastle Culture Investment Fund (awarded for three years until 2025) towards artistic and outreach programmes in Newcastle, in recognition of the vital part Fertile Ground plays in delivering the cultural vision for the city.

In addition, Fertile Ground successfully renewed its funding support from Newcastle Culture Investment Fund (£36,000 per year awarded for three years until 2028) due to start in April 2025.

Fertile Ground are deeply grateful for the support from all these organisations.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR (CONTINUED)

Financial Review

The financial out-turn for the year is an unrestricted surplus of £4,865 (2024: Unrestricted deficit of £382), leaving a balance on Unrestricted Funds of £20,641 at 28 February 2025.

The Trustees consider the financial performance of the charity to be satisfactory.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Following our successful touring programme in 2024-25, the company is now looking to the future and planning an ambitious takeover of Dance City during the weekend of 6&7 September 2025. This Festival of North-East Dance will celebrate the tremendous artistic and creative dance talent resident in the North East, featuring artists who have collaborated with, created with, choreographed for and danced with the Fertile Ground company in the 12 years since we began.

This event will take over Dance City, and will encompass free and ticketed events, workshops and talks, digital, involvement from schools and community groups that we have worked with, and dance performances. We hope to make a small commissioning fund available, which artists can use to create new work, and which could be performed by the 2025/6 cohort of Fertile Ground emerging dancers. The works created will have the potential to be recreated elsewhere, so that the legacy of the Festival will be a tour of selected Festival works performed by Fertile Ground's current cohort of emerging artists, which travels throughout the North East to venues and arts festivals, reaching as wide an audience as possible.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2025

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of Fertile Ground Dance Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

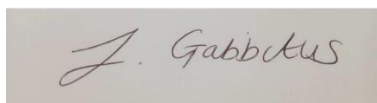
Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed by order of the Trustees



Jennifer Gabbitus
Chair of Trustees
Company Registration Number 10599285

23 June 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

I hereby report to the Trustees of Fertile Ground Dance Limited (Charity Registration Number 1180001) on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 28 February 2025 set out on pages 15 to 24.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

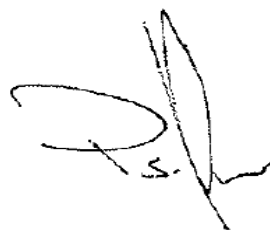
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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



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

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

23 June 2025

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income					
Income from Investments	3	-	-	-	-
Income from Donations & Legacies	4	-	-	-	69
Income from Charitable Activities	5	8,477	42,635	51,112	29,250
Other Income	6	6,555	-	6,555	8,879
		15,032	42,635	57,667	38,198
Expenditure					
Expenditure on Raising Funds	7	-	4,400	4,400	750
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	8	10,167	31,620	41,787	39,830
		10,167	36,020	46,187	40,580
Net Income/(Expenditure)		4,865	6,615	11,480	(2,382)
Balance brought forward		15,776	2,000	17,776	20,158
Balance carried forward		£20,641	£8,615	£29,256	£17,776

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of the financial statements.

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	-	126
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	8,074	17,508
Cash At Bank & In Hand		27,455	13,966
		<u>35,529</u>	<u>31,474</u>
Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year	13	(6,273)	(13,824)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>29,256</u>	<u>17,650</u>
Total Net Assets	14	<u>£29,256</u>	<u>£17,776</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Reserves	15	20,641	15,776
Restricted Reserves	15	8,615	2,000
		<u>£29,256</u>	<u>£17,776</u>

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of the financial statements.

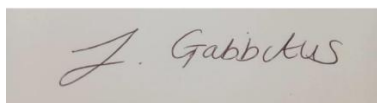
The Trustees are satisfied that for the year ended 28 February 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees also confirm that the Members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charity keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 June 2025 and signed on their behalf:



Jennifer Gabbitus
Chair of Trustees
Company Registration Number 10599285

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 – 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' ('FRS 102'), and with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value.

Advantage has been taken of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a statement of cashflows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

Taxation Status

Fertile Ground Dance Limited is a Charity registered under the 1960 Charities Act and is accorded exemption from liability to taxation on its income under S505 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Going Concern

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

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Where legacies have been notified to the charity but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.
- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Other income is accounted for when receivable.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Capital items costing over £250 are capitalised and included in fixed assets.

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

IT Equipment – 3 years

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost where there is a material adjustment.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

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

2. Legal Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

3. Income from Investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Receivable	-	-	-	-
	£-	£-	£-	£-

4. Income from Donations & Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations - General	-	-	-	69
	£-	£-	£-	£69

The 2024 total of £69 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

5. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Grant Income				
Arts Council England – Play Pause Repeat	-	19,635	19,635	-
Backstage Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-
Barbour Foundation	-	-	-	2,000
Community Foundation – Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Sir James Knott Trust	-	3,000	3,000	-
	-	42,635	42,635	12,000
Earned Income				
Performance Fees/Commissions	2,050	-	2,050	16,500
Ticket Sales	1,427	-	1,427	-
Workshop/Residency Fees	5,000	-	5,000	750
	8,477	-	8,477	17,250
	£8,477	£42,635	£51,112	£29,250

The 2024 total of £29,250 comprises £17,250 relating to Unrestricted Funds and £12,000 relating to Restricted Funds.

6. Other Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Theatre Tax Relief	6,555	-	6,555	8,879
	£6,555	£-	£6,555	£8,879

The 2024 total of £8,879 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

7. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising Consultancy	-	4,400	4,400	750
	£-	£4,400	£4,400	£750

The 2024 total of £750 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

8. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Production & Activity Costs				
Bursaries/360 Programme	750	-	750	1,000
Freelance Fees	-	20,546	20,546	26,025
Advertising, Marketing & PR	3,963	-	3,963	646
Travel & Subsistence Costs	691	2,027	2,718	4,087
Other Direct Costs	-	9,047	9,047	2,230
Support Costs				
Premises Costs	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Office Costs/Other Overheads	580	-	580	749
Depreciation	126	-	126	389
Governance Costs				
Accountancy & Book-keeping Fees	1,440	-	1,440	1,440
Consultancy Fees	500	-	500	955
Trustee Meeting Costs	117	-	117	309
	£10,167	£31,620	£41,787	£39,830

The 2024 total of £39,830 comprises £25,830 relating to Unrestricted Funds and £14,000 relating to Restricted Funds.

9. Net Movement in Funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in Funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of Owned Fixed Assets	126	389
Independent Examiner's Fees – Independent Examination	1,080	1,080
Independent Examiner's Fees – Other Services	360	360

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

10. Staff Costs & Directors' Remuneration

The charity employed no staff in the year (2024: None)

No remuneration was paid to or waived by Trustees/Directors in the year (2024: £Nil) and no costs (2024: £Nil) were reimbursed to Trustees in respect of their attendance at meetings of the charity.

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office & ICT Equipment £	Total Fixed Assets £
Cost		
At 1 March 2024	1,447	1,447
Additions	-	-
At 28 February 2025	1,447	1,447
Depreciation		
At 1 March 2024	1,321	1,321
Charge for year	126	126
At 28 February 2025	1,447	1,447
Net Book Value		
At 28 February 2025	£-	£-
At 1 March 2024	£126	£126

12. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	-	7,500
Accrued Income	1,250	-
Theatre Tax Relief	6,555	8,879
Prepayments	269	1,129
	£8,074	£17,508

All sums are due within 1 year.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

13. Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Creditors	4,523	6,817
Accruals	1,750	7,007
	£6,273	£13,824

14. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	126
Debtors	8,074	-	8,074	17,508
Cash at Bank and In Hand	17,190	10,265	27,455	13,966
Creditors – Due Within 1 Year	(4,623)	(1,650)	(6,273)	(13,824)
	£20,641	£8,615	£29,256	£17,776

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds

	At 1 March 2024	Income in Year	Expenditure in Year	At 28 February 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	15,776	15,032	(10,167)	20,641
Restricted Funds				
Arts Council England – Play Pause Repeat	-	19,635	(19,635)	-
Backstage Trust	-	10,000	(6,385)	3,615
Community Foundation – Newcastle	2,000	10,000	(10,000)	2,000
Cultural Investment Fund				
Sir James Knott Trust	-	3,000	-	3,000
Total Restricted Funds	2,000	42,635	(36,020)	8,615
Total Funds	£17,776	£57,667	£(46,187)	£29,256

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds (Cont.)

Name of Restricted Fund	Description, Nature & Purpose of the Fund
Arts Council England – Play Pause Repeat	Towards the costs of the new creation Play, Pause, Repeat
Backstage Trust	Towards organisational development - engagement work, fundraising and the costs of the Artistic Director
Community Foundation – Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund	Towards the costs of engagement and schools work and a contribution to the post of Artistic Director
Sir James Knott Trust	Towards the costs of young dancer development

16. Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions in the year with related parties, such as are required to be disclosed under the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (Effective April 2008) (2024: Nil).

17. Financial Commitments

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

18. Company Limited by Guarantee

The company was under the control of its Trustees in the current and previous financial years.

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 and is limited by guarantee, each member having undertaken to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst he or she is still a member or within one year thereafter.

There are currently 7 members of the company (2024: 7).

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1180001

Accounts

Company Registration Number 10599285

Registered Charity Number 1180001

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ending 29 February 2024

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 29 February 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Fertile Ground Dance Limited
Charity registration number	1180001
Company registration number	10599285
Registered office	2nd Floor, Dance City, Temple Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BR

Trustees

For the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, the Board of Trustees is the Board of Directors of the charitable company and is referred to as "the Trustees" throughout this report.

The Trustees of Fertile Ground Dance Limited during the year and to the date of signing this report are as follows:

Niamh Cunningham	Appointed 2 August 2023
Camille De Groote	
Jennifer Gabbitus	
Elizabeth Highmore	
Sue Hurrell	
Ann Schofield	
Lisa-Marie Tonelli	
Dora Frankel	Resigned 2 August 2023
Leigh Venus	Resigned 2 August 2023

Bankers	Barclays Bank plc, 49-51 Northumberland Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7AF
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Independent Examiner	Mr P O'Hara FCA, Chartered Accountant, 26 La Sagesse, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AF
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FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Documents

The Company is a Company Limited by Guarantee and was incorporated on 3 February 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 20 September 2018.

The charitable company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, as registered with Companies House on 3 February 2017 and as amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 25 June 2018. The Directors of the company are also Trustees of the charity.

Eligibility for membership of the charity and membership of the Board of Trustees is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. There are no restrictions in the governing document on the operation of the charity other than those imposed by general charity law.

Governance

Fertile Ground (FG) currently has seven Trustees.

The charity regularly reviews the Board's skillset in order to strengthen its governance, approaching individuals and advertising the opportunity through the company website and social media channels (LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), alongside voluntary sector, business, and arts and culture channels when skills gaps are identified.

At the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM), founder Dora Frankel and Chair of Trustees Leigh Venus stepped down. Elizabeth Highmore was co-opted, and then formally elected as active Chair. Following a period of Board recruitment, Niamh Cunningham was recruited as a new Trustee, co-opted, and then formally elected, giving the charity both continuity and a fresh perspective.

Current Board members have experience in external relations, strategic development, project management, financial management, stakeholder management, producing, programming, film production and distribution, and accessible dance, offering a wide skill set available to the charity. The Board has identified some skills gaps, notably in marketing and communication and in education and is therefore continuing its recruiting effort.

The Board meets a minimum of four times per year and conducts an AGM. The quorum is at least three Trustees and meetings may be held in person or remotely via video call.

At Trustees' meetings, held at least quarterly, the Trustees agree on the broad strategy and areas of activity for the charity, including but not limited to the consideration of artistic activity and engagement, projects, fundraising, governance, reserves, risk management, policies, performance, and business planning.

Detailed written reports and an agenda are prepared by senior staff and these are circulated in advance of Board meetings in accordance with the notice periods defined in the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Appointment and Induction of Trustees

The appointment of Trustees is carried out at regular Trustee meetings and is by unanimous agreement of the existing Trustees. Trustees are appointed for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election at the end of that term.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association determine that the Board is made up of no less than three Trustee Directors.

Trustees are nominated by invitation given that they have the necessary skills and expertise to contribute to the charity's activities and to be able to discharge their obligations as Trustees. The skills and composition of the Board is reviewed on a regular basis, taking into consideration succession planning, representation and experience, empathy and knowledge of the charity.

Management and Organisational Structure

Day-to-day management is delegated to Artistic Director Renaud Wiser, who is responsible for most of the key activities of the charity including the content of the artistic and engagement programme, recruiting and appointing FG artistic and administrative freelance staff, tour booking, working with fundraising consultants and, jointly with the Finance Manager, for regulatory compliance.

Across the year, fundraising activities have been supported by Sam Hobrough, a freelance arts sector fundraising consultant who works predominantly in the North East with a range of arts and charity organisations.

Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Artistic Director as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

All Trustees give their time freely. No Trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Chair, and in accordance with the charity's Conflict of Interests policy, withdraw from decisions where any such conflict of interest arises.

Grant-making

The charity does not currently engage in grant-making activity.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Policies on Reserves

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

The Trustees aim to hold a level of Unrestricted Reserves which enables the charity to have sufficient financial resources to meet various liabilities which would crystallise if FG Dance Limited were unable to continue operating, together with an allowance to enable the charity to respond flexibly to issues or appropriate initiatives which might be identified outside of its annual budgeting process.

At present, the Trustees estimate that the Unrestricted Reserves required to cover all known liabilities amount to approximately £2,500. In addition, the Trustees consider that a contingency of at least £10,000 is prudent, resulting in an optimum level of Unrestricted Reserves in the region of £12,500.

Fertile Ground Dance Limited currently holds Unrestricted Reserves of £17,776 (2023: £16,158) at 29 February 2024. Free reserves, defined as non-designated Unrestricted Reserves, minus the value of Tangible Fixed Assets, are £15,650 (2023: £15,643) which provides a small additional level of contingency.

The Trustees believe that Unrestricted Reserves should, wherever possible, be maintained at least at this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet the needs of the beneficiaries. FG will continue to use reserves, where necessary, to support the annual programme, but the objective is to achieve 100% funding for each programme.

This policy will be reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis as part of the charity's budgeting processes.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Fertile Ground Dance Limited aims to advance the arts for the public benefit by the promotion, in particular, but not exclusively, of the art of dance.

Fertile Ground (FG) is the North East's only contemporary touring dance company which specialises in creating opportunities for young professional dancers to develop their early careers.

FG offers performances and workshops across the North East region and beyond, showcasing great talent performing in theatres, galleries and outdoor spaces.

The vision that shapes our annual activities remains working with emerging dance artists, creating and touring contemporary dance across the North East and removing barriers for children and young people to access high quality contemporary dance.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Aims & Objectives

Our organisational objectives remain to:

- Provide professional opportunities for emerging dancers who are native to, have trained or are based in the North East;
- Inspire children and young people through engagement programmes where interaction with professional dancers and choreographers promote creativity and encourage physical well-being;
- Continue to increase the artistic profile and visibility of FG by working with internationally recognised collaborators
- Create, produce and present inspiring and innovative dance programmes toured in North East and beyond

Public Benefit

The Trustees understand and have discussed the implications of the provisions of the Charities Act 2006, which state that all charities must demonstrate that they are established for public benefit, and have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees believe that the charity meets both of the key principles.

Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit, or benefits

Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public

The charity's principal public benefits are:

- Education and development of young people - The charity's participatory activities focus on strengthening the social and emotional capabilities of young people – such as confidence, resilience, creativity, communication, managing feelings, problem-solving, relationship-building, responsibility and perseverance - through participation in creative activities.
- Performances for the general public - The charity produces performances and events which are delivered to a high standard by paid professional staff.

The main beneficiaries are:

- Members of the public who attend our events and performances and who engage with FG online
- Emerging dancers from the North East of England who form the FG Company
- Emerging dancers from the North East of England who are the beneficiaries of the professional development programme (360 programme)
- Children and young people and adult participants who take part in our workshops and residencies in education settings
- Artists and crew who create and contribute to our touring programmes

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Impact and Value

FG remains dedicated to creating a lasting impact and providing significant value through its focus on talent development and the empowerment of young dancers in the North East.

For each artistic programme, we make it a priority to select a minimum of four promising emerging young dancers who have strong connections to our region, either through their birthplace, training, or current residency. These talented individuals are given a remarkable opportunity to join our company as members for a 12 to 18 months intensive program. Throughout this transformative experience, they collaborate closely with experienced and acclaimed dance artists, honing their skills.

Our young dancers not only gain invaluable artistic growth, but they also have the chance to showcase their talent on a regional or national tour, bringing their innovative performances to audiences across the country. Moreover, they actively contribute to our educational initiatives by assisting in the delivery of workshops and educational programs. As believers in the value of ethical employment practices, we ensure that our dancers receive professional fees.

In our ongoing efforts to break down barriers and make high-quality dance accessible to all, we offer a range of free educational activities in local schools, community centres, and in collaboration with our partners. These initiatives aim to eliminate obstacles that may prevent young people from accessing the transformative power of dance. By engaging directly with professional dancers, our programs inspire young individuals, promote their overall well-being, and nurture their creativity.

Recognising the challenges that newly trained dancers aged 18-25 often face when trying to establish themselves in the industry, we have established the '360 professional development program.' This unique initiative is specifically designed to provide support to young dancers including those who may struggle to secure their first professional job due to a variety of socio-economic factors. By offering comprehensive assistance and mentorship, we equip these individuals with the resilience and essential skills needed to navigate the early stages of their careers successfully.

Through our unwavering commitment to talent development and the provision of inclusive opportunities, we create a profound impact on the lives of young dancers in our community. By investing in their growth, we not only foster the next generation of exceptional dancers but also contribute to their personal and professional development, ultimately enriching the cultural landscape of the North East.

The work of FG is rooted in its artistic programme. The Artistic Director collaborates with diverse international guests each year to curate a fresh repertoire, delving into various cross-genre art forms such as film, theatre, digital media, and live music. These guest artists actively participate in our engagement initiatives, infusing their specialised expertise into workshops and school residencies.

Our ultimate goal is to produce exceptionally high-quality work that is both captivating and unpredictable. We aspire to present dance that pioneers unexplored territories, captivating audiences through a multitude of formats and venues, and challenging their preconceptions of contemporary dance.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Testimonials

“Our third-year students have thoroughly enjoyed working with Fertile Ground and their associated artists/choreographers over their three-week residency. Feedback has included how the experience has enabled each individual to grow in confidence, foster more collaborative relationships between each other and has encouraged a sense of empowerment in co-authoring a new work. Fertile Ground guest artist Patricia Okenwa's approach has enabled students to grow in confidence in their contact work and improvisation, their choreographic thinking and their understanding of the rigour required in creating new work at a professional level. As a staff team, we are thrilled to see a cohort who have benefitted so significantly from their time with the company, and look forward to supporting these students in their final year performances of the work later this academic year.” Sophie Douglas, Youth and Education Coordinator at Dance City.

“It was a joy to be so very close up to the dancers: to be able to see the movement of individual toes, and the wonderful eye contact and facial expressions between them. I loved the moments of tenderness between individual dancers and how very different their bodying forth of movement was. It was also a delight to see such gentleness and flow after a lot of contemporary dance in recent years has seemed to exhibit a lot of anger, angst and dystopia. Thank you for a wonderful evening. We used to go to everything at NSCD before we moved to live in Scotland and we miss good contemporary dance. More please!” Audience member, the Maltings in Berwick

“I developed a sense of trust and confidence in my performative and creative contributions which comes from working in a small group alongside encouraging dancers and choreographers - it is rare to have such an intimate time in the creative process. ... I want to perform in North East venues with Fertile Ground, this excites me! I feel a sense of need for this to happen, to solidify the dance identity of the region. To show that dance can exist in these spaces.” Rebecca Douglass, FG cast member

Wider Operating Context

In the past year, the cultural sector in the North East and in England more generally has remained a difficult environment, with challenges including the cost-of-living crisis, the continuous impact of Brexit, inflationary pressures on salaries and freelance pay, energy costs, static performance fees, the lingering effects of Covid-19, and increased production expenses, circumstances particularly challenging for touring companies like FG.

Audience attendance has increased but not fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Booking behaviours have become less predictable, presenting venues with multiple challenges, including static funding or limited increases, soaring inflation and operating costs, uncertain local authority support, and the conclusion of the UK's participation in Creative Europe. Venue and festival programming has become more risk-averse overall, with static fees (amounting to real terms reductions) and fewer commissions.

The fundraising landscape remains difficult. While overall, the generous UK public donated an estimated £13.9 billion to charity last year – up 1.2 billion on 2022 - and this despite the financial pressures on households, there is an overwhelming volume of applications, resulting in wildly reduced success rates as reported by specialist fundraising consultancies.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Wider Operating Context (Cont.)

The number of programmed events at venues has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, meaning there are fewer opportunities to present dance works. Independent artists and companies therefore remain vulnerable, with limited access to financial support.

In this challenging context, Fertile Ground was able to continue artistic and engagement activities, developing and fundraising for a new artistic programme and strategizing for the future.

Risk Management

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

The charity has a risk management strategy in place which comprises:

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

Trustees are satisfied that appropriate financial systems and controls and employment policies and practices are in place. They consider the key risks facing the charity at this time to be:

- Financial capacity - New sources of income are needed to make give the charity's operations long term security, however the risk here is a lack of available funds to support research, investment, and speculative ideation
- Increased competition for funding - This applies to most of our funders who experience significant oversubscription to their programmes (resulting in project funding success rates being highly reduced)

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

- A Board Away Day took place with an external facilitator and kicked off the next round of business planning and the identification of skills gaps within the Board. It led to the development of an artistic vision, governance and management development plan that is considering organisational continuity as well as resilience, income streams, development opportunities, and partnerships.
- Conservative budgets have been set for the next financial year which recognise a difficult funding landscape for the cultural sector;
- The charity maintains a low-cost base, using freelancers and minimising liabilities;
- Regular management accounts are produced, demonstrating performance against budget, allowing for interrogation, challenge, and advice from Trustees;
- Contingency plans and alternative ways forward are discussed among the Executive and Trustees ahead of major commitments on spend and activity
- A reserves policy is in place providing for an appropriate amount of uncommitted reserves to enable the charity to meet all liabilities if income targets are not achieved

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

Artistic Achievements

For every new artistic programme, Fertile Ground aims to commission newly choreographed works or stage a revival of existing acclaimed works by international choreographers and focus on a new collaboration that can enhance the programme – for example, engagement with the digital world. We work with guest artists to create new choreography and to partner with us on our engagement activities. This year, Fertile Ground was awarded the Dance City and the Gillian Dickinson Trust commission, which gave us the opportunity to develop an ambitious artistic programme of stage works and engagement activities titled *Play, Pause, Repeat*.

To achieve this, Fertile Ground held an audition for a new cohort of dancers in April 2023. In July, the company employed 4 emerging artists from the North East to research the new artistic programme. They worked with established choreographers Patricia Okenwa and Jamaal Burkmar, taking part in daily training and sharing the result of the research to a selected audience of programmers and peers.

In February 2024, three of the emerging dancers returned to work with the company and we employed a new emerging dancer to complete the cast of four. They resumed their work with choreographer Patricia Okenwa and Jamaal Burkmar to create two new dance pieces:

- *How to Decouple in an Ethical Way*: Choreographed by international award-winning choreographer Jamaal Burkmar, this work is a millennial love story told in 3 sessions and 3 songs. In a mix of improvisation and choreography, music and text, the piece goes on a journey exploring the short life of a new relationship.
- *The Messiest Drawer*: Choreographed by former Rambert Dancer Patricia Okenwa, this work is a tender look at the objects, memories, sensations, that we have tucked away in our secret drawer. In *The Messiest Drawer* we find clutter, tangles, precious knick knacks - all the things we hang on to, as well as the many stories that tell us why and how. As we unpack, rediscover, and reposition, memories bubble up and move us in many ways: from getting stuck in a moment to holding them dear to our heart.

Both pieces premiered at Dance City on 8 March 2024 and are scheduled to tour to 6 more venues in Spring and Autumn 2024.

The company also had the opportunity to present *They Went To Sea*, a film created by choreographer Malgorzata Dzierzon and film maker Yola Kudela, at the Serious Nonsense Festival in Prescot (Liverpool). This activity contributed to showcasing the work of emerging dancers from Newcastle to a wider audience and to establish Fertile Ground's reputation beyond the North East. The festival was attended by 17,000 visitors and we estimate that most visitors saw the film as it was projected in a loop all three days of the festival.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR (CONTINUED)

Engagement

During the year, the company conducted 98 engagement sessions for young dancers in training or in search of employment aged 12 to 25 (93 in Newcastle, 5 in London for a total of 866 participants over all the sessions). They consisted of:

- open company classes, experiencing training with our professional dancers delivered by our guest choreographers and FG artistic director Renaud Wisser
- a three-week residency by guest choreographer Patricia Okenwa with Dance City BA students.
- 6 creative sessions delivered by guest choreographer Jamaal Burkmar with Dance City Centre for Advance Training students
- a week-long residency with Benfield School students delivered by company dancers and FG artistic director Renaud Wisser, creating a short work with a group of 15 children (12-16 years old) and delivering tester sessions to 6 additional groups.

Emerging Artists Professional Development

360 Programme - FG recruited for the 2023/24 cohort of our professional development programme, the "360". Four NE emerging dancers were selected and completed the scheme over the year, by attending professional classes with the Company and through observerships, sessions on marketing and finance and one to one mentoring sessions.

Emerging professional dancers - This year five emerging professional dancers were able to join the company as paid cast members. One had been a member of FG's 2023 360 professional development programme and was able to successfully start her professional career as a performer, testimony of the programme's success as a pathway into the professional world.

Fundraising

Working with freelance fundraising consultant Samantha Hobrough in 2023/24 and Trustee Camille De Groote, we submitted 7 funding applications to trusts and foundations to support Fertile Ground's charitable activities. In addition, we continued to receive support from the Newcastle Culture Investment Fund 2022 - 2025 and were awarded an Arts Council Projects Grant and a Dance City and Gillian Dickinson Trust commission.

In 2023/2024 Fertile Ground received:

- £2,000 from Barbour Foundation towards support of our core costs over the next 12 months
- £19,630 from Arts Council England Project Grant for creation, production and 2024 tour of Play, Pause, Repeat programme, alongside learning and participation activities
- £10,000 from Newcastle Culture Investment Fund (awarded for three years until 2025) towards artistic and outreach programmes in Newcastle, in recognition of the vital part Fertile Ground plays in delivering the cultural vision for the city.
- £20,000 from the Dance City and Gillian Dickinson commission for the creation of a new artistic programme

Fertile Ground are deeply grateful for the support from all these organisations.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR (CONTINUED)

Financial Review

The financial out-turn for the year is an overall unrestricted deficit of £(382) (2023: Unrestricted deficit of £3,675), leaving a balance on Unrestricted Funds of £15,776 at 29 February 2024.

The Trustees consider the financial performance of the charity to be satisfactory.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In summer 2023, Fertile Ground took the opportunity of a Board Away Day, facilitated by Theresa Beattie OBE, to reaffirm shared purpose; take a longer-term view of FG's ambitions and how Trustees can contribute; reimagine a more stable and sustainable structure with reduced ACE dependency; map realistic activity and baseline support 2024/25; and identify high level objectives and priorities for the next three years.

The work achieved during the away-day led into the development of a refreshed vision synthesised into a new company Manifesto and shaped our artistic and business plan intended to deliver stability and financial resilience for the next 3 years.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 29 February 2024

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of Fertile Ground Dance Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

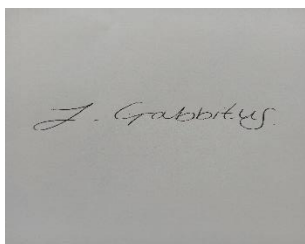
Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed by order of the Trustees

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "J. Gabbitus".

Jennifer Gabbitus
Chair of Trustees
Company Registration Number 10599285

15 July 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

I hereby report to the Trustees of Fertile Ground Dance Limited (Charity Registration Number 1180001) on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 29 February 2024 set out on pages 14 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

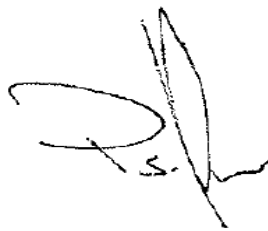
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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



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

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

15 July 2024

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income					
Income from Investments	3	-	-	-	-
Income from Donations & Legacies	4	69	-	69	-
Income from Charitable Activities	5	17,250	12,000	29,250	20,300
Other Income	6	8,879	-	8,879	627
		26,198	12,000	38,198	20,927
Expenditure					
Expenditure on Raising Funds	7	750	-	750	1,000
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	8	25,830	14,000	39,830	30,602
		26,580	14,000	40,580	31,602
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(382)	(2,000)	(2,382)	(10,675)
Balance brought forward		16,158	4,000	20,158	30,833
Balance carried forward		£15,776	£2,000	£17,776	£20,158

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of the financial statements.

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 29 FEBRUARY 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	126	515
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	17,508	888
Cash At Bank & In Hand		13,966	21,891
		<u>31,474</u>	<u>22,779</u>
Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year	13	(13,824)	(3,136)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>17,650</u>	<u>19,643</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>17,776</u>	<u>20,158</u>
Total Net Assets	14	<u>£17,776</u>	<u>£20,158</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Reserves	15	15,776	16,158
Restricted Reserves	15	2,000	4,000
		<u>£17,776</u>	<u>£20,158</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of the financial statements.

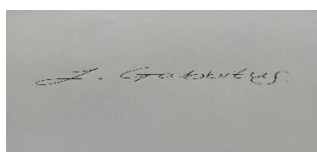
The Trustees are satisfied that for the year ended 29 February 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees also confirm that the Members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charity keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15 July 2024 and signed on their behalf:



Jennifer Gabbitus
Chair of Trustees
Company Registration Number 10599285

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 – 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' ('FRS 102'), and with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value.

Advantage has been taken of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a statement of cashflows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

Taxation Status

Fertile Ground Dance Limited is a Charity registered under the 1960 Charities Act and is accorded exemption from liability to taxation on its income under S505 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Going Concern

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

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Where legacies have been notified to the charity but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.
- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Other income is accounted for when receivable.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Capital items costing over £250 are capitalised and included in fixed assets.

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

IT Equipment – 3 years

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost where there is a material adjustment.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

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

2. Legal Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

3. Income from Investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Receivable	-	-	-	-
	£-	£-	£-	£-

4. Income from Donations & Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations - General	69	-	69	-
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-
	£69	£-	£69	£-

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

5. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Grant Income				
Barbour Foundation	-	2,000	2,000	-
Community Foundation – Newcastle	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Cultural Investment Fund				
Garrick Charitable Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Sir James Knott Trust	-	-	-	2,500
	-	12,000	12,000	17,500
Earned Income				
Performance Fees/Commissions	16,500	-	16,500	2,800
Ticket Sales	-	-	-	-
Workshop/Residency Fees	750	-	750	-
	17,250	-	17,250	2,800
	£17,250	£12,000	£29,250	£20,300

The 2023 total of £20,300 comprises £2,800 relating to Unrestricted Funds and £17,500 relating to Restricted Funds.

6. Other Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Theatre Tax Relief	8,879	-	8,879	627
	£8,879	£-	£8,879	£627

The 2023 total of £627 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

7. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising Consultancy	750	-	750	1,000
	£750	£-	£750	£1,000

The 2023 total of £1,000 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

8. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Production & Activity Costs				
Bursaries/360 Programme	-	1,000	1,000	1,645
Freelance Fees	14,105	11,920	26,025	19,582
Advertising, Marketing & PR	646	-	646	591
Travel & Subsistence Costs	4,087	-	4,087	1,524
Other Direct Costs	1,150	1,080	2,230	2,766
Support Costs				
Premises Costs	2,000	-	2,000	1,848
Office Costs/Other Overheads	749	-	749	547
Depreciation	389	-	389	389
Governance Costs				
Accountancy & Book-keeping Fees	1,440	-	1,440	1,710
Consultancy Fees	955	-	955	-
Trustee Meeting Costs	309	-	309	-
	£25,830	£14,000	£39,830	30,602

The 2023 total of £30,602 comprises £6,102 relating to Unrestricted Funds and £24,500 relating to Restricted Funds.

9. Net Movement in Funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net movement in Funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of Owned Fixed Assets	389	389
Independent Examiner's Fees – Independent Examination	1,080	1,080
Independent Examiner's Fees – Other Services	360	360

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

10. Staff Costs & Directors' Remuneration

The charity employed no staff in the year (2023: None)

No remuneration was paid to or waived by Trustees/Directors in the year (2023: £Nil) and no costs (2023: £Nil) were reimbursed to Trustees in respect of their attendance at meetings of the charity.

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office & ICT Equipment £	Total Fixed Assets £
Cost		
At 1 March 2023	1,447	1,447
Additions	-	-
At 29 February 2024	1,447	1,447
Depreciation		
At 1 March 2023	932	932
Charge for year	389	389
At 29 February 2024	1,321	1,321
Net Book Value		
At 29 February 2024	£126	£126
At 1 March 2023	£515	£515

12. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Debtors	7,500	-
Theatre Tax Relief	8,879	627
Prepayments	1,129	261
	£17,508	£888

All sums are due within 1 year.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

13. Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditors	6,817	60
Accruals	7,007	3,076
	£13,824	£3,136

14. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	126	-	126	515
Debtors	17,508	-	17,508	888
Cash at Bank and In Hand	11,966	2,000	13,966	21,891
Creditors – Due Within 1 Year	(13,824)	-	(13,824)	(3,136)
	£15,776	£2,000	£17,776	£20,158

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds

	At 1 March 2023	Income in Year	Expenditure in Year	At 29 February 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	16,158	26,198	(26,580)	15,776
Restricted Funds				
Barbour Foundation	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Community Foundation – Newcastle	2,000	10,000	(10,000)	2,000
Cultural Investment Fund				
Sir James Knott Trust	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Total Restricted Funds	4,000	12,000	(14,000)	2,000
Total Funds	£20,158	£38,198	£(40,580)	£17,776

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds (Cont.)

Name of Restricted Fund	Description, Nature & Purpose of the Fund
Barbour Foundation	Towards core costs of yearly activities including the new creation Play, Pause, Repeat
Community Foundation – Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund	Towards the cost of schools work, plus a contribution to the posts of Development Director and Artistic Director
Sir James Knott Trust	To provide employment opportunities for young professional dancers

16. Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions in the year with related parties, such as are required to be disclosed under the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (Effective April 2008) (2023: Nil).

17. Financial Commitments

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

18. Company Limited by Guarantee

The company was under the control of its Trustees in the current and previous financial years.

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 and is limited by guarantee, each member having undertaken to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst he or she is still a member or within one year thereafter.

There are currently 7 members of the company (2023: 8).

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1180001

Accounts

Company Registration Number 10599285

Registered Charity Number 1180001

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ending 28 February 2022

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2022.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Fertile Ground Dance Limited
Charity registration number	1180001
Company registration number	10599285
Registered office	2nd Floor, Dance City, Temple Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BR

Trustees

For the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, the Board of Trustees is the Board of Directors of the charitable company and is referred to as "the Trustees" throughout this report.

The Trustees of Fertile Ground Dance Limited during the year and to the date of signing this report are as follows:

Austen Atkinson	Appointed 10 June 2021; Resigned 16 September 2021
Sue Hurrell	
Dora Frankel	
Leigh Venus	
Ann Schofield	

Bankers	Barclays Bank plc, 49-51 Northumberland Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7AF
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Independent Examiner	Mr P O'Hara FCA, 4 Stonehurst Road West, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PG
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Documents

The Company is a Company Limited by Guarantee and was incorporated on 3 February 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 20 September 2018.

The charitable company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, as registered with Companies House on 3 February 2017 and as amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 25 June 2018. The Directors of the company are also Trustees of the charity.

Eligibility for membership of the charity and membership of the Board of Trustees is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. There are no restrictions in the governing document on the operation of the charity other than those imposed by general charity law.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance

The charity currently has four Trustees.

The charity regularly reviews the Board's skillset in order to strengthen the governance, approaching individuals and advertising the opportunity through Voluntary sector, Business and Arts and Culture channels when gaps are identified.

Fertile Ground underwent two intensive periods of Board recruitment in 2021 resulting in the appointment of Leigh Venus as current Chair of Trustees and led to the recruitment of two new Board members in 2022. This process gave the charity both the continuity of the existing Board membership and the renewal with complementary skills and perspectives benefiting the organisation in the longer term thanks to the new appointments.

The Board meets a minimum of four times per year and conducts an Annual General Meeting. The quorum is at least three Trustees and meetings may be held in person or by suitable electronic means.

At Trustees' meetings, held at least quarterly, the Trustees agree on the broad strategy and areas of activity for the charity, including the consideration of development projects, reserves and risk management policies and performance.

Detailed written reports and an agenda are prepared by senior staff and circulated in advance of Board meetings.

Appointment and Induction of Trustees

The appointment of Trustees is carried out at regular Trustee meetings and is by unanimous agreement of the existing Trustees. Trustees are appointed for a three-year term and are eligible for re-election at the end of that term.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association determine that the Board is made up of no less than three Trustee Directors.

Trustees are nominated by invitation given that they have the necessary skills and expertise to contribute to the charity's activities and to be able to discharge their obligations as Trustees. The skills and composition of the Board is reviewed on a regular basis, taking into consideration succession planning, representation and experience, empathy and knowledge of the charity.

On appointment, Trustees undergo an induction programme that includes briefings from key staff and the Chair of the Trustees.

Management and Organisational Structure

Day-to-day management is delegated to Artistic Directors Malgorzata Dzierzon and Renaud Wiser, who are responsible for most of the key activities of the charity including the content of the artistic and engagement programme, recruiting and appointing Fertile Ground artistic and administrative freelance staff, tour booking, working with fundraising consultants and, jointly with the Finance Manager for regulatory compliance.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Artistic Directors as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of any Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Chair and in accordance with the charity's Conflict of Interests policy withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Grant-making

The charity does not currently engage in grant-making activity.

Policies on Reserves

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

The Trustees aim to hold a level of Unrestricted Reserves which enables the charity to have sufficient financial resources to meet various liabilities which would crystallise if Fertile Ground Dance Limited were unable to continue operating, together with an allowance to enable the charity to respond flexibly to issues or appropriate initiatives which might be identified outside of its annual budgeting process.

At present, the Trustees estimate that the Unrestricted Reserves required to cover all known liabilities amount to approximately £2,500. In addition, the Trustees consider that a contingency of at least £10,000 is prudent, resulting in an optimum level of Unrestricted Reserves in the region of £12,500.

Fertile Ground Dance Limited currently holds Unrestricted Reserves of £19,833 at 28 February 2022. Free reserves, defined as non-designated Unrestricted Reserves, minus the value of Tangible Fixed Assets, are £18,929, which provides a small additional level of contingency.

The Trustees believe that Unrestricted Reserves should, wherever possible, be maintained at least at this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet the needs of the beneficiaries. FG will continue to use reserves, where necessary, to support the annual programme, but the objective is to achieve 100% funding for each programme.

This policy will be reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis as part of the charity's budgeting processes.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Purpose

Fertile Ground Dance Limited aims to advance the arts for the public benefit by the promotion, in particular, but not exclusively, of the art of dance.

Fertile Ground (FG) is the North East's only early career repertory dance company engaging dancers who are based or trained in the North East. FG offers performances and workshops across the North East region and beyond, showcasing great talent performing in theatres, galleries and outdoor spaces.

Aims & Objectives

The vision that shapes our annual activities remains working with emerging dance artists, creating and touring contemporary dance across the North East and removing barriers for children and young people to access high quality contemporary dance.

Following the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the closure of performing arts venues and suspension of public facing activities for all of 2020-21, 2021-22 commenced with continued social distancing restrictions. The gradual, cautious return to public activities over the summer months has allowed for the first public performances of Fertile Ground since 2019 in the autumn of 2022.

Taking on board our duty to operate within the government guidance throughout the pandemic, our objectives for the period had to be redefined to achieve the following outcomes:

- Maintaining financial stability and our ability to resume artistic activities when the physical distancing measures are lifted;
- Creating new ways of working, less reliant on physical interactions;
- Guaranteed continuation of activities and honouring commitments to pay rent, staff, utilities;
- Job offers for dancers, with many young artists not eligible for government support;
- Solid plan enabling Fertile Ground to hit the road running once situation improves;
- Diversification of live and digital activities for artists, young people and audiences

Our organisational objectives remain to:

- Provide professional opportunities for emerging dancers who are native to, have trained or are based in the North East;
- Inspire children and young people through online programmes where interaction with professional dancers and choreographers promote creativity and encourage physical well-being;
- Continue to increase the artistic profile and visibility of Fertile Ground by working with internationally recognised collaborators
- Create, produce and present inspiring and innovative dance programmes toured in North East and beyond

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Benefit

The Trustees understand and have discussed the implications of the provisions of the Charities Act 2006, which state that all charities must demonstrate that they are established for public benefit, and have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees believe that the charity meets both of the key principles.

Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit, or benefits

Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public

The charity's principal public benefits are:

- Education and development of young people - The charity's participatory activities focus on strengthening the social and emotional capabilities of young people – such as confidence, resilience, creativity, communication, managing feelings, problem-solving, relationship-building, responsibility and perseverance - through participation in creative activities.
- Performances for the general public - The charity produces performances and events which are delivered to a high standard by paid professional staff.

The main beneficiaries are:

- Members of the public who attend our events and performances and who engage with Fertile Ground online
- Emerging dancers from the North East of England who form the Fertile Ground Company
- Emerging dancers from the North East of England who are the beneficiaries of the professional development programme (360 programme)
- Children and young people and adult participants who take part in our workshops and residencies in education settings
- Artists and crew who create and contribute to our touring programmes

Impact and Value

In 2021, despite the challenges posed by the ongoing impact of the pandemic, Fertile Ground remained an active and publicly engaged organisation.

We worked with partners, where safe and possible, to minimise gaps in engagement for artists, Fertile Ground's core staff and to provide access to physical and creative activities to young people. We continued artistic research and creation and were able to resume our direct engagement with the public in the autumn 2022, presenting a new touring programme Myths & Dreams to existing and new audiences in the North East region.

We began the year with artistic research of Labyrinth and the creation of a new dance film, Somnium, both part of new touring programme Myths & Dreams. The activity, spanning the end of 2021 and beginning of our 2022 financial year (15 February to 22 March 2022) was carefully planned and managed in line with Covid - 19 safety recommendations and designed to provide our artists and staff with meaningful engagement at the time of ongoing restrictions.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Impact and Value (Cont.)

The artistic research and filming which took place at Dance City in Newcastle immediately benefited those directly involved in the production (12 creatives), our online participants (30) and eventually our live audiences and workshops participants later in that year.

We returned to the studio in September 2021 to create, produce and perform *Myths & Dreams* in Newcastle, Sunderland and Berwick-upon-Tyne, engaging 27 artists, creatives and specialists.

"This project has been a great shift back to the studio again and back to the daily task of being a dancer! I have absolutely loved having a routine again which has really helped me to develop my skill set including, technical skills (during class), creative skills (during creative process'), social skills (working with new people) and also physically developing strength again!" 2021/22 Fertile Ground Company Dancer

Parallel to the performance activities in the autumn, we provided 36 sessions for learning and participation engaging directly with 280 participants.

Our guest choreographers Clemenitine Vanlerberghe (France) and Fabritia D'Intino (Italy) shared their practice with the wider North East sector teaching an open class at Dance City, adding to our programme of professional classes taught by Artistic Directors Malgorzata Dzierzon and Renaud Wisser.

We also led workshop sessions with students at Sunderland College and members of Gosforth Liberdade, a physical theatre group for people with learning disabilities.

Our 360 professional development programme provided support to five emerging dancers from the region, with four participants supported with a bursary in 2021. They attended daily professional classes, observed rehearsals, assisted with workshops, and participated in master classes with our staff members in the areas of marketing and finance.

"Mentoring sessions have boosted my understanding of and confidence in managing finance and marketing. Insight into the creation has informed my choreographic approach and sparked ideas for the future. Joining in class and observing rehearsals gave a practical understanding of the nature of being a professional dancer. Being asked my thoughts while watching rehearsal was really nice as well, to feel like I was an active participant. I would not have been able to participate anywhere near as much without the bursary. It also feels better as a participant, to know that my time is valued." 2021 360 programme participant.

In early December we delivered a week-long residency at Benfield School Newcastle engaging over 200 pupils. Working under the guidance of our Artistic Directors, FG Company dancers and 360 programme participants, we engaged with a different group of children each day in introductory dance workshops. We also created a curtain raiser, working daily with children from Years 7 - 11, who performed the piece twice on the final day, alongside FG performance of *Myths & Dreams*.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Impact and Value (Cont.)

The 2021 survey at Benfield School shows that 100% of pupils who participated in our activities learnt new skills. The most valuable programme elements for the children were performing alongside FG (100%), watching performance (75%), and learning choreography (62.5%). Following FG residency 87.5% of children surveyed would consider a career in dance.

"Interesting, peaceful, ambient music. Also, disturbing, eerie, relaxing feelings. Proud of our students who danced in the piece. The professional dancers were really fluid, fit like athletes. Would like to watch more performances like this." Benfield School student

These activities benefited the children as well as our emerging dancers, helping them develop new employment skills:

"The external activities were most helpful for me, as I have little experience with teaching and workshops. This is something that I will take forward with confidence. The responsibility of helping lead the workshops was very encouraging and I thank Gosia (M.Dzierzon) and Renaud (R. Wisser) for this." 2021 360 programme participant.

Audiences - impact and value

We continue to broaden access to high quality dance experiences for audiences in our region. 25% of customers at Fertile Ground performance of Myths & Dreams at Dance City in October 2021 (attended at 78.1% capacity) live in the bottom 20% most deprived areas in the country. The same programme at the Maltings Berwick was attended at capacity (all attendees from Levelling Up postcodes). 90% of audiences at Sunderland Academy (Levelling Up postcode) were aged 18-25.

Audience feedback from the 2021 survey:

"Really beautiful work. Incredibly impressive use of tech. Also, clearly a valuable development opportunity for the performers, who were exceptional"

"I very much enjoyed the VR experience".

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Risk Management

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

The charity has a risk management strategy in place which comprises:

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

The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate financial systems and controls and employment policies and practices are in place. They consider the key risks facing the charity at this time to be:

- Financial capacity - New sources of income are being developed to make the charity's operations secure in the longer term, but this is an ongoing process, which needs further development and funding to achieve its aims
- Increased competition for funding from our regular sources, in particular the Arts Council England

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

- Prudent budgets have been set for the next financial year;
- The charity maintains a low-cost base, making extensive use of freelancers such that few significant liabilities exist;
- Regular management accounts are provided, showing the performance against budget;
- Contingency plans are in place for the actions which would be taken if income appears unlikely to reach its target;
- Reserves policies have been adopted which provide an appropriate amount of uncommitted reserves which will enable the charity to meet all its liabilities even if income targets are not achieved.
- We are expanding our planning and financial potential by applying to become the Arts Council England 2023 - 2026 National Portfolio Organisation and aligning our delivery objectives with the funder's new strategy.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of the main Achievements in the Year

Every year, our two Artistic Directors aim to create a newly choreographed work, commission or stage a revival of an existing acclaimed work by international choreographers, and focus on a new collaboration that can enhance the programme – for example, engagement with the digital world. We work with guest artists every year to create new choreography and to partner with us on our engagement programmes.

Our new programme *Myths & Dreams*, which had its creation, production, premiere and initial tour of five performances in 2021, incorporates three ambitious dance works.

Labyrinth is a cross-disciplinary work by Fertile Ground Artistic Co-Director Renaud Wisser, freely inspired by the myth of the Minotaur. In contrast with the classical narrative, in *Labyrinth* the Minotaur is portrayed as a symbol of hybridity representing the complexities of modern times. In our creative process the dancers were immersed in a virtual environment created by sculptor Marie Lelouche and developed choreography in response to her sculptures. On stage, the performers' movement reveals this virtual maze brought to life by projections and a haunting sound design.

Labyrinth VR experience

Ahead of performances, there is an opportunity to experience *Labyrinth's* virtual sculptures by signing up to a short virtual reality immersive experience. Wearing VR headsets, audiences explore the maze and fully experience the scale and beauty of the virtual sculptures created by designer Marie Lelouche.

Plubel – a re-staging of work by rising European choreographers Fabritia D'Intino and Clémentine Vanlerberghe. A finalist in Boris Charmatz's Danse Élargie competition and performed at Sadler's Wells in 2019, *Plubel* is a hypnotic journey of imitation that questions how the female figure is represented in dance.

Somnium – a new dance film created by Malgorzata Dzierzon, where the creative process draws on our unique experiences of the surreal, dreamed and imagined at the time of imposed confinement during the pandemic. *Somnium* was created in collaboration with filmmaker Filipe Alcada, composer Oliver Coates and Director of Photography Fabio Calasibeta. *Somnium* exists as a film as well as a theatrical performance that brings together live choreography and projected images.

Dream Catcher project

During the creation process of *Somnium*, Fertile Ground also reached out to audiences inviting everyone to share their dreams with us as part of the Dream Catcher Project. Our short creative responses to the dreams and directions sent by the public were performed by Fertile Ground dancers and edited to music by Oliver Coates. The films, made with an iPhone by choreographer Malgorzata Dzierzon can be accessed on Fertile Ground website and social media.

In 2021 *Myths & Dreams* was performed to 436 audiences at Dance City Newcastle, The Maltings Berwick and Visual & Performing Arts Academy in Sunderland with two school performances at the Benfield School in Newcastle.

The programme attracted positive recognition from the audience, participants, press and industry peers, helping us grow our recognition as a world-class company.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main Achievements in the Year (Cont.)

Reviewing the show, Narc Magazine said, "*Myths & Dreams is a wonderful collective of individual, micro, artistic decisions and dance steps combining to make one interesting big idea. Wow.*"

Bill Vince, Senior Relationship Officer at Arts Council England said, "*highlight of the year was Fertile Ground's stunning triple bill at Dance City made by Artistic Directors Malgorzata Dzierzon and Renaud Wisser with guests Fabritia D'Intino and Clementine Vanlerghe, whose piece 'Plubel' will live long in the memory.*"

International Cultural Advisor Anthony Sargent CBE said, "*hugely admiring the rehearsal of this characterful triple bill. For NE UK friends, I can't recommend it too highly, it premieres tonight at Dance City. Friends in other places, especially dance promoters, do have Fertile Ground on your radar.*"

They Went To Sea

In December 2021 we began a new collaboration on a mural in Doncaster to be presented in 2022 as part of Artbomb22 Festival. Combining forces with the Polish Cultural Institute, the festival brings an incredible work injected into the heart of the city by acclaimed international artist Jola Kudela. *They Went To Sea* is inspired by Edward Lear's limerick, The Jumblies.

The mural, a metaphor for the migration movements around the world is made in the image of Fertile Ground cast of dancers, and triggers a video of a performance by the Company, choreographed by FG Artistic Director Malgorzata Dzierzon.

The range of the above programmes reflects our desire to continue our live performance alongside new opportunities to innovate and engage with audiences through VR, film and digital technologies.

Long-term impact

Our long-term intentions are to continue building a resilient and sustainable company that is well integrated and contributes to our sector and the region. Working with stakeholders and partners to deliver our ambitious artistic programmes we want to grow our offer, reach and impact, while promoting the North East talent regionally and nationally.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Summary of the main Achievements in the Year (Cont.)

Fundraising

Working with freelance fundraising consultant Samantha Hobrough in 2021/22 we submitted 17 funding applications to trusts and foundations to support Fertile Ground's charitable activities. In addition, we were successful in our applications to Newcastle Culture Investment Fund 2022 - 2025 and two Arts Council Projects Grants applications.

In 2021/2022 Fertile Ground received:

- £8,000 from Maria Bjornsen Memorial Fund towards support of our core costs over the next 12 months
- £5,000 from the Three Monkeys Trust towards the costs of providing professional career development for young dance artists and the 360 programme
- £5,000 from Scoops Trust towards the core costs of delivering our artistic activity during FY 2021/22, specifically the engagement programmes with children and young people
- £3,000 from the LGA Foundation towards bursaries for young emerging North East dancers from less affluent backgrounds to enable their participation in Fertile Ground 360 programme over the next 12 months
- £30,000 from Arts Council England Project Grant for creation, production and 2021 tour of Myths & Dreams programme, alongside learning and participation activities
- Newcastle Culture Investment Fund 2021/22 Stabilisation Fund (£15,000)

We were also awarded:

- Newcastle Culture Investment Fund 2022-2025 (£10,000 annually) towards artistic and outreach programmes in Newcastle, in recognition of the vital part Fertile Ground plays in delivering the cultural vision for the city.
- £5000 from Garrick Charitable Trust to support our work with emerging professional dance talent in the North East in 2022.

Fertile Ground are deeply grateful for the support from all these organisations.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Financial Review

The financial out-turn for the year is an overall unrestricted surplus of £2,427 (2021: Unrestricted Surplus of £6,200), leaving a balance on Unrestricted Funds of £19,833 at 28 February 2022.

The Trustees consider the financial performance of the charity to be satisfactory.

Firmly rooted in the North East dance sector, we are cultivating our existing relationships and expanding presenting and outreach opportunities in the region and beyond. During 2021/22 we reached out to venues new to our network, in order to tour *Myths & Dreams* to Hexham, Ormskirk and Chichester in 2022. We continue to work with schools, colleges and community groups to make dance activities available to all, expanding partnerships in County Durham and Sunderland in under-served and deprived areas.

Over the last year Fertile Ground created a five - year artistic and strategic plan for 2022-2026 that consists of 11 new choreographic commissions for stage, digital and outdoors. We have a strong commitment to increasing representation of choreographers from different ethnic backgrounds and to supporting female artists. Working with and showcasing the talents of the top emerging professional dancers from the region remains at the core of our mission and purpose.

Impact of Covid-19

The extraordinary situation triggered by Covid-19 and the subsequent suspension of studio and live public-facing activities has an ongoing impact on the sector, including Fertile Ground. While our artists, audiences and participants were keen to return to face - to face activities as demonstrated by the high attendance at our 2021 events, it has been our experience that many venues have been cautious, under-staffed and slow in accepting bookings. This has a direct impact on the length of time it takes to book and present each new programme.

We have also witnessed a greater competition for funding to our regular sources – small- and mid-sized trusts and foundations and Arts Council England Projects Grants - in the months since the schemes re-opened.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2022

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of Fertile Ground Dance Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

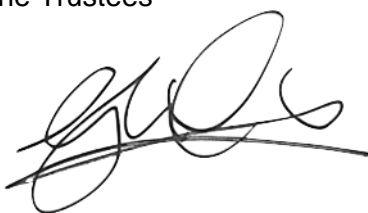
Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed by order of the Trustees



Leigh Venus
Chair of Trustees
Company Registration Number 10599285

24 August 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

I hereby report to the Trustees of Fertile Ground Dance Limited (Charity Registration Number 1180001) on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 28 February 2022 set out on pages 16 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

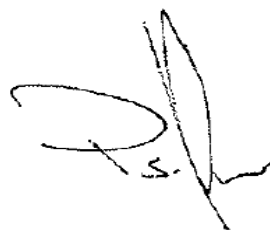
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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



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

4 Stoneyhurst Road West, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PG

24 August 2022

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income					
Income from Investments	3	-	-	-	-
Income from Donations & Legacies	4	5	-	5	41
Income from Charitable Activities	5	8,230	66,000	74,230	50,042
Other Income	6	12,858	-	12,858	2,968
		21,093	66,000	87,093	53,051
Expenditure					
Expenditure on Raising Funds	7	2,900	-	2,900	2,975
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	8	15,766	80,000	95,766	21,327
		18,666	80,000	98,666	24,302
Net Income/(Expenditure)		2,427	(14,000)	(11,573)	28,749
Balance brought forward at 1 March		17,406	25,000	42,406	13,657
Balance carried forward at 28 February		£19,833	£11,000	£30,833	£42,406

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of the financial statements.

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	904	598
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	12,356	18,623
Cash At Bank & In Hand		24,116	28,822
		<u>36,472</u>	<u>47,445</u>
Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year	13	(6,543)	(5,637)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>29,929</u>	<u>41,808</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		30,833	42,406
Total Net Assets	14	£30,833	£42,406
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Reserves	15	19,833	17,406
Restricted Reserves	15	11,000	25,000
		<u>£30,833</u>	<u>£42,406</u>

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of the financial statements.

The Trustees are satisfied that for the year ended 28 February 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees also confirm that the Members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charity keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24 August 2022 and signed on their behalf:

Leigh Venus
Chair of Trustees
Company Registration Number 10599285



FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 – 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' ('FRS 102'), and with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value.

Advantage has been taken of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a statement of cashflows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

Taxation Status

Fertile Ground Dance Limited is a Charity registered under the 1960 Charities Act and is accorded exemption from liability to taxation on its income under S505 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Going Concern

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

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Where legacies have been notified to the charity but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.
- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Other income is accounted for when receivable.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Capital items costing over £250 are capitalised and included in fixed assets.

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

IT Equipment – 3 years

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost where there is a material adjustment.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

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

2. Legal Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

3. Income from Investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Receivable	-	-	-	-
	£-	£-	£-	£-

4. Income from Donations & Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations - General	5	-	5	-
Gift Aid	-	-	-	41
	£5	£-	£5	£41

The 2021 total of £41 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

5. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Grant Income				
Arts Council England - Emergency Fund	-	-	-	16,500
Arts Council England – Myths & Dreams	-	30,000	30,000	-
Arts Council England - R&D	-	-	-	15,000
Barbour Foundation	-	-	-	1,000
Community Foundation	-	15,000	15,000	-
Community Foundation – Newcastle	-	-	-	10,000
Cultural Investment Fund				
Didymus Trust	-	-	-	4,000
Leche Trust	-	-	-	2,000
LGA Foundation	-	3,000	3,000	-
Maria Bjornson Memorial Fund	-	8,000	8,000	-
Percy Hedley 1990 Charitable Trust	-	-	-	500
Scops Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-
Three Monkeys Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-
	-	66,000	66,000	49,000
Earned Income				
Arts Award Moderation	-	-	-	392
Performance Fees/Commissions	7,662	-	7,662	150
Ticket Sales	418	-	418	-
Workshop Fees	150	-	150	500
	8,230	-	8,230	1,042
	£8,230	£66,000	£74,130	£50,042

The 2021 total of £50,042 comprises £1,042 relating to Unrestricted Funds and £49,000 relating to Restricted Funds.

6. Other Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Rental Income	750	-	750	-
Theatre Tax Relief	12,108	-	12,108	2,968
	£12,858	£-	£12,858	£2,968

The 2021 total of £2,968 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

7. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising Consultancy	2,900	-	2,900	2,975
	£2,900	£-	£2,900	£2,975

The 2021 total of £2,975 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

8. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Production & Activity Costs				
Twilight Dances Tour	-	-	-	392
Bursaries/360 Programme	-	2,000	2,000	-
Freelance Fees	-	48,305	48,305	13,532
Advertising, Marketing & PR	5,760	-	5,760	763
Travel & Subsistence Costs	6,304	12	6,316	1,899
Other Direct Costs	-	29,683	29,683	2,215
Support Costs				
Premises Costs	1,375	-	1,375	125
Office Costs	504	-	504	598
Depreciation	263	-	263	63
Governance Costs				
Accountancy & Book-keeping Fees	1,560	-	1,560	1,740
	£15,766	£80,000	£95,766	£21,327

The 2021 total of £21,327 comprises £302 relating to Unrestricted Funds and £21,025 relating to Restricted Funds.

9. Net Movement in Funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
The net movement in Funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of Owned Fixed Assets	263	63
Independent Examiner's Fees – Independent Examination	1,080	1,080
Independent Examiner's Fees – Other Services	360	360

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

10. Staff Costs & Directors' Remuneration

The charity employed no staff in the year (2021: None)

No remuneration was paid to or waived by Trustees/Directors in the year (2021: £Nil) and no costs (2021: £Nil) were reimbursed to Trustees in respect of their attendance at meetings of the charity.

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office & ICT Equipment £	Total Fixed Assets £
Cost		
At 1 March 2021	878	878
Additions	569	569
At 28 February 2022	1,447	1,447
Depreciation		
At 1 March 2021	280	280
Charge for year	263	263
At 28 February 2022	543	543
Net Book Value		
At 28 February 2022	£904	£904
At 1 March 2021	£598	£598

12. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade Debtors	-	392
Accrued Income	-	15,000
Theatre Tax Relief	12,108	2,968
Prepayments	248	263
	£12,356	£18,623

All sums are due within 1 year.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

13. Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade Creditors	-	120
Accruals	6,543	5,517
	£6,543	£5,637

14. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	904	-	904	598
Debtors	12,356	-	12,356	18,623
Cash at Bank and In Hand	8,876	15,240	24,116	28,822
Creditors – Due Within 1 Year	(2,303)	(4,240)	(6,543)	(5,637)
	£19,833	11,000	£30,833	£42,406

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds

	At 1 March 2021	Income in Year	Expenditure in Year	At 28 February 2022
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	17,406	21,093	(18,666)	19,833
Restricted Funds				
Arts Council England – Myths & Dreams	-	30,000	(30,000)	-
Arts Council England - R&D	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Barbour Foundation	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
Community Foundation – Newcastle	2,500	-	(2,500)	-
Cultural Investment Fund (NCIF)				
Community Foundation – NCIF	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
Stabilisation Fund				
Didymus Trust	4,000	-	(4,000)	-
Leche Trust	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
LGA Foundation	-	3,000	-	3,000
Maria Bjornson Memorial Fund	-	8,000	-	8,000
Percy Hedley 1990 Charitable Trust	500	-	(500)	-
Scops Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Three Monkeys Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Total Restricted Funds	25,000	66,000	(80,000)	11,000
Total Funds	£42,406	£87,093	£(98,666)	£30,833

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds (Cont.)

Name of Restricted Fund	Description, Nature & Purpose of the Fund
Arts Council England – Myths & Dreams	To support the creation and tour of Myths & Dreams
Arts Council England - R&D	Towards the cost of the creation of Somnium and R&D of Labyrinth
Barbour Foundation	Towards an artistic and learning programme
Community Foundation – Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund (NCIF 2021)	Towards the cost of schools work, plus a contribution to the posts of Development Director and Artistic Director
Community Foundation – NCIF Stabilisation Fund	Towards the cost of engaging dancers
Didymus Trust	Towards work with young people and emerging dancers
Leche Trust	To support work with emerging dancers
LGA Foundation	To offer bursaries to 4/5 young emerging NE dancers from less affluent backgrounds, to enable them to take part in the 360 programme
Maria Bjornson Memorial Fund	Towards support of our core costs over the next 12 months
Percy Hedley 1990 Charitable Trust	Towards an artistic and learning programme
Scops Trust	Towards the cost of engagement with children and young people
Three Monkeys Trust	Towards the costs of providing professional career development for young dance artists and the 360 programme

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

16. Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions in the year with related parties, such as are required to be disclosed under the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (Effective April 2008) (2021: Nil).

17. Financial Commitments

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

18. Company Limited by Guarantee

The company was under the control of its Trustees in the current and previous financial years.

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 and is limited by guarantee, each member having undertaken to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst he or she is still a member or within one year thereafter.

There are currently 4 members of the company (2021: 4).

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1180001

Accounts

Company Registration Number 10599285

Registered Charity Number 1180001

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ending 28 February 2021

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2021

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2021.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Fertile Ground Dance Limited
Charity registration number	1180001
Company registration number	10599285
Registered office	2nd Floor, Dance City, Temple Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4BR

Trustees

For the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, the Board of Trustees is the Board of Directors of the charitable company and is referred to as "the Trustees" throughout this report.

The Trustees of Fertile Ground Dance Limited during the year and to the date of signing this report are as follows:

Sue Hurrell	
Dora Frankel	
Leigh Venus	
Ann Schofield	
Chris Catalan	Resigned 24 March 2020

Bankers	Barclays Bank plc, 49-51 Northumberland Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7AF
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Independent Examiner	Mr P O'Hara FCA, 4 Stoneyhurst Road West, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PG
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Documents

The Company is a Company Limited by Guarantee and was incorporated on 3 February 2017 and registered with the Charity Commission on 20 September 2018.

The charitable company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, as registered with Companies House on 3 February 2017 and as amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 25 June 2018.

The Directors of the company are also Trustees of the charity.

Eligibility for membership of the charity and membership of the Board of Trustees is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. There are no restrictions in the governing document on the operation of the charity other than those imposed by general charity law.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

Governance

The charity currently has four Trustees.

The charity is regularly reviewing the Board's skillset in order to strengthen the governance and will subsequently be approaching individuals and advertising the opportunity through Voluntary sector, Business and Arts and Culture channels when gaps are identified.

The Board aims to meet around four times per year and conducts an Annual General Meeting, typically in May. The quorum is at least three Trustees and meetings may be held in person or by suitable electronic means.

At Trustees' meetings, held at least quarterly, the Trustees agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the charity, including the consideration of development projects, reserves and risk management policies and performance.

Detailed written reports and an agenda are prepared by senior staff and circulated in advance of Board meetings.

Appointment and Induction of Trustees

The appointment of Trustees is carried out at regular Trustee meetings and is by unanimous agreement of the existing trustees. Trustees are appointed for an indefinite term.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association determine that the Board is made up of between three and seven Trustee Directors.

Trustees are nominated by invitation given that they have the necessary skills and expertise to contribute to the charity's activities and to be able to discharge their obligations as Trustees. The skills and composition of the Board is reviewed on a regular basis, taking into consideration succession planning, representation and experience, empathy and knowledge of the charity.

On appointment, Trustees undergo an induction programme that includes briefings from key staff and the Chair of the Trustees.

Management and Organisational Structure

Day to day management is delegated to Artistic Directors Malgorzata Dzierzon and Renaud Wiser, who are responsible for most of the key activities of the charity including the content of the artistic and engagement programme, recruiting and appointing Fertile Ground artistic and administrative freelance staff, tour booking, working with fundraising consultant and, jointly with the Finance Manager, for regulatory compliance.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the Artistic Directors as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of any Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the Notes to the financial statements.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Chair and in accordance with the charity's Conflict of Interests policy withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Grant-making

The charity does not currently engage in grant-making activity.

Policies on Reserves

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

The Trustees aim to hold a level of Unrestricted Reserves which enables the charity to have sufficient financial resources to meet various liabilities which would crystallise if Fertile Ground Dance Limited were unable to continue operating, together with an allowance to enable the charity to respond flexibly to issues or appropriate initiatives which might be identified outside of its annual budgeting process.

At present, the Trustees estimate that the Unrestricted Reserves required to cover all known liabilities amount to approximately £2,000. In addition, the Trustees consider that a contingency of at least £10,000 is prudent, resulting in an optimum level of Unrestricted Reserves in the region of £12,000.

Fertile Ground Dance Limited currently holds Unrestricted Reserves of £17,406 at 28 February 2021, which provides a small additional level of contingency.

The Trustees believe that Unrestricted Reserves should, wherever possible, be maintained at least at this level to ensure the charity can run efficiently and meet the needs of the beneficiaries. FG will continue to use reserves, where necessary, to support the annual programme, but the objective is to achieve 100% funding for each programme.

This policy will be reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis as part of the charity's budgeting processes.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Purpose

Fertile Ground Dance Limited aims to advance the arts for the public benefit by the promotion in particular, but not exclusively, of the art of dance.

Fertile Ground (FG) is the North East's only early career repertory dance company employing dancers who are based or trained in the North East. FG offers performances and workshops across the North-East region and beyond, showcasing great talent performing in theatres, galleries and outdoor spaces.

Aims & Objectives

The vision that shapes our annual activities remains working with emerging dance artists, creating and touring contemporary dance across the North East and removing barriers for children and young people to access high quality contemporary dance.

With the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the closure of performing arts venues and suspension of public facing activities for all of 2020-21, our objectives for the period had to be redefined with the urgent need to achieve the following outcomes:

- Maintaining financial stability and our ability to resume artistic activities when the physical distancing measures allowed
- Creating new ways of working, less reliant on physical interactions
- Guaranteed continuation of activities and honouring commitments to pay rent, staff, utilities
- Job offers for dancers, with many young artists not eligible for government support
- Solid plan enabling Fertile Ground to hit the road running once the situation improves
- Diversification of live and digital activities for artists, young people and audiences

Our organisational objectives remain to

- Provide professional opportunities for emerging dancers who are native to, have trained or are based in the North East;
- Inspire children and young people through online programmes where interaction with professional dancers and choreographers promote creativity and encourage physical well-being;
- Continue to increase the artistic profile and visibility of Fertile Ground by working with internationally recognised collaborators

Public Benefit

The Trustees understand and have discussed the implications of the provisions of the Charities Act 2006, which state that all charities must demonstrate that they are established for public benefit, and have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees believe that the charity meets both of the key principles.

Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit, or benefits

Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Cont.)

Public Benefit (Cont.)

The charity's principal public benefits are:

- Education and development of young people - The charity's participatory activities focus on strengthening the social and emotional capabilities of young people – such as confidence, resilience, creativity, communication, managing feelings, problem-solving, relationship-building, responsibility and perseverance - through participation in creative activities.
- Performances for the general public - The charity produces performances and events which are delivered to a high standard by paid professional staff.

The main beneficiaries are:

- Members of the public who attend our events and performances and who engage with Fertile Ground online
- Emerging dancers from the North East of England who form the Fertile Ground Company
- Emerging dancers from the North East of England who are the beneficiaries of the professional development programme (360 programme)
- Children and young people and adult participants who take part in our workshops and residencies in education settings
- Artists and crew who create and contribute to our touring programmes

Impact and Value

In 2020, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Fertile Ground remained an active and publicly engaged organisation.

We worked with partners, where safe and possible, to minimise gaps in engagement for artists in the region, Fertile Ground's core staff and to provide access to physical and creative activities to young people.

As well as the remote artistic development of programmes involving 10 artists, in 2020/21 we conducted two phases of studio R&D involving 4 emerging professional dancers from the region. Each phase was followed by a public sharing either online or to a socially distanced audience at Dance City studios.

In addition, we created digital education packs and delivered a programme of remote activity with students of Newcastle College and a public engagement programme based on our new dance film "Somnium" by Fertile Ground Artistic Co-Director M. Dzierzon. The films, created remotely in collaboration with our audiences, are now featured on our social media sites and company website.

We also developed a new workshop proposal merging dance, sculpture and technology that will be delivered collaboratively with partners from late 2021. This programme is based on our new stage production "Labyrinth" by Fertile Ground Artistic Co-Director R. Wisser.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Cont.)

Impact and Value (Cont.)

While in-person residencies at schools and community groups were not possible in the last 14 months, we have noted the impact of our work and engagement on the young professional dancers with whom we were allowed to work in the studio. Here are the testimonies from the current cohort of dancers:

"It was wonderful for my wellbeing and mental health to be back working in a job that I am passionate about. It has also positively benefited my physical health to be back dancing and exercising, especially having the space to move without restrictions." 2020/21 Fertile Ground Dancer

"Being able to dance and interact with other people has felt incredible and had such a positive impact on my wellbeing. The open and generous direction given by Gosia and Renaud (Malgorzata Dzierzon and Renaud Wisner - the Artistic Directors) was also very welcoming with a good level of encouragement to push for more." 2020/21 Fertile Ground Dancer

"Fertile Ground has connected me with 5 other artists who all create and make their own work. It has provided me with paid dance employment during a time of scarcity and this has allowed me to stay fit and ready for upcoming auditions and other work I have lined up." 2020/21 Fertile Ground Dancer

"Being provided with the chance to take class again and to work on my technique has been brilliant for my professional development. To gain personal feedback throughout class was wonderful, all aiding my physicality and musicality within classes – which is so essential for auditions. Likewise, given the chance to work with new choreographers, new dancers, different ways of working and new expectations, all helps to increase your adaptability and skillset as a dance artist. So essential for when working in future projects, these are vital skills needed within any dance career, so this all helps with making you a more employable, more experienced dance artist." 2020/21 Fertile Ground Dancer

Furthermore all participants in the programme, including the broader creative team, technicians, artistic directors, engagement programme participants and audiences watching our sharing from home expressed their joy and shared with us that their spirits were lifted and mood improved as a result of participation.

Risk Management

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

The charity has a risk management strategy in place which comprises:

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

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (Cont.)

Risk Management (Cont.)

The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate financial systems and controls and employment policies and practices are in place. They consider the key risks facing the charity at this time to be:

- Financial capacity - New sources of income are being developed to make the charity's operations secure in the longer term, but this is an ongoing process, which needs further development and funding to achieve its aims

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

- Prudent budgets have been set for the next financial year;
- The charity maintains a low-cost base, making extensive use of freelancers such that few significant liabilities exist;
- Regular management accounts are provided, showing the performance against budget;
- Contingency plans are in place for the actions which would be taken if income appears unlikely to reach its target;
- Reserves policies have been adopted which provide an appropriate amount of uncommitted reserves which will enable the charity to meet all its liabilities even if income targets are not achieved.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Every year, our two Artistic Directors aim to create a newly choreographed work, commission or stage a revival of an existing acclaimed work by international choreographers and focus on a new collaboration that can enhance the programme – for example, engagement with the digital world. We work with guest artists every year to create new choreography and to partner with us on our engagement programmes.

Our new touring programme *Myths and Dreams*, which saw significant development in 2020/21, incorporates 3 dance works, created through a rigorous research and development period.

Labyrinth is a new multi-disciplinary work inspired by the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. The work explores the hero's journey to defeat the hybrid monster as a metaphor for inner conflicts and a reflection on the boundaries between good and evil. Created by Renaud Wisser in collaboration with sculptor Marie Lelouche, this piece involves using motion capture technology and projections system to reveal a sculptural maze rendered visible by the movement of the dancers. This unique set-up is currently being developed by Florent Berthaut at University of Lille.

Plubel – a re-staging of work by Clémentine Vanlerberghe and Fabritia D'Intino, finalists of the choreographic competition 'Danse Elargie'. This precise choreographic work questions the labour of the corps de ballet and examines group representation of femininity through history.

Somnium – a new dance film created by Malgorzata Dzierzon, where the creative process draws on the choreographer and cast's unique experiences of the surreal, dreamed and imagined. At this time of extended, imposed confinement during the pandemic, many of us reported sleeping and dreaming more. *Somnium* wants to capture our memories, anxieties and desires at this time of change. It is created in collaboration with filmmaker Filipe Alcada, composer Oliver Coates and Director of Photography Fabio Calasibeta.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2021

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (Cont.)

This project also aims to develop our ambitious plans to expand our online presence with content suited for digital distribution.

Long-term Impact

Our long-term intentions are to continue building a resilient and sustainable company that is well integrated and contributes to our sector and the region. Working with stakeholders and partners to deliver our ambitious artistic programmes we want to grow our offer, reach and impact, while promoting the North East talent regionally and nationally.

Marketing/PR

In 2020/21 our artistic proposals were shortlisted for the Made in the North East Commission, giving us an opportunity to present Fertile Ground to a consortium of 9 venues and enhancing Fertile Ground's visibility in the region. Our new film Somnium was awarded Dance City 2021/22 commission which will expand the project's and company's profile, reaching more people when the company tours in 2021/22.

Responding to the new situation created by the pandemic, our Marketing Officer Claire Cockfort created a new audience development strategy with focus on current challenges and digital opportunities.

Fundraising

Working with freelance fundraising consultant Samantha Hobrough in 2020/21, we submitted 22 funding applications to trusts and foundations to support Fertile Ground's charitable activities.

In 2020 Fertile Ground received:

- £2,000 from the Leche Trust to support our work with emerging professional dance talent
- £4,000 from Didymus Trust towards our work with young people and emerging dancers
- £1,000 from Barbour Foundation towards artistic and learning programme
- £500 from Percy Hedley 1990 Charitable Trust towards artistic and learning programme
- £10,000 from Newcastle Culture Investment Fund in support of the work FG does with schools, including a contribution to our core posts of Development Director and Artistic Director (a variation was agreed to cover other core costs, including a freelance fundraiser, following the loss of our Development Director).

We were also awarded:

- Dance City 2021/22 Commission (£5,000) towards Somnium
- Arts Council England: Emergency Response Fund (£16,500) towards core costs, organisational development and artistic R&D
- Arts Council England Project Grant (£15,000) for creation of Somnium and R&D of Labyrinth (both part of Myths and Dreams programme)
- We were also successful in our application to Newcastle Culture Investment Fund 2021/22 Stabilization Fund (£15,000)

FG are extremely grateful for the support from all these organisations for their support.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2021

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (Cont.)

Financial Review

The financial out-turn for the year is an overall unrestricted surplus of £3,749 (2020: Unrestricted Surplus of £6,200), leaving a balance on Unrestricted Funds of £17,406 at 28 February 2021.

The Trustees consider the financial performance of the charity to be satisfactory.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Firmly rooted in the North East dance sector, we are looking to maintain existing relationships and expand presenting opportunities in the region to new venues. During 2020/21 we have continued to build on current partnership and reached out to new venues in order to tour Myths and Dreams in the region to Berwick, Gosforth, Sunderland, Newcastle, Hartlepool, Jarrow, Darlington and Durham and nationally from late 2021. We continue to work with schools, colleges and community groups to make contemporary dance of high standard available to all and hope to return to working with young people directly as soon as we are allowed to do so.

Impact of Covid-19

The extraordinary situation triggered by Covid -19 and the subsequent suspension of studio and live public-facing activities has found FG at the point where we had completed the planning of artistic and organisational development activities for 2020/21. The uncertainty faced by our existing and new partners following the Covid-19 outbreak meant that we could neither perform nor confidently plan for the future in the last 14 months. We were unable to generate income from guarantees, tickets or workshops.

In 2020 we were successful in securing a £16,500 Emergency Response Grant from ACE towards our fixed costs, organisational development and public facing artistic activity that did not require physical contact.

Our aim is now to resume artistic activities fully when the physical distancing measures are lifted and to implement new ways of working including live, online and blended content for public interactions.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
For the year ended 28 February 2021

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of Fertile Ground Dance Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed by order of the Trustees



Dora Frankel
Trustee
Company Registration Number 10599285

10 June 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

I hereby report to the Trustees of Fertile Ground Dance Limited (Charity Registration Number 1180001) on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 28 February 2021 set out on pages 13 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

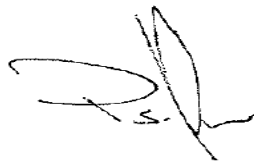
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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



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

4 Stoneyhurst Road West, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PG

10 June 2021

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income					
Income from Investments	3	-	-	-	4
Income from Donations & Legacies	4	41	-	41	351
Income from Charitable Activities	5	1,042	49,000	50,042	71,571
Other Income	6	2,968	-	2,968	9,921
		4,051	49,000	53,051	86,847
Expenditure					
Expenditure on Raising Funds	7	-	2,975	2,975	-
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	8	302	21,025	21,327	85,211
		302	24,000	24,302	85,211
Net Income/(Expenditure)		3,749	25,000	28,749	1,636
Balance brought forward at 1 March		13,657	-	13,657	12,021
Balance carried forward at 28 February		£17,406	£25,000	£42,406	£13,657

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of the financial statements.

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	598	63
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	18,623	10,452
Cash At Bank & In Hand		28,822	5,532
		<u>47,445</u>	<u>15,984</u>
Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year	13	(5,637)	(2,390)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>41,808</u>	<u>13,594</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		42,406	13,657
Creditors – Amounts Falling Due After 1 Year		-	-
Total Net Assets	14	£42,406	£13,657
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Reserves	15	17,406	13,657
Restricted Reserves	15	25,000	-
		<u>£42,406</u>	<u>£13,657</u>

The notes on pages 15 to 23 form part of the financial statements.

The Trustees are satisfied that for the year ended 28 February 2021 the charity was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees also confirm that the Members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charity keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 June 2021 and signed on their behalf:



Dora Frankel
Trustee
Company Registration Number 10599285

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 – 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' ('FRS 102'), and with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value.

Advantage has been taken of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a statement of cashflows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

Taxation Status

Fertile Ground Dance Limited is a Charity registered under the 1960 Charities Act and is accorded exemption from liability to taxation on its income under S505 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Going Concern

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

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Where legacies have been notified to the charity but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.
- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Other income is accounted for when receivable.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Capital items costing over £250 are capitalised and included in fixed assets.

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

IT Equipment – 3 years

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost where there is a material adjustment.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

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

2. Legal Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

3. Income from Investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Receivable	-	-	-	4
	<hr/> £-	<hr/> £-	<hr/> £-	<hr/> £4

The 2020 total of £4 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

4. Income from Donations & Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Donations - General	-	-	-	311
Gift Aid	41	-	41	40
	£41	£-	£41	£351

The 2020 total of £351 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

5. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Grant Income				
Arts Council England - Emergency Fund	-	16,500	16,500	-
Arts Council England - R&D	-	15,000	15,000	-
Arts Council England – Tour 2020	-	-	-	49,999
Barbour Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-
Community Foundation – Newcastle	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Cultural Investment Fund				
Didymus Trust	-	4,000	4,000	-
Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	5,000
Government Office, Quebec – Twilight Dances	-	-	-	1,200
Leche Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-
Percy Hedley 1990 Charitable Trust	-	500	500	-
Polish Cultural Institute – Twilight Dances	-	-	-	1,000
Thriplow Charitable Trust – Talent Development	-	-	-	2,000
	-	49,000	49,000	69,199
Earned Income				
Arts Award Moderation	392	-	392	-
Performance Fees/Commissions	150	-	150	6,550
Ticket Sales	-	-	-	822
Workshop Fees	500	-	500	-
	1,042	-	1,042	7,372
	£1,042	£49,000	£50,042	£71,571

The 2020 total of £71,571 comprises £12,372 relating to Unrestricted Funds and £64,199 relating to Restricted Funds.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

6. Other Income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Theatre Tax Relief	2,968	-	2,968	9,921
	£2,968	£-	£2,968	£9,921

The 2020 total of £9,921 relates wholly to Unrestricted Funds.

7. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising Consultancy	-	2,975	2,975	-
	£-	£2,975	£2,975	£-

8. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Production & Activity Costs				
Twilight Dances 2021 Tour	-	392	392	79,264
Autumn R&D	-	-	-	839
Freelance Fees	-	13,532	13,532	-
Advertising, Marketing & PR	-	763	763	-
Other Direct Costs	302	1,913	2,215	-
Support Costs				
Premises Costs	-	125	125	1,528
Office Costs	-	598	598	1,580
Travel & Subsistence Costs	-	1,899	1,899	227
Depreciation	-	63	63	93
Governance Costs				
Accountancy & Book-keeping Fees	-	1,740	1,740	1,680
	£302	£21,025	£21,327	£85,211

The 2020 total of £85,211 comprises £16,448 relating to Unrestricted Funds and £68,763 relating to Restricted Funds.

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

9. Net Movement in Funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
The net movement in Funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of Owned Fixed Assets	63	93
Independent Examiner's Fees – Independent Examination	1,080	1,080
Independent Examiner's Fees – Other Services	360	360

10. Staff Costs & Directors' Remuneration

The charity employed no staff in the year (2020: None)

No remuneration was paid to or waived by Trustees/Directors in the year (2020: £Nil) and no costs (2020: £Nil) were reimbursed to Trustees in respect of their attendance at meetings of the charity.

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office & ICT Equipment	Total Fixed Assets
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 March 2020	280	280
Additions	598	598
At 28 February 2021	878	878
Depreciation		
At 1 March 2020	217	217
Charge for year	63	63
At 28 February 2021	280	280
Net Book Value		
At 28 February 2021	£598	£598
At 1 March 2020	£93	£93

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

12. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade Debtors	392	150
Accrued Income	15,000	-
Theatre Tax Relief	2,968	9,921
Prepayments	263	381
	£18,623	£10,452

All sums are due within 1 year.

13. Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade Creditors	120	-
Accruals	5,517	2,390
	£5,637	£2,390

14. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	598	-	598	63
Debtors	3,623	15,000	18,623	10,452
Cash at Bank and In Hand	13,185	15,637	28,822	5,532
Creditors – Due Within 1 Year	-	(5,637)	(5,637)	(2,390)
	£17,406	£25,000	£42,406	£13,657

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds

	At 1 March 2020	Income in Year	Resources Expended in Year	At 28 February 2021
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	13,657	4,051	(302)	17,406
Restricted Funds				
Arts Council England - Emergency Fund	-	16,500	(16,500)	-
Arts Council England - R&D	-	15,000	-	15,000
Barbour Foundation	-	1,000	-	1,000
Community Foundation – Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund	-	10,000	(7,500)	2,500
Didymus Trust	-	4,000	-	4,000
Leche Trust	-	2,000	-	2,000
Percy Hedley 1990 Charitable Trust	-	500	-	500
Total Restricted Funds	-	49,000	(24,000)	25,000
Total Funds	£13,657	£53,051	£(24,302)	£42,406

Name of Restricted Fund	Description, Nature & Purpose of the Fund
Arts Council England - Emergency Fund	To support core costs, organisational development and artistic R&D
Arts Council England - R&D	Towards the cost of the creation of Somnium and R&D of Labyrinth
Barbour Foundation	Towards an artistic and learning programme
Community Foundation – Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund	Towards the cost of schools work, plus a contribution to the posts of Development Director and Artistic Director
Didymus Trust	Towards work with young people and emerging dancers
Leche Trust	To support work with emerging dancers
Percy Hedley 1990 Charitable Trust	Towards an artistic and learning programme

FERTILE GROUND DANCE LIMITED
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

16. Related Party Transactions

There were no transactions in the year with related parties, such as are required to be disclosed under the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (Effective April 2008) (2020: Nil).

17. Financial Commitments

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

18. Company Limited by Guarantee

The company was under the control of its Trustees in the current and previous financial years.

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 and is limited by guarantee, each member having undertaken to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst he or she is still a member or within one year thereafter.

There are currently 4 members of the company (2020: 4).