

**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**

<b>Registered charity name</b>	Fertile Ground Dance Limited
<b>Charity registration number</b>	1180001
<b>Company registration number</b>	10599285
<b>Registered office</b>	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

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

<b>Independent Examiner</b>	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 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 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 Wiser 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 Wiser.
- 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 Wiser.

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).

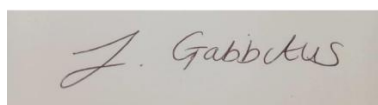
Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for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

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature appears to read 'J. Gabbitus'.

**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').

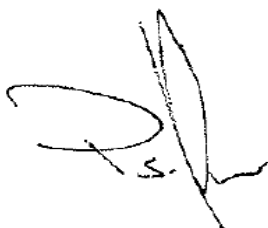
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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 £
<b>Income</b>					
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
		<b>15,032</b>	<b>42,635</b>	<b>57,667</b>	<b>38,198</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Expenditure on Raising Funds	7	-	4,400	4,400	750
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	8	10,167	31,620	41,787	39,830
		<b>10,167</b>	<b>36,020</b>	<b>46,187</b>	<b>40,580</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>4,865</b>	<b>6,615</b>	<b>11,480</b>	<b>(2,382)</b>
Balance brought forward		15,776	2,000	17,776	20,158
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<b>£20,641</b>	<b>£8,615</b>	<b>£29,256</b>	<b>£17,776</b>

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

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

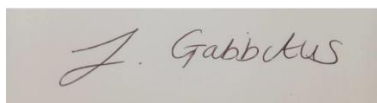
The Trustees are satisfied that for the year ended 28 February 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

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**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank Interest Receivable	-	-	-	-
	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>

**4. Income from Donations & Legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations - General	-	-	-	69
	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£69</b>

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**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Grant Income</b>				
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	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>42,635</b>	<b>42,635</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Earned Income</b>				
Performance Fees/Commissions	2,050	-	2,050	16,500
Ticket Sales	1,427	-	1,427	-
Workshop/Residency Fees	5,000	-	5,000	750
	<b>8,477</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,477</b>	<b>17,250</b>
	<b>£8,477</b>	<b>£42,635</b>	<b>£51,112</b>	<b>£29,250</b>

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

**6. Other Income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Theatre Tax Relief	6,555	-	6,555	8,879
	<b>£6,555</b>	<b>£-</b>	<b>£6,555</b>	<b>£8,879</b>

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**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising Consultancy	-	4,400	4,400	750
	<b>£-</b>	<b>£4,400</b>	<b>£4,400</b>	<b>£750</b>

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

**8. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Production &amp; Activity Costs</b>				
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
<b>Support Costs</b>				
Premises Costs	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Office Costs/Other Overheads	580	-	580	749
Depreciation	126	-	126	389
<b>Governance Costs</b>				
Accountancy & Book-keeping Fees	1,440	-	1,440	1,440
Consultancy Fees	500	-	500	955
Trustee Meeting Costs	117	-	117	309
	<b>£10,167</b>	<b>£31,620</b>	<b>£41,787</b>	<b>£39,830</b>

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**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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 £
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 March 2024	1,447	1,447
Additions	-	-
At 28 February 2025	<b>1,447</b>	<b>1,447</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 March 2024	1,321	1,321
Charge for year	126	126
At 28 February 2025	<b>1,447</b>	<b>1,447</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>		
At 28 February 2025	<b>£-</b>	<b>£-</b>
At 1 March 2024	<b>£126</b>	<b>£126</b>

**12. Debtors**

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

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**

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

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

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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)
	<b>£20,641</b>	<b>£8,615</b>	<b>£29,256</b>	<b>£17,776</b>

**15. Analysis of Charitable Funds**

	<b>At 1 March 2024</b>	<b>Income in Year</b>	<b>Expenditure in Year</b>	<b>At 28 February 2025</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>15,776</b>	<b>15,032</b>	<b>(10,167)</b>	<b>20,641</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
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
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>42,635</b>	<b>(36,020)</b>	<b>8,615</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£17,776</b>	<b>£57,667</b>	<b>£(46,187)</b>	<b>£29,256</b>

**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.)**

<b>Name of Restricted Fund</b>	<b>Description, Nature &amp; Purpose of the Fund</b>
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).