

Charity number: 1183937

Registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation number CE 017872

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for
the year ended 31 December 2024 for

Children's Book Fest – Chichester CIO



Children’s Book Fest – Chichester CIO

Trustee Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

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Charity Reference Details

Charity name	Children's Book Fest – Chichester CIO
Registered charity number	1183937
Organisation constitution	Charitable Incorporated Organisation Incorporated on 17 June 2019
Governing document	CIO foundation document dated 17 June 2019
Charitable objects	For the public benefit the advancement of education of children and young people, particularly but not exclusively, through the provision of subsidised literary festivals and books
Principal address	19 Westgate Chichester West Sussex PO19 3ET
Email	amanda@childrensbookfest.org
Website	www.childrensbookfest.com
Trustees	Sir Mark Featherstone-Witty OBE (chair, appointed 16 April 2024) Penelope Tomlinson Sahra Gott James Gough Anna Ashworth Jennifer Rogers Elaine Bentley Amanda Kings None of the trustees hold title to property of the charity.
Trustee payments	None
Management and employees	The charity is managed by its trustees with the support of volunteers. There are currently no employees, the Festival's activity is undertaken by freelance providers, Georgina Lippiett, Festival Director, and Abbie Herlihy, Administrative Assistant.
Related companies	None
Independent examiner	James Tickell (FCA) 21 Southdown Road, Horndean, Waterlooville PO8 0ET
Fundraising	The charity raises funds from the public but does not work with professional fundraisers or commercial participators.

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Trustee Report

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Meeting Our Charitable Objective

Children's BookFest's (CBF) mission is to address worrying statistics such as this, from the National Literacy Trust in 2024:

- '1 in 8 children aged 5 to 8 said they did not have a book of their own.'
- '1 in 11 children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they did not have a book. This is the lowest percentage for this age group since 2016.'
- '1 in 8 children and young people who received free school meals said they did not have a book of their own. compared with 1 in 13 of their peers.'

CBF is dedicated to ensuring every child, regardless of background, has access to books to develop a love of reading. CBF arranges festivals in state primary schools in the Chichester and Bognor Regis area when every participating child meets an author and is given a signed book, bought by CBF, to take home and keep, for some children it is their first book. Reluctant and struggling readers are also supported with an Outreach programme in schools, and 170 new books are gifted every month to the food banks in Chichester, Bognor, Selsey, Petworth and Midhurst. Access to books is vital and instilling a love of books and reading for pleasure has the biggest impact of any factor on children's life chances.

Bognor Regis BookFest, February 2024

7 schools, 9 authors, 1,650 books

Children and teachers in both Key Stage One and Two enjoyed magical stories, puppets, musical instruments, wonderful words and exciting ideas from nine award-winning authors. Teachers reported that many children hugged their books and couldn't wait to start reading them. One pupil in Year 3 at Edward Bryant School summed up the power of the BookFest saying, *'Are the books really free? This is my first book, the only book I've ever owned.'*

Award-winning author SF Said had this to say: *'I've been absolutely blown away to witness the impact of a Children's Bookfest event! It's an amazing thing to get books into the hands of every single child on a school visit, and to see the incredible excitement around reading and books that this creates. It's a truly inclusive initiative, and it will change many children's lives forever.'*

Chichester BookFest, October 2024

26 schools, 27 authors, 3,802 books

Over three days in October, 27 authors, including former Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho, visited 26 schools in Chichester and the surrounding area and gave captivating performances to over 3,800 children. Every child involved was given their own book, personally dedicated to them by the author, all bought and paid for by CBF.

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Donald Vass, Teacher Governor at Jessie Younghusband School was impressed with the attention that author Maz Evans gave to every child when signing their book saying, *'Maz was great at asking the children what other authors they were enjoying, and sharing book recommendations based on this as well.'*

Author Gareth P Jones summed up the Chichester BookFest. *'Many book festivals bring books to the places they are wanted. The wondrous thing about Bookfest is that it brings books to the places they are needed. Every child who takes part goes home with a book bought by CBF, so the positive effects of an author visit last far beyond the time we spend in school. It is one of the best, most well organised school visiting festivals in the UK.'*

CBF is also grateful for the support it receives from over 30 dedicated volunteers who accompany the authors on all their visits.

Pilot Schemes

In November 2024 CBF ran two pilot schemes, the first at Easebourne Primary School in Midhurst involving 172 children in years 1 to 6. This pilot was made possible by the kind generosity of the Inner Wheel Club of Midhurst & Petworth and is an important step as the charity considers branching out to other areas of West Sussex.

The second pilot was at St Anthony's Special School in Chichester. This school is dedicated to helping children with additional needs and required a completely different format to the usual BookFest events. Working closely with the school and the author, Simon Philip, the day was tailored to all the children involved. Each of the 28 children involved received a copy of Simon's book, as well as a pdf version to access on their digital tablets.

Food Banks

Regular monthly donations of 170 new books to the food banks in Chichester, Bognor Regis, Selsey, Midhurst and Petworth are a key part of CBF's mission to reach the children of families suffering from food poverty. In addition, 250 books are given in November and December. CBF is very grateful to all the organisations that donate new books to the food banks.

Outreach

CBF's Outreach Coordinator goes into various schools reading 1:1 with 10 selected children who each receive a book matched to their reading ability and interests to take home and keep.

Altogether in 2024, 7,864 books were given to children via BookFests, food banks and Outreach.

Fundraising Activity

The charity was grateful to the many trusts, foundations and charitable organisations who generously awarded grants during the year, including the Sussex Community Foundation who supported for the fourth consecutive year. Toovey's have continued their support and JW European has also generously sponsored CBF for four years for which CBF is hugely grateful. In addition, a number of generous individuals gave their support, including many who now donate on a monthly basis. Funds were also raised from two fundraising events, the first with the wonderful Julia Donaldson giving two performances in the Minerva Theatre, and an inspiring

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evening in the Cathedral with Anthony Horowitz and Kate Mosse as part of the Festival of Chichester.

Financial Review

The charity's income during the year was £85,705 (2023: £32,894), an increase of 161% over the year and almost entirely the result of fundraising from a range of generous organisations and individuals.

Expenditure amounted to £58,428 (2023: £39,692), of which £10,398 related to fundraising and marketing costs, £4,583 on support and governance costs with the balance of £43,447 (74% of the total) directly on charitable activity of procuring books, meeting author expenses and holding BookFest activity in local schools.

As the consequence of the significant increase in supporter income, there was a surplus of £27,277 (2023: deficit of £6,798), which has enabled the charity to build an adequate reserve.

Unrestricted reserves at the year-end amounted to £36,217, comprising mostly a bank balance of £36,195. As there were no outstanding debts, the year end position was satisfactory and there is no uncertainty about continuing as a going concern.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have resolved to adopt a reserve policy of retaining sufficient funds on deposit to meet three months expenditure, which was achieved by the year end.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Amanda Kings
Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity, Children's Book Fest – Chichester CIO, for the year ended 31 December 2024.

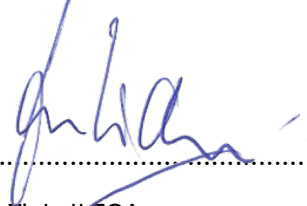
As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



.....

James Tickell FCA
21 Southdown Road, Horndean, Waterlooville PO8 0ET

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Statement of Financial Activities

		Year ending 31 December			
		2024			2023
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
<u>Income</u>					
Donations and legacies	1	75,532	-	75,532	31,834
Charitable activities	2	9,800	-	9,800	887
Investment income	3	373	-	373	173
		<u>85,705</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,705</u>	<u>32,894</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Raising funds	4	10,398	-	10,398	4,887
Charitable activities	5	43,447	-	43,447	33,980
Support & governance	6	4,583	-	4,583	825
		<u>58,428</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,428</u>	<u>39,692</u>
Net income over expenditure		27,277	-	27,277	(6,798)
Transfer between reserves		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		27,277	-	27,277	(6,798)
<u>Reconciliation of funds</u>					
Total funds brought forward		8,940		8,940	15,738
Total funds carried forward		36,217	-	36,217	8,940

The notes form part of these financial statements

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Balance Sheet

	2024 £	2023 £
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Amounts receivable	600	-
Bank balances	36,195	9,690
	<hr/> 36,795 <hr/>	<hr/> 9,690 <hr/>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accruals	578	750
Deferred income	-	-
	<hr/> 578 <hr/>	<hr/> 750 <hr/>
Net Assets	<hr/> 36,217 <hr/>	<hr/> 8,940 <hr/>
<u>Funds</u>		
Restricted	-	-
Unrestricted	36,217	8,940
	<hr/> 36,217 <hr/>	<hr/> 8,940 <hr/>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 22 April 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Amanda Kings
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

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Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1 – Donations and Legacies

	Year ending 31 December			
	2024			2023
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
Donations	1,999	-	1,999	7,765
Grants	53,181	-	53,181	15,860
Gift Aid recovery	-	-	-	29
Fundraising events	8,742	-	8,742	2,090
Monthly giving	1,110	-	1,110	90
Benefactors	4,500	-	4,500	-
Sponsorship	6,000	-	6,000	6,000
	<u>75,532</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,532</u>	<u>31,834</u>

Note 2 – Income From Charitable Activities

	Year ending 31 December			
	2024			2023
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
Sale of books	-	-	-	887
Sale of author sessions	9,800	-	9,800	-
	<u>9,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,800</u>	<u>887</u>

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Note 3 – Investment Income

	Year ending 31 December		
	2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Bank interest	373	-	373
	<u>373</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>373</u>

Note 4 - Raising Funds

	Year ending 31 December		
	2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Advertising	411	-	411
Portal charges	81	-	81
Other fundraising costs	955	-	955
Marketing consultancy	1,500	-	1,500
Brochure costs	997	-	997
Social media	2,460	-	2,460
Website	3,995	-	3,995
	<u>10,398</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,398</u>

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Note 5 – Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Year ending 31 December		
	2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Authors' fees	8,285	-	8,285
Bookfest book costs	22,556	-	22,556
BookFest Director costs	12,111	-	12,111
Other Bookfest expenses	495	-	495
Food bank book costs	-	-	-
	<u>43,447</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,447</u>
			<u>33,980</u>

Note 6 – Support and Governance Costs

	Year ending 31 December		
	2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Administrative assistant	529	-	529
Insurance	1,068	-	1,068
Professional fees	2,500	-	2,500
Sundries	120	-	120
Subscriptions	306	-	306
Trustee expenses	60	-	60
	<u>4,583</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,583</u>
			<u>825</u>