

Braillists Foundation CIO

Annual Report for the Period 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025

Trustees

The following people served as Trustees during the financial period:

- Dave Williams (Chair)
- Megan Hastings (Secretary)
- Matthew Horspool (Treasurer to 28/03/2025, Ordinary Trustee from 28/03/2025)
- Ami Turnbull (Treasurer from 28/03/2025)
- Laurent Cadet de Fontenay (from 06/09/2024)
- Stuart Lawler
- Darren Paskell (from 06/09/2024)
- Ed Rogers (to 06/09/2024)
- Stephanie Sergeant (from 06/09/2024)
- Ilka Staeglin (to 06/09/2024)

Staff and Contractors

There were no designated paid staff during the financial period.

The Foundation procured the services of a freelance text transcriber for which remuneration was arranged in line with industry best practice.

Income and Expenditure

The Foundation's income was obtained through:

- Sponsorship: 61%
- Interest and Donations: 39%

Expenditure was made against:

- Grant funding obtained in previous years: 65%
- Sponsorship: 21%
- Interest and donations: 14%

Decision-Making and Supervision

The Trustees met eight times during the financial period, with meetings lasting an hour on average. No meetings were declared inquorate and all business was ratified in meetings, although discussions took place by email outside meetings from time to time.

Two Trustees retired and four new Trustees were appointed within the financial period to help drive our mission, and to maintain adequate trustee oversight.

Operational meetings with regular volunteers were held on a weekly basis, except where holiday or conflicts with significant events prevented this, and at least one Trustee was present at all such meetings.

Management of contractors remained delegated to the Treasurer, with oversight from the Board of Trustees.

Activities and Achievements

The following activities and achievements occurred during the financial period:

- Hosting the UK's first face-to-face World Braille Day Conference, in celebration of 200 years of braille, at New College Worcester, with approximately 80 attendees, keynote speakers and workshops, a world class braille heritage exhibition and a braille technology showcase featuring ten exhibitors
- Presenting about our work at *Braille Matters*, a celebration of World Braille Day 2025 by the Braille Revival League, a special interest affiliate of the American Council of the Blind
- Generating income through corporate sponsorship for the first time
- Moving our Newsletter to a new platform, reducing costs and improving the accessibility of the Newsletter itself and the publication process
- Training additional volunteers to support with event moderation and facilitation
- Building and maintaining relationships with organisations in other countries through Braillists Trustees being present at the eighth General Assembly of the International Council on English Braille in New Zealand and other international events
- Attending key conferences and exhibitions in the UK, including Sight Village Central and South East
- Continuing to deliver free Masterclasses to improve competency amongst braille users, with recordings, handouts and text and braille transcripts available afterwards
- Continuing to deliver a free "Braille Bar" drop-in service
- Continuing to deliver a free "Braille for Beginners On-Demand" course
- Continuing to offer the braille Book Club, allowing braillists to practice their reading in five breakout rooms based on their ability
- Continuing to support the Braillists email forum for braille users to exchange advice and support, alongside dedicated groups for beneficiaries of "Braille for Beginners On-Demand" and Book Club
- Maintaining our presence and two-way interaction on social media
- Continuing to publish the Braillecast podcast and make text and braille transcripts of all episodes available
- Continuing to produce SD cards containing all of our audio and text content for distribution at exhibitions, and periodically updating the master copy of that card with new content
- Continuing to provide personalised and personable email support
- Continuing to offer face-to-face "Braille and Beer" social gatherings

Audience and Reach

The reach of the Braillists Foundation is comprised predominantly of blind and partially sighted people, but also includes teachers and other professionals supporting braille users. It can be summarised at the end of this financial period as follows:

Medium	Reach This Year	Reach Last Year
Newsletter	2103 subscribers	1858 subscribers
Braillecast	29 episodes, average 369 weekly downloads	12 episodes, average 373 weekly downloads
Masterclasses and Special Events	13 events, average 65 attendees	20 events, average 69 attendees
Braille for Beginners	118 new registrants	126 new registrants

Braille Bar	16 occurrences, average 34 attendees	17 occurrences, average 36 attendees
Book Club	42 occurrences, average 29 attendees	43 occurrences, average 27 attendees
Facebook	416 likes/497 followers	406 likes/467 followers
X (formerly Twitter)	933 followers	917 followers

Future Plans

In 2025-26, the Braillists plans to build on the work undertaken in 2024-25. In particular, we hope to:

- Improve the functionality of the Braillists' website and IT systems
- Improve the discoverability of Braillists content on smart speakers
- Be present at key conferences and events
- Expand opportunities for braille groups to meet in person



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Braillists Foundation CIO

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Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

Period start date
01/04/2024

To

Period end date
31/03/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-	-	-	-	9,000
Donations	688	800	-	1,488	1
Sponsorship	2,334	-	-	2,334	1,639
Awards	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	19	-	-	19	17
Recruitment	-	-	-	-	56
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,042	800	-	3,842	10,713
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,042	800	-	3,842	10,713
A3 Payments					
Staff	-	-	-	-	3,160
Contractors	-	4,163	-	4,163	1,435
Donated equipment/resources	855	398	-	1,253	808
Equipment/resources for future donation	-	-	-	-	-
Postage	-	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure	-	423	-	423	545
Memberships	-	84	-	84	82
Presenters	99	1,500	-	1,599	900
Transport	563	-	-	563	263
Recruitment	-	-	-	-	56
Exhibitions	1,260	800	-	2,060	402
Sub total	2,777	7,367	-	10,144	7,651
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,777	7,367	-	10,144	7,651
Net of receipts/(payments)	265	- 6,567	-	- 6,302	3,062
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,477	8,567	-	11,044	7,982
Cash funds this year end	2,742	2,000	-	4,742	11,044

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Great Western Credit Union	- 175	1,340	-
	Lloyds	2,238	798	-
	PayPal	679	- 139	-
	Total cash funds	2,742	2,000	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	Stock items for future donation	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Matthew Horspool		Matthew Horspool	10-Jan-25	
Ami Turnbull				