

Registered CIO: 1197431

## **Annual Report and Accounts**

January - December 2024

## Chair's Report

I am pleased to present the third Annual Report for Outside the Box CIO. We have had another brilliant year, with new young people joining Orange Box Choir, and new opportunities to sing in front of public audiences.

A big achievement was our successful application to the National Lottery Community Fund, and we are amongst the first cohort of applicants to receive brand new two-year grants from their Awards for All programme. This gives our charity some much needed security and breathing space until April 2026. Fundraising can be a very tiring treadmill! I feel proud to have made five successful applications in the last three years, raising almost £33,000 in grant funding.

I am a stuck record when it comes to singing the praises of our participants. One of the best things about Orange Box Choir is how welcoming and supportive the group is. Taking part in any creative activity isn't just about the activity itself - it's about the friendships, a break from the stresses we have in our lives, and holding each other up when we feel down. It's also about mixing with people you may not otherwise meet in your daily life, and the opportunity to learn from and support each other.

For me this is the end of an era, as I have chosen to step down as a Trustee and volunteer at the end of January 2025. It is time for Outside the Box CIO to refresh and renew it's governance.

So I want to take the time to say thank you to everyone who has been on this journey with me, and send a massive hug to all our wonderful participants. Keep being loud and proud! I will be there at your future gigs, cheering you on and singing along!

**Maria Spadafora**  
**Chair for Outside the Box CIO**



## Project Manager's Report

What a fantastic year it has been for Orange Box Choir which has seen our 2nd full year of session delivery since finding our new home with Outside The Box CIO.

We have welcomed some new participants to the group over the past year, formed new friendships and taken part in some fantastic performances!

Some highlights have included performing on the Piece Hall main stage for Calderdale Pride. For some of our choir members this was their first time performing on such a large

stage and in front of so many people. Everyone coped really well and delivered a brilliant performance which was really well received by the audience and generated some lovely feedback.

We have said goodbye to Maria who has moved on to pastures new but I'd like to thank her for all her hard work and leaving us in such a strong position. I'd like to also take this opportunity to thank our amazing choir leaders Amy-Rose and Jonny and our amazing Trustees and team of volunteers for all their dedication and hard work and of course our wonderful choir members.

Another highlight, as always, was the performance at KACCL 2024 where Orange Box Choir bravely performed to an audience of over 300 people. The performance brought many audience members to tears further cementing the relationship with our long-standing supporters on the Kirklees and Calderdale Charity Lunch committee. As well as our performance fee we received a donation of £2500 from some incredibly kind donors in the audience. This is a testament to how much they believe in what we do, and we thank them very much.

**Cont...**

## Project Manager's Report

### ...Cont

I'm so proud of our choir members and our team of trustees, staff and volunteers for everything they have achieved over this past year. You really all are an incredible group of people and I hope you are proud of yourselves.

As I always say – "The future is bright. The future is Orange Box Choir!"

**Jamie Eagleton**

**Project Manager, Orange Box Choir**



Photo by Heather Magner

## Our Purpose and Values

Outside The Box CIO develops participatory and wellbeing activities with, by and for people in Calderdale. We use creativity to enhance wellbeing, particularly for young people who are neurodiverse and have learning differences.

We do this by:

- delivering creative, participatory activities and events with, by and for participants
- enabling and supporting people to take part in opportunities that enhance wellbeing and encourage friendship
- providing or signposting to information, advice and support
- creating and promoting volunteering opportunities

We currently deliver Orange Box Choir on a weekly basis during term-time. Our group meets in the evening at Orange Box Young People's Centre.



Photo by Heather Magner

## Our Trustees:

**Maria Spadafora** – Chair  
**Emma Ruhkala** - Treasurer  
**Tilz Ray**  
**Cathy Ray**  
**Jodie Eagleton**  
**Tom Kendall** – Safeguarding

Trustees oversee the management of the charity and our activities

## Our Freelance Delivery Team:

**Jamie Eagleton** – Project Manager & Safeguarding Lead  
**Amy-Rose Atkinson** – Choir Facilitator  
**Jonny Keegan** – Choir Facilitator

## Our Policies and Procedures:

Safeguarding  
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion  
Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers  
Conflicts of Interest  
Managing Grievances  
Managing Finances and Reserves  
Data Protection (GDPR)  
Health and Safety  
Risk Management



## Our Participants

### In 2024:

**21** people took part in **37** sessions  
**4** of these were new to our choir  
**11** attended with a parent or carer  
**10** attended independently  
**17** parents/carers also attended sessions  
**5** volunteers contributed over 140 hours of their time at workshops and events  
**2150+** people watched performances at **4** events

"What I love about choir is just how we all love singing and it's just having everyone together that has the same interest and stuff. We're all super supportive of each other and we just have loads of fun together, it's great."  
 – L, Participant

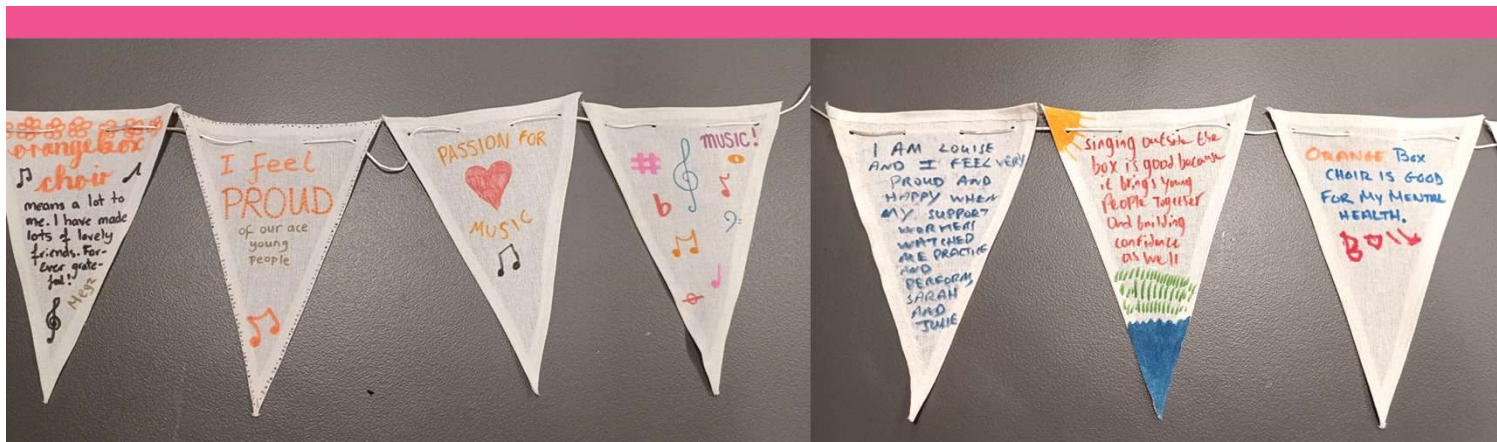
"When I first joined I was pretty nervous. I actually didn't know what to expect. The only person I knew was my friend J but she's moved to accommodated living now, so when I first came I didn't know a single person, and now I know everyone. It feels great. "  
 – D, Participant

"We've got new members and I think it's getting stronger. It's good."  
 – F, Participant



Photo by Martin Bown

## Our Participants



"I felt nervous because I didn't know anybody. Now I feel good in myself that I've done it."  
– J, Participant

"I'm loving every minute of it and I've made so many new friends. I love meeting new people who are similar to my age. I love coming to choir every week because I love meeting new friends and everyone is so welcoming."

"I think it is very very good. I enjoy the singing. I think we've been very good at performing."  
– L, Participant



Photo by Cathy Ray



Photo by Maria Spadafora



## Achievements in 2024



**March 2024** We started the year with a successful funding application to the National Lottery. Securing a grant of £19,972 for two-years provided a significant boost to the delivery of Orange Box Choir, offering security until April 2026.



Photos by Martin Bown

**August 2024** We once again performed at Calderdale Pride, on the large Piece Hall stage. This was an incredible experience for our choir, singing to an audience of more than 1,000 people.



**December 2024** Once again Orange Box Choir held a regular slot at Kirklees and Calderdale Charity Lunch (KACCL), performing to approximately 300 people. We have been proud to support this event since 2017.



**December 2024** We rounded off the year with lively and enjoyable gigs at The Piece Hall and Halifax Borough Market.



Photos by Cathy Ray

Audience members kindly donated almost £200 in cash.

## Finances and Reserves

Finances for 2024 are presented on a cash accounting basis, and reflect income and expenditure as it's received and paid.

### Our Reserves Policy

Trustees agreed to a target level of Reserves of between 3 and 6 months' running costs, outlining a minimum of £2,000.

The purpose of reserves is:

- 1) Continuity – bridging gaps, such as delays or shortfalls in income
- 2) Cyclical maintenance – such as repairing needed equipment
- 3) Dissolution – costs that need to be covered should we dissolve

At the end of 2024 we maintained unrestricted reserves of just over £8,000, and £14,000 in restricted reserves which are used to fund the costs of delivering the choir.

# Finances and Reserves



Charity Name		No (if any)		CC16a
Outside the Box CIO		1197431		
Receipts and Payments Accounts				
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
	01/01/2024		31/12/2024	



## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to the nearest £	Restricted to the nearest £	Endowment to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Brought Forward	6,996	1,402	-	8,398	7,352
Sales	150	-	-	150	150
Suma	-	-	-	-	-
CFFC General	-	-	-	-	-
CFFC Emotional Health & Wellbeing	-	-	-	-	-
SWYP NHS Creative Minds	-	-	-	-	-
KACCL	3,667	-	-	3,667	58
Halifax Opportunity Staying Well	-	-	-	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	19,972	-	19,972	1
Donations	271	-	-	271	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>4,088</b>	<b>19,972</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,060</b>	<b>7,561</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,088</b>	<b>19,972</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,060</b>	<b>7,561</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Choir Tutors	2,114	6,241	-	8,355	7,963
Choir Expenses	177	84	-	261	467
Other direct expenses	-	-	-	-	350
Entertaining	-	-	-	-	69
Room Hire	60	660	-	720	900
Telephone/Internet	-	8	-	8	62
IT	52	121	-	173	-
Insurance	323	-	-	323	303
Marketing	26	235	-	261	300
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2,752</b>	<b>7,350</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,102</b>	<b>10,414</b>

## Finances and Reserves

<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases.</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	2,752	7,350	-	10,102	10,414
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	1,336	12,622	-	13,958	2,853
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	6,996	1,402	-	8,398	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	8,332	14,024	-	22,356	2,853

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	<i>Brought Forward</i>	6,996	1,402	-
	Sales	-	-	-
	Suma	-	-	-
	CFFC General	-	-	-
	CFFC Emotional Health & Wellbeing	-	-8	-
	SWYP NHS Creative Minds	-	-1,108	-
	KACCL	-	-287	-
	Halifax Opportunity Staying Well	-	160	-
	National Lottery Community Fund	-	13,865	-
	Reserves	1,336	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	8,332	14,024	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all	Signature	Print Name	Date of	
		EMMA RUHKALA	31/1/2025	
		MARIA SPADAFORA	31/1/2025	



## Thank you!

A huge thank you to all our donors, and everyone who has supported us in 2024.

But, as usual, the biggest thank you has to go to all the choir participants and their amazing families, carers and support staff. You are what makes our little gang so special.

Keep using your voices, the world needs to hear you! We look forward to another year of singing with you.

**Trustees for Outside the Box CIO**  
**February 2025**



Outside the Box CIO, Orange Box, 1 Blackledge, Halifax HX1 1AF  
Registered charity number: 1197431