

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1197829

Details

Other names REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-02-08

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

Contact

Address 20 Parklands Road
London
SW16 6TE

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Website <https://www.republicofconsciousness.com>

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THE ART OF LITERATURE AND IN PARTICULAR TO PROMOTE LITERATURE OF HIGH MERIT PUBLISHED BY SMALL PRESSES IN THE UK AND ROI BY THE PROVISION OF GRANTS TO PRACTITIONERS AND PRODUCERS OF LITERARY FICTION AND THE PROMOTION OF SUCH LITERATURE TO THE PUBLIC.

Activities: TO PROMOTE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THE ART OF LITERATURE AND IN PARTICULAR TO PROMOTE LITERATURE OF HIGH MERIT PUBLISHED BY SMALL PRESSES IN THE UK AND ROI BY THE PROVISION OF GRANTS TO PRACTITIONERS AND PRODUCERS OF LITERARY FICTION AND THE PROMOTION OF SUCH LITERATURE TO THE PUBLIC. OUR PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY IS TO RUN THE ANNUAL REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS PRIZE.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Ireland
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£30,178	£33,730	-	-
2024-03-31	£33,833	£25,905	-	-
2023-03-31	£17,869	£32,168	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Professor Leigh Wilson	Chair	2021-07-21
John Mitchinson		2021-07-21
Paul Fulcher		2021-07-21

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1197829

Accounts



REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

Registered Charity Number 1197829

Trustees' Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Contents

Reference and Administrative Information	3
Annual Report by Trustees	4
Approval of trustees' report and unaudited financial statements	11
Independent examiner's report	12
Financial statements	13

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025**

Charity's name	Republic of Consciousness Foundation
Status	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered on 8 February 2022)
Charity Registration Number	1197829
Registered office	20 Parklands Road London SW16 6TE
Trustees (at date of report and during period)	Professor Leigh Wilson (Chair) John Mitchinson Paul Fulcher (Treasurer)
Administrator	Neil Griffiths
Independent examiner	Claire Davies
Bankers	Metro Bank 1-2 Wimbledon Bridge London SW19 7NW

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE TRUSTEES YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

Introduction

The Trustees present their annual report and unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2025.

The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Guidance 'Charity reporting and accounting: the essentials November 2016' issued by the Charity Commission, as updated on 14 June 2023.

The Republic of Consciousness Foundation (the "Foundation") was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charities Commission on 8 February 2022.

Purpose and governance

The charity is governed by its Constitution, dated 1 July 2021.

The Charitable Purpose of the Foundation is as follows: "To promote for the public benefit the art of literature and in particular to promote literature of high merit published by small presses in the UK and Ireland by the provision of grants to practitioners and producers of literary fiction and the promotion of such literature to the public."

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when exercising their powers and directing the activities of the Foundation, as described in the next section.

Achievements and activities

The Republic of Consciousness Prize 2025

The key activity of the Foundation is the running of the Republic of Consciousness Prize (the 'Prize'), which both promotes literary fiction by small presses in the UK and Ireland via the publicity and events organised around the Prize, and supports the works of small presses via the distribution of grants as prize money.

The Republic of Consciousness Prize 2025 was for fiction first published in the calendar year 2024 by eligible small presses based in the UK and Ireland. This was the 9th year for which the Prize has been awarded, and the third year with charitable status. The Prize accepts both long-form fiction and collections of short-stories, as well as translated works alongside English language originals, which is, we believe, close to unique amongst UK literary prizes, and which reflects the purpose of the Foundation.

We received 50 submissions for the 2025 Prize from small presses in the UK and Ireland. This was a small drop in entries to the prior year, in part due to a further change in eligibility criteria designed to ensure the funds from the Prize were focused on those with the greatest need. In particular, we've been pleased to see that a number of independent presses now have National Portfolio Organisation funding, which contributes to core costs, cushioning the impact of low sales for risk-taking books, but this essentially duplicates our purpose. The criteria for entry for the 2025 Prize were:

- A small press must be completely financial independent of any other business - larger publisher, bookshop etc.

And meet two of the following three criteria:

- Publish 8 or fewer original titles a year
- 4 or fewer fulltime workers (regular freelancers must counted)
- A turnover, including all grants, of less than £100,000 per year in two of the last three financial years.

The judges, who are remunerated for their time and expenses as shown in the financial statements, were chosen with our charitable purpose in mind.

- **Alice Jolly**

Alice Jolly's novel *Mary Ann Sate* (2018), published by Unbound, was runner up for the Rathbones Folio Prize. Alice has also won the Pen Ackerley Prize for memoir and the V.S. Pritchett Memorial Prize for one of her short stories. She was awarded an O.Henry Prize in 2021. Her latest novel *The Matchbox Girl* (which is about Dr Asperger) is published in autumn 2025. She reviews for various newspapers and literary journals.

- **Houman Barekat**

Houman Barekat reviews books for various outlets including the Guardian, the Sunday Times, the Irish Times and the Spectator; and theatre for the New York Times. He is co-editor (with Robert Barry and David Winters) of *The Digital Critic: Literary Culture Online*.

- **Jude Cook**

Jude Cook's novels are *Byron Easy* (2013) and *Jacob's Advice* (2020). He reviews fiction for the Guardian, the Spectator, *Literary Review*, *New Statesman*, *TLS*, the *i-Paper*, *Review 31* and *3AM Magazine*. His essays and short fiction have appeared in a number of publications. He is also an editor for *The Literary Consultancy*, and currently teaches *Creative Writing* at the University of Westminster.

The longlist of 10 books was announced on 30 January 2025, a shortlist of 5 books on 26 February 2025 and the winner on 1 April 2025. The featured presses and titles were:

Winner:

Bullaun Press for 'There's A Monster Behind the Door' by Gaëlle Bélem, translated by Karen Fleetwood & Laëtitia Saint-Loubert

Shortlisted:

CB editions for 'Invisible Dogs' by Charles Boyle

Divided Publishing for 'How to Leave the World' by Marouane Bakhti, translated by Lara Vergnaud

Les Fugitives for 'Céline' by Catherine Axelrad, translated by Philip Terry

Peninsula Press for 'Mother Naked' by Glen James Brown (Shortlisted)

Longlisted:

Holland House Books for *Crooked Seeds* by Karen Jennings

Prototype for *The Seers* by Sulaiman Adonia

Rough Trade for Good Lord by Ella Frears

Scotland Street Press for Somewhere Else by Jenni Daiches

Splice, for Daybook by Nathan Knapp (Longlisted)

The Republic of Consciousness Prize has now recognised the work of 55 different small press in the UK and Ireland in the 9 years for which it has been awarded.

All of the featured presses receive prize money in the form of a grant and, as a condition for entering the Prize, are required to explain how funds will be used to further the purpose of the Foundation. The prize fund for the 2025 Prize was £10,000, as with the previous year. It was split between the 10 longlisted presses (£500 each) and then a further £1,000 was awarded to each of the shortlisted presses, divided 70% to the press, 30% to the writer (or 15% to the original author, and 15% to translator for translated works). The winner does not receive further monetary prizes, but rather the recognition of the award.

Shortlist readings were held at Deptford Lounge part of Lewisham Libraries, a conscious attempt to move the centre of gravity away from the centre of London and reach people who might not ordinarily go there for book events. Our award ceremony was hosted by Foyles, Charing Cross.

The Republic of Consciousness Book Club

A second key activity of the Foundation is a Book of the Month club, where a curated choice of a book from a small press is sent out monthly to subscribers who can choose from the selected title or opt for a book previously featured on our longlist. This serves both to promote literary fiction of the highest merit from small presses, to provide revenue for small presses, and also to raise funds for the Foundation.

Support for Book Banks

As part of the application for the Arts Council grant (see 'Financial Overview' below), the Foundation pledged to provide £800 per annum of support to help literary fiction reached underserved audiences. In the year to 31 March 2025, this took the form of support for the charity Bookbanks (charity registration number: 1204919) both as cash donations and in the

form of books purchased from small presses and passed to them for distribution via their book banks.

Trustees and Officers

The Trustees of the Foundation throughout the period were:

- Professor Leigh Wilson, Professor of English Literature at the University of Westminster, with research interests including the contemporary small press, who serves as Chair of Trustees.
- John Mitchinson, a writer and publisher and the co-host of the award-winning books podcast, Backlisted.
- Paul Fulcher, a qualified Actuary and a keen reader and reviewer of literary fiction, who serves as Treasurer.

Neil Griffiths, an award-winning author, co-founder of Weatherglass Books, and the founder of the Republic of Consciousness Prize serves as the Administrator and Literary Consultant.

Financial overview

During the financial year the Foundation received a number of generous donations from the following sponsors:

- Fondation Jan Michalski
- Laura Kinsella Foundation
- Turnaround
- University of Westminster

Revenue from Book Club subscriptions increased 38% to £17,178 against associated costs of £9,404, generating a net surplus of £7,774 (PY: £6,246) which is a key source of support for the Prize. These costs include £4,219 paid to small presses for books.

During the financial year, the Foundation distributed £14,000 in grants, by way of prize money, to small presses in the UK and Ireland. This consisted of £4,500 relating to the previous prize year and £9,500 for the 2025 Prize, with the remaining grants for the 2024 and 2025 Prizes paid after the end of the financial year.

The accounts show a net deficit on payment versus receipts of £3,552 for the year. However, as reported last year, the Foundation received a grant from the Arts Council of £21,000, with £18,900 (90%) paid up front in the year to 31 March 2024. The amount received was, under the receipts and payments basis, accounted for in the year to 31 March 2024, but was available to support the operation of the Foundation during this financial year.

Reserves and fund accounting

The Foundation ended the year with a cash balance of £9,807, of which £2,200 represented payment due to creditors, leading to a net balance of £7,607.

Furthermore, £6,300 of the cash balance represents the final year of the Arts Council grant received in advance but intended to support the operation of the Foundation in the coming financial year.

The Foundation's Reserve policy is that the Foundation does not need to hold material cash reserves, as the amounts awarded each year to the presses featured in the Prize are set by the Trustees toward the end of the financial year, based on funds available generated during the year. Amounts awaiting payment, or where public funding or sponsorship has been received that is intended to provide support over more than one year, such as the Arts Council grant are excluded when considering the amount of reserves.

The Trustees aim to hold, as a minimum, sufficient cash for payments committed e.g. to the judges of the Prize, net of any committed sponsorship, as well as to cover 3 months of expected expenditure, which amounts to around £2,000. If reserves were to increase above £15,000, representing 150% of the current annual prize fund, the Trustees could consider increasing the prize fund, or finding other ways to distribute funds to further the Foundation's charitable purpose, although this would be balanced against the need for a buffer to ensure the future operation of the Foundation given the uncertain nature of external funding.

The cash balance is held in unrestricted funds which the Trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the Foundation's Charitable Purpose. There are no designated or restricted funds.

Outlook

From 2026 the Republic of Consciousness Foundation is partnering with Queen Mary University, London to rebrand our Prize for Small Presses as the Queen Mary Small Press Fiction Prize. Their shared commitment to nurturing fiction from the margins - having already sponsored the Queen Mary Wasafiri New Writing Prize - makes it a perfect partner for us as we rebrand and further our support of small presses.

The support, including financial sponsorship, from Queen Mary University, London, alongside that of our other sponsors, will also help secure the future of the Prize and the Foundation.

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

APPROVAL OF TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Fulcher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul Fulcher, Trustee

Date: 1 September 2025



Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of

On accounts for:

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("Foundation") for the year ended **31 / 03 / 2025**.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity trustees of the Foundation, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Foundation's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement 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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed: **Date:**

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s):

Address:

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

Receipts and Payments

Receipts

Public Funding	£	-
Sponsorship	£	13,000
Book of the Month Subscription	£	17,178
Earned Income	£	-
Total	£	30,178

Payments

Prize Money	£	14,000
Staff costs	£	6,075
Judges	£	2,741
Book of the Month – books	£	4,219
Book of the Month – other costs	£	5,184
Event costs	£	200
Overheads/expenses	£	710
Donations	£	600
Total	£	33,730

Net receipt/(payments) £ (3,552)

Cash funds at start of period £ 13,360

Cash funds at end of period £ 9,807

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at end of period (all unrestricted funds)

Cash funds at end of period £ 9,807

Creditors at year-end

Prize Money	£	1,500
Judges	£	500
Donation to Bookbanks	£	200
Total	£	2,200

Total Net Assets **£ 7,607**

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1197829

Accounts



REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

Registered Charity Number 1197829

Trustees' Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Contents

Reference and Administrative Information	3
Annual Report by Trustees	4
Approval of trustees' report and unaudited financial statements	10
Independent examiner's report	11
Financial statements	12

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024**

Charity's name	Republic of Consciousness Foundation
Status	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered on 8 February 2022)
Charity Registration Number	1197829
Registered office	20 Parklands Road London SW16 6TE
Trustees (at date of report and during period)	Professor Leigh Wilson (Chair) John Mitchinson Paul Fulcher (Treasurer)
Administrator	Neil Griffiths
Independent examiner	Claire Davies
Bankers	Metro Bank 1-2 Wimbledon Bridge London SW19 7NW

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE TRUSTEES YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024

Introduction

The Trustees present their annual report and unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2024.

The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Guidance ‘Charity reporting and accounting: the essentials November 2016’ issued by the Charity Commission, as updated on 14 June 2023.

The Republic of Consciousness Foundation (the “Foundation”) was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charities Commission on 8 February 2022. This is our second financial year of reporting.

Purpose and governance

The charity is governed by its Constitution, dated 1 July 2021.

The Charitable Purpose of the Foundation is as follows: *“To advance for the public benefit literary fiction from small presses in the UK and Ireland through a range of reading, speaking and event initiatives, and by providing grants and assistance via the Republic of Consciousness Prize to practitioners and publishers of literary fiction of the highest merit.”*

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when exercising their powers and directing the activities of the Foundation, as described in the next section.

Achievements and activities

The Republic of Consciousness Prize 2024

The key activity of the Foundation is the running of the Republic of Consciousness Prize (the 'Prize'), which both promotes literary fiction by small presses in the UK and Ireland via the publicity and events organised around the Prize, and supports the works of small presses via the distribution of grants as prize money.

The Republic of Consciousness Prize 2024 was for fiction first published in the calendar year 2023 by eligible small presses based in the UK and Ireland. This was the 8th year for which the Prize has been awarded, and the second year with charitable status.

The Prize accepts both long-form fiction and collections of short-stories, as well as translated works alongside English language originals, which is, we believe, close to unique amongst UK literary prizes, and which reflects the purpose of the Foundation.

We received 57 submissions for the 2024 Prize from small presses in the UK and Ireland. This was a small drop in entries, due in part to changed eligibility criteria. Previously we used five or fewer fulltime employees to define the size of a small press, but we realised that this size team could manage a business that was larger than we generally thought of as a small press. So we amended the criteria to 12 or fewer published books (not including re-issues), and kept, but strengthened, the criterion of 'financial independent'.

The judges, who are remunerated for their time as shown in the financial statements, were chosen with our charitable purpose in mind.

- Rebecca Abrams

Rebecca is an award-winning author and journalist. She teaches creative writing at Oxford University and is a former Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Brasenose College, Oxford. She has published eight books of fiction and non-fiction. A journalist of many years standing, she is the recipient of an Amnesty International Press Award for Journalism, and a regular book critic for the Financial Times.

- Sana Goyal:
Sana is the Deputy and Reviews Editor at *Wasafiri* magazine. She was formerly Publicity Manager at Tilted Axis Press and Marketing and Outreach Officer at *Poetry Birmingham Literary Journal*. She has previously been a prize judge for English PEN and the Orwell Foundation. Her criticism has appeared in *The Guardian*, *the Los Angeles Review of Books*, *TLS*, *Poetry London*, *Vogue India*, and elsewhere.
- Declan O'Driscoll:
Declan regularly reviews translated fiction for *The Irish Times*. He has also written reviews for the *Dublin Review of Books*, *The TLS*, the *LA Review of Books* and *The London Magazine*. His short stories have been published by *Firmament* and *The London Magazine*.

Debates were robust and choosing the shortlist took much longer than usual. The longlist of 10 books was announced on 5 February 2024, a shortlist of 5 books on 4 March 2024 and the winner on 17 April 2024. The featured presses and titles were:

- Charco Press: *Of Cattle and Men* by Ana Paula Maia, translated by Zoë Perry (Winner)
- Boiler House Press: *Out of Earth* by Sheyla Smanioto, translated by Laura Garmeson & Sophie Lewis (Shortlisted, and recognised as Outstanding First Novel)
- Cassava Republic: *Avenues by Trains* by Farai Mudzingwa (Shortlisted)
- Scotland Street Press: *The Zecameron* by Maxim Znak, translated by Jim Dingley and Ella Dingley (Shortlisted)
- Tilted Axis Press: *The End of August* by Yu Miri, translated by Morgan Giles (Shortlisted)
- Cipher Press: *Truth & Dare* by So Mayer (Longlisted)
- Fum d'Estampa Press: *Summa Kaotica* by Ventura Ametller, translated by Douglas Suttle (Longlisted)
- Jantar Press: *Barcode* by Krisztina Toth, translated by Peter Sherwood (Longlisted)
- Les Fugitives: *May the Tigris Grieve for You* by Emilienne Malfatto, translated by Lorna Scott Fox (Longlisted)

- Lolli Editions: *My Work* by Olga Ravn, translated by Sophia Hersi Smith & Jennifer Russell (Longlisted)

This year's longlist featured writers from four new nationalities: Korea, Zimbabwe, Belarus and Hungary, and three new original languages, Japanese, Hungarian, Russian, as well as two presses new to the Prize.

The Republic of Consciousness Prize has now recognised the work of 53 different small press in the UK and Ireland in the 8 years for which it has been awarded.

All of the featured presses receive prize money in the form of a grant and, as a condition for entering the Prize, are required to explain how funds will be used to further the purpose of the Foundation.

The prize fund for the 2024 Prize was £10,000, an increase of 25% from the previous year. It was split between the 10 longlisted presses (£500 each) and then a further £1,000 was awarded to each of the shortlisted presses, divided 70% to the press, 30% to the writer (or 15% to the original author, and 15% to translator for translated works). The winner does not receive further monetary prizes, but rather the recognition of the award.

Our award ceremony was held at Foyles, Charing Cross. Our winner was announced in the *Guardian* and *The Bookseller*.

The Republic of Consciousness Book Club

A second key activity of the Foundation is a Book of the Month club, where a curated choice of a book from a small press is sent out monthly to subscribers who can choose from the selected book or a title previously featured on our longlist.

This serves both to promote literary fiction of the highest merit from small presses, to provide revenue for small presses, and also to raise funds for the Foundation.

As usual the number of subscribers waxed and waned - hitting an all-time high of 96, which has since fallen back to 90.

Trustees and Officers

The Trustees of the Foundation throughout the period were:

- Professor Leigh Wilson, Professor of English Literature at the University of Westminster, with research interests including the contemporary small press, who serves as Chair of Trustees.
- John Mitchinson, a writer and publisher and co-founder of Unbound, the world's leading crowdfunding platform for books.
- Paul Fulcher, a qualified Actuary and a keen reader and reviewer of literary fiction, who serves as Treasurer.

Neil Griffiths, an award-winning author and founder of Weatherglass Books, and the Founder of the Republic of Consciousness Prize serves as the Administrator and Literary Consultant.

Financial overview

During the year, the Foundation was awarded a grant of £21,000 from the Arts Council to cover three years, of which £18,900 was received during the financial year. The funds received are available to pay for administration and marketing expenses including the stipends paid to the Administrator and the fees paid to the judges of the Prize. The Arts Council grant also allowed us to take on a paid intern for 4 months to help with the Foundation's website and with publicity around the Prize.

£800 per annum will also be onwards donated to the Charity Bookbanks to connect food bank guests across the UK with literary fiction from small presses.

The Foundation also received a donation of £2,500 from the University of Westminster.

Revenue from Book Club subscriptions increased 9% to £12,433 against associated costs of £6,187, which is a key source of support for the Prize. These costs include £2,779 paid to small presses for books.

During the accounting period, the Foundation distributed £9,600 in grants, by way of prize money, to small presses in the UK and Ireland. This consisted of £5,100 relating to the

previous prize year and £4,500 for the 2023 Prize, with the remaining £5,500 for the 2023 Prize paid in April 2024, after the end of the accounting period.

Reserves and fund accounting

The Foundation ended the year with a cash balance of £13,360. The Foundation has not adopted a formal Reserve Policy but will do so in the coming financial year. Our reserve policy in practice is that the Foundation does not aim to hold material cash reserves over time, as the amounts awarded each year to the presses featured in the Prize are set by the Trustees toward the end of the financial year, based on funds available generated during the year. Exceptions are for amounts awaiting payment, or where public funding or sponsorship has been received that is intended to provide support over more than one year.

The cash balance is held in unrestricted funds which the Trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the Foundation's Charitable Purpose. There are no designated or restricted funds.

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

APPROVAL OF TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Fulcher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Paul Fulcher, Trustee

Date: 11 January 2024



Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of

On accounts for:

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("Foundation") for the year ended **31 / 03 / 2024**.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity trustees of the Foundation, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Foundation's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement 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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed: Date:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s):

Address:

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

Receipts and Payments

Receipts

Public Funding	£	18,900
Sponsorship	£	2,500
Book of the Month Subscription	£	12,433
Earned Income	£	-
Total	£	33,833

Payments

Prize Money	£	9,600
Staff costs	£	5,050
Judges	£	4,500
Book of the Month – books	£	2,779
Book of the Month – other costs	£	3,408
Event costs	£	-
Overheads/expenses	£	568
Advertising	£	-
Total	£	25,905

Net receipt/(payments) £ 7,927

Cash funds at start of period £ 5,432

Cash funds at end of period £ 13,360

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at end of period (all unrestricted funds)

Cash funds at end of period £ 13,360

Creditors at year-end

Prize Money	£	5,500
Judges	£	750
Donation to Bookbanks	£	800
Total	£	7,050

Total Net Assets **£ 6,310**

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1197829

Accounts



REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

Registered Charity Number 1197829

Trustees' Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
for the period 8 February 2022 to 31 March 2023

Contents

Reference and Administrative Information	3
Annual Report by Trustees	4
Approval of trustees' report and unaudited financial statements	9
Financial statements	10

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023**

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Status	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered on 8 February 2022)
Charity Registration Number	1197829
Registered office	20 Parklands Road London SW16 6TE
Trustees (at date of report and during period)	Professor Leigh Wilson (Chair) John Mitchinson Paul Fulcher (Treasurer)
Administrator	Neil Griffiths
Bankers	Metro Bank 1-2 Wimbledon Bridge London SW19 7NW

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE TRUSTEES YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

Introduction

The Trustees present their annual report and unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2023.

The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Guidance ‘Charity reporting and accounting: the essentials November 2016’ issued by the Charity Commission, as updated on 14 June 2023.

The Republic of Consciousness Foundation (the “Foundation”) was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charities Commission on 8 February 2022. Our year end runs to 31 March each year, so these initial financial statements cover the period 8 February 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Purpose and governance

The charity is governed by its Constitution, dated 1 July 2021.

The Charitable Purpose of the Foundation is as follows: *“To advance for the public benefit literary fiction from small presses in the UK and Ireland through a range of reading, speaking and event initiatives, and by providing grants and assistance via the Republic of Consciousness Prize to practitioners and publishers of literary fiction of the highest merit.”*

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when exercising their powers and directing the activities of the Foundation, as described in the next section.

Achievements and activities

The Republic of Consciousness Prize 2023

The key activity of the Foundation is the running of the Republic of Consciousness Prize (the 'Prize'), which both promotes literary fiction by small presses in the UK and Ireland via the publicity and events organised around the Prize, and supports the works of small presses via the distribution of grants as prize money.

The Republic of Consciousness Prize 2023 was for fiction first published in the calendar year 2022 by eligible small presses based in the UK and Ireland. This was the 7th year for which the Prize has been awarded, but the first year with charitable status.

The Prize accepts both long-form fiction and collections of short-stories, as well as translated works alongside English language originals, which is, we believe, close to unique amongst UK literary prizes, and which reflects the purpose of the Foundation.

For the 2023 Prize we changed our eligibility criteria to better reflect our charitable purpose. Previously the only criteria for entry to be a "small press" was to have five or fewer employees. In consultation with a number of presses, it was clear that a) too many freelancers were involved on an ad hoc basis to accurately judge whether, over any given year, work-hours added up to five or fewer employees, b) in a few instances five employees ran a press that was larger than the Foundation had envisaged in its purpose. With this in mind, we changed the criteria to presses with 12 or fewer titles published in a calendar year.

There was also an issue around financial independence. It became clear that the original definition of a small press didn't explicitly stipulate its financial independence and therefore a press could be supported by another larger business. Our founding mission was to support small presses that were often taking existential financial risks to publish literature of the highest merit and so we have included a new criterion stipulating financial independence.

We also produced a new briefing document about the kind of fiction we want to support, reflecting our purpose, underlining that genres with an established commercial fanbase are not what the Prize seeks.

The judges, who are remunerated for their time as shown in the financial statements, were chosen with our charitable purpose in mind.

- Isabel Waidner is an award-winning author and the senior lecture of Creative Writing at Queen Mary's, University of London. They were shortlisted for both the 2018 and 2022 Republic of Consciousness Prizes.
- Vanessa Onwuemezi is an award-winning short story writer with Fitzcarraldo Editions. She was shortlisted for the 2022 Republic of Consciousness Prize.
- Lamorna Ash, is a writer and critic, with the Guardian, TLS and New Statesman.

We received over 60 submissions for the 2023 Prize. The longlist of 10 books was announced on 1 February 2023, a shortlist of 5 books on 16 March 2023 and the winner on 26 April 2023. The featured presses and titles were:

- Dead Ink: The Doloriad by Missouri Williams (Winner)
- Pilot Press: My Dead Book by Nate Lippens (Shortlisted)
- Rough Trade Books- I'm a Fan by Sheena Patel (Shortlisted)
- Tenement Press: MUEUM by SJ Fowler (Shortlisted)
- Tilted Axis Press: Chinatown by Thuận translated by Nguyễn An Lý (Shortlisted)
- Boiler House Press: Little Boy by John Smith (Longlisted)
- Hope Road: The Last One by Fatima Daas translated by Lara Vergnaud (Longlisted)
- Peninsula Press: Still Life by Zoë Wicomb (Longlisted)
- Montez Press: New Mindmapping Forms by Eva Ďurovec (Longlisted)
- Cassava Republic Press: An Unusual Grief by Yewane Omotoso (Longlisted)

The longlisted presses receive prize money in the form of a grant and, as a condition for entering the Prize, are required to explain how funds will be used to further the purpose of the Foundation.

The prize fund for the 2023 Prize, a little lower than in previous years due to loss of some university grants, was £8,000. It was split between the 10 longlisted presses (£300 each) and then a further £1,000 was awarded to each of the shortlisted presses, divided 75% to the press, 25% to the writer.

The Republic of Consciousness Prize has now recognised the work of 51 different small press in the UK and Ireland in the 7 years for which it has been awarded.

The Republic of Consciousness Book Club

A second key activity of the Foundation is a Book of the Month club, where a curated choice of a book from a small press is sent out monthly to subscribers. This serves both to promote literary fiction of the highest merit from small presses and also to raise funds for the Foundation.

We increased our subscriber base by 10%. Of the 12 pre-selected books, 6 came from small presses new to the club, and in an effort to encourage more subscribers, we have added a second list of books to choose from, based on our longlist, and so now 22 small presses are promoted over a 12-month period.

Events/Social Media

We convened a well-attended panel discussion at Foyles, Charing Cross Road, on the role of small presses in the current literary climate in the UK and Ireland, chaired by Anthony Cummins, a literary critic for the Guardian.

At the beginning of the year we developed a monthly Substack newsletter covering small press releases, events, and other news. This offers small presses a new platform for promotion outside the prize cycle and to reach an audience who are actively interested in the small press world, and generates some income for the Foundation.

Trustees and Officers

The Trustees of the Foundation throughout the period were:

- Professor Leigh Wilson, Professor of English Literature at the University of Westminster, with research interests including the contemporary small press, who serves as Chair of Trustees.
- John Mitchinson, a writer and publisher and co-founder of Unbound, the world's leading crowdfunding platform for books.

- Paul Fulcher, a qualified Actuary and a keen reader and reviewer of literary fiction, who serves as Treasurer.

Neil Griffiths, an award-winning author and founder of Weatherglass Books, and the Founder of the Republic of Consciousness Prize serves as the Administrator and Literary Consultant.

Financial overview

Income in the accounting period came primarily from the Book of the Month subscriptions, with £6,000 relating to the previous Prize year received in sponsorship from universities and a one-off donation by a new United States and Canada version of the Prize, which is run separately.

During the accounting period, the Foundation distributed £15,400 in grants, by way of prize money, to small presses in the UK and Ireland. This consisted of £12,500 relating to previous prize years and £2,900 for the 2023 Prize, with the remaining £5,100 for the 2023 Prize awaiting payment post 31 March.

The cash balance reduced over the year due to paying out amounts owing from previous Prize years. The Foundation does not aim to hold material cash reserves, as the amounts awarded each year to the presses featured in the Prize are set by the Trustees toward the end of the financial year, based on funds available generated during the year. Exceptions are for amounts awaiting payment, or where public funding or sponsorship has been received that is intended to provide support over more than one year.

Conclusion and outlook

The Foundation remains a very small organisation with only 1 part-time administrator and an annual budget of less than £25,000. Since receiving charitable status we have been going through a transition period. We can no longer necessarily rely on Arts Council funding and / or contribution from universities. While we have always generated a portion of our own funds, we now have to focus on the book club as our major source of revenue. Not only will this increase our sustainability, it will serve our charitable purpose because ultimately we'll be increasing financial support to small presses by selling and promoting more books.

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

APPROVAL OF TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Fulcher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Paul Fulcher, Trustee

Date: 31 December 2023

REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR PERIOD 8 FEBRUARY 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

Receipts and Payments

Receipts

Public Funding	£	466
Sponsorship	£	6,000
Book of the Month Subscription	£	11,403
Earned Income	£	-
Total	£	17,869

Payments

Prize Money	£	15,400
Staff costs	£	7,800
Judges	£	4,500
Book of the Month Subscription	£	3,826
Event costs	£	100
Overheads/expenses	£	542
Advertising	£	-
Total	£	32,168

Net receipt/(payments)

-
£ 14,298

Cash funds at start of period

£ 19,731

Cash funds at end of period

£ 5,432

Statement of Net Assets at end of period

Cash funds at end of period

£ 5,432

Income not banked at year end

Book of the Month Subscription	£	692
Total	£	692

Creditors at year-end

Prize Money	£	5,100
Judges	£	750
Total	£	5,850

Total Net Assets

£ 275
