



ARTISTS ATTIC TRUST

Artists Attic Trust CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Registration No. 1198542

CONTENTS	Page
Trustees' Annual Report	1 - 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Receipts and Payments Accounts	7

Trustees' Annual Report

Artists Attic Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (charity no. 1198542) whose registered office is at 44 Daisy Hill, Dewsbury WF13 1LH. The trustees of the charity for this reporting period were:

Bruce Bird appointed 7 August 2023

Royston Flaherty appointed 7 August 2023

Gina Suzette Reid appointed 7 April 2022

Objects of the charity

The purpose of the charity is to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Batley/Spen and the surrounding areas the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation, including arts and crafts, of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants. In furtherance of the above object the charity shall have the power to establish or secure the establishment of a community arts centre and to maintain and manage the same (whether alone or in co-operation with any statutory authority or other person or body).

Statement on public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The above objects and other information set out in this report demonstrate this in more detail.

Activities report

The trust is managed by the three named trustees. The purpose of the charity is as a creative hub and creative direction is provided by professional artist Trafford Parsons together with other visiting artists. Due to relocation abroad one trustee has expressed a wish to resign and we are actively seeking a replacement as well as additional trustees.

Artists Attic provide opportunities for individuals and groups to create and experience arts and crafts. We believe that everyone benefits physically or mentally, directly or indirectly from exposure to the arts in all its forms.

We do this by:

- providing a safe space where anyone can create their own art or experience creativity by some other means in their own time;
- by guiding people through the exploration of their creativity led by qualified artists. In the beginning by free drop-in sessions and progressing to planned workshop programmes and;
- by supporting artists living locally who wish to contribute to our work and to the regeneration of the local area.

Free services

Our basic objective is to be available to meet the creative needs and development of individual members of the community. We do this by being open for visitors to 'drop-in' on three days a week. This enables them to discuss what they want to do with our artists and identify a way forward at their own pace. Although highly visible at street level our property is located in the most deprived area of Dewsbury and footfall is light. Despite this we do have interest generated mostly by our online presence and more than 400 people have expressed an interest.

Our local council also signposts individuals to us when they believe we can provide relevant support. However, the reputation around the Daisy Hill area puts many people off visiting our location...

Last year we reported on the progress made by an autistic adult male due to the support we provided in developing his art during regular visits to Artists Attic. During this year we have also engaged with an adult male artist with mental health issues and are working towards making it possible for him to return to productive work. Numbers of this type of user are inevitably very low but the availability of a facility such as Artists Attic which is outside the user's usual institutionalised environment is invaluable to their progress.

In our third year of operation we have a much clearer picture of what is possible and how Artists Attic can contribute to the community. Creative activities are primarily individual and depend on the individual coming forward and expressing their interest. We must be careful to ensure that while creative activities can contribute to the wellbeing of many vulnerable people we do not become a caring service and maintain our unique characteristic of delivering creative art.

Grant funded projects

'Artful Expressions' is an evening art club for young children operating on Monday evenings every week and originally funded by Awards for All. This ran from October 23 to July 24 but continued to operate after funding was exhausted thanks to the generosity of our contributing artists until the receipt of renewed funding from the National Lottery Community Fund of £19,990 in February 2025.



As reported last year the club was enthusiastically received by the local population of mostly Romanian origin living in the immediate area. However, in late 2024 the major residential property they occupied was closed down due to safety concerns and this group was dispersed to other areas leading to a dramatic reduction in attendance due to the travel distances involved. We are working to rebuild the attendance with a more diverse demographic.

Holiday Activity Clubs - during school holidays.

The Holiday Activity Clubs during school holidays are grant funded by the government through the local council and are intended to engage children during the school holidays and particularly to ensure that they receive a hot meal during the day. Although we created such clubs during the Easter and summer holidays the loss of children from the local community made it difficult to fill even the ten available slots. With only ten places allocated this is only just enough to cover costs and we will be reviewing whether we are able to continue to provide this service.



Sustainability

The trustees are conscious of the need to become more resilient by developing our own sources of income. To this end the home page of our website shows the range of paid workshops that we offer in order to generate unrestricted income. Take up to date has been slow, again influenced, we are told, by the physical location of the premises. Several artists making use of our facilities regularly make donations as a contribution to overheads.

With both the property and artists labour being provided at no cost our particular problem is the funding of utilities requiring **some** £9,000 per year without which the property is unusable and the artists **labour** is irrelevant.

However, we continue to provide a **safe space** for whoever may need it while directing their attention towards our core objective of **creative activity** when they are with us.

Hosting of other creative groups, artists and facilities

With the space available in our property, Artists Attic is able to provide space for other creative and community groups to support their activities. We regularly host the Serendipity Creative Writing group thus broadening our reach away from the visual arts.



We also host occasional pottery classes run by local potter, Neil **Lockwood**, (right)

We also have both screen printing equipment and a laser cutter installed that are owned by contributing artists but are **available** for use by the public.

Reserves

The trust has a Reserves Policy with a Target Level of three months operating costs excluding grant funded projects.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) - structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by its CIO Constitution and was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 7 April 2022 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The members of the CIO are its charity trustees for the time being. The only persons eligible to be members of the CIO are its charity trustees.

There are presently 3 active trustees whose details are given above.

The trustees manage the charity on a day-to-day basis.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The charity recognises that it has a responsibility to provide guidance and assist new trustees in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, this is done in accordance with Charity Commission guidance. New trustees are given appropriate Charity Commission publications, as well as a copy of the constitution and any amendments to it; and the latest copy of this report and statement of accounts.

Risk Management

The trustees confirm that they have various policies in place for managing risk.

Approval

The Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 was approved by the Board of Trustees on 28 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Bird'.

Bruce Bird

Trustee

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Artists Attic Trust CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act. An independent examination is NOT an audit of the accounts or the CIO.

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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, for the statements I have made, or for the opinions I have stated.



Dated 1 October 2025

Ebrahim Suleman

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
for and on behalf of **Forrest Burlinson Chartered Accountants**

Receipts and payments accounts

Prepared in accordance with Charity Commission for England and Wales publication CC16a.

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds	2025 Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Donations		1,524	--	1,524	660
Commissions		--	--	--	1,000
Grants		--	33,865	33,865	11,554
Sundry income		41	--	41	507
Gross income		1,565	33,865	35,430	13,721

PAYMENTS

Artist costs	--	6,987	6,987	5,506
Materials	79	486	565	2,790
Project costs	100	742	842	--
Administration and transport costs	961	277	1,238	526
Promotion and website costs	99	82	181	458
Property costs	1,017	5,717	6,734	6,751
	2,256	14,291	16,547	16,031

Net of receipts/(payments)	(691)	19,574	18,883	(2,310)
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transfers between funds	4,874	(4,874)	--	--
Cash funds last year end	(4,132)	8,908	4,776	7,086

Cash funds this year end	51	23,608	23,659	4,776
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Reserves	b/f	receipts	payments	transfers	c/f
Unrestricted funds	(4,132)	1,565	(2,256)	4,874	51
Restricted funds:					
WY Mayors Fund	2,697	--	--	(2,697)	--
Awards For All	6,211	19,990	(6,992)	--	19,209
Chickenley Grant	--	2,000	(1,929)	(71)	--
Dewsbury East	--	4,000	--	--	4,000
Kirklees DESFT	--	1,000	(601)	--	399
Kirklees HAF	--	6,875	(4,769)	(2,106)	--
	8,908	33,865	(14,291)	(4,874)	23,608
Total reserves	4,776	35,430	(16,547)	--	23,659

Approved by the trustees on 28 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Bruce Bird, Trustee