

# BABBLING VAGABONDS LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1200574

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [04116275](#)

**Registered** 2022-10-05

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

## Contact

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**Address** Unit 6 Heritage Business Centre  
Derby Road  
Belper  
DE56 1SW

**Phone** 07816870267

**Email** [mark@babblingvagabonds.co.uk](mailto:mark@babblingvagabonds.co.uk)

**Website** <https://babblingvagabonds.co.uk/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS FOR WHICH THE COMPANY IS ESTABLISHED ARE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN THE DRAMATIC AND VISUAL ARTS, IN PARTICULAR (BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY), DRAMA, MIME, DANCE AND SIMILAR CHOREOGRAPHIC ARTS, SINGING AND MUSIC BY THEIR PRODUCTION, PROMOTION, PERFORMANCE AND TRAINING.

**Activities:** Babbling Vagabonds are a storytelling theatre company based in Buxton, Derbyshire. We make theatrical experiences and deliver workshops for all the family. Our work is underpinned by the belief that live theatre and high quality participatory events have the power to create memorable, life-changing moments for everyone, regardless of age or experience.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Throughout England

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£106,316	£133,401	-	-
2024-03-31	£115,412	£83,174	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Richard Coggins</b>	Chair	2022-10-05
Joanne Williams		2025-05-30
Matthew Peter Vale		2022-10-05
Robert Rushton		2025-05-30
Simon James Wallwork		2025-05-30
Susan Caroline Elizabeth Stones		2022-05-06

**BABBLING VAGABONDS LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1200574

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# Accounts

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# Babbling Vagabonds Limited

Report and financial statements  
For year end 31st March 2025



## Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Reference &amp; Administrative Details</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Trustees annual report</b>	<b>4</b>
Objectives & Activities	4
Achievements & Performance	5
Structure, governance and management	8
Financial Review	10
<b>Future Plans</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Independent Examiner's Report</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Notes to the financial statements</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Detailed Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>24</b>



## Reference & Administrative Details

**Charity Number:** 1200574

**Company Number:** 04116275

**Registered Office:** Unit 6, Heritage Business Centre  
Derby  
Road  
Belper  
Derbyshire  
DE56 1SW

**Trustees:** Richard Coggins                      Chairperson  
Tara Hornsey-Saunders              Secretary  
Liz McGregor  
Susan Stones  
Matt Vale

**Independent Examiner:** Robert Cooper FCA,  
Unit 6, Heritage Business Centre  
Derby Road  
Belper  
Derbyshire  
DE56 1SW

**Bankers:** Natwest - National Westminster Bank  
Alfreton Branch  
1 Chesterfield Road  
Alfreton  
DE55 7ZR

**Website:** [www.babblingvagabonds.co.uk](http://www.babblingvagabonds.co.uk)

**Social accounts:** Facebook - Babbling Vagabonds Storytelling Theatre  
Twitter - @BabVagabonds  
Instagram - babblingvagabonds

## Trustees annual report

The Trustees (who are also directors of Babbling Vagabonds Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

## Objectives & Activities

The objects for which the Company is established are for the public benefit to advance education in the dramatic and visual arts, in particular (but not exclusively), Drama, Mime, Dance and similar Choreographic Arts, Singing and Music by the production, promotion, performance and training.

Babbling Vagabonds is a storytelling theatre company based in Buxton, Derbyshire. We make theatrical experiences and deliver workshops for all the family. Our work is underpinned by the belief that live theatre and high quality participatory events have the

power to create memorable, life-changing moments for everyone, regardless of age or experience. Central to our mission as a charity is to ‘reconnect art with its social function and promote art as a tool for changing the world.’

## Achievements & Performance

We have been creating high quality family theatre experiences and community celebration events across Derbyshire for 25 years, since we were founded in 2000. Originally constituted as a not-for-profit limited company, we made the transition to full charitable status in 2023.

This report covers the activities of the charity for the period 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025.

Over this financial year we have continued to develop both the artistic vision and company. We continue with our strategic vision and programme of work, with an integrated financial model to support its delivery. As we end this financial period we have started using a new platform (Raiser) to support the fundraising and planning as we move into the new financial year.

**Who our work helps and how:** We create family-friendly theatre and storytelling experiences, working with artists and communities to share meaningful stories in imaginative ways. We collaborate with performers, artists, musicians, makers, technicians, smarty pants and clever clogs from all walks of life, to create the very best work we can.

Our figures for the past 12 months demonstrate the breadth of impact our work has had:

- **Audiences:** we performed to around 9780 people
- **Shows:** we performed 46 shows in venues, schools and festivals
- **Workshops:** 131 participatory workshops in schools and community spaces
- **Participants:** we engaged with 5620 participants in our workshops

Our work is underpinned by the belief that live theatre and high quality participatory events have the power to create memorable, life-changing moments for everyone, regardless of age or experience. We make work to celebrate, educate, engage, enthrall, excite, inform and help to make sense of ourselves, others, and the world we find ourselves in. Central to our mission as a charity is to ‘reconnect art with its social function and promote art as a tool for changing the world.’

**Our artistic programme:** over the past 12 months we have continued to produce interactive family theatre shows. Performance and story are at the very heart of everything we do, mixed in with mischief, fun and wonder. We still love the impact we have on all the family from little children who are experiencing their first live theatre event to grandparents who look on fondly both at their family and the magic of the show unfolding before them.

*“From the youngest at 18 months old to the oldest 54 with all possible variations between, our large party was mesmerised by the magical visual feast.”*

**During the 12 month period, our productions have included:**

- We have delivered 10 performances of **Here Be Dragons** at 7 venues over the summer months. Really successful performances, but we have noticed a challenging market for getting venues to book our work!
- We designed, created and delivered our first Night Light event in collaboration with Illuminos- **Mirror Mirror** was a commission for Junction Arts. We performed it in Bolsover Castle then on tour to Spilsby Night Light Event in February.
- Christmas 2024 performances of **The Night Before, The Night Before Christmas**, touring to 2 venues (finishing with an 8-day run in partnership with The Brewhouse Arts Centre), and 1 school. We performed to 2762 people. It was great to rework the show from a previous year with a new cast and a developed design to allow for touring. Very positive feedback from venues, bookers and public.

*“That was awesome! I liked the bit where you played the ukelele. It was hilarious.”*

(Leo aged 11)

*“So lovely to be outside, lovely scenery/setting. Really fun and engaging...  
Hilarious and lots of fun. Thank you.”*

(Adult audience member)

In addition to the theatre productions, we have delivered a full programme of workshops and community participation. Making space and time to discover new ways in which we can tell stories that matter. We specialise in creating work with primary aged children and their families. But this is not exclusive. For example, the **‘Meet and Make’** programme has been created in response to our community requests in three specific age groups:

- Children, primarily through existing groups and schools.
- Families, through holiday workshops offers.
- Adults, through monthly evening sessions.

*“It feels like whenever I do something, it doesn't feel like I've done it wrong. Compared to like being at school, people are always saying “you've done that wrong.”*

(Meet and Make participant)

*"I've enjoyed everyone being creative in a space together and I think there's a really nice energy with what we've done."*

(Meet and Make participant)

### **Specific projects have included:**

- Workshop (varying from 1 hour to day long sessions) - We delivered 28 workshops in Schools, Universities and Conferences in shadow puppetry and storymaking.
- **Meet and Make** - funded through Awards for All we delivered 12 participatory workshops for all ages (see above) and a relaxed sharing of their creation as part of Buxton Festival Fringe.
- **Rural Rhythms** - an Arts Council England supported program of work to provide cultural experiences in rural villages in our local area. We worked closely with Biggin and Taddington, using the village Primary School as a gateway into the wider community. nEach village had a 3 month residency with performances and participatory workshop events across the community.
- In September we took over the running of **REC Youth Theatre** and **Theatre Gym** (previously called RES). We now run weekly term time sessions for Young REC (6 - 10 yrs), Junior REC (11 - 14 yrs), Senior REC (14 - 18yrs) and Theatre Gym (over 18yrs). We have delivered 84 sessions since September.
- We have delivered another **Fun Palaces** in collaboration with Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust, a 'for all the family' arts and crafts drop in event. Fun Palaces are part of an nationwide campaign that happens on the first weekend of October each year.

**Planning & development:** This period has also seen strong development of the activities that we are planning. We continue to develop our Christmas Theatre offer with The Brewhouse Arts Centre in Burton-On-Trent, and have been booked for Christmas 2025 with 'Captain Sprout and the Christmas Pirates'. We continue to build strong relationships locally with Buxton Civic Association, We Are Buxton, Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust and High Peak Borough Council.

In February we signed up to **Raiser**, a new enterprise that supports small Charities in their fundraising, marketing and reporting. We expect the platform to help us better manage our fundraising and marketing as we build our capacity.

**Staff training:** we take very seriously the new demands that the governance of a charity places on us, and over the past 12 months, Trustees and Artistic Directors have undertaken a wide range of training in various areas to support our organisational development:

#### **Strategy and governance**

- Safeguarding Level 3 - all 3 Artistic Directors

- Outdoor First Aid (with Paediatrics) - all 3 Artistic Directors
- Small Charity Effectiveness

#### **Evaluation**

- Storytelling Evaluation Methodology (The Old Firestation, Oxford)
- Adaptive Strategy Leadership

#### **Marketing**

- Website Copywriting (HDK)

#### **Fundraising**

- Grant writing (Tesco's Meet the Funder)
- Training course on fundraising and marketing for charities, led by Raiser

#### **Inclusion**

- Level 2 *Understanding Children & Young People's Mental Health* course
- Co-creation with young people, creative education, touring, and fundraising.

**In summary:** Our work continues to spark the imagination of families across Derbyshire. After 25 years of creating and sharing stories, we continue to be excited by what our new charitable status makes possible. It gives us the chance to widen who we reach and deepen the impact of our work throughout the county.

Working alongside our brilliant local partners, we'll carry on co-creating projects that bring people together, strengthen community life, and support learning and wellbeing. Creativity remains our way of helping families and communities stay connected — and we're looking forward to growing that offer in the years ahead.

## **Structure, governance and management**

Babbling Vagabonds was established as a company limited by guarantee (04116275) in November 2000, and registered as a charity (1200574) in England & Wales on 5th October 2022.

The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the Company being wound up directors are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the

Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

All members of the Management Committee give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Day-to-day management of Babbling Vagabonds is delegated by the Trustees to a Senior Management Team:

**Mark Hornsey** Co-Artistic Director with responsibility for Company Management, Finance and Governance

**Tara Hornsey-Saunders** Co-Artistic Director with responsibility for Marketing, Community Engagement and Volunteering

**Phil Coggins** Co-Artistic Director with responsibility for Artistic Projects, Theatre Production and Training

This team reports to the Board of Trustees at quarterly meetings. At other times during the year, the company employs project based staff, including actors, workshop leaders and associate artists.



## Financial Review

We continue to spend time and resources raising our profile and gathering data on the funding opportunities that are before us. We are committed to keeping our work accessible to all who need it, and have been working creatively to structure the finances of our activities accordingly. Charitable status affords us the opportunity to offer reduced and free activities.

Our funding pipeline has worked well for identifying and drafting applications for grants and funds. While our success rate has been modest, this is in line with national trends in a highly competitive funding landscape.

Our theatre productions, community projects, workshops and consultation work continues to offer additional financial support to the company but to maintain our activity as we hope to we need to be aware of opportunities and continue to be flexible.

We have good financial management in place, and have been moving to a new system of reporting to align our activities with the charities SORP.

Babbling Vagabond's income for the financial year 2024-25 was £92,032. This is lower than the previous year (£115,412).

- Income: Breakdown of our income
  - 32% Theatre and production related work
  - 32% income from grant-making bodies
  - 31% from educational and community workshops and commissions
  - 5% from project management and consultation
- Expenditure: Delivery of our activities
  - 33% developing, creating and delivering Theatre and Production Activities
  - 22% from educational and community workshops and commissions
  - 33% general costs (inc. company marketing, legal costs, rent, office costs etc)
  - 12% fundraising costs

**Reserves policy:** Babbling Vagabonds aims to build up reserves to cover at least 3 months' operating costs in the event of a drop in income. As at 31st March 2025, our unrestricted reserves were £33,970 which represents 2-3 months' spending against our budget. The

Trustees consider that we should aim to increase this in the future but are considerate of the challenges in the fund raising sector. This policy is reviewed annually.

**Funding sources:** Aside from income generated through ticket sales (theatre activities) and direct sales (workshops and commissions), a significant funding source has been by way of grants from trusts and foundations.

We have had some level of support in the past from Arts Council England and other public funders, but as a new charity we have been opened to a whole range of new funding bodies we were previously ineligible for. We are very grateful to those trusts and foundations who have shown faith in our work by supporting us for the first time this year, including Garfield Weston, Satterwaite Bequest, UK Shared Prosperity Fund (High Peak Borough Council), The Bingham Trust and John Thaw Foundation.

We have the unique benefit, as a theatre company, of being able to generate a substantial amount of earned income through ticket sales and workshop bookings. Our aim is that this continues to represent a large portion of our income. Income from grants supplements this, and allows us to continue to expand our community offer on an accessible and affordable basis.

## Future Plans

Looking ahead, the Trustees intend to keep steering the Charity in the same steady direction. The Artistic Directors are shaping future plans through our 'North Star Plan'- a working document that helps us map out what comes next.

The North Star Plan reflects our vision for grassroots cultural activity across Derbyshire. By using theatre and hands-on creative opportunities, we aim to support social connection, lifelong learning and well-being, enriching lives across the county.

Each strand of our work will continue to centre on a shared story. We'll draw out themes and ideas from this story to shape our annual programme.

Our community and education projects will involve people of all ages and backgrounds, offering participatory arts experiences that spark imagination, tackle isolation, and help neighbours feel more connected.

In September, we took on the stewardship of REC Youth Theatre and Theatre Gym (formerly known as RES). These groups offer a supportive space for people to build confidence and explore creativity together. Young participants will also have the chance to develop their skills further by taking part in future Babbling Vagabonds productions.

A clearer and more coordinated marketing plan will help us strengthen our relationships with audiences, participants and supporters, whilst attracting the funding and partnerships needed to keep our artistic ambitions moving forward.

We also aim to secure a dedicated space for community workshops, storytelling sessions and Youth Theatre activities: a welcoming base for creativity in our local area.

The North Star Plan guides us towards a future of artistic exploration, steady growth, and deeper roots within the Derbyshire community. With this roadmap in place, we're looking forward to the creative journey ahead.

Approved by order of the board, and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Coggins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Coggins, Chair

Date 05/12/2025



# Babbling Vagabonds Limited

## Report and Financial Statements

### for Year Ended 31 March 2025

#### **Independent Examiners Report**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Babbling Vagabonds Limited for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for preparing the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charities accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable directions given by the Charities Commission under Sections 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 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 to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act, or
2. the accounts did not accord with those records, or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act, other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view', which is not a matter considered as part of the independent examination, or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods or principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to the charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)).

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.



Robert Cooper,

Date - 05/12/2025

For and on behalf of Willis Cooper Limited  
Unit 6, Heritage Business Centre  
Derby Road  
Belper  
Derbyshire  
DE56 1SW

## Statement of Financial Activities

	notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and grants	2, 3	16,190	14,284	<b>30,474</b>	44,051
Charitable activities	4	63,330	-	<b>63,330</b>	71,361
Other	5	12,512	-	<b>12,512</b>	-
Total		<b>92,032</b>	<b>14,284</b>	<b>106,316</b>	115,412
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	6	21,683	5,000	<b>26,683</b>	10,485
Charitable activities	7	73,395	33,323	<b>106,718</b>	59,669
Other		-	-	-	13,021
Total		<b>95,078</b>	<b>38,323</b>	<b>133,401</b>	83,174
Net income/(expenditure) before tax for the reporting period		(3,047)	(24,039)	<b>(27,086)</b>	32,238
Tax payable		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) after tax for the reporting period		(3,047)	(24,039)	<b>(27,086)</b>	32,238
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(3,047)	(24,039)	<b>(27,086)</b>	32,238
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		37,017	25,039	<b>62,056</b>	29,818
Total funds carried forward		33,970	1,000	<b>34,970</b>	62,056

## Balance Sheet

	notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total this year	Total last year
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	11	2,038	-	<b>2,038</b>	2,717
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>2,038</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>2,717</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	12	15,762	-	<b>15,762</b>	337
Cash at bank and in hand		26,852	1,000	<b>27,852</b>	61,700
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>42,614</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>43,614</b>	<b>62,037</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	10,681	-	<b>10,681</b>	2,698
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/ (LIABILITIES)</b>		<b>31,933</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>32,933</b>	<b>59,339</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>33,970</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>34,970</b>	<b>62,056</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>33,970</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>34,970</b>	<b>62,056</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>					
Restricted funds		-	1,000	<b>1,000</b>	25,039
Unrestricted funds		33,970	-	<b>33,970</b>	37,017
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>33,970</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>34,970</b>	<b>62,056</b>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and the trustees also confirm that the members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act of 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 05/12/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Richard Coggins

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1 Accounting Policies

#### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost of transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and with the Charities Act 2011.

#### Public Benefit

The charity constitutes a public benefit as defined by FRS102.

#### Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

#### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

#### Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds are funds which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering the funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of restricted funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

#### Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its useful life.

Computer equipment :	25% on reducing balance
Plant and machinery :	25% on reducing balance

## 2 Donations and Grants

	2025	2024
Donations	190	182
Restricted grants	14,284	43,869
Unrestricted grants	16,000	-
	30,474	44,051

## 3 Analysis of Grants

We have been successful in raising funds from the following grant schemes:

- Bingham Trust - to support the transition of REC Youth Theatre and Theatre Gym to Babbling Vagabonds and develop the offer
- Satterwaite Bequest- to support a new makers program for REC Youth Theatre and wider community and other creative participation workshops for local (SK17 postcode area) residents
- John Thaw Foundation - to support Average Achievers through the education
- Arts Council England- final payment of Rural Rhythms
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (High Peak Borough Council) - for capital equipment to support activities, specifically Meet and Make
- Garfield Weston - core costs

	2025	2024
Arts Council England	3,000	27,000
High Peak Borough Council	7,839	4,194
Bingham Trust	1,445	1,000
John Thaw Foundation	1,000	-
National Forest	1,000	-
Satterthwaite Bequest	1,000	-
Garfield Weston	15,000	-
Awards for All	-	9,925
Derbyshire Foundation	-	1,250
Local Giving - Magic Little Grant	-	500
	30,284	43,869

#### 4 Income from Charitable Activities

	2025	2024
Performances	29,933	59,065
Workshops and Educational Outreach	33,397	12,297
	<u>63,330</u>	<u>71,361</u>

#### 5 Other income

	2025	2024
HMRC Theatre Tax Credits	12,512	-
	<u>12,512</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 6 Raising funds

	2025 Direct costs	2025 Support costs	2025 Total	2024
Cost of generating donations and unrestricted grants	1,958	19,725	<b>21,683</b>	10,485
Restricted grants	-	5,000	<b>5,000</b>	-
	<u>1,958</u>	<u>24,725</u>	<u><b>26,683</b></u>	<u>10,485</u>

#### 7 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2025 Direct costs	2025 Support costs	2025 Total	2024
Performances, workshops and education	14,523	54,123	<b>68,645</b>	40,839
Restricted grants	3,000	30,323	<b>33,323</b>	18,830
Unrestricted grants	1,500	3,250	<b>4,750</b>	-
	<u>19,023</u>	<u>87,696</u>	<u><b>106,718</b></u>	<u>59,669</u>

## 8 Support Costs

	2025	2024
Salaries	95,614	-
Subcontract	4,500	5,000
Travel	-	339
Premises	600	600
Insurance	649	710
Office costs	2,103	1,161
Marketing	6,696	250
Accountancy	1,579	1,189
Bank charges	-	-
Depreciation	679	906
	<u>112,421</u>	<u>10,154</u>

## 9 Related party transactions

The Charity Pays £50 each month to Richard Coggins, a Trustee, for storage.

## 10 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

During the year, no trustee received any remuneration in respect of trustee services. In addition, no trustees received any reimbursement of expenses.

## 11 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Plant and machinery, etc.
<b>COST</b>	
At 01 Apr 2024	28,263
Additions	<u>                    </u>
At 31 Mar 2025	28,263
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 01 Apr 2024	25,546
Additions	<u>679</u>
At 31 Mar 2025	<u>26,226</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 Mar 2025	<u>2,038</u>
At 31 Mar 2024	<u>2,717</u>

## 12 Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
Trade debtors	3,250	337
Other debtors	12,512	
	<u>15,762</u>	<u>337</u>

## 13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
Other creditors	9,661	1,678
Accruals	1,020	1,020
	<u>10,681</u>	<u>2,698</u>

## 14 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	2025 Unrestricted funds	2025 Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
Current assets and Fixed assets	44,652	1,000	<b>45,652</b>	64,754
Current liabilities	10,681	-	<b>10,681</b>	2,698
	<u>33,970</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u><b>34,970</b></u>	<u>62,056</u>

## 15 Movements in Funds

	At 1-Apr-24	Net movement funds	Transfers between funds	At 31-Mar-25
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	37,017	(3,047)	-	33,970
<b>Restricted funds</b>	25,039	(24,039)	-	1,000

62,056	(27,086)	-	34,970
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## 16 Movements in Restricted Funds

	At 1-Apr-24	Income	Outgoings	At 31-Mar-25
Arts council England	17,950	3,000	20,950	-
Awards for all	4,989	-	4,989	-
High Peak Borough Council	-	7,839	7,839	-
Derbyshire Foundation	950	-	950	-
Bingham Trust	750	1,445	2,195	-
Local Giving - Magic Little Grants	400	-	400	-
John Thaw Foundation	-	1,000		1,000
National Forest	-	1,000	1,000	-
	<u>25,039</u>	<u>14,284</u>	<u>38,323</u>	<u>1,000</u>

## Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Donations and grants</b>		
Donations	190	182
Grants	30,284	43,869
	<u>30,474</u>	<u>44,051</u>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>		
Performances	29,933	59,065
Workshops and Educational Outreach	33,397	12,297
	<u>63,330</u>	<u>71,361</u>
<b>Other income</b>		
HMRC R&D Tax Credits	12,512	-
	<u>12,512</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b><u>106,316</u></b>	<b><u>115,412</u></b>

## EXPENDITURE

### Raising funds

Subcontract	1,760	7,100
Marketing	198	-
	<u>1,958</u>	<u>7,100</u>

### Charitable activities

Materials	15,546	2,045
Subcontract	895	47,352
Travel	-	1,975
Premises	2,582	1,060
Marketing	-	468
	<u>19,023</u>	<u>52,899</u>

### Support costs

Salaries	95,614	-
Subcontract	4,500	5,000
Travel	-	339
Premises	600	600
Insurance	649	710
Office costs	2,103	1,161
Marketing	6,696	250
Accountancy	1,579	1,189

Depreciation	679	906
	<u>112,421</u>	<u>10,154</u>
<b>Other costs</b>		
Loan waiver		13,021
	<u>-</u>	<u>13,021</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b><u>133,401</u></b>	<b><u>83,174</u></b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	<b><u>(27,086)</u></b>	<b><u>32,238</u></b>



# **babbling vagabonds**

Family theatre

Outdoor adventure theatre

Community arts

Work in schools

**BABBLING VAGABONDS LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1200574

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# Accounts

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# Babbling Vagabonds Limited

Report and financial statements  
For year end 31st March 2024



Babbling Vagabonds  
Company number : 04116275  
Charity number : 1200574

## Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Reference &amp; Administrative Details</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Trustees annual report</b>	<b>5</b>
Objectives & Activities	5
Achievements & Performance	6
Structure, governance and management	10
Financial Review	12
<b>Future Plans</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Independent Examiner's Report</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Notes to the financial statements</b>	<b>19</b>



## Reference & Administrative Details

**Charity Number:** 1200574

**Company Number:** 04116275

**Registered Office:** Unit 6, Heritage Business Centre  
Derby Road  
Belper  
Derbyshire  
DE56 1SW

**Trustees:** Richard Coggins                      Chairperson  
Mark Hornsey                              Treasurer (resigned Jan 2024)  
Tara Hornsey-Saunders                  Secretary  
Phil Coggins                                (resigned Jan 2024)  
Liz McGregor  
Susan Stones  
Matt Vale

**Independent Examiner:** Robert Cooper,  
Willis Cooper Accountants  
Unit 6, Heritage Business Centre  
Derby Road  
Belper  
Derbyshire  
DE56 1SW

**Bankers:** Natwest - National Westminster Bank plc  
Alfreton Branch  
1 Chesterfield Road  
Alfreton  
DE55 7ZR

**Website:** [www.babblingvagabonds.co.uk](http://www.babblingvagabonds.co.uk)

**Social accounts:** Facebook - Babbling Vagabonds Storytelling Theatre  
Twitter - @BabVagabonds  
Instagram - babblingvagabonds

## Trustees annual report

The Trustees (who are also directors of Babbling Vagabonds Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

## Objectives & Activities

The objects for which the Company is established are for the public benefit to advance education in the dramatic and visual arts, in particular (but not exclusively), Drama, Mime, Dance and similar Choreographic Arts, Singing and Music by the production, promotion, performance and training.

Babbling Vagabonds is a storytelling theatre company based in Buxton, Derbyshire. We make theatrical experiences and deliver workshops for all the family. Our work is underpinned by the belief that live theatre and high quality participatory events have the

power to create memorable, life-changing moments for everyone, regardless of age or experience. Central to our mission as a charity is to 'reconnect art with its social function and promote art as a tool for changing the world.'

## Achievements & Performance

We have been creating high quality family theatre experiences and community celebration events across Derbyshire since we were founded in 2000. Originally constituted as a not-for-profit limited company, we have recently made the transition to full charitable status, and are delighted to be presenting our first annual report at the beginning of this new chapter in our organisation's life.

This report covers the activities of the charity for the first 18 months from our registration with the Charity Commission for England and Wales in October 2022, up to our financial year end on 31st March 2024. NB: The financial figures presented, however, are just for the period 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024.

During the 18 months since our charitable registration there has been a huge amount of development activity as well as artistic output. Our first 6 months (October to year-end 2023) were about the following work:

- Establishing clarity in our vision and mission
- Developing our suit of core activities
- Investigating and applying for funding and grants for Charitable activities

During the 2023-24 financial year we have implemented a new way of planning our strategic vision and programme of work, with an integrated financial model to support its delivery. We have also brought in a grant application pipeline, and we have been developing our impact measurement process and evaluation.

**Who our work helps and how:** Babbling Vagabonds tell life affirming stories for all the family. We do this in imaginative ways using our skills as theatre makers. We collaborate with performers, artists, musicians, makers, technicians, smarty pants and clever clogs from all walks of life, to create the very best work we can.

Our figures for the past 18 months demonstrate the breadth of impact our work has had:

- **Audiences:** we performed to 5902 people
- **Shows:** we performed 69 shows in venues, schools and festivals
- **Workshops:** 43 participatory workshops in schools and community spaces
- **Participants:** we engaged with 2151 participants in our workshops

Our work is underpinned by the belief that live theatre and high quality participatory events have the power to create memorable, life-changing moments for everyone, regardless of age or experience. The work we create celebrates, educates, engages, enthral, excites, informs and helps to make sense of ourselves, others and the world we find ourselves in. Central to our mission as a charity is to 'reconnect art with its social function and promote art as a tool for changing the world.'

**Our artistic programme:** over the past 18 months we have continued to produce interactive family theatre shows. Performance and story are at the very heart of everything we do, mixed in with mischief, fun and wonder. We still love the impact we have on all the family from little children who are experiencing their first live theatre event to grandparents who look on fondly both at their family and the magic of the show unfolding before them.

'You have given my daughter the gift of enjoying theatre' Audience member

**During the 18 month period, our productions have included:**

- Christmas 2022 performances of The Christmas Toyshop Mystery in partnership with DerbyLive. We gave 36 performances to a total audience of 2711. The space was a temporary venue (a hard-sided marquee in Derby Market Place) due to The Guildhall Theatre still being closed. Artistically we were very happy and had very positive feedback and reviews.
- Christmas 2023 performances of The Christmas Toyshop Mystery, touring to 6 Theatre venues (finishing with an 8-day run in partnership with The Brewhouse Arts Centre), and 8 schools. We performed to 2762 people. It was great to rework the show from a previous year with a new cast and a developed design to allow for touring. Very positive feedback from venues, bookers and public.
- Christmas 2023 performances of Naughty Meg and the Christmas Elves in partnership with DerbyLive and Derby Museums and Art Gallery. We gave 28 performances to a total audience of 2359. A reworking of a BV show from 2014, which was very well received.
- The creation and delivery of The Curing Chemist street act, initially a commission for Our Street (Buxton Heritage Action Zone), then performed at 3 other outdoor events. A walkabout street act where 2 costumed 'Victorian Quack doctor' characters interact with the public giving out ridiculous non-effective remedies for made up ailments.
- We have delivered 18 performances of Wagon of Wonder at 8 venues over the Spring and summer months. Really successful performances even with the particularly wet weather!

*'Just watched this and it was absolutely brilliant! My cheeks are aching now from laughing so much.'* Audience member

*'Fabulous show today. We loved it. Thank you.'* Audience member

In addition, to the theatre productions, we have delivered a full programme of workshops and community participation. Making space and time to discover new ways in which we can tell stories that matter. We specialise in creating work with primary aged children and their families. But this is not exclusive. For example, the **'Meet and Make'** programme has been created in response to our community requests in three specific age groups:

- Children, primarily through existing groups and schools
- Families, through holiday workshops offers
- Adults, through monthly evening sessions

### **Specific projects have included:**

- Workshop (varying from 1 hour to day long sessions) - We delivered 13 workshops in Schools, Universities and Conferences in shadow puppetry and storymaking
- Big Cats Parade - Supporting a larger project by Creeping Toad (a Buxton-based storyteller and poet). We hosted a series of workshops with local people where they were invited to make small hand held cats which would be part of a Buxton parade. We also worked with the community to make a large three person puppet to lead the parade.
- Bright Futures; Funded by Paul Hamlyn, Teaching for Creativity - This is part of a larger project with 8 artists and eight schools. Our role is working with 2 schools in the High Peak area for 18 days. Supporting the teaching staff in the development of their practice and interactions through creativity with their pupils.
- Bee Creative - in partnership with Buxton Civic Association we developed and delivered workshops for all the family linked to bees. This was linked to one of the characters in our Wagon of Wonder show.
- Grotesques of Buxton - in collaboration with local artist Gordon Maclellen (Creeping Toad) and Buxton Our Street (Heritage Action Zone) we facilitated an adult community making project. A series of new Grotesques which were designed and made, and then displayed over 2 weeks in an empty shop window in Buxton
- Illuminate Buxton - in collaboration with Illuminos (projection company based in the North) and Buxton Our Street (Heritage Action Zone) we project managed a Buxton-wide projection event over 4 nights with 4 projections on 4 different buildings. We estimate that there were audiences of over 6000 people in February Half term. Really positive experience for the local people of Buxton and great to enable a project of such scale in a rural town in Derbyshire.

- Rural Rhythms - an Arts Council England supported program of work to provide cultural experiences in rural villages in our local area. We have started the activity but it will continue into the next financial year.
- We have delivered two yearly Fun Palaces in collaboration with Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust, a 'for all the family' arts and crafts drop in event. Fun Palaces are part of an nationwide campaign that happens on the first weekend of October each year.

**Planning & development:** This period has also seen strong development of the activities that we are planning. We have a new partner for our Christmas Theatre offer - The Brewhouse Arts Centre in Burton-On-Trent, and have built stronger relationships with Buxton Civic Association and Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust.

Since August, we have been working closely with a local nonprofit consultancy to develop our strategic plan and fundraising approach. Luke Wilkinson from For Goodness Sake Consulting has helped us adapt our existing models of community engagement to suit our new status as a charity, and to find and apply for suitable funders whom we previously were not eligible for. We have also continued to work with Theatre Producer Darren Walter who has supported our theatre touring work for nearly two and a half years.

**Staff training:** we take very seriously the new demands that the governance of a charity places on us, and over the past 18 months, Trustees and Artistic Directors have undertaken a wide range of training in various areas to support our organisational development:

#### **Strategy and governance**

- Theory Of Change in 10 steps - Hosted By New Philanthropy Capital
- Impact measurement for Trustees - Hosted by New Philanthropy Capital
- Your output is only as good as your input - AI experimentation
- Web Meeting, AI - Hosted by Charity In Excellence

#### **Evaluation**

- Essentials of Evaluation - Hosted By The Audience Agency
- Developing your strategic framework - Hosted by NCP

#### **Marketing**

- Audience Development Plan - Hosted by The Audience Agency
- Skillset: How to Create an Audience Development Plan - Hosted by Audience Agency
- Impact measurement for Trustees - Hosted by New Philanthropy Capital
- How to improve your website - Hosted by D2N2

#### **Fundraising**

- Introduction to bid writing - Hosted by Get Grants

- Meet The Funder - National Funding Scheme hosted by Get Grants
- Digital fundraising Workshop - Hosted by Get Grants
- Fundraising training - Hosted by Arts Derbyshire

### **Inclusion**

- Digital Accessibility - Hosted by Digital Culture network
- Equality in the rural touring network - Hosted by The National Rural Touring Forum
- Curtain Up! On EDI, SEND, Health and safety and safeguarding - Hosted by StageCoach
- Curtain Up! On Drama - Hosted by Stagecoach
- A two day conference on "Making Immersive Experiences For Children and Families"- Hosted by Nottingham Lakeside Arts.
- People centred Practice: involving your community - Hosted by Skillset AA

**In summary:** Our work continues to capture the imagination of family audiences around Derbyshire. Drawing on our extensive experience, we are thrilled by the opportunities that our new charitable status brings. This transition will allow us to expand the reach and impact of our work throughout the county. Working with various local partners, we will continue to co-create work that nurtures social cohesion, lifelong learning, and well-being, enriching family and community life.

## **Structure, governance and management**

Babbling Vagabonds was established as a company limited by guarantee (04116275) in November 2000, and registered as a charity (1200574) in England & Wales on 5th October 2022.

The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the Company being wound up directors are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

All members of the Management Committee give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Babbling Vagabonds  
 Company number : 04116275  
 Charity number : 1200574

Day-to-day management of Babbling Vagabonds is delegated by the Trustees to a Senior Management\_Team:

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Mark Hornsey</b>          | Co-Artistic Director with responsibility for Company Management, Finance and Governance         |
| <b>Tara Hornsey-Saunders</b> | Co-Artistic Director with responsibility for Marketing, Community Engagement and Volunteering   |
| <b>Phil Coggins</b>          | Co-Artistic Director with responsibility for Artistic Projects, Theatre Production and Training |

This team reports to the Board of Trustees at quarterly meetings. At other times during the year, the company employs project based staff, including actors, workshop leaders and associate artists.



## Financial Review

Now that Babbling Vagabonds has become a Charity we are open to more funding avenues. We have spent time and resources raising our profile and gathering data on the funding opportunities that are before us. We are committed to keeping our work accessible to all who need it and have been working creatively to structure the finances of our activities accordingly. Charitable status affords us the opportunity to offer reduced and free activities.

We have spent time restructuring and planning how we move forward, this has included developing a fundraising pipeline - a project management system to help manage all aspects of identifying and applying for funding and grants.

Our theatre productions continue to offer additional financial support to the Company but the current economic climate is such that it is more challenging than ever to generate significant finance through this alone.

We have good financial management in place, and have been moving to a new system of reporting to align our activities with the charities SORP (the Charities- Statement of Recommended Practice).

Babbling Vagabond's income for the financial year 2023-24 was £115,000. This reflects an 185% increase from the previous year.

- Income: Breakdown of our income
  - 40% from ticket sales at Theatre Productions
  - 35% income from grant-making bodies
  - 10% from educational and community workshops and commissions
  - 15% from project management of community projects
- Expenditure: Delivery of our activities
  - 61% developing, creating and delivering Theatre Activities and Productions
  - 21% from educational and community workshops and commissions
  - 18% general costs (inc. company marketing, legal costs, rent, office costs etc)

As at 31st March 2024, Babbling Vagabonds has written off a historical debt of £13,021 from Babbling Productions Limited (now ceased trading). This is in agreement that all the ownership of work, artistic rights for productions, props and scripts created by Babbling Productions is handed over to Babbling Vagabonds in its entirety.

**Reserves policy:** Babbling Vagabonds aims to build up reserves to cover at least 3 months' operating costs in the event of a drop in income. As at 31st March 2024, our unrestricted reserves were £37,017 which represents 4-5 months' spending against our 2024-25 budget.

The Trustees consider that this is appropriate given the large expansion we have undertaken recently, and gives us the financial resilience to grow sustainably in the long-term. This policy is reviewed annually.

**Funding sources:** Aside from income generated through ticket sales (theatre activities) and direct sales (workshops and commissions), a significant funding source has been by way of grants from trusts and foundations.

We have had some level of support in the past from Arts Council England and other public funders, but as a new charity we now have access to a whole range of new funding bodies we were previously ineligible for. We are very grateful to those trusts and foundations who have shown faith in our work by supporting us for the first time this year, including The Bingham Trust, Derbyshire Foundation, The National Lottery Community Fund (Awards for All England) and Magic Little Grants.

We have the unique benefit, as a theatre company, of being able to generate a substantial amount of earned income through ticket sales and workshop bookings. Our aim is that this continues to represent a large portion of our income. Income from grants supplements this, and allows us to continue to expand our community offer on an accessible and affordable basis.

We continue to develop a sustainable financial model: in the coming year we will begin exploring other possible avenues of charitable funding, including individual giving (and the associated benefit of Gift Aid registration) through an 'angel' or 'friends' scheme, as well as exploring potential corporate partnerships.

## Future Plans

Going forward, the Trustees' intention is to continue running the Charity as it has begun. The Artistic Directors continue to clarify the future activity and have shared a document called the 'North Star Plan'.

The North Star Plan supports our vision in delivering grass roots cultural activities. Using the power of theatre, and engaging creative participation opportunities we aim to nurture social cohesion, lifelong learning and well-being, enriching lives across the county.

All activities will revolve around a central story, with Babbling Vagabonds drawing themes and inspiration from it to develop a program of work. This year's focus will be on the Russian folktale "The Soldier Who Tricked Death."

Babbling Vagabonds community and education projects are aimed at engaging all ages and backgrounds through participatory arts. This year will see the development and continuing delivery of Rural Rhythms (with Taddington and Biggin), Meet and Make (Buxton

Community) and Bright Futures (Newtown and Thornsett Primary Schools). These projects aim to ignite creativity, challenge isolation and make connections within a community.

Babbling Vagabonds will nurture the next generation of theatre makers as we work towards becoming the artistic drivers within REC Youth Theatre. This is a space where like minded individuals can come together and grow in confidence in a supportive environment. This young people's company will have the opportunity to broaden their theatrical knowledge by becoming involved in Babbling Vagabonds' future productions.

A dynamic marketing plan will strengthen connections with audiences, participants, and supporters. This will attract vital funding and partnerships to propel our artistic vision forward.

Future plans include a welcoming physical space for the Company. A venue for the community, hosting workshops, storytelling sessions, and serving as a home for the Youth Theatre. This hub will be a catalyst for artistic exploration and connection.

**The North Star Plan** guides Babbling Vagabonds Charity towards a future filled with artistic exploration, growth and a deep connection with the Derbyshire community. With this detailed roadmap, we are excited about the transformative journey ahead.

Approved by order of the board, and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Coggins', is written over a thin vertical line.

Richard Coggins  
Chair

Date 24/05/2024



Babbling Vagabonds  
Company number : 04116275  
Charity number : 1200574

**Babbling Vagabonds Limited**  
**Report and financial statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 Mar 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Babbling Vagabonds Limited for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for preparing the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charities accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 Act ('the 2011 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.

**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 to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act, or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records, or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of the independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods or principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (frs102)).

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.



.....

**Robert Cooper**

**Willis Cooper Limited**

Unit 6, Heritage Business Centre

Derby Road

Belper

Derbyshire

DE56 1SW

Date - 24/05/2024

# Babbling Vagabonds Limited

Report and financial statements  
for the Year Ended 31 Mar 2024

## Statement of Financial Activities

	notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and grants	2, 3	182	43,869	<b>44,051</b>	70
Charitable activities	4	71,361	-	<b>71,361</b>	31,237
Other	5	-	-	-	16,972
<b>Total</b>		<u>71,543</u>	<u>43,869</u>	<u><b>115,412</b></u>	<u>48,279</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	6	10,485	-	<b>10,485</b>	10,522
Charitable activities	7	40,839	18,830	<b>59,669</b>	50,975
Other	9	13,021	-	<b>13,021</b>	-
<b>Total</b>		<u>64,344</u>	<u>18,830</u>	<u><b>83,174</b></u>	<u>61,497</u>
<b>Net income before tax for the reporting period</b>		7,199	25,039	<b>32,238</b>	(13,218)
Tax payable		-	-	-	-
<b>Net income after tax for the reporting period</b>		<u>7,199</u>	<u>25,039</u>	<u><b>32,238</b></u>	<u>(13,218)</u>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>7,199</u>	<u>25,039</u>	<u><b>32,238</b></u>	<u>(13,218)</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<u>29,818</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>29,818</b></u>	<u>43,036</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u><u>37,017</u></u>	<u><u>25,039</u></u>	<u><u><b>62,056</b></u></u>	<u><u>29,818</u></u>

**Babbling Vagabonds Limited**  
 Report and financial statements  
 for the Year Ended 31 Mar 2024

Balance Sheet

	notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total this year	Total last year
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	11	<u>2,717</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,717</u>	<u>1,155</u>
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<u>2,717</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,717</u>	<u>1,155</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	12	337	-	337	20,864
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>36,661</u>	<u>25,039</u>	<u>61,700</u>	<u>10,497</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>36,998</u>	<u>25,039</u>	<u>62,037</u>	<u>31,361</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	2,698	-	2,698	2,698
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		34,300	25,039	<b>59,339</b>	28,664
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>37,017</u>	<u>25,039</u>	<u>62,056</u>	<u>29,818</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>37,017</u>	<u>25,039</u>	<u>62,056</u>	<u>29,818</u>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>					
Restricted funds		-	25,039	25,039	-
Unrestricted funds		<u>37,017</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,017</u>	<u>29,818</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>37,017</u>	<u>25,039</u>	<u>62,056</u>	<u>29,818</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and the trustees also confirm that the members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 23 May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....  .....

Richard Coggins

# **Babbling Vagabonds Limited**

Report and financial statements

for the Year Ended 31 Mar 2024

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### **1 Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost of transaction value unless otherwise state in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), And with the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Public Benefit**

The charity constitutes a public benefit as defined by FRS102.

#### **Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

#### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### **Taxation**

The charity s exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

#### **Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds are funds which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administrating the funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of restricted funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

#### **Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its useful life.

Computer equipment :	25% on reducing balance
Plant and machinery :	25% on reducing balance

## Babbling Vagabonds Limited

Report and financial statements

for the Year Ended 31 Mar 2024

### 2 Donations and Grants

	2024	2023
Donations	182	70
Restricted grants	43,869	-
Unrestricted grants	-	-
	<u>44,051</u>	<u>70</u>

### 3 Analysis of Grants

We have been successful in raising funds from the following grant schemes:

- Arts Council England - Rural Rhythms a project that uses local primary schools as the gateway to village wide cultural, creative activities.
- Awards for All - Meet and Make - delivery of co-created making project for people in and around Buxton with the culmination of a sharing event in the Buxton Fringe Festival
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund - for all the family craft workshops and supporting of performances of Wagon of Wonder in Buxton Woods.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund - for capital equipment to support activities specifically Meet and Make.
- Derbyshire Foundation - to support evaluation and impact measurement.
- Bingham Trust - to offer subsidised tickets for families to our events in Buxton.
- Magic Little Grants - supporting the Rural Rhythms program through marketing and delivery of activities.

	2024	2023
Arts Council England	27,000	-
Awards for All	9,925	-
High Peak Borough Council	4,194	-
Derbyshire Foundation	1,250	-
Bingham Trust	1,000	-
Local Giving - Magic Little Grant	500	-
	<u>43,869</u>	<u>-</u>

### 4 Income from Charitable Activities

	2024	2023
Performances	59,065	23,797
Workshops and Educational Outreach	12,297	7,440
	<u>71,361</u>	<u>31,237</u>

## Babbling Vagabonds Limited

Report and financial statements

for the Year Ended 31 Mar 2024

### 5 Other income

	2024	2023
HMRC Theatre Tax Credits	<u>-</u>	<u>16,972</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>16,972</u>

### 6 Raising funds

	2024 Direct costs	2024 Support costs	2024 Total	2023
Cost of generating donations and grants	<u>7,100</u>	<u>3,385</u>	<u>10,485</u>	<u>10,522</u>
	<u>7,100</u>	<u>3,385</u>	<u>10,485</u>	<u>10,522</u>

### 7 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2024 Direct costs	2024 Support costs	2024 Total	2023
Programme costs	<u>52,899</u>	<u>6,769</u>	<u>59,669</u>	<u>50,975</u>
	<u>52,899</u>	<u>6,769</u>	<u>59,669</u>	<u>50,975</u>

### 8 Support Costs

	2024	2023
Subcontract	5,000	7,966
Travel	339	-
Premises	600	600
Insurance	710	712
Office costs	1,161	265
Marketing	250	-
Accountancy	1,189	1,111
Bank charges	-	4
Depreciation	<u>906</u>	<u>385</u>
	<u>10,154</u>	<u>11,043</u>

**Babbling Vagabonds Limited**  
 Report and financial statements  
 for the Year Ended 31 Mar 2024

**9 Trustees' Reumeration and Benefits**

During the year no trustee received any remuneration in respect of trustee services.  
 In addition no trustees were received any reimbursement of expenses.

**10 Tangible Fixed Assets**

Plant and machinery, etc.

**COST**

At 01 Apr 2023	25,795
Additions	<u>2,468</u>
At 31 Mar 2024	<u>28,263</u>

**DEPRECIATION**

At 01 Apr 2023	24,641
Additions	<u>906</u>
At 31 Mar 2024	<u>25,546</u>

**NET BOOK VALUE**

At 31 Mar 2024	<u><u>2,717</u></u>
At 31 Mar 2023	<u><u>1,155</u></u>

**11 Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Trade debtors	337	-
Other debtors	<u>-</u>	<u>20,864</u>
	<u><u>337</u></u>	<u><u>20,864</u></u>

**12 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Other creditors	1,678	1,678
Accruals	<u>1,020</u>	<u>1,020</u>
	<u><u>2,698</u></u>	<u><u>2,698</u></u>

## Babbling Vagabonds Limited

Report and financial statements

for the Year Ended 31 Mar 2024

### 13 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	2024 Unrestricted funds	2024 Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
Current assets and Fixed assets	39,715	25,039	<b>64,754</b>	32,516
Current liabilities	<u>2,698</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>2,698</b></u>	<u>2,698</u>
	<u>37,017</u>	<u>25,039</u>	<u><b>62,056</b></u>	<u>29,818</u>

### 14 Movements in Funds

	At 1-Apr-23	Net movement funds	Transfers between funds	At 31-Mar-24
Unrestricted funds	29,818	7,199	-	37,017
Restricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>25,039</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,039</u>
	<u>29,818</u>	<u>43,869</u>	<u>18,830</u>	<u>25,039</u>

### 15 Movements in Restricted Funds

	At 1-Apr-23	Income	Outgoings	At 31-Mar-24
Arts council England	-	27,000	9,050	17,950
Awards for all	-	9,925	4,936	4,989
High Peak Borough Council	-	4,194	4,194	-
Derbyshire Foundation	-	1,250	300	950
Bingham Trust	-	1,000	250	750
Local Giving - Magic Little Grants	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>400</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>43,869</u>	<u>18,830</u>	<u>25,039</u>

### 16 Related party transactions

A related production company, Babbling Productions Limited, invoiced the charity £45,000 for Artistic work and delivery. An intercompany debt of £13,021 between the charity and Babbling Productions was written off upon the commencement of charitable status.

In addition, the charity pays £50 each month to Richard Coggins, a Trustee, for storage.

# Babbling Vagabonds Limited

Report and financial statements  
for the Year Ended 31 Mar 2024

	2024	2023
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and grants</b>		
Donations	182	70
Grants	<u>43,869</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>44,051</u>	<u>70</u>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>		
Performances	59,065	23,797
Workshops and Educational Outreach	<u>12,297</u>	<u>7,440</u>
	<u>71,361</u>	<u>31,237</u>
<b>Other income</b>		
HMRC R&D Tax Credits	<u>-</u>	<u>16,972</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>16,972</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u><b>115,412</b></u>	<u><b>48,279</b></u>

# Babbling Vagabonds Limited

Report and financial statements  
for the Year Ended 31 Mar 2024

## EXPENDITURE

### Raising funds

Subcontract	<u>7,100</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>7,100</u>	<u>5,000</u>

### Charitable activities

Materials	2,045	1,123
Subcontract	47,352	42,400
Travel	1,975	99
Premises	1,060	970
Marketing	<u>468</u>	<u>863</u>
	<u>52,899</u>	<u>45,454</u>

### Support costs

Subcontract	5,000	7,966
Travel	339	-
Premises	600	600
Insurance	710	712
Office costs	1,161	265
Marketing	250	-
Accountancy	1,189	1,111
Bank charges	-	4
Depreciation	<u>906</u>	<u>385</u>
	<u>10,154</u>	<u>11,043</u>

### Other costs

Loan waiver	<u>13,021</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>13,021</u>	<u>-</u>

### Total resources expended

	<u>83,174</u>	<u>61,497</u>
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### NET INCOME

	<u>32,238</u>	<u>(13,218)</u>
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# **babbling vagabonds**

**Family theatre**

**Outdoor adventure theatre**

**Community arts**

**Work in schools**