

QUEER TANGO LONDON
REGISTERED CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION 1201560

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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QUEER TANGO LONDON

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity Number: 1201560

Trustees:

Ray Batchelor: Chair

Margaret Trotter: Treasurer

Tom Cottle

Claudio Tedesco

Gawaine Preston

Samantha Marcus

Gordon Pullenger

Registered Office 205 Well Street
London. E9 6QU

Email: contact@queertangolondon.org

Main Dance Venue: Bishopsgate Institute
230 Bishopsgate
Dalston Lane
London EC2 4QH

Bankers: Lloyds Bank PLC
19/20 Upper Street
London N1 0PJ

CHAIR'S REPORT 2024



Building on Queer Tango London's successes of 2023, in 2024, Queer Tango London (QTL) developed our programme of regular milongas (tango dance events) at the Bishopsgate Institute, interspersed with a variety of exercises in outreach work.

Queer Tango Dancing at the Bishopsgate Institute

We held 24 regular QTL Milongas in the Upper Hall at the Bishopsgate Institute. This included two 6-session Absolute Beginners Courses



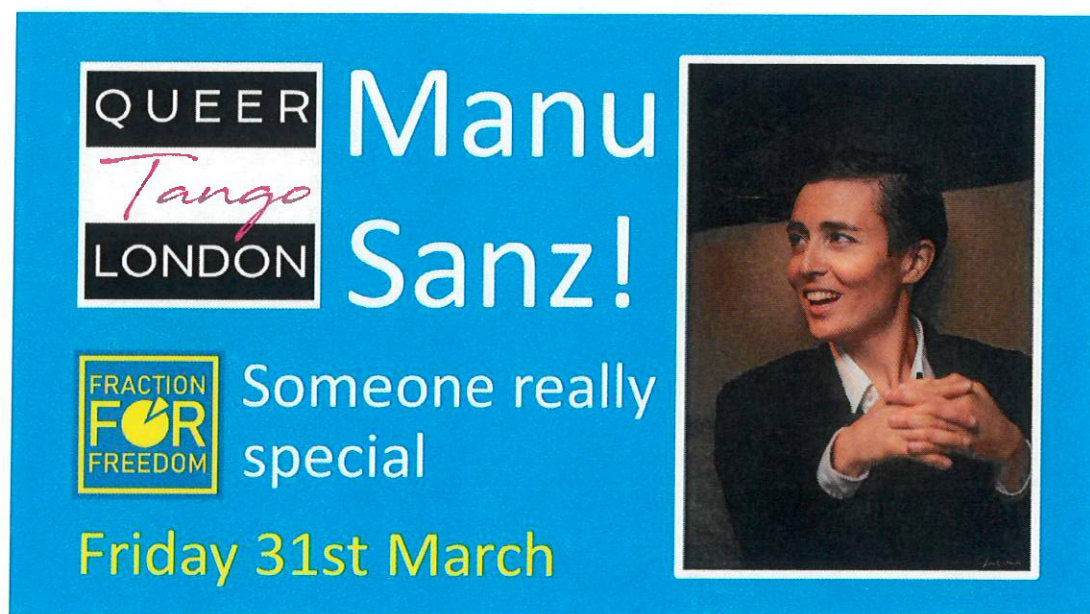
delivered by the QTL Teaching Team (Ray Batchelor, Gawaine Preston, Samantha Marcus, Claudio Tedesco, Margaret Trotter) one starting in January and one in September.

Guest teachers.

Ten out of the 24 regular QTL sessions were conducted by specially invited Guest Teachers. Our purpose in inviting Guest Teachers is to give our QTL dancers a range of dance experiences far wider than that which we ourselves can deliver.

Guest Teachers in 2024 were:

- **Philip Bonczyk** – (2 x QTL milongas) exceptionally, a queer tango teacher from the UK, who has danced queer tango for several decades.
- **Natasha Lewinger & Haris Mihail** – widely respected, talented young tango teachers, wholly in tune with the QTL “queer spirit”, and – reflecting a trend among many young dancers in Argentina and Uruguay these days – both perfectly comfortable in both leader and follower roles which they exploited in their classes for us.
- **Manu Sanz** – a key figure in the emerging international queer scene, Manu is best-known internationally as the co-organiser of the queer tango meeting Chamuyoqueer in Valencia, and now (2025), the emerging Queer Tango Umbrella.



- **Ariadna Zaehnsdorf & Keila Luciano** – in 2024, these radical queer tango dancers and teachers had invitations to visit across

Europe. QTL was able to secure their services through QTL Trustee, Margaret Trotter, meeting them at a queer tango research event in Vienna organised by Arno Plass.

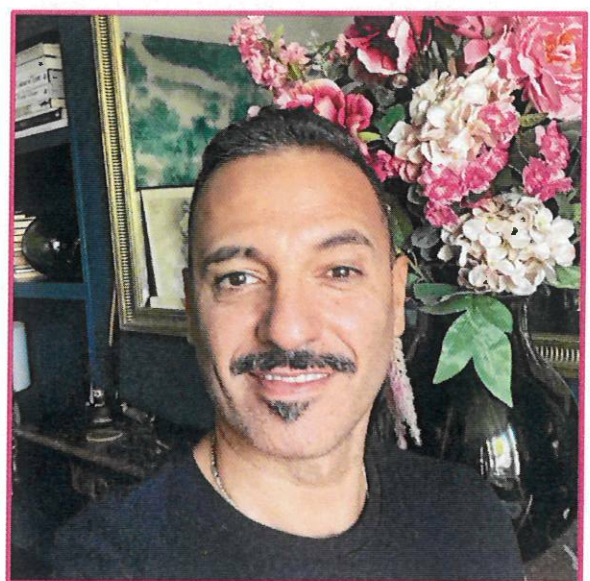
- **Monica Romero & Omar Ocampo**, aka “Los Ocampo” – part of an Argentinian aristocracy of tango dancers who have danced and taught together for decades. Unlike some of their generation, Monica and Omar have a deep-seated compassion which has led them quite naturally to an open, friendly, queer sensibility – Monica leads, Omar follows, and they use up-to date language for the roles of this dance.
- **Gaston Enrique Olguin & Manuco Firmani** – (2 x QTL milongas) Gaston Enrique Olguin has a deep knowledge of the biomechanics of the human body and has creatively incorporated it into his teaching. His relationship with QTL goes back to 2016, when he taught a whole season of classes for us. With fellow queer teacher, Manuco Firmani, also from Buenos Aires, we enjoyed their expertise at two of our QTL milongas.
- **Walter Perez** – a long-established, highly respected queer tango teacher from New York, but Argentinian by birth, Walter is a familiar and much-loved figure on the international circuit. Our Chair, Ray Batchelor, first met Walter at a queer tango festival in New York in 2010. We were delighted he was able to be with us.



**From
New
York –**

**Walter
Perez!**

Friday 4th October



- **Ray Sullivan** – a queer tango teacher from Miami, Florida, who had recently published his book *One Tango at a Time*, shared a lifetime's insights into dance teaching, including in Ray Sullivan's case, insights gained from a career as a successful ballet dancer.

The QTL Prácticas

QTL Milongas are normally held on the first and third Fridays of each month (with Summer Break). The gap between the last of one month and the first of the next can be quite long, and this can be a problem for dancers who are learning. Mindful of that, two QTL Dancers, Simon Lindsay and Luke Pagarani, offered to run a QTL Práctica on the weeks QTL was not running a milonga. A Práctica is an open tango dance session to which dancers at all levels can come, with skilled dancers on hand, but without formal classes.

QTL secured a venue for the Práctica at the Bishopsgate Institute on a series of five Wednesdays and the experiment was run.

It was a success in that numerous people came, danced, and enjoyed the informal atmosphere – but ultimately it was decided they did not come in sufficient numbers, and that too few were actually beginners. When the dancer volunteers found they were unable to continue coming regularly on a Wednesday, the experiment stopped running at Bishopsgate Institute.

QTL is grateful to the volunteers for the pilot and for their continuing the Práctica on an ad hoc basis.

It was agreed that the idea was sound in principle, and might be one to which QTL could return at some future juncture.

Queer Tango Outreach Work

RBKC Launch of LGBTQIA+ Archive

Archivist, Sophia Hall, Local Studies & Archives for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, invited QTL to offer some informal queer tango dance opportunities during LGBT History Month to people coming to their "Let's Make History", event on 8th February 2024 at the Chelsea Theatre. The event featured a showing of *Gateways Grind*, a film about the famous lesbian club, The Gateways.

It was organised to launch their new LGBTQIA+ Archive (jointly with the City of Westminster).



QTL were delighted to oblige, and Chair Ray Batchelor sat with the film's two makers on a Q&A panel before the film was shown.

The event was a success.

Sophia wrote to us later in the year to say that "[the] 'Let's Make History' event at Chelsea Theatre in February has been selected as one of The National Archives' 'Highlights' of 2024: [Greater London - Archives sector](#)"

Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) LGBT History Month

To mark LGBT History Month (February) QTL were invited by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to run a queer tango workshop consisting of a short presentation by Chair, Ray Batchelor, about the history of queer tango, followed by an Absolute Beginners' Class delivered by Ray, Gawaine and others from the QTL Teaching Team. There was then an opportunity to dance for an hour or so afterwards, to authentic music played by QTL DJ, Claudio Tedesco.

Queer Tango History?



History - or MYTH?

And does it

matter..?

QUEER

Tango
LONDON

22nd February 2024

On. 22nd February, Sheldon Mills, Executive Director, Consumers & Competition at the FCA welcomed us in a short address and had intended to return to his office

and work – but found what followed so interesting that he spent the rest of the evening with us.

Some unlooked-for coverage in the national press

In the run up to the General Election in the UK, some newspapers ran so-called “Culture Wars” news stories. One on 15th May 2024 in *The Daily Mail* carried the headline “Quangos' £1m bill” (on queer tango and “afro hair”!).

The event referred to by the *Daily Mail* cost the FCA £400, and, as the FCA is 100% funded by the organisations it regulates, no public money was spent.

On 16th May, *Sunday Telegraph* journalist, Charlotte Gill, emailed QTL to say they were running her story claiming that charitable organisations were rebelling against using the word “queer”. She said she named Queer Tango London, and did we have anything we wanted to say (in less than 100 words, and within 24 hrs) about that?

We were not shown the article. We sent a short statement.

When published on 19th May, “Backlash from rights groups as number of charities using queer in their name rises”, Gill cited one source uneasy with the term, and quoted a few sentences from our statement without comment.

Queer Tango Consultancy work in developing the Play *Partners*

In a rare departure for QTL, Chair Ray Batchelor was engaged by playwright, Eliza Cass, as a Queer Tango Consultant to support Arts Council funded research work she was carrying out with two actors and a director in developing a play, *Partners*. Ray was supported in this work by QTL Friend and experienced queer tango dancer, Mike Evans.

Eliza explains:

PARTNERS is a piece of new writing for two performers about where and how we can find connection in the deepest isolation and grief. The show follows the journey of a queer, intergenerational friendship and unlikely artistic partnership

brought about by a mutual obsession with the TV show *Strictly Come Dancing*.

In form, it's a play in which the two performers and audience conjure the performance space together. Seated in a circle with the audience, the performers never leave their chairs. Dancing the tango - they're speaking the tango, through words, conversational rhythm and the quality of the emotional space made/collapsed between them.



Ray and Mike delivered one dance workshop which was an introduction to queer tango (29.07.2024), and a second (01.08.2025) – more innovative – which explored the relationship between dance and language – how they are similar, and how they are different.

The workshops were very well received by actors, director and playwright.

Eliza wrote afterwards: "...a HUGE thank you for the workshops last week. We were so thrilled with everything you brought, and it felt like a real privilege to learn from you and Mike and to watch you dance".

Queer Tango London at the King's Cross Summer Sounds Festival

At the invitation of Martin Collins, CEO of the Arts Trust <https://www.artstrust.co.uk/> which runs the Kings Cross Annual Summer Sounds Festival, the QTL Teaching Team delivered a series of four introductory dance workshop in late July and early August 2024 at The Place, WC1H 9PY for socially isolated, local queer residents of the Kings Cross area.

The course was part of a lead up to two open air Queer Tango Workshops at the Summer Sounds Festival proper on 17th and 24th August. In the event, rain meant that the 24th August workshop switched to an indoor location.



All our contributions were successful.

Martin Collins wrote afterwards:

We really loved having you at the festival, I think you brought something really special to the season. I have attached the feedback from the classes in the run up to the festival...there were some interesting comments, 'I found the classes the most exciting and therapeutic experience I had in a while. I am still trying to dissect why it has such a massive impact on me'

Welsh International Tango Festival 6th Edition: Intercambio Class + Discussion of Tango Politics

Chris Barnet, who runs the Welsh International Queer Tango Festival, invited QTL Chair, Ray Batchelor and dancer and activist, Helen Fenton, back to the 6th edition of the Welsh International Tango Festival, 27th November – 2nd December 2024 in Swansea to teach “Intercambio for All” (intercambio – the swapping of roles during a dance) and to run a Workshop on “The Politics of Tango”.

The dance workshop was well attended.

Ray and Helen had meant politics with a small 'p', rather than party politics, and had hoped for some consideration of the role of women and of men in contemporary tango. In the event, the word seemed to have the effect of scaring many away, and the discussion group consisted chiefly of queer tango dancers – a significant group had come from Queer Tango Bristol – and only a very few from the mainstream.



Though worthwhile, the makeup of the group seemed to us to be evidence that any formal approaches to considering these things more widely may need more groundwork, if they are to succeed.

Buenos Aires International Queer tango Festival

Throughout the year, several QTL Trustees attended international Queer Tango Marathons and Festivals. Apart from the pleasure of dancing in unfamiliar locations and with new people, it has the welcome side-effect that collectively, QTL is able to build up contacts, and remains abreast of what is happening in queer tango at the international level.



Though travelling in a private capacity, rather than as formal representatives of QTL, Trustees Gawaine Preston and Ray Batchelor spent some time in December 2024 in Buenos Aires.

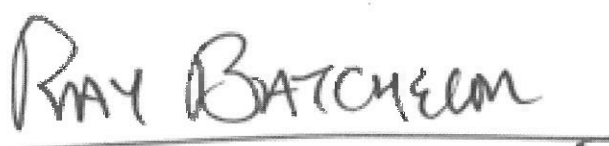
There, they were able to take part in the famous International Queer Tango Festival and making contact with many other queer tango dancers from around the world – and yes! They had a great time.

The Chair of QTL sang in Buenos Aires

They were also able to connect (or re-connect in Ray's case) with Edgardo Fernández Sesma, perhaps the most significant queer tango activist bar none. At Edgardo's request, they attended a party at SIGLA, a community Centre, to celebrate 11 years of the Campaign Against the Abandonment and Ill-Treatment of Seniors which Edgardo has led. Ray had met the group before several times over many years. On one occasion to thank him for his work, two ladies had sung tango songs *a capella*.

At this party, to return the compliment, Ray sang a tango, *Por una Cabeza*. He wrote afterwards in a social media post:

...I have most warmly to thank the good, kind, generous people of the Campaign Against the Abandonment and Ill-Treatment of Seniors here in Buenos Aires. Their enthusiastic reception of this potentially cheeky, but well-intentioned, modern contribution to Argentinian popular culture took my breath away...I am humbled. And perhaps to the relief of some, silenced. Temporarily...

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "RAY BATCHELOR". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a single horizontal line.

Dr Ray Batchelor
Chair, Queer Tango London
26th October 2025

QUEER TANGO LONDON

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Queer Tango London is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity commission on 13 January 2023, registration number 1201560.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was constituted as a small charity on 4th September 2017 and registered with HMRC. As the charity grew the Trustees adopted a new constitution and applied to the Charity Commission to become a CIO and were registered on 12 January 2023. The constitution is a Foundation Model and with the following 7 Trustees in office:-

TRUSTEES

Ray Batchelor: Chair

Margaret Trotter: Treasurer

Tom Cottle

Claudio Tedesco

Gawaine Preston

Samantha Marcus

Gordon Pullenger

The Trustees may appoint up to 3 more Trustees to join the board, who will hold office for 3 years. Trustees carry out the management and operations of the charity in a voluntary capacity as there are no paid staff. Trustees do teach and perform at Queer Tango events and are eligible to be paid on similar terms as non-board members, however no Trustees were paid for their work. Trustees meet regularly to organise events and hold an AGM every year.

Results for the year 2024

The charity raised income of £14,401, spent £13,138, and added £1,263 to reserves.

At 31 December 2024 the unrestricted reserves of the charity were £11,039

Objectives

For public benefit to promote and foster the understanding, and appreciation of queer tango and the values of equality, diversity and inclusivity associated with it. To advance education and learning in queer tango, in particular but not exclusively, by providing queer tango dance events, classes, demonstrations, performances, talks, lectures, exhibitions, publications, and collaborative projects. To further such other purposes which may be charitable according to the law of England and as the trustees see fit from time to time.

Achievements and Performance

Queer Tango London practices queer tango, that is authentic Argentinian tango - the couple dance which emerged from Argentina and Uruguay in the late 19th and early 20th centuries - but danced without regard for the conventional male/female allocation of leader and

follower roles according to gender. Queer tango emerged out of and supports the LGBTQ community, but it can be and is danced by anyone sympathetic to its aspirations. The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Events

Through our partnership with Bishopsgate Institute, QTL hosted 28 milongas and prácticas and delivered 9 further classes, workshops and milongas by invitation for other organisations including the Kings Cross Annual Summer Sounds Festival and LGBT History month events for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the Financial Conduct Authority.

We engaged Philip Bonczyk a UK queer tango teacher and sought to engage queer teacher/performers who also run international Queer Tango Festivals around the world. Our dancers meet them, and get to know about these important events, which are a growing phenomenon. The artists ran two classes at each event, at beginners and improver levels. They included Los Ocampo, Natasha Lewinger and Haris Mihail, Gaston Olguin and Manuco Firmani from Argentina and Uruguay, Manu Sanz, Ariadna Zaehnsdorf and Keila Luciano from Spain, Walter Perez from New York, and Ray Sullivan from Miami. For some of the younger generation performers, we support them to perform professionally in the UK with fees and accommodation and help to build their reputations through introductions to other tango organisations.

Trustees Ray, Sam and Gawaine were the regular teachers at our milongas, Margaret and Claudio ran several classes and Claudio and Tom alternated as DJs. All Trustees represented the charity at festivals and milongas nationally and around the world, including Germany, Spain, France, Canada and Argentina

Financial Review, principal risks and uncertainties

The Statement of Financial Activities and Balance sheet show that reserves, at 1 January 2024 were £9,776. We added £1,263 surplus for the year bringing reserves to a total of £11,039 at 31 December 2024. Trustees have considered the current and future activities of the charity and the known level of income and expenditure and are satisfied that the level of reserves can meet the commitments of the charity for the following year.

Our principal income consisted of participant fees for our classes and milongas, amounting to £12,301. We also raised £2,100 from engagements with other organisations and charities. Costs of 13,138 included payments to teachers and performers of £4,140 and payments to Bishopsgate institute of £6,045 for rent and profit share. Trustees were reimbursed for expenses incurred but received no fees as DJs or for teaching classes.

Our principal risks relate to the cost of premises hire and future commitments to performers. We have contracted with the Bishopsgate Institute to hold two events per month at a fixed minimum rent with shared profits, renewable annually. This stability of

venue and costs means we can plan and contract in advance and therefore mitigate these risks.

Events since the end of the year and future developments

QTL continue to host 2 Friday milongas a month at Bishopsgate Institute, running two classes at each, at beginners and at improvers levels. For 2024 we created and ran 6 "Tango Weekenders" in collaboration with Tango E14 who are open on Saturdays. We engaged International teacher/performers and advertised them broadly to other UK Queer Tango organisations so that their dancers could plan weekend visits to London to meet and learn from the artists. The participating artists are Astrid Weiske from Berlin, Los Ocampo, Natasha Lewinger and Haris Mihail, Gaston Olguin and Manuco Firmani from South America, and Alex Shnit from Israel.

We are collaborating with queer tango festival organisers to hold our first International Queer Tango Festival at Bishopsgate Institute in May 2025. The "Queer Tango Umbrella" collaborators are Astrid Weiske, founder of the International Queer Tango Berlin festival; Manu Sanz and Arno Plass of Chamyou Queer, Valencia's queer tango festival; Ray Sullivan of Conexion, Miami's queer tango festival; Gaston Olguin from Argentina and Birthe Hamoeller from Denmark, creator of the Queer Tango Project.

Our AGM will be held on 26 October 2025.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK accounts standards

The Trustees must be satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources. In preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the method and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statement on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation;

Approved by the Trustees on 26 October 2025

Signed on behalf of Queer Tango London by:
Trustee signature

Trustee name
MARGARET TROTTER



QUEER TANGO LONDON
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD 13 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Charitable activities	14401	0	14401	13365
Total incoming resources	14401	0	14401	13365
Resources expended				
Charitable expenditure on:				
Dance teachers and musicians	4140	0	4140	3000
Premises	3140	0	3140	2820
Bisopsgate Institute	2905	0	2905	3654
Events	1868	0	1868	1411
Advertising, IT Legal and Donations	1085	0	1085	1489
Total resources expended	13138	0	13138	12374
 Net movement in funds	 1263	 0	 1263	 991
Brought forward funds	9776	0	9776	9776
Fund balances carried forward	11039	0	11039	10767

QUEER TANGO LONDON
BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank and Cash	14810	9178
Debtors & Prepayments	768	3680
	<u>15578</u>	<u>12858</u>
CREDITORS : amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors	4539	3082
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>11039</u>	<u>9776</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>11039</u>	<u>9776</u>
FUNDS		
Restricted funds	0	0
Designated funds	0	0
Unrestricted funds	11039	9776
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>11039</u>	<u>9776</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 26 October 2025
and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee signature



Trustee name: MARGARET TROTTER

ACCOUNTING POLICIES**1. Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and include the results of the charity's operations which are described in the Trustees Report and all of which are continuing. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" with applicable accounting standards on the accrual basis.

2. Fund Accounting, Risk and Reserves Policy

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives. Designated funds are amounts that have been set aside at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Restricted funds are funds that are spent in accordance with specific restriction imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for specific purpose. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund.

3.**Incoming resources**

Incoming resources represents the total income receivable during the year comprising event sales and performance fees.

4. Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Charitable expenditure comprises costs of artists fees and resources in furtherance of the charity's objects.

Reserves	at 13/1/2024	Incoming	Outgoing	at 31/12/2024
Unrestricted	£9,776	£14,401	£13,138	£11,039

Unrestricted funds are £11,039

5 Related Party Transactions

The Board of Trustees consist of queer tango dancers, teachers and DJs. Trustees are the voluntary workers of the charity and can also receive fees as dance teachers and performers on similar terms as non-committee members. No Trustee received remuneration for being a Trustee.