

THE WILLIAM BLAKE FELLOWSHIP

England & Wales · Charity number 1204221

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-08-04

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC WORLDWIDE IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE LIFE AND WORKS, MISSION AND VISION OF WILLIAM BLAKE, HIS INFLUENCE AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH OTHER ARTISTS PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE THROUGH WALKS, TALKS, EVENTS AND PUBLIC PERFORMANCES; (2) TO MAINTAIN, PRESERVE AND ENHANCE, AS A MEMORIALS, THE RESTING PLACES OF WILLIAM AND CATHERINE BLAKE AND FAMILY AT BUNHILL FIELDS CEMETERY; (3) SUPPORT AND PROMOTE IN SUCH WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES THINK FIT ALL PROPERTY AND CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PLACES OF INTEREST RELATING TO BLAKE; (4) TO BE AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE AND TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM IN RELATION TO BLAKE STUDY AND RESEARCH.

Activities: General charitable purposes to promote understanding of the life and art of William Blake by the general public.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-07	£4,861	£2,494	-	-
2024-07-07	£4,569	£2,226	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Catherine Elizabeth Kelly	Chair	2023-08-18
Josephine McQuail		2024-03-14
Mark Riley		2024-11-25
Simon Clarke		2023-08-18

THE WILLIAM BLAKE FELLOWSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1204221

Accounts

TRUSTESS ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE PERIOD: 8 July 2024 – 7 July 2025

WILLIAM BLAKE FELLOWSHIP
Registered Charity Number 1204221

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS:
35 Chalcot Square, London NW1 8YP

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY TRUSTEES:

CATHERINE KELLY (Chair) 18 August 2023
 SIMON CLARKE (Secretary) 18 August 2023
 DR. JOSEPHINE MCQUAIL. 14 March 2024
 DR. MARK RILEY 25 November 2024

CHAIR STATEMENT

Welcome to our Annual Report

This year has been one of steady progress for the Fellowship. As trustees, our main job is to make sure we are doing what we set out to do—supporting our community effectively while staying on a firm legal and financial footing.

Running a charity responsibly means constantly checking that our "house is in order." To do this, we continue to rely on advice and resources from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), Voluntary Action Islington (VAI), and the Charity Commission. As we move into our third year of operation This guidance provides a vital framework that helps us to strengthen our governance and to add to and keep our policies up to date, ensuring we aim for the best possible service for those we support.

We extend our sincere thanks to all our supporters, notably Tracy March, for her invaluable contribution to the House of William Blake project.

Our compact Board of four trustees has achieved a great deal over the past year, proving that a small group can deliver significant results when guided by care, integrity, and a shared vision and a strong desire to make a difference.

Financial Review & Governance.

Stable Financial Position: The Fellowship has maintained a stable financial position this year, ensuring the continued delivery of our core activities. A full breakdown of income and expenditure is provided in the financial statements following this report.

Income and Donations: Our total income reached £4861.44 primarily driven by generous donations in appreciation of our "Blake Walks" and general support for the Fellowship's charitable mission.

Operational Expenditure: Total expenditure for the period was £2494, reflecting careful management of our resources.

Restricted Funds & Strategic Impact: Restricted donations were specifically utilised to fund a successful Pre-Application submission to Westminster City Council. This critical milestone confirmed the feasibility of converting 17 South Molton Street into a visitor centre, providing a robust foundation for the House of William Blake project.

Catherine Kelly (Chair) William Blake Fellowship

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES – SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY AND GOVERNING DOCUMENT

TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC WORLDWIDE IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE LIFE AND WORKS, MISSION AND VISION OF WILLIAM BLAKE, HIS INFLUENCE AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH OTHER ARTISTS PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE THROUGH WALKS, TALKS AND EVENTS AND PUBLIC PERFORMANCES; (2) TO MAINTAIN, PRESERVE AND ENHANCE, AS MEMORIALS, THE RESTING PLACES OF WILLIAM AND CATHERINE BLAKE AND FAMILY AT BUNHILL FIELDS CEMETERY; (3) SUPPORT AND PROMOTE IN SUCH WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES THINK FIT ALL PROPERTY AND CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PLACES OF INTEREST RELATING TO BLAKE; (4) TO BE AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE AND TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM IN RELATION TO BLAKE STUDY AND RESEARCH.

HOW THE CHARITY IS CONSTITUTED:

CIO FOUNDATION - A Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Consideration of Risks

RISK ASSESSEMENT for Bunhill Field Cemetery

RISK ASSESSMENT for Blake Golden String Walks

Public Liability

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE Ref: ACY 2430485

Public and Products Liability indemnity limit. £5,000,000

Related Parties

We work in collaboration with and support the work of other William Blake groups, charities and associations as well as societies related to Blake's life and times and work.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN RELATION TO THESE OBJECTS

The objects of the Fellowship, as set out in its governing document, are to advance the education of the public in the life and works of William Blake (1757–1827).

In July 2025, the Trustees formally amended the Fellowship's constitution to more precisely define these core aims:

- **Global Education:** Promoting worldwide awareness of Blake's life, creative works, and enduring cultural influence through curated events and performances.

- **Heritage Preservation:** Ensuring the preservation and dignified maintenance of the resting places of William and Catherine Blake at Bunhill Fields.
- **Site Advocacy:** Campaigning for the protection and promotion of historical sites associated with Blake's biography.
- **Educational Resource:** Serving as a resource for researchers and supporting the integration of Blake's work within the National Curriculum.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when planning and reviewing our activities. The Fellowship ensures that all initiatives—from guided walks to site maintenance—remain free or donation only to ensure broad public accessibility.

Achievements and Performance

The 2024–2025 period saw significant growth in public outreach, heritage stewardship, and strategic advocacy.

Heritage and Memorial Maintenance (Bunhill Fields)

Our stewardship of the Blakes' resting places remains a central pillar of our charitable activity:

- **Stewardship:** Since early 2024, we have conducted maintenance sessions every six weeks to care for William Blake's ledger stone. This has strengthened our operational partnership with the *Friends of City Gardeners* and the *City of London City Gardens* department.
- **Community Engagement:** Our series of public engagement Open Days at Bunhill (13 October 2024, 23 March and the National Gardens Open Day 8 June 2025) empowered visitors to explore William Blake's enduring legacy. By providing tailored educational materials and talks, we helped bridge the gap between contemporary audiences and the site's rich 18th-century history.
- **Regular Events at Bunhill** – We create regular opportunity for aficionados and those new to the works of William Blake to gather at his resting place. We lay flowers and do readings for the anniversaries of Blake and Catherine's interment at Bunhill, 18th August and 23rd October and Catherine's birthday on 25th April and Blake's birthday on 28 November. We are grateful for the support of City of London Corporation, City

Gardens especially Sharon Hollington and Dan Rosenberg who facilitate these gatherings and the Friends of City Gardens Susanna Cohen and Louise Choo.

Outreach and Academic Engagement

- **Academic Recognition:** We are pleased to report that Trustee Dr McQuail was appointed to the advisory board of *Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly*, the world's pre-eminent journal for Blake studies. This appointment further strengthens the Fellowship's links to global scholarship.

The "Golden String Walks" Programme

This new public engagement initiative was successfully piloted to connect Blake's mythology with London's physical geography:

- **Inaugural Birthday Walk (Nov 2024):** A guided route from South Molton Street through Soho, Blake's place of birth, establishing cultural links between Blake and later figures like Jimi Hendrix, supported by engagement with the *Handel/Hendrix Museum*.
- **Expansion (2025):** Targeted walks, 'Blake and Primrose Hill' (in association with the *Primrose Hill Residents Association*) explored Blake's links to the local area, (his vision on Primrose Hill), WB Yeats and George Bernard Shaw.
- **Youth Outreach:** A new walk, "Blake – The Chartered Streets" (July 2025) successfully attracted a younger more diverse demographic, fulfilling our aim to engage new audiences with London's literary history still relevant to today.

Advocacy for the 'House of William Blake' cultural and learning centre

The Fellowship continued its collaboration with Tracy Marsh, Managing Director of HUSH Project Management & Consulting Ltd, to liaise with Grosvenor Property UK to establish a permanent William Blake Centre at 17 South Molton Street, (his last surviving London home), to celebrate his enduring work, life and cultural legacy.

- **Political Engagement:** Secured official support from the Greater London Assembly, (GLA) in February 2025 and the Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan for cultural centre, dedicated to William Blake, to be established at 17 South Molton Street. Our thanks to Labour London Assembly Members, Marina Ahmad and Elly Barker for proposing and seconding and Councillors Anna Burrage and Matt Cooper for support and guidance. Following these endorsements, the GLA Press Office generated positive media reports for the campaign.

- Stakeholders Strategic Liaison:** Throughout the year, we maintained a productive dialogue with Grosvenor Property UK's Director of South Molton Triangle development to explore use of no 17 as an international cultural centre and ensure long-term viability. We presented a comprehensive proposal for a landmark partnership involving Grosvenor, Westminster Council, English Heritage, NWECC, and the Mayor of London. Central to this vision is the creation of a dedicated charitable entity to develop and manage the venture.

Our work was further informed by valuable consultations with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and specialist Construction, Architects and Heritage Consultants. We also continued to strengthen our community ties, fostering positive relationships with the Mayfair Neighbourhood Forum and the Residents Society of Mayfair and St James's. Our thanks go to Dan Cruickshank OBE, Simon Tarrant, and Rachel Blake MP for their continued advocacy. Their contributions have been highly valued as we work toward this vision.
- Sector Support:** Collated formal evidence of support of the Blake house proposal from world-class institutions including *The Tate*, *British Library*, *English Heritage*, and the *Royal Academy of Music* and many significant individuals.
- Project Viability and Planning:** To determine the viability of establishing the 'House of William Blake,' the Fellowship commissioned Clague Architects, Master planners & Heritage Consultants, to prepare a formal pre-application planning submission. This document was submitted to Westminster City Council to resolve the potential for 'change of use' for the site, ensuring the project aligns with statutory heritage conservation requirements

Partnerships and Networking

The Fellowship thrives on collaborative action:

- International Reach:** Dr Josephine McQuail represented the Fellowship to academic and cultural communities in the US and Europe, raising our international profile.
- Voluntary Sector:** In December 2024 we joined 'The Big Alliance' network, allowing the charity to benefit from pro-bono corporate consultancy and CSR expertise such as Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. We continued to liaise with our sister Blake groups attending and supporting their events.
- Strategic Heritage Partnerships:** We initiated a dialogue with The Savoy (Fairmont) Group to explore a commemorative project for the 2027 anniversary, engaging with them as the current stewards of the site where William Blake took his final breath.
- Best practice:** We established knowledge-sharing links with the *Rembrandt House Museum* (Amsterdam) Charles Dickens Museum, to refine our approach to historic house management and heritage advocacy. We continue to use NCVO, National Council for Voluntary Organisations and VAI, Voluntary Action Islington and the

Government's Charity Commission site as resources for best practice. This keeps the Fellowship compliant with sector changes and ensures we are managed as effectively as possible.

Structure, Governance, and Management

- **Governing Document:** The charity is a CIO Foundation governed by its constitution dated 4 August 2023
- **Trustee Recruitment:** The Board was strengthened by the appointment of Dr. Mark Riley (Founder of Thinking Place) as a Trustee. Dr. Riley will take the lead on our 2027 Fountain Court project, leveraging his expert modelling skills and deep knowledge of educational history and the Blakes' Fountain Court residence. Dr. Mark Riley contributed two 3-dimensional works and a sketchbook to Swedenborg's *Lusthus: In the Garden* exhibition (11 July 2024 -20 December 2024) at Swedenborg House, London WC1A 2TH. This was a second exhibition organised in conjunction with the publication of Swedenborg's *Lusthus*, a full colour book—described by Tom Taylor in the Cambridge Review of Books as 'a poignant reflection upon the interconnectedness of place and writing, realism and idealism, universalism and particularism.' Dr. Riley also had a photograph reproduced in the publication.
- **Risk Management:** To ensure the safety of all public walks and activities at Bunhill Fields, a comprehensive risk assessment was completed in September 2024. Furthermore, full Public Liability Insurance has been secured and remains up to date
- **Financial Review:** In November 2024, the Fellowship successfully met its fundraising targets to facilitate the planning application process for William Blake House via the Westminster Council portal.

Future planning

- With the charity more established this year and in addition to the ongoing projects to promote the life and works of William Blake we were able to progress with the plans to create a series of Blake Walks around the City. For the upcoming year we aim to widen our research into other Blake related locations.
- We continue to review our Board's skills range to identify gaps and will actively seek new Trustees whose specialist skills align with our evolving strategic priorities, especially in finance (Treasurer) and social media/Marketing.
- We continue to collaborate with Mayfair Library on raising awareness of William Blake in the area and on a series of 'Blakemas' events using the library facilities in the autumn/winter of 2025.
- We aim to run a trialed walk with trustee Dr Mark Riley from the site of Fountain Court to Bunhill Fields to be scheduled to commemorate Blake's internment at Bunhill on 17 August 1827
- We will continue to grow our connection and build relationships within London and the UK, e.g., Swedenborg and Handel House and the Shaw Society and with

individuals and groups interested in Blake and promote Blake in other countries around the world.

- In the March of 2025, Dr. Riley was commissioned to submit a work for the Elective Affinities exhibition (also at Swedenborg House). This exhibition will run from 18 September 2025 – 27 February 2026.

As we continue our preparations and projects for the 2027 bicentenary of William Blake's passing, the Fellowship remains committed in our mission to secure a lasting legacy for his life and works. We are particularly focused on the preservation of 17 South Molton Street—Blake's only surviving London home and the site where he produced his most renowned works, including the illuminated masterpiece *Jerusalem: The Emanation of the Giant Albion*.

While we are a small team, the significant milestones achieved this year—from critical planning successes to international academic appointments—demonstrate our efficiency and resolve. We enter the coming year with renewed purpose, committed to transparency, stewardship, and the preservation of Blake's visionary spirit for future generations.

Declaration - Date: 5 May 2026

The Trustees hereby declare that we have approved the Trustees' Report above.

William Blake Fellowship Trustees:

CATHERINE KELLY (Chair)

SIMON CLARKE (Secretary)

DR. JOSEPHINE MCQUAIL.

DR. MARK RILEY

WILLIAM BLAKE FELLOWSHIP:

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE PERIOD: 8 JULY 2024– 7 JULY 2025

<https://www.williamblakefellowship.com>

EMAIL: Williamblakefellowship@mail.com

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - FOR THE PERIOD: 8 JULY 2024– 7 JULY 2025

Accounts William Blake Fellowship 2024- 2025 (A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, CIO)

	2025	2025	2024	2024	
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	
Income:					
Donations and Legacies	66.01	170	4250	232	
Charitable Activities		59.43		87	Blake walks
				0	
Other trading activities					
Investments					
Total Income	66.01	229.43	4250	319	
Expenditure:					
Raising funds		132		156	Printing
Overheads		136		138	Insurance
Charitable Activities			1932		Pre-App Submission to Westminster Council
Total Expenditure		268	1932	294	
Total Reconciliation of Funds		-38.57	2318	55	
Funds Brought Forward	2318	55	0	75	
Total Net Movement of Funds	0	16.43	2318	25	
Funds Carried Forward					
Total Funds Carried Forward	2384.01	16.43	2318	100	

Total income and expenditure over the accounting period 2024-2025. NB funds carried forward from 2024 are from calendar years.

Income: £4861.44. Expenditure: £2494

THE WILLIAM BLAKE FELLOWSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1204221

Accounts

TRUSTESS ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE PERIOD: 4 AUGUST 2023 – 7 MAY 2025

WILLIAM BLAKE FELLOWSHIP

Registered Charity Number 1204221

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS:
35 Chalcot Square, London NW1 8YP

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY TRUSTEES

CATHERINE KELLY (Chair)	18 August 2023
SIMON CLARKE (Secretary)	18 August 2023
DR. JOSEPHINE MCQUAIL.	14 March 2024
DR. MARK RILEY	25 November 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES – SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY AND GOVERNING DOCUMENT

TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE ART, LIFE, AND MISSION OF WILLIAM BLAKE THROUGH LECTURES, WALKS, CONCERTS, PLAYS AND MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATIONS.
TO CLEAN AND MAINTAIN THE GRAVESTONE OF WILLIAM BLAKE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC WHO VISITS HIS GRAVE. TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO MARK THE GRAVE OF CATHERINE SOPHIA BLAKE (BELOVED WIFE OF WILLIAM BLAKE).

HOW THE CHARITY IS CONSTITUTED:

CIO FOUNDATION

Consideration of Risks

RISK ASSESSEMENT for Bunhill Field Cemetery
RISK ASSESSMENT for William Blake Golden String Walks

Public Liability

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE Ref: ACY 2430485
Public and Products Liability indemnity limit. £5,000,000

Related Parties

We work in collaboration with and support the work of other William Blake groups, charities and associations as well as societies related to Blake's life and times and work.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN RELATION TO THESE OBJECTS

ADMINISTRATION

As the William Blake Fellowship, before registering as a charity, we were already delivering work for all ages of the public: live online presentations during lockdown; a musical theatre performance at London's Bookery (Community Art) Gallery live, in person and online and liaising with award winning international education digital resources company 'Purple Mash' The company provides curriculum support for primary schools '*raising standards through Creativity*' and we worked with them on a project to include Blake in their programmes.

Upon registering as a charity, our main activities were initially around setting up the Charity Commission account, creating a website and social media connections, PayPal and Zettle and obtaining public liability insurance for our events, walks and talks. We designed and printed our business cards that doubled as a promotion of our work and as visual gift which has continued to be well received.

Two of the charity founders, husband and wife team Luis and Carol Garrido had to step back due to health concerns but now recovered, continue as close collaborators. We gained an excellent new trustee in Dr. Mark Riley, who is an artist, writer and lecturer and presents research material on the website, <https://thinkingplace.org>. He also has connections to the Swedenborg Society having exhibited there in 2024 and will continue to do so in 2025. He therefore brings valuable creative, cultural skills and experience to the Board.

As well as developing more projects to deliver the objectives of the charity, we meanwhile continued with the projects we were already working on.

EDUCATION

2Simple Developing Tray Application - Continuing our association with Purple Mash we explored with 2Simple the education technology arm of the company, an application that enhances skills in reading literacy and understanding called The Developing Tray. Using Blake's poems students can appreciate and discuss more deeply the different layers within the work.

Young Ambassadors - We met with an acclaimed writer and rapper, who propagates the work of William Blake in schools and through the different creative mediums in which he excels, as potential collaborator and Fellowship ambassador.

Published author - William Blake Fellowship trustee Dr. Josephine McQuail, editor and contributor, filled a gap in Blake's scholarship by publishing a book of collected essays devoted solely to Blake's manuscripts, '*William Blake's Manuscripts: Praxis, Puzzles, and Palimpsests*' with Mark Crosby, co-editor and contributor. Additionally, we connected with secondary and SEN teachers who teach Blake's work in the national curriculum.

BLAKE'S RESTING PLACE BUNHILL FIELDS

A ledger stone to mark the final resting place of William Blake at Bunhill Fields Cemetery in London, thanks to our sister charity The Blake Society, was unveiled in August 2018 before a glittering crowd of enthusiasts from all over the UK, academics, actors, students, musicians, singers, clergy – and even a rock star. The event was filmed live on Facebook to international aficionados.

We noticed the ledger stone soon became prey to the dirt and dust of the weather and so took up the role to clean regularly for the many visitors from around the world who come to pay their respects.

- **Regular Cleaning and Maintenance** - We continue to preserve the stone and decorate the site every six weeks. We engage with the locals and tourists who are keen to talk about Blake and who enjoy reading or reciting and even singing Jerusalem while there.
- **Friends of City Gardeners** – Our regular visits to Bunhill led to a happy collaboration with the Friends of City Gardens whose work we now support and who include as part of their biodiversity tours the resting places of William and Catherine and Blake's mother in their open days.
- **BUNHILL OPEN DAYS** – Invited by the Friends of City Gardens we have now been part of three Bunhill Open Days, 13 October 2024 and 23 March 2025 and also the National Gardens Open Day, 8th June 2024, where our role is to talk about Blake and Nature. These events were well attended and very successful. We created info sheets, gave talks, shared Blake's poems and promoted the work we do. Visitors stayed far longer than they intended enjoying the uplifting vibration of the peaceful place.
- **Regular Events at Bunhill** – We organised events thus creating opportunity for people to gather at Blake's resting place such as 'Meditation with Blake' Bank Holiday Monday 2023 and lay flowers for the anniversaries of Blake and Catherine's interment at Bunhill, 18th August and 23rd October and also Catherine's birthday on 25th April. We are grateful for the support of City of London Corporation, City Gardens especially Sharon Hollington and Dan Rosenberg who facilitate these gatherings.

HOUSE OF WILLIAM BLAKE

We addressed the many concerns of the residents of Mayfair that the last surviving London home of William Blake at 17 South Molton Street W1K 5QT, previously housing small businesses, was now being renovated as a private residence. They and we see this as an opportunity instead to create a lasting legacy for Blake at this site for present and future generations worldwide, similar to Handel House, Rembrandt, Charles Dickens and Mozart House - as a dedicated cultural centre, the 'House of William Blake'.

We actively promote a Blake centre in London and are liaising with Grosvenor Property UK through the guidelines both Grosvenor and English Heritage have provided on the development of presentation proposal. To render such a cultural site, important for the heritage of our Nation and to the entire world, *inaccessible* to the public is deeply objectionable to Blake specialists, aficionados and the general public.

Activities:

- **Stakeholders** - We met with the owning company Grosvenor Property UK 's Director for the South Molton Triangle Development Simon Armstrong. We presented the proposal for a partnership between the key stakeholders Grosvenor, Westminster Council, English Heritage and NWECA and Mayor of London and the creation of a separate charitable entity to develop and run the venture.
- **Gaining support** - To this end, over many months, we created presentations on the vision for the property, its heritage and cultural value, comparative studies of other successful historic houses. The project is supported by long list of professional advisors and sector consultants with support from key institutions such as the Tate Britain, Westminster Council, NWECA, Museum of the Home, British Library, Royal Academy of Music, UNESCO BMW based in Washington.
- **Successful historic houses as models** – Specialist professionals offered their time pro bono to contribute to presentations to help build the case. We are especially indebted to Tracy Marsh, MD of Hush Project Management, Mayler Colton, Partner of Claque Heritage Architects and the Directors of Charles Dickens House and Handel House and Sir John Soane's House and Van Gogh House in London, Rembrandt's House, Robert Burns's Birthplace Museum, House of Dante were very generous with their time.
- **Pre-Application** – We raised money to pay the fee for submitting to Westminster Council a pre-application for planning for change of use of the property as a test to establish the practicality of the project. Westminster Council reported that based on the submission a change of use is supported in principle by Westminster City Council.
- **GLA London Assembly support** - Earlier this year we presented a motion that was passed by the Greater London Authority (GLA) London Assembly in support of the proposal for a dedicated William Blake cultural centre at No17 South Molton Street.

NEW PROJECTS

With the charity more established this year and in addition to the ongoing projects to promote the life and works of William Blake we were able to progress with the plans to create a series of Blake Walks around the City and widen our research into other Blake related locations.

William Blake Golden String Walks

Currently four walks have been created and delivered by Trustee Simon Clarke: 'Blake's Birthday Walk'; 'The Chartered Streets'; and 'South Molton Street to Chancery Lane' which all begin outside Blake's house on South Molton Street. The fourth walk is the 'Blake and

Primrose Hill'. The walks have been running since November 2024. Audio versions of these Walks are also in preparation. During Blake's Birthday Walk we acknowledged the similar birthday time of Jimi Hendrix. This gave us an opportunity to build on our relationship with Handel /Hendrix House which we included and visited as part of the Walk.

Fountain Court Model

Our newly appointed Trustee Mark Riley began working on a project to highlight Blake's final residence at Fountain Court on the Strand where Blake took his last breath. Research was undertaken and a connection made with the Savoy Hotel now standing on the site. The aim is to produce a model that can clearly show the location of the house in relation to the present-day hotel complex.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT and OUTREACH

We were delighted to be able to engage with different communities this year. We worked with VAI, Voluntary Action Islington, to create our charitable objects and networked with different groups when we attended their seminars and workshops on various topics relating to all aspects of running a charity.

Through Islington's 'Big Alliance' programme we connected with other charities and businesses whose aim is also to create positive social impact. We were chosen to receive the combined wisdom and expertise of corporate volunteers via a Corporate Consultancy workshop run by Big Alliance which was invaluable.

We also attended and contributed to a publishing workshop organised by Cubitt Community Press newspaper.

On the House of William Blake project we liaise with Grosvenor's Community Lead Nicola Rochfort, the Mayfair Neighbourhood Forum and The Residents' Society of Mayfair and St. James's. We donated Blake books to the Mayfair Library.

We delivered a Blake and Primrose Hill Walk for Primrose Hill Community Association. We connected with the Shaw Society and were very touched and honoured to receive, as a gift from the Shaw Society, a rare original booklet in which George Bernard Shaw explains his debt to William Blake.

REGULAR ANNIVERSARIES ESTABLISHED

We established regular gatherings around birthdays and anniversaries, a great opportunity for the Blake groups and enthusiasts and those new to William Blake to come together.

- *Catherine Blake's Birthday* - 25 April
- *Blake's Birthday Walk* - 28 November
- *Catherine Interment Bunhill* - 23 October
- *Blake Interment Bunhill.* - 18 August

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our main goal this year was to get the Charity set up and running and all the necessary administration, financial structures and governance requirements in place.

We made tentative steps in accepting donations via PayPal and Zettle and via our bank account through the Golden String Walks and through our growing mailing list. The processes for these transactions seemed to run smoothly and therefore this has given more confidence to use these systems for further fundraising in the coming year.

Restricted Funds - We raised money to cover the fee for Westminster Council's Pre-App pre planning application. This was to test the practicality of a change of use of the property at no17 South Molton Street from a private residence to a visitor attraction. This enabled a solution to the issue around planning permission for the House of William Blake project. This was a crucial step and its positive result has given more weight to already strong case to persuade the owner company to change direction in favour of the proposal.

Principle Funds - To support the work of the charity, the principal source of funds are donations. Donations have enabled the printing of promotional cards and covering the cost of Public Liability Insurance.

Brief Summary - Income in 2024, the year with most activity, was £4569 and expenditure £2226, The main, larger, donations are assigned to restricted funds for the Pre-App fee for the House of William Blake Fellowship.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Due to being more visible in the latter part of this financial period we are indebted to the contribution to the Charity by volunteers. Whether it was offering key services and expertise *pro bono* for the House of William Blake project or helping to clean and decorate Blake's resting place with flowers and poems, the work of the charity, thanks to their support, has been enhanced tenfold.

Thank you Bloomsbury Flowers, Covent Garden for the beautiful arrangements donated for the resting places of William, Catherine and Blake's mother for National Gardens Open Weekend. We also appreciate and thank all those who donated to London House of William Blake project and for the continued work of the Fellowship.

We especially thank the ongoing support of Tracy Marsh, MD of Hush Project Management Consultant and Mayler Colton partner Claque Architects for the invaluable work they have done in promoting the value of the House of William Blake as an international centre. The project could not have come as far without the dedicated application of your specialist skills.

Also we appreciate the support and expertise of Simon Weil, Director Handel/Hendrix House, Dr Cindy Sughrue, Director Charles Dickens House, Alice Childs, CFO Van Gogh House in London and Dr Bruce Boucher, then Director, Sir John Soames House, Marie Harper

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FELLOWSHIP

Nick Duncan, Luis and Carol Garrido
 Mark Papayanou, Devi Grewal
 Claudia Watson, Robert DrePaul,
 Anoma Radkevitch Bloomsbury Flowers Covent Garden,
 Matt Cooper and Anna Burrage Labour councillors
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 Clare and Graham Wood, Katy Carr

BUNHILL FIELDS RESTING PLACE

Susannah Cohen, Louise Choo, Friends of City Gardens
 Sharon Hollington City of London Corporation City Gardens
 Dan Rosenberg City Gardens Keeper Bunhill Fields
 Roxanne Kindersley and Vincent Kindersley of Cardozo Kindersley Workshop, Cambridge
 The Blake Society, William Blake Congregation
 Shirin Parker, Mary Keenan, Aryavachin Dharmachari
 Sangeev Lal, Priti Patel, Evelyn Ellis, The Shaw Society

HOUSE OF WILLIAM BLAKE for their time and support

Epcó Runia, Carey Dinger, Directors of Rembrandt House
 Chris Waddell Robert Burns Birthplace Museum
 Dr. Marcia Balisciano, Director Benjamin Franklin
 Sonia Solicari – Director Museum of the Home
 Dr. Olivia Horsfall Turner, then V&A, now Chief Curator RIBA.
 Tullia Carlino Hautmann, House of Dante House Florence
 The Rt Hon. the Lord Vaizey of Didcot
 Alex Farquharson, Director Tate Britain
 Amanda House Senior Archivist Westminster Archives
 Amy Concannon, Senior Curator Tate Britain
 Kate Logan, Historic Properties Director, English Heritage

Michael Phillips, world expert Blake printing methods
 Justine Simons Deputy Mayor
 Tom King, Director Southern Territories/London, English Heritage
 Louise Dando, Marketing Director English Heritage
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 Joe Kaul CEO Onqor Group, Matthew Chatfield
 Marie Harper, Denis Severs House, Ann Hooper GuM Studios
 Mark Kendrick, Kendrick Hobbs Consultants, Jinjo Garten, Jinjo Museum Consultant
 Ralph Lambert/John Munroe Immersive International

CONNECTED CHARITIES

We work closely with our sister Blake groups, the William Blake Congregation and the Blake Society also Blake Fest, Blake Bloc and the Blake Cottage Trust. We attend and support each other's events and in the areas we have in common to Blake i.e., Bunhill Fields, Blake's London home at South Molton Street and places of interest we consult with each other on best practice and ways forward. We also engage with the Swedenborg Society via Swedenborg House, Spitalfields Trust (Dennis Severs House).

PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

We aim to continue with the projects we are currently working on in Education, at Bunhill, for the House of William Blake, Fountain Court and Blake Walks.

- *Our next Golden String Walk is on 25 May – ‘Blake and Primrose Hill’ 2025*
- *The next Open Day is the National Gardens Open Weekend on Saturday 7 June 2025*

Funding - We aim to strengthen our fundraising potential by applying for Gift Aid and exploring Legacy Giving. We will also explore arts funding routes for one or more of the projects we are planning.

Speakers - We will continue to identify specialist contributors for presentations of different aspects of Blake’s work including speakers who can relate to diverse groups in age and background. We also aim to source interesting venues for these presentations and collaborate more with Cubitt Publishing, VAI, The Big Alliance; Islington People’s Theatre.

Blake 2027-We will continue to explore possibilities for a William Blake Fellowship 2027 programme and liaise with all the other Blake groups to create a joint programme for the double anniversary of Blake’s birth (1757) and death (1827) in 2027.

International - We will continue to grow our connection and build relationships within London and the UK, e.g., Swedenborg and Handel House and the Shaw Society and with individuals and groups interested in Blake and promote Blake in other countries around the world.

ENDS

WILLIAM BLAKE FELLOWSHIP TRUSTEES’ ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD: 4 AUGUST 2023 – 7 MAY 2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - William Blake Fellowship - 4 August 2023 - 7 May 2025

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, CIO Foundation – Registered Charity Number 1204221

	2025	2025	2024	2024	
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	
Income:					
Donations and Legacies			4250	232	
Charitable Activities				87	William Blake Golden String Walks
				0	
Other trading activities					
Investments					
Total Income		60	4250	319	
Expenditure:					
Raising funds		55		156	Printing/Promotion
Overheads				138	Insurance
Charitable Activities			1932		Pre-App Submission to Westminster Council
Total Expenditure		55	1932	294	
Total Reconciliation of Funds			2318	55	
Funds Brought Forward	2318	100	0	75	
Total Net Movement of Funds	0	105	2318	25	
Funds Carried Forward					
Total Funds Carried Forward	2318	105	2318	100	