

Company registration number: 14383513
Charity registration number: 1209088

**THE SUSTAINABLE DARKROOM LTD
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2025**

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD

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ARTIST-LED, RESEARCH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPING
LOW-TOXICITY
CHEMISTRIES AND
PRACTICES IN
PHOTOGRAPHY



The
Sustainable
Darkroom

Annual Trustees Report

The Sustainable Darkroom is an artist-led research community dedicated to developing low-toxic practices in photography. This Annual Trustees Report sets out our activities achievements, and financial position for years 2024-2025.

A YEAR OF DEEPENING LOCAL ROOTS AND EXPANDED INTERNATIONAL REACH

From international conferences and exhibitions, to new workshops and community initiatives within the UK - we continue to be at the forefront of research in photography and the environment.

This report shows we remain committed to advancing our goals of sustainable photographic practice and environmental education, in what has been a particularly active and impactful year.

SNAPSHOT

1200+

Books sold and
distributed worldwide

200

New members to our
Patreon community

1000+

Workshop and event
attendees

OVERVIEW OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

Launch of 'Back to Basics Vol. I: A Guide to Ecological Photo Chemistry'

- This book, Sustainable Darkroom's fourth publication, was written by our long-time collaborator, Andrés Pardo of *CuriosoLab*. It provides an insight into his years of research while offering readers recipes and techniques that promote the use of sustainable practices within photography. The launch was held in Andrés' home country of Uruguay, at the *Catholic University of Uruguay* on the 26th of November, with Hannah present on behalf of Sustainable Darkroom and to give talks to advance our charitable aims around the world.

Release of 'Back to Basics Vol. II: Extended Recipes for Ecological Photo Chemistry'

- This second volume of Andrés' research, our fifth publication, delves deeper into low-toxicity photographic developers and offers readers insightful tips, innovative techniques, and unique recipes including Muddy developer built entirely from household natural ingredients, and sugar-based developers with extremely long shelf lives.
- We had a free online book launch with 50+ attendees worldwide with a Q&A session with Andrés, Hannah, and Edd. Online launches are especially important as it makes the event, research, and discussion accessible for our global community of cultural practitioners.
- Hannah travelled to New York in September to launch the book at *Mono No Aware's* plant-based photography conference. Here, Hannah also led a panel discussion at the *Centre of Fiction* with Andrés, Adrian Cousins (a prominent UK-based filmmaker and amateur chemist) as well as Dr. Scott Williams of *Rochester Institute of Technology*, the inventor of Caffinol. Having a prominent session at such a highly regarded international conference helped to spread our research and charitable work to an even greater audience, promoting the aim of sustainable photography in the USA, where previously it had been lacking.

'Sustainable Photography?' Conference

- In collaboration with *Falmouth University's Institute of Photography*, we curated and co-hosted the world's first conference presenting research into sustainable photographic techniques and pedagogy from the 2nd to 4th of July in Falmouth, Cornwall.
- Over 30 speakers from the UK, Europe, Australia, South Africa, and North America presented their research to over 100 attendees, with workshops by the Sustainable Darkroom and others, as well as an art exhibition and research poster presentation.
- This was a transformative step for our charity by working with a reputable photography University, to spread awareness of our work and to have the opportunity to learn from such a diverse range of artists and researchers. This further solidified our organisation's work within academia as a valuable learning source to present and future staff and students.
- There was also a film screening in the Fish Factory, an independent venue in Falmouth, as part of the wider conference activities with Edd as co-curator.

Kestle Barton Residence

- This week-long residency in Helford, Cornwall, was used by Hannah and Edd to research and test new recipes and processes for copper and iron emulsions, copper chloride reversal as well as developing alternatives to animal gelatines for silver emulsions. This continual research and development lies at the heart of Sustainable Darkroom's charitable mission in order to always be at the forefront of sustainable photography.
- With Make It Better CIC, a local organisation supporting individuals with social prescribing needs, we then hosted free and accessible workshops exploring the above techniques to great success and positive feedback.

'My Work Here Is Done' Exhibition in Finland

- Hannah, Edd and Alice were commissioned by *Luovake* (The Centre for Creative Photography in Jyväskylä) to present a photographic exhibition which took a critical stance on materials in photography, open to the public from the 8th of May to 29th of June at the *Galleria Ratamo*, Jyväskylä.
- We installed the exhibition and also hosted a number of workshops and events, around including: a filmmaking workshop developing Super 8 in low-toxicity developers, soil chromatography, sustainable thinking, and finally a in-depth 2-day 'Composting Chemistry' workshop at *Filmverkstaden* in Vaasa, Finland (May 17-18).
- Further, from an Open Call for short films exploring the theme of ecology - whether through their materials, concept or both - we curated and screened the 'Blurred Ecologies: A Night of Moving Image' event in conjunction with the exhibition at a local cinema in Jyväskylä. The event included a panel discussion and Q&A session with Edd Carr from Sustainable Darkroom, philosopher and activist Elisa Aaltola, and filmmaker Blake Knecht.

Further Group Exhibitions

- We have been lucky enough to be invited to exhibit our research and artworks at multiple international galleries over the years which is a fantastic opportunity to promote our charitable work by presenting our sustainable photographic practices to a wider audience. This year, other exhibitions include:
- 'Touch of Nature' at the *Municipal Gallery* in Bydgoszcz, Poland from the 23rd of January until the 23rd of March, 2025.
- 'Beyond Visual: Aperture as Earth' for Rotterdam Art Week 2025 at *Keile Contemporary* from March 27th to 30th, 2025.

'Bury After Reading: The Afterlife of Images - Collected Writings

- This year we were awarded a grant of £1500 from the *Richard and Siobhan Coward Foundation* to publish our sixth book. This new publication represents a distinct turning point for our charity beyond the sustainable recipes and techniques that we have been initially focusing on, towards more theoretical and future-focused ideas.
- Through an Open Call, we invited practitioners to contribute written pieces that challenge existing structures of image-making, with a focus on working towards a sustainable future.
- We received over 340 submissions from all corners of the globe and, after an extensive reviewing process, settled on 11 authors that will collectively interrogate the future of photography as well as the environmental, social, and political afterlives of photographs.
- We are currently in the final editing stages for this project, and we strongly believe it will effectively promote sustainability and advance education, while provoking further discussion about the future of photography and how it should look.

The Production and Release of Our On-Demand Workshop Series

- All of our workshops to date, both in person and online, have been live events. However, this may not suit everyone who wants to participate, due to work, care commitments, or even the fact that they live overseas - finding it hard to make the timezones work. Because we are determined to advance education in environmental photography, we wanted our charitable work to be available to people who were unable to participate.
- As such, we developed on-demand videos for people to purchase and pursue in their own time, at their own pace, from anywhere in the world. The workshops cover plant-based developers, salt-based and alternative photographic fixers, managing waste in photography, as well as a course bridging the gap between developing an ecological art practice and project planning and funding.
- We also gave people the option to have a 1:1 online session with one of our educators, to review the initial tests and troubleshoot any problems that they encountered.

The Year's Workshops in Review

- **Bristol Workshop Week**
 - We hosted our annual workshop week at Bristol's Folk House Darkroom in the first week of September. Teaching a diverse range of techniques, it also included entirely new workshops such as 'Plant-Based Colour Image-Making and Printing' and the 'Semi-Solid Muddy developer for both film and prints'.
 - We had over 35 participants over the week, some travelling internationally from Canada and Kuwait. We also offered the 'Alternative Photographic Fixatives' workshop as a live-streamed event in order for the many people on the waiting list and others not able to travel to access from the comfort of their homes.
 - We re-screened the 'Blurred Ecologies: A Night of Moving Image' film event at the Folk House to a UK audience, following the success of the initial screening in Finland.

- **'Slow Photography Online' series of workshops**

- Our Slow Photography series are extended online workshops delving deep into a variety of themes and techniques over multiple sessions. They all proved extremely popular, with over 100 attendees responding with positive feedback.
- Workshops covered 'Ideas of Ethics and Ecology' in collaboration with *The Photo Ethics Centre*, and 'Implanting Ecological Practice into Project Planning & Funding', to more hands-on workshops like Edd's ever-popular cyanotype animation. It was encouraging to see the positive ecological impact this series has made by transforming artists' practice to be more sustainable across the board.

- ***analogueNOW!* Festival**

- Hannah was invited by the festival, which took place in Berlin from May 23rd to the 25th, to give a lecture on 'Ecology & Image' as well as lead workshops on making and working with plant-based developers and soil chromatography.

- **We have also led many other workshops throughout the year in the UK and Europe including:**

- A full day workshop for *Berlin Arts University* around 'Navigating through landscape, analogue photography on the move'. Here students were responsible for constructing all aspects of the production of the image: from the camera, to the darkroom, to the chemistry.
- A year-long silver reclamation project with *LABO BxL* as well as the delivery of a two-day intensive workshop on silver emulsions, silver reclamation and salt printing at their lab in Brussels, delivered in collaboration with *CuriosoLab*.
- Four workshops for the National Trust at Lacock Abbey. These were part of our ongoing work with Lacock Abbey to develop their site and gardens into an active site of research, drawing on the historical photographic research produced by Henry Fox Talbot while living there. During the workshops we worked with some of the trees that Fox Talbot had planted in the garden and connected histories of photography with contemporary research into lower-toxicity methods.
- A separate workshop at Lacock Abbey for *Kandu Arts*.
- Phytogram and Muddy chemigram workshops for *The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh* as part of their 'Routes to Roots' day of discussions and workshops aimed at integrating plant humanities into institutions via artistic practice.
- A herbal-tea image-making workshop as part of *Bristol Experimental Expanded Film's* 10-year anniversary celebration.
- A chemigram workshop at *Studio Monde* and *318 Art Lab*, London.
- A workshop for *Bedford College*.
- A workshop for *Westminster University* as part of their 'Sustainability Month'.
- Delivery of training for staff at *Merseyside Studios*. We supported them through online consultation, followed by a full day in-person at their space, where Hannah shared her expertise in local low-toxicity developers and waste management systems that could be implemented in their new community darkroom.



ACHIEVEMENTS

In the past year, we have sold over 1200 books - 851 physical books and 391 of the digital versions. Many of these books have gone to universities and libraries across the world including; *Bodleian Libraries*, *UAL Libraries*, *Bournemouth Arts University*, *University of Western England*, *Glasgow School of Arts*, *Falmouth University*, *Kingston University*, *Architectural Association*, *Mono No Aware's New York Library*, *Photo Book Cafe*, *University of Montevallo*, *University of Sydney*, *Photo Access*, and the *Peckham Book Fair*.

The large amount of sales of our publications as well as their stock in public libraries around the world furthers our charity's purposes of promoting sustainable practice and advancing education in the field which has in turn made an overwhelmingly positive difference to our beneficiaries, both direct and indirect.

Sustainable Darkroom has supported over 10 funding applications by individuals seeking to lower the toxicity of their practice. This directly benefits these artists who are looking to make a positive ecological impact with the making of their art.

We were also very pleased to have been awarded a £1500 grant from the *Richard and Siobhan Coward Foundation* for our upcoming sixth book, 'Bury After Reading: The Afterlife of Images - Collected Writings'. This grant will go towards paying the writers in order to properly compensate them for their work and creative output. While this directly benefits the writers, it also indirectly supports our community and the wider arts environment by standing as an example of payment to artists for their work.

We have had over 200 new *Patreon* members of the past year - 52 paid memberships and 165 free. This brings our active membership to 433 in total with 113 of these paid memberships and 320 free. Our *Patreon* helps us further our charitable work by being a thriving online community that directly contributes to our work. At the same time, it acts as a tool to communicate events and disseminate research, as well as hosting internal events and discourse between members, always having a consistent and positive impact on our beneficiaries.

Sustainable Darkroom has had a number of articles written about our charitable work including; an interview and feature in *Source Magazine*, another interview and feature in *Art Studies Magazine* of the Screen Arts Department of the Institute of Art Studies, Sofia, Bulgaria as well as an article about our charity in *Photo Monitor* by Laura Bivolaru.

Lastly, our work with the National Trust at Lacock Abbey has resulted in a Sustainable Darkroom interpretation panel being installed in their Botanical Garden in Lacock. This is something that we are extremely proud of as it tangibly connects Sustainable Darkroom with the history of photography. Moreover, it serves to educate a wide and varied audience in the work of our charity and, most importantly, in the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment through sustainable photographic practices.



**The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025**

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

J Bradford
N T Lebon
J L Gane
M K King

Charity Number

1209088

Company Number

14383513

Registered Office

Flat 4, 117 High St
Marske-by-the-Sea
Redcar
TS11 6JX

Independent Examiner

I Hate Numbers FCCA
I Hate Numbers
ACCA
29-35 Forester Building
St. Nicholas Place
Leicester
Leicestershire
LE1 4LD

**The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Trustees' Report (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025**

Small Company Rules

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



J L Gane

Trustee

08/07/2026

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 October 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of 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 charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by 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 an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and 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 (FRS 102).

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.



I Hate Numbers FCCA
08/07/2026
29-35 Forester Building
St. Nicholas Place
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LE1 4LD

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

				2025
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	3	2,698	1,500	4,198
Charitable activities:				
Book sales		75,621	-	75,621
Shipping and delivery income		2,815	-	2,815
Training income		155	-	155
Workshops		3,731	-	3,731
Investments	4	8	-	8
		85,028	1,500	86,528
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds	5	(67,473)	-	(67,473)
Charitable activities:	5			
Other		376	-	376
		(67,097)	-	(67,097)
NET INCOME		17,931	1,500	19,431
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		17,931	1,500	19,431
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward		11,116	-	11,116
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	12	29,047	1,500	30,547

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Balance Sheet
As At 31 October 2025

				2025
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
		£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks	9	9,052	-	9,052
Debtors	10	8,269	-	8,269
Cash at bank and in hand		17,573	-	17,573
		34,894	-	34,894
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	11	(4,347)	-	(4,347)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		30,547	-	30,547
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		30,547	-	30,547
NET ASSETS		30,547	-	30,547
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY				
Restricted Funds				1,500
Unrestricted Funds				29,047
TOTAL FUNDS	12			30,547

For the year ending 31 October 2025 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

On behalf of the board



J L Gane

Trustee

08/07/2026

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

1. General Information

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 14383513 and registered charity number 1209088. The registered office is Flat 4, 117 High St, Marske-by-the-Sea, Redcar, TS11 6JX.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

2.2. Incoming Resources

Recognition of income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income with related expenditure

Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.

Donations and legacies

Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.

Donated services and facilities

These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.

2.3. Resources Expended

Recognition of expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual's basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Expenditure on raising funds

These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities

These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.

Other expenditure

These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

2.4. Stocks and Work in Progress

Stocks and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out method. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Work in progress is reflected in the accounts on a contract by contract basis by recording turnover and related costs as contract activity progresses.

At the end of each reporting period stocks are assessed for impairment. If an item of stock is impaired, the identified stock is reduced to its selling price less costs to complete and sell and an impairment charge is recognised in the statement of financial activities. Where a reversal of the impairment is required the impairment charge is reversed, up to the original impairment loss, and is recognised as a credit in the statement of financial activities.

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

2.5. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
Donations and gifts	2,698	-	2,698
Grants	-	1,500	1,500
	<u>2,698</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>4,198</u>

Income from Donations and Legacies include gift in kind accounting services of £1,200 inc. VAT

The following grants are included within the total income from donations and legacies above:

4. Investment Income

	2025 Unrestricted funds £
Bank interest receivable	<u>8</u>

5. Analysis of Expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs (see note 6) £	2025 Total £
Raising funds	49,831	17,642	67,473

6. Support Costs

	2025 Raising funds £
Employee costs	1,425
Premises expenses	375
General administration	12,886
Interest payable	856
Governance costs	2,100
	<u>17,642</u>

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

7. Independent Examiner's Remuneration

Independent examiners fees

2025

£

Independent examination of the financial statements

900

8. Average Number of Employees

Average number of employees during the year was: NIL

9. Stocks

2025

£

Stock

9,052

10. Debtors

2025

£

Due within one year

Trade debtors

1,354

Other debtors

6,915

8,269

11. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

2025

£

Trade creditors

389

Bank loans and overdrafts

1,457

Accruals and deferred income

2,501

4,347

12. Movement in Funds

	As at 1 November 2024	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 October 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	11,116	85,028	(67,097)	29,047
Restricted funds				
Richard and Siobhan Foundation	-	1,500	-	1,500
Total funds	11,116	86,528	(67,097)	30,547

13. Transactions with Trustees

During the year the expenses reimbursed to the trustees or paid directly to third parties were as follows:

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

2025

£

14. Related Party Disclosures

15. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

	2025
	Total
	funds
	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:	
Donations and legacies	
Donations and gifts	2,698
Grants	1,500
	4,198
Charitable Activities:	
Book sales	
Book sales	75,621
	75,621
Shipping and delivery income	
Shipping and delivery income	2,815
	2,815
Training income	
Training income	55
Educational Licence	100
	155
Workshops	
Workshops	3,731
	3,731
Investments	
Bank interest receivable	8
	8
	86,528
EXPENDITURE ON:	
Raising funds	
Exhibition/Screening fee	(2,586)
Teaching fee	(22,120)
Materials	(303)
Freelancer costs	(14,437)
Other direct costs	(10,385)
Staff training	(33)
Travel and subsistence expenses	(1,392)
Rent	(375)
Computer software, consumables and maintenance	(135)
Postage	(4,196)
Advertising and marketing costs	(2,838)
Legal fees	(109)
Consultancy fees	(2,584)
Royalties and licence fees payable	(2,013)
Bank charges	(802)
Entertaining	(62)

...CONTINUED

The Sustainable Darkroom LTD
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
(continued)
For The Year Ended 31 October 2025

Sundry expenses	1
Bank Revaluations	(148)
Bank charges	(856)
Independent examiner's fees	(900)
Accountancy fees	(1,200)
	(67,473)
Other	
Refunds	376
	376
	(67,097)
NET INCOME	19,431