THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND

England & Wales · Charity number 219952

Details

Other names	RLF
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1964-04-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	3 Johnson's Court Off Fleet Street London EC4A 3EA
Phone	02073537159
Email	edward.kemp@royalliteraryfund.org.uk
Website	www.rlf.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (A) THE RELIEF OF POOR AND DISTRESSED AUTHORS OF PUBLISHED WORKS OF APPROVED LITERARY MERIT INCLUDING IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE AND OF THE FAMILIES OF SUCH DECEASED AUTHORS WHO ARE THEMSELVES IN DISTRESS AND IN NEED OF RELIEF. (B) THE ADVANCEMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE PUBLIC TASTE IN THE FIELD OF LITERARY WORK.

Activities: Helps published authors or performed playwrights of several works who are in financial difficulties through grants and pensions. Also runs various activities for the "advancement of public education".

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£4,268,586	£9,135,868	£191,719,859	12
2024-03-31	£4,220,139	£8,328,366	£194,223,578	11
2023-03-31	£3,160,852	£7,816,992	£183,978,091	9
2022-03-31	£4,716,593	£6,737,678	£195,699,786	7
2021-03-31	£3,051,218	£6,648,232	£181,712,910	5

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Sir Ian Craig Blatchford	Chair	2020-11-11
Andrew McMillan		2026-05-14
Brenda Gardner		2017-12-13
COLIN LUKE		2012-01-04
Colin Peter Ludlow		2021-11-11
Dan Franklin		2016-03-09
Dorothy Sheila Irving		2024-09-12
Dreda Say Mitchell MBE		2020-10-13
Fiona Sampson MBE		2020-10-13
George Graham		2020-09-09
Janelle Davy		2022-01-12
Judith Murray		2022-01-12
Kerry Glencorse		2025-11-13
MICHAEL SYMMONS ROBERTS		2016-03-09
Marianne Velmans		2020-11-11
Mark Gardiner		2024-11-08
Mark Lawson		2020-10-13
Paula Hawkins		2022-09-08
Rosalynn Try-Hane		2024-04-11
Sammia Hamer		2024-07-11
Susheila Nasta		2022-09-08
Terence Blacker		2016-03-09

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THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 219952

Accounts

Annual Report 2025

RLF

SUPPORTING
WRITERS
SINCE 1790

“You consistently restore my faith in humanity.”

RLF Beneficiary 2025

The Royal Literary Fund
Trustees’ report and financial statements

The trustees present their Annual Report and Accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The administrative information set out on the back page and pages 78-79 forms part of this report. The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the charity's governing document and current statutory requirements including Charities Act 2011 and 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).

Registered Charity number 219952
31 March 2025

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Photography and illustration credits: Tony Hay, Ben Hickey, Fernando Manoso, Fran Pulido, Darya Semenova, Jennifer Tapias Derch and Adïam Yemane.

Trustees' Report

Trustees' Report

INTRODUCTION

During the year in review the staff explored the development of a new three-year strategy, looking in particular to improve the integration of the range of opportunities offered to writers across the RLF's work. To support these plans, there has also been the exploration of alternative sources of income to ensure that the Fund can continue to deliver and develop our full range of programmes. These sources include exploiting the range of copyrights and literary estates bequeathed to the RLF, with the new website now collating the information on our estates into a single publicly accessible format. Meanwhile, the level of interest in some of our bequests remains high, with David Pugh's commission of a new version of W Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife* by Laura Wade selling out at the RSC and embarking on a National Tour.

In all our programmes we have been attentive to the growing use of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, Claude and Grok, and other forms of machine learning. On the one hand, such programmes are reducing the earning capacity of writers through their use in copywriting, report writing and commercial translation, all fields that many writers use as sources of income to support their less commercial work; this is reflected in grant applications. Meanwhile, RLF Fellows are proving adept at adjusting to some of the alternative forms of assessment that universities are exploring in place of traditional essays. However, it is also clear that the current limitations of LLMs leave many areas where the professional writer's skill is paramount for those who value the experience of writing mediated through human interaction, be that with an RLF Fellow at a university or NHS Recovery College, or at a *WritersMosaic* live event at Bradford Literature Festival.

We welcomed four new trustees: Rosalynn Try-Hane, Sammia Hamer, Dotti Irving and Mark Gardiner. Ellah Wakatama, Colin Ludlow and Susheila Nasta joined the new *WritersMosaic* Board, a subcommittee of the General Committee.

Following the recommendations of external reports by Anthea Case and Susan Hitch and an additional governance review undertaken by Caroline McCormick of Achates, the trustees agreed to create a Grants Committee. Although historically the allocation of grants has been a key role for all trustees, the growing complexity and breadth of the Fund's activities, with over 50% of expenditure directed to non-grant programmes, has necessitated this re-balancing to ensure both that General Committee members can fulfil their statutory duties as charitable trustees and that there is sufficient governance capacity to review and approve grant applications. The new Grants Committee met for the first time in April 2025.

As part of the digitisation of the Grants department and launch of the new website last year, we now have a fully operational customer relationship management system (CRM) to track and record grant applications; this also includes the data of over 6,155 historical beneficiaries since 1790, a valuable first step in building a history of how writers have engaged with us. We have begun to gather demographic data on applicants for all RLF programmes in order to monitor and evaluate the impact of our work.

After almost 30 years with the RLF, Vanessa Holt left her role as Grants Assistant in November 2024. We are enormously grateful to Vanessa for her many years of service to the Fund. Following Vanessa's departure, two new part-time roles of Grants Officer were created.

Natalie Styles of CounterCulture took on the role of HR Consultant, working with the Chief Executive to ensure HR practice at the Fund is up to date, reviewing policies and contracts and conducting job evaluation and external bench-marking exercises.

"Funding from the RLF has made me feel valued and protected as a writer – it's changed my life."

Writer supported by the RLF

Trustees' Report

Since our relaunch of the RLF brand last year we have seen significant growth digitally and in the number of grant enquiries via our website. From May to December alone, our new website received over 227,000 page visits, while our dedicated grants section received over 15.2k visits, a 6,500% increase compared to the same period the year before. Over the past 12 months our paid media and social activities have resulted in the Grants department receiving over 690 enquiries, with 34% eligible for application. The RLF now has over 3.1k email newsletter subscribers and over 14.4k social media followers, whilst our Substack and website editorial continues to evolve, featuring contributions from Jack Thorne, Julian Barnes, Lucy Hughes-Hallett, Lee Child and Eric Ngalle Charles. Commissioned articles have explored our historical archive, including Bram Stoker, AA Milne, and female Gothic writers who were some of the first RLF beneficiaries, along with seasonal publishing trends by RLF Fellow and journalist, Caroline Sanderson. In March, we produced and filmed our first round table discussion for dramatic writers to promote the launch of the Robert Holman Award, featuring David Eldridge, Ishy Din, Juliet Gilkes Romero, Sameera Steward, Simon Stephens, alongside grant recipients Joe Ward Munrow and Joe White.

Although based in London, the RLF's network is national, with Fellows, beneficiaries and partners throughout all four nations of the UK. We have been discussing ways of strengthening and enhancing this network to benefit both the RLF and the wider literary community. RLF Fellow John Siddique has taken on the part-time role of Northern Projects Co-ordinator to develop the RLF and *WritersMosaic's* links in the region.

In January 2025, we launched our re-formulated podcast, *Collected*. Guests have included Kate Mosse and Ella Frears. Producer and RLF Fellow Ann Morgan has assembled a team of regular co-presenters drawn from RLF Fellows: Julia Copus, Paul Dodgson, Sonia Faleiro, Doug Johnstone, Juliet Gilkes Romero, Caroline Sanderson and Jonathan Tulloch.

After a number of years with Moore Kingston Smith, the trustees chose to invite tenders for new auditors. In a process overseen by the Treasurers, Saffery LLP were selected. This is the first report prepared under their guidance. We are grateful to all the team at MKS for their support and advice over the years.

More detail on the RLF's activities within the year is provided in the reports that follow.

Edna O'Brien, RLF grant beneficiary who died on 27 July 2024.
Photo by Jan Brown © National Portrait Gallery, London.

Trustees' Report

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Fund was established in 1790. It was incorporated and granted a Charter in 1818 and in 1842 this was made a Royal Charter. Subsequently, the Charter has been revised by Order of the Privy Council in 1968, 2002, 2006 and most recently in 2023.

The Fund is governed by the General Committee chaired by the President, Sir Ian Blatchford, and in his absence by the Deputy President, Hilary Hale.

The General Committee defines the RLF's strategic direction and policies. Trustees ensure that the activities of the Fund are in accordance with its Royal Charter.

Historically the Committee has met 11 times a year. In the year in review four of these meetings were nominated as 'Board' meetings, when the General Committee considered the whole range of the RLF's activity, receiving and reviewing reports from subcommittees and considering the financial and strategic direction of the Fund. The remaining seven meetings focused primarily on grant-giving activity. With the creation of the Grants Committee this meeting pattern will change, with the Grants Committee continuing to meet 11 times a year and the General Committee meeting quarterly.

The General Committee delegates discussion and consideration of some areas of policy and activity to subcommittees. These are currently:

Finance and Investment (including Remuneration) – reviews budgeting, financial and investment strategy; and financial and investment performance.

Nominations – considers the appointment of trustees and co-opted advisors in collaboration with the Chief Executive and makes recommendations to the General Committee.

Education – reviews the work of the Education team, including the RLF Fellowships, Bridge, Reading Round and Writing for Life. Oversees the appointment of RLF university Fellows.

WritersMosaic – reviews the work of *WritersMosaic* and reports to the General Committee alongside the Director of *WritersMosaic*.

Executive decisions are delegated to the Chief Executive, the Co-Directors of Education and the Director of *WritersMosaic* in their respective areas of responsibility.

Trustees' Report

CHARITABLE OBJECTS

The Royal Charter (2023) delineates two charitable objects:

i. The relief of poor and distressed authors of published works of approved literary merit including important contributions to Periodical Literature and of the families of such deceased authors who are themselves in distress and in need of relief;

ii. the advancement of public education and the improvement of the public taste in the field of literary work.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the year, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

FUNDRAISING

The trustees take their responsibility under the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 seriously and have considered the implications for the RLF's activities. The Fund does not actively seek donations from the general public and does not engage any professional or third-party fundraisers. No complaints were received during the year in relation to fundraising. The trustees are therefore satisfied that it is not necessary for the Fund to have a formal fundraising policy at this time.

GRANT-GIVING

The Fund awards grants to professional authors facing financial hardship. Writers applying to the Fund must meet the eligibility criteria and may be asked to provide samples of their work.

The committee meets 11 times a year to consider applications. Before an application may be considered, the literary merit of the author must first be passed by the committee. Once passed, the committee will consider the writer's circumstances and, if need is established, a grant may be awarded.

There are three typical kinds of grants awarded to eligible applicants: a one-off grant; a non-renewable recurring grant across two or three years; or a recurring grant across five years which can be renewed. The last of these – previously referred to as 'pensions' – are inflation-indexed and generally only awarded to writers above pensionable age or those with long-term disabilities.

GRANTS

£2,115,734

The total sum of grants paid to beneficiaries during the year was £2,115,734 (2024: £1,680,943).

The total number of individual writers assisted between 01 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 was 241. Of these, 67 were new to the RLF (an increase from 46 in the previous year) and 174 had previously received grants. At 31 March 2025, the Fund had a commitment to make five-year recurring grants to 89 beneficiaries. During the year, ten new recurring grants were awarded, 11 were renewed, and eight writers in receipt of these grants died.

In December 2024 the Grants programme made available discretionary winter fuel grants for those beneficiaries over state pension age who had had their government winter fuel payment revoked at short notice due to changes in eligibility criteria. Affected writers were invited to apply and were required to submit supporting documentation. 15 writers were supported over the winter.

Following two successful grants-focused marketing campaigns in May and November 2024, the Grants programme experienced a 54% increase in applications, processing a record 177 applications from new and returning writers.

In the autumn of 2024, the Grants department appointed two new Grants Officers, Rebecca Hindmarsh and Louise Faith, to support the Head of Grants to handle the increased applications. Each officer is responsible for guiding designated applicants through the grant process and preparing grant recommendations for the trustees.

In October 2024 the RLF trustees invited Professor Matt Padley, Co-Director of the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University, for an in-depth presentation about the Minimum Income Calculator which the Grants programme uses for benchmarking an applicant's household income.

In March 2025 the Fund announced its inaugural Robert Holman Award winner, Joe Ward Munrow. The Robert Holman Award, established in memory of the playwright and RLF beneficiary, is a grant available to eligible playwrights from the north of England and is partly funded by donations to a designated fund.

Over the course of the year, the Grants programme introduced an Emergency Grants Policy and updated the eligibility guidelines for grants, with a particular focus on determining clear and fair benchmarks for professional dramatists.

EDUCATION

RLF Education programmes provide educational benefits to the public, while enabling writers to earn additional income and share their professional skills and knowledge. All our Education work stems from a belief that everyone can learn to write better, and that professional writers can act as effective agents of change to empower others.

Most writers begin their work with the RLF on the university Fellowship scheme, after which they may apply to one or more of a range of other programmes, including Bridge, Reading Round and Writing for Life.

"I have discovered I have skills and qualities that I can share with others to their benefit. I think the nature of the Fellowship is particularly brilliant for affirming the value writers have, which can sometimes become lost in the marketplace of publishing."

Lucy Ribchester, RLF Fellow

UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS

The RLF Fellowship scheme, launched in autumn 1999, places published authors from an array of genres into universities and colleges across the UK, where, through one-to-one coaching, they help students develop better writing abilities. Fellows work with students at all levels and across the disciplines.

"Your advice from last week has been some of the best and most useful feedback that I have ever received."

Fourth-year student

"Thank you for inspiring me and for helping me reconnect with the joy of writing."

MSc Sports Science student

"After meeting with you, I feel more confident in myself and in my ability to produce work to a higher standard. The encouragement and praise that you give is something often lacking in feedback from lecturers."

Second-year Nursing student

A review of the Fellowship scheme conducted by Achates in early 2024 made several recommendations under the headings Process, Impact and Value for Money. Some of the review's recommendations were already being acted on and others, in particular those around the application and recruitment process, have been implemented this year. We have also begun to collect and collate demographic data on applicants to the programme in line with the RLF's enhanced approach to monitoring. Because the scheme relies heavily on being able to identify reliable university partners and the limited direct access the RLF has to the wider body of students, some of the review's recommendations on access and inclusion are harder to respond to and impact data tends to be qualitative rather than quantitative.

In its 26th year, the Fellowship scheme welcomed 44 new recruits:

Pragya Agarwal
Melissa Bailey
Rosamund Bartlett
Jim Beckett
Emily Berry
Rahul Bery
Matt Bryden
Genevieve Carver
Maisie Chan
Satinder Chohan
Marianne Colbran
Mary Cooper
Caroline Corcoran
Kenny Emson
Suzannah Evans
Rosie Fiore-Burt
Caspar Henderson
Paul Howarth
Kathryn Hughes
Daniel Ingram-Brown
Rosemary Jenkinson
Emma John
Taran N Khan
Sophie Kirtley
Elizabeth Lewis
Howard Linskey
Darach MacDonald
Niki Mackay
Abigail Mann
Michael Mann
Toby Martinez de la Rivas
Alexander Masters
Miranda Moore
Sally O'Reilly
Ruth Padel
Lisa Parry
Sylvia Patterson
Holly Race
Lucy Ribchester
Bethany Rutter
Rebecca Stott
David Swann
Rebecca Tantony
Tony White

Another 64 Fellows continued in post from the previous year, and seven former Fellows returned to take up new posts. In total, 115 writers worked as RLF Fellows at 84 university/college postings, including five new ones: University of Aberdeen, University of Cumbria, University of Hertfordshire, Middlesex University, and the University of Sunderland in London. Additionally, two Fellows – Sita Brahmachari and Nii Ayikwei Parkes – were attached to the British Library where they provided online sessions for members.

Recruitment for posts beginning in autumn 2026 closed in March 2025. Twice as many applications were received than in the previous round.

Trustees' Report

CONSULTANT FELLOWS

The RLF Consultant Fellow (CF) programme enables RLF Fellows who have already completed university writing Fellowships to work in the Higher Education sector as self-employed independent contractors. 2024/25 was a challenging year for CFs, who, while supported by the RLF through the CF Register, are responsible for generating their own work in the sector. The financial state of HEIs, the move of doctoral training partnerships to new funding models, along with general anxiety and uncertainly across Higher Education, has meant securing work has become harder. Nonetheless our 15 active CFs delivered writing development interventions at 18 universities; CFs also worked with a further ten doctoral training entities and other institutions. Overall, CFs provided a total of 162 workshops, retreats and writing groups with one-to-one follow-up.

The CFs continued to strengthen as a community of practice, attending 10 online peer support meetings through the course of the year. The topics discussed included critical thinking, storytelling in action, and Artificial Intelligence from the perspective of both writers and universities.

As universities prepare for the 2029 Research Excellence Framework exercise, there are opportunities for CFs to work with institutions on their submissions. In particular, writing narratives for Impact Case Studies, which hold increased importance in the 2029 REF, is an area where professional writers can help academics. Chris Simms, who has relevant expertise in this area, delivered a series of workshops to eight fellow CFs, training them to take advantage of these opportunities.

Throughout the year Katie Grant, coordinator of the CF programme, kept CFs up to date with a monthly newsletter. CFs also ran 'creative hours' on an ad-hoc basis, in which they discussed their work as creative writers.

"A shout-out here to Chris Simms too for his expertise in improving our case study narratives – it has made all the difference! Overall, 88% of our impact case studies were ranked either 4* or 3*."

Impact, Engagement & Environment Coordinator, University of Salford

Trustees’ Report

BRIDGE

“Before the workshop I felt slightly lost when planning and structuring my argument, as well as developing my points. Now I feel a newfound sense of confidence going into essay writing… it’ll stick for life.”

Student, Hereford Sixth Form College

Our Bridge programme for schools provides a series of workshops that de-mystify formal and academic writing, furnishing young people with techniques and tips to develop their writing and bolster their confidence when approaching written tasks.

Bridge Fellows delivered a record 680 workshops in schools across the UK, helping thousands of young people to write better. In Scotland, where Bridge was first established, we have now worked in 30 out of 32 council areas. This year saw an increased trend for multi-Fellow Bridges where a team of Bridgers visit a school together. For the school this means that significantly more pupils in a cohort can benefit; for the writers, it reduces the time needed to organise visits and provides welcome camaraderie and mutual support.

We undertook a major review of the teaching materials, incorporating feedback from students, teachers and Fellows. There is a more explicit emphasis on structure and the workshops now include a discussion of AI and its uses. Following a small pilot, the new materials were rolled out in January 2025.

In February 2025, we successfully piloted a new version of Bridge in partnership with Diverse Futures, an organisation that creates pathways into employment for young people from low-income and diverse backgrounds. Katie Grant delivered these workshops, designed to develop practical writing for the workplace, to a number of apprentices.

BRIDGE

Feedback from students

"I was dreading the thought of longer writing tasks. I have found a new passion for critical analysis and research – as I now have the tools to write concisely and effectively."

William Perkin High School, Greenford

Feedback from teachers

"A huge thank you again to all the Fellows for their understanding and compassion with the students… We have heard from a good number of students how much they have taken away from your sessions so we know how invaluable that time is for them."

LEAPS (widening participation programme, Edinburgh)

WRITING FOR LIFE

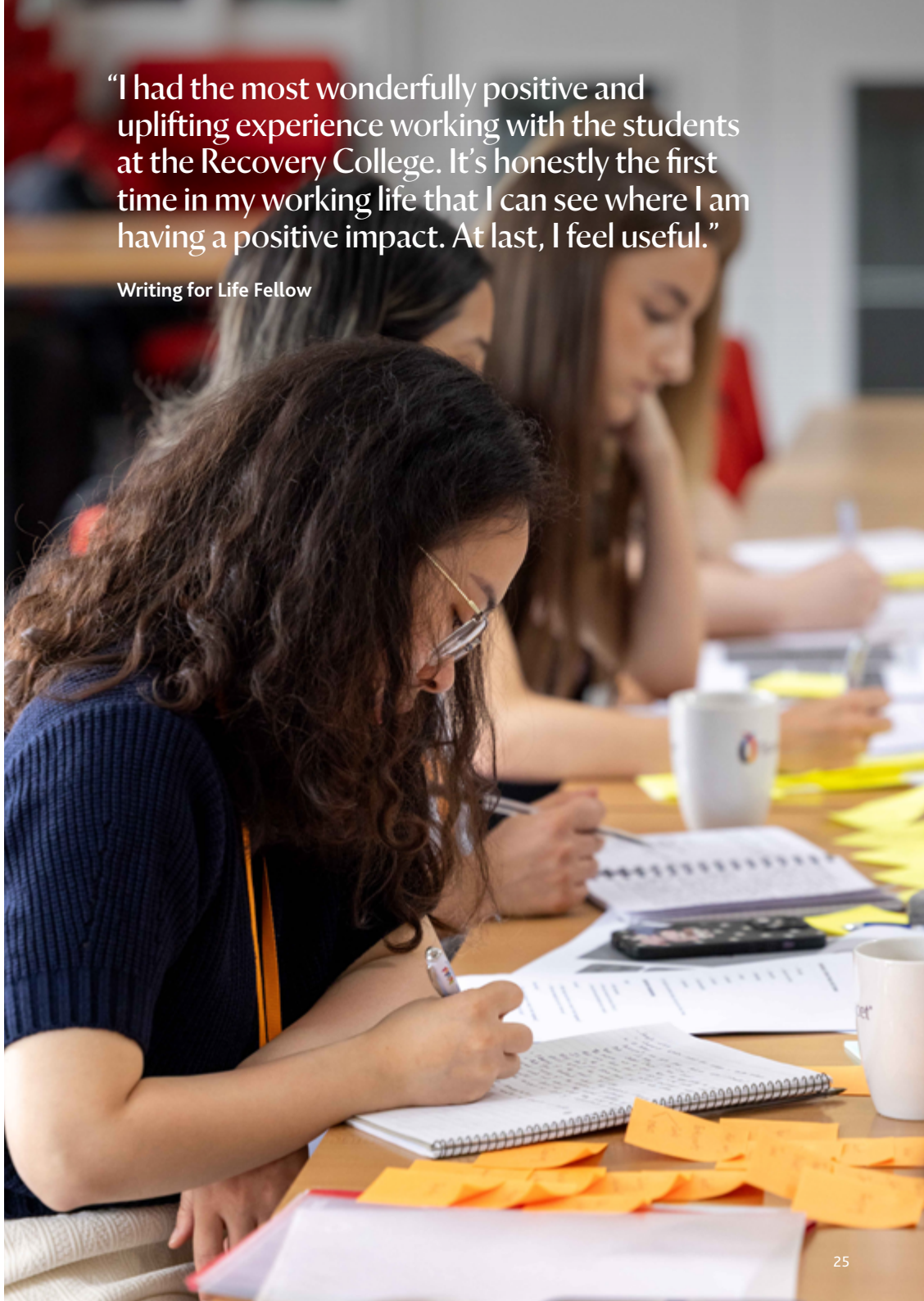
"Thank you so much for facilitating this session. It enabled us… to 'reset' our thought process and planning around demonstrating impact… I would recommend this to any organisation."

Feedback on Demonstrating Impact Workshop

During this year, we ran over 180 workshops or courses, either online or face-to-face, using our three models: Writing for Self-Expression, Writing Skills or Reading Round Plus. Additionally, six Fellows took up residencies in NHS trusts, from Somerset to South Tees, where they coached staff and medical practitioners in writing and communication. We commissioned RLF Fellow, Shyama Perera, to consider ways of working with organisations within the criminal justice system, including groups such as the Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders. We also initiated a wholesale review of our Writing Skills workshops, including the development of new offers such as Demonstrating Impact which has proved popular with charities and voluntary groups.

In 2024 Dawn Cameron at Cameron Ltd conducted an independent evaluation of the Writing for Life programme. The organisations that were surveyed gave our work an overall satisfaction rating of 4.93 out of 5. Cameron concluded: "Without exception, host organisation representatives … hugely appreciated the support and professionalism of the Writing for Life team" – and – "Similarly, writers found the support, training and guidance provided by the Writing for Life team to be exemplary".

We are glad to take on board the Cameron report suggestions for future development, notably to ensure consistency across our programmes, to consolidate our work, and to evolve ever more effective ways of measuring impact. We agreed that it is essential to increase the diversity of our pool of writers and our geographical reach. With this in mind, we recruited and trained 20 new writers in autumn 2024, including *WritersMosaic* writers who have successfully completed a year running a Reading Round group. These writers will be able to run projects in regions of the country that have been underrepresented.



READING ROUND

"It's been wonderful to see how the reading of stories and poetry can help hold together different communities of faith and non-faith, political allegiance and identity. The way in which poetry, especially, opens up a place for uncertainty and doubt is a powerful catalyst for reconciliation."

Anthony J. Quinn, Reading Round Fellow in Northern Ireland

Our 15 new Reading Round Fellows this year were Zebib K. Abraham, Jasbinder Bilan, Mark Blayney, Ishy Din, Sonia Faleiro, Maggie Harris, Wren James, Peter Kalu, David Mark, Felicity McCall, Anthony J. Quinn, Leila Rasheed, Pauline Rowe, Sara Shaarawi, Anna C. Wilson. Five were recruited via *WritersMosaic*, the rest had previously been RLF university Fellows. They ran groups across the UK from Derry to Glasgow, Cardiff to Penzance.

As always, the groups embarked on a literary journey that was a revelation to writer and participants alike, including some group members who had not read a poem or short story since childhood. Writers also found Reading Round one of the most rewarding assignments of their writing career, enabling them to look afresh at how literature is received by readers, and how that knowledge applies to their own writing.

Reading Round writers were supported by their mentors: Isabel Ashdown, Sarah Salway, John Siddique and Rhiannon Tise.

A major development this year has been the creation of Reading Round Plus, a condensed version of the scheme that is run in a community setting as part of the broader Writing for Life programme.

One of our former Reading Round Fellows, Syd Moore, developed a relationship with her local hospice outpatient department and piloted a six-week Reading Round Plus course with a group of patients who had terminal diagnoses. Since then, we have been extending the use of the Reading Round model with groups of vulnerable people in hospices and Recovery Colleges, as well as with refugees and asylum seekers. Reading aloud and sharing ideas about literature draws together groups of people diverse in every way who rejoice in the opportunity to talk about literary ideas and techniques.

Malcom X: By Any Means Necessary at the British Library. Pictured (l-r) are Colin Grant, Bonnie Greer, Gary Younge and Vanessa Kisuule. Photo by Missohio Studio for *WritersMosaic*.

We Were There salon at Hay Festival. Pictured (l-r) are Daudi Matsiko, Pauline Black, Lanre Bakare, Malika Booker and Colin Grant. Photo by Sam Hardwick.

Trustees' Report

WRITERSMOSAIC

"*WritersMosaic* writers have cheered me on like family. I have found a road to complete my work. I have ideas for other stories. I am on my way. I feel I am a writer. I can go into rooms and say it with my head held high. I'm a rookie who's been told by some of the most talented people I've ever met that I can do it; that I am a storyteller."

Amanda Vilanova

WritersMosaic has endeavoured to keep innovating and building on the solid foundations of its first three years. We have been heartened by the enthusiasm of writers such as Amanda Vilanova who, along with the *WritersMosaic* editorial team, are pushing ahead with many of the proposals that were set out in the three year business plan 2025-27. It has been a pleasure to witness how the editorial team has been strengthened by the addition of two splendid and dynamic writers, Isabelle Dupuy and Vayu Naidu.

Work with digital consultant Tim Byrne and developer Kona Macphee has led to improvements in the *WritersMosaic* website, making it more attractive and navigable as well as refreshing the design to show the abundance of rich writing on the homepage.

We have continued to attract and seek out new writers of the global majority, to provide opportunities, editorial support, and paid gigs. We have been pleased to welcome youngsters in their early twenties onto the site as well as providing platforms for two nonagenarians, Alford Gardner and Lord Parekh. *WritersMosaic* published the profiles of 24 writers, commissioning them to write pieces and interviewing them about their writing lives. We published guest editions with themes ranging from 'The Forensic and the Fantastic – LatinX Poets' to 'Fabulous Islam: the place of fables in Islamic tradition' and increased the number of new reviewers and feature writers on the site in the Reviews and Close Up sections.

Trustees' Report

We developed our strategy of raising the profile of *WritersMosaic*, and of the RLF as a whole, by attending literary festivals and putting on live literature events. In May 2024 we returned to the Hay Festival where our writers took part in several panels. Discussions are underway for a regular, annual contribution to Hay. Meanwhile, we expanded the number of literary festivals to which we sent writers, including Huddersfield, where Director Colin Grant shared the stage with the late Alex Wheatle.

WritersMosaic again nominated several writers to become Reading Round Fellows. The enthusiasm for the project is summed up by *WritersMosaic's* Clementine Burnley, one of the new Fellows: "It's been one of the most thrilling and rewarding experiences I have ever had in the world of writing."

WritersMosaic launched two new podcasts drawing on material from the website. The podcasts, available on Spotify, Apple and YouTube, began with two regular *WritersMosaic* strands, 'In conversation' and 'What we leave we carry'.

Our most exciting collaboration was with the British Library. We embarked on a series of six-weekly literary events in the Library's Pigott Theatre. The themed evenings featured a range of *WritersMosaic* writers including poets, playwrights, novelists, and lyricists (singing with musicians). In February 2025, we focused on the centenary of the birth of Malcolm X. It was a sold-out and poignant event which humanised Malcolm X for many in the audience and later for those who watched the film of the event.

In May 2024, thanks to a generous grant from the Hawthornden Foundation, *WritersMosaic* took the first cohort of six writers to a writers' retreat at Villa Lugara, Italy. We were struck by the genuine interest the writers showed in each other's genre of writing, expressing the differences and commonalities. The tutors offered short daily catch ups on the progress of the writers' works and lengthier one-to-one sessions each week. Great progress was made on all of their work in the month at the retreat. We have received a second grant from the Hawthornden Foundation to take eight writers to a retreat in Shropshire in April 2025 and six writers to a retreat in Italy in May 2025.

We also received a new grant from the Adrian Brinkerhoff Poetry Foundation to create poetry films. We built on our relationship with the videographer Rob Akin and reached out to a newcomer to *WritersMosaic*, Savannah Acquah. Rob and Savannah each made four films with poets already associated with and profiled by *WritersMosaic*. The films will be shown on our website and at festivals.

We began a partnership with *The Bookseller* to launch a print magazine, *WritersMosaic Quarterly*, which they will include as an insert every quarter. 500 additional copies of each edition will be available for *WritersMosaic* live events.

"My brown, northern, working-class identity was weighing heavily on me. My journey into writing had been serendipitous, and I'd never been able to shake off that feeling that my writing career had been a fluke. So, my apprehension at being at the retreat was likely to be well founded. At least that was what I thought. Upon arrival, the first person I met was a novelist whose work I knew and admired. 'You're Ishy Din,' she stated. 'Can I give you a hug?' We hugged."

Ishy Din, on the writers' retreat at Villa Lugara

Financial Review

Financial Review

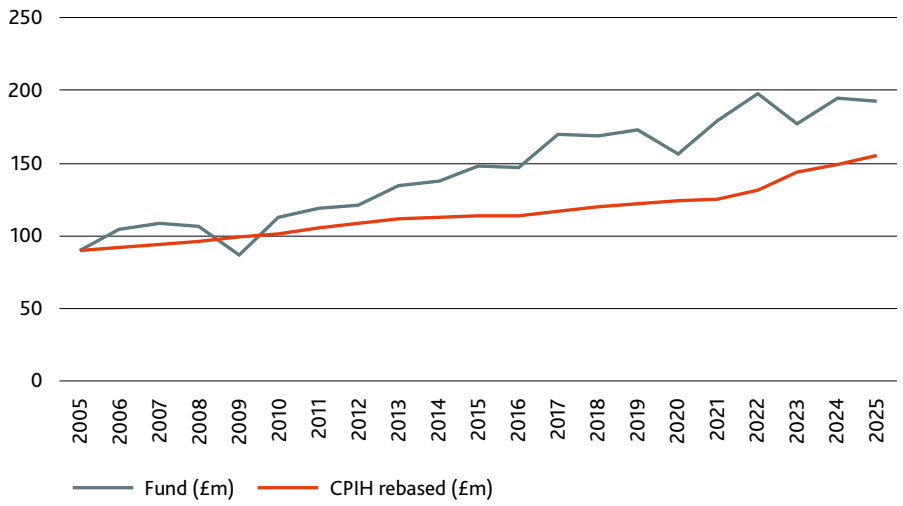
The Fund depends on its investment portfolio for the greatest part of its income. The portfolio is managed on a total return basis, so that charitable expenditure may be supported both by investment income, such as dividends and bond coupons, and by capital gains harvested from the growing portfolio. The objective remains to support a target spending rate of at least 3¼% of the average asset value of the portfolio over the three preceding years, while at the same time maintaining the real value of the investments over time.

Across the year ending March 2025, the portfolio generated a positive return, although below its long-term inflation target. Equity markets exhibited several bouts of volatility, with sharp sell-offs in the second half of 2025 followed by strength in the aftermath of the US Presidential election. The opening stages of 2025, however, saw sharp downward moves in equity markets, first as the emergence of the Deepseek AI model challenged assumptions around spending on artificial intelligence, and secondly as concerns grew around geopolitical tensions and the introduction of tariffs. Overall, the equity allocation did produce a modestly positive return over the 12 months, but greater strength was found in other areas of the portfolio. Fixed income returns were strong, particularly as a result of specialist exposure to the ABS segment of the market, but alternatives led the way, returning 13% in aggregate over the year. The strongest performing holding was gold, which reached new highs amidst rising investor concerns and continued central bank purchases. The holding was hedged back to sterling and so avoided the effects of US dollar weakness. The property allocation also posted a strong return with modest capital growth and strong income yields, as valuations stabilised.

Investments were valued at £192.9 million at 31 March 2025, down 1% from the prior year. Overall investment income in the year was £3.55 million (2024: £3.66 million), while investment management costs totalled £1.16 million (2024: £1.15 million).

Over a longer period the Fund's investment portfolio has outpaced inflation, though with significant fluctuations over shorter periods, as shown in the chart below. This strong performance has supported spending on charitable purposes slightly above our long-term spending target.

Fund value against inflation



Just over half the portfolio is managed by Cazenove Capital on a discretionary basis. At the same time Cazenove administers a satellite portfolio comprising the Fund's low cost passive equity investments as well as its property fund holdings. Alongside the main portfolio, the Fund retains holdings in and commitments to a number of private equity funds; the trustees have decided to make no new allocations to this private equity portfolio but to allow it to run off over time. The combined private equity holdings were valued at £28.8 million at 31 March 2025.

The Fund also generates significant income from rights left to it by authors who have supported its work. Royalties received in the year to March 31 2025 totalled £340,588 (2024: £382,374). The trustees also gratefully acknowledge a number of generous donations and legacies received during the year totalling £381,245 (2024: £174,138).

At year end, the Fund had net current liabilities of £0.3m (2024: net current assets of £0.7m). This arose because the Fund had committed to make grant payments within a year in excess of the cash held at bank at year end. The trustees carefully manage the Fund's investments and liquidity to ensure that it can continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Financial Review

RESERVES POLICY AND ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN

The trustees do not define a minimum level of reserves. However, it is their intention to maintain the capital value of the Fund's investments in real terms whilst also generating an investment return that is sufficient to meet the costs of the Fund's charitable expenditure and operations.

As at year end, 31 March 2025, the Fund had total reserves of £191.7 million (2024: £194.2 million) of which £191.5m related to unrestricted funds and £0.2m related to restricted funds (2024: £194.1m unrestricted funds and £0.1m restricted funds).

Trustees are satisfied, given this level of reserves, and their liquidity, that the Fund has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Risk is managed by the trustees and senior staff. A Risk Register indicating likelihood, impact and mitigating actions is reviewed regularly by the General Committee and separate sub-registers for particular areas of activity reviewed by relevant subcommittees. Given the Fund's dependence on income from its portfolio, one of the principal risks arises from investment volatility. The trustees seek to mitigate the effects of such volatility on the Fund's operations by maintaining a good degree of diversification in its asset allocation. In addition, the trustees seek to smooth the pattern of income drawn from the portfolio by averaging asset values over a number of years.

REMUNERATION

Remuneration is considered annually by the Finance and Investment Subcommittee. It takes advice from the Chief Executive, who provides current figures and relevant information for all key management personnel. The Subcommittee determines pension arrangements and other benefits, and ensures that contractual terms on termination are fair to the individual and the charity, and that poor performance is not rewarded. It recommends its decisions to the General Committee for approval.

In determining the RLF's remuneration policy, the Subcommittee takes into account that as an organisation it has few employees; it wishes therefore to recognise the broader than normal range of skills and competencies required in many roles.

The appropriateness and relevance of the remuneration policy is reviewed annually, including reference to comparisons with other charities and/or Higher Education roles, ensuring the RLF remains sensitive to the broader issues – for example, pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

FUTURE PLANS

Following extensive planning, consultation and legal advice, and external review, the trustees have resolved to invest in the creation of a commercial consultancy. This wholly owned commercial subsidiary will be incorporated in late 2025 and draw upon the expertise of RLF Fellows and staff to support businesses, both public and private, as they navigate transformational change. All profits from the subsidiary will support the Fund's future charitable programmes.

With the separation of grant-giving from the regular business of the General Committee, we are re-modelling the annual workplan to ensure trustees have the opportunity to give equal weight to all areas of the Fund's activity. A supporting cycle of subcommittees and reporting is scheduled.

The Grants team have identified a range of matters that would benefit from greater clarity, including issues around eligibility, continuing practice and the impact of RLF support, and have drawn up a timetable for consideration by the new Grants Committee. Through 2025-2026 the department will introduce a new Safeguarding Policy and ensure that staff training on this and on benefits is up to date.

In early 2025, a management plan was agreed with the Education Subcommittee in response to the Achates review (carried out in spring 2024): during the coming year the recommendations contained in the plan will be rolled out. The next phase of website and CRM work will involve incorporating Fellows' data to enable us to build an even wider picture of RLF writers' relationships with our various programmes.

We will continue to monitor the use of LLMs and machine learning, in particular in universities, combining the experience and insights of Consultant Fellows with those on the University Writing programme. The Writing for Life team will be running a short conference on the impact of AI to explore its application to their work, particularly within the NHS. They will invite representatives from our partner organisations, writers, and interested parties from other RLF programmes.

In addition, Writing for Life will conduct a full-scale revision of the suite of workshops. A new cohort of writers will be trained, targeting parts of the UK where the work is under-represented. Trainees will include *WritersMosaic* writers who have completed a Reading Round. We are also developing a new model for community groups who wish to tell their story and plan their futures through writing together, and aim to establish Reading Round Plus courses across the country and in a wide variety of community settings.

Building on the initial work with Diverse Futures, we will create a series of Bridge workshops aimed at young people preparing for or entering the workplace, with an emphasis on practical, professional written communication. Other developments in Bridge include additional recruitment and training targeting less well-served regions and the extension of peer observation throughout the network, following its successful use in Scotland.

Dawn Cameron has delivered a comprehensive and enthusiastic report on the work of *WritersMosaic*. The report will be considered by the *WritersMosaic* Board and in due course by the General Committee.

We will be reviewing the new RLF Podcast series and the role of Northern Projects Coordinator and considering how these two initiatives should develop to further the RLF's reach and impact.

WritersMosaic has plans to roll out a third podcast series based on a future strand, 'Original Series', which will replace the Guest Edition slot on the *WritersMosaic* website.

2026 marks the centenary of the publication of the first of AA Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh books, and 70 years since Milne's death and the consequent expiry of copyright in many domains. Milne's bequest to the RLF, and the works' subsequent exploitation by Disney, have been fundamental to the huge expansion in the Fund's work and impact across the last three decades. We are working with a range of partners, including our Royal Patron, HarperCollins, Curtis Brown, Disney, the BBC and Ashdown Forest, on a range of events and programmes to celebrate Milne's creation and legacy. For the Fund this is an opportunity to say thank you and to encourage others to follow Milne's prescient generosity.

2026 is also the National Year of Reading and the RLF will be joining with colleagues at the National Literacy Trust and The Reading Agency to support this vital initiative.

Finally, with the increase in the staff team and programmes, the RLF is fast outgrowing our offices in Johnson's Court. We are actively looking for new premises, including those that might provide a base for much of our training activity and some of our more public facing work, as well as the new commercial consultancy.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

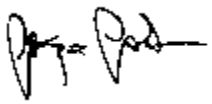
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material
- departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved on behalf of the General Committee and signed on its behalf by



George Graham
Trustee

13 November 2025

Auditor's Report

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Literary Fund for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Auditor's Report

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 40, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Report

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditors under the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the charity by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the charity operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the charity include the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Auditor's Report

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the charity's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the charity's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

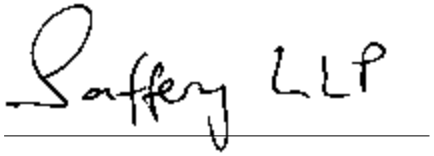
During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Saffery LLP
71 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4BE

Statutory Auditors
13 January 2026

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Financial Statements

Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £
Income				
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	156,175	225,070	381,245
Investments	2	3,546,752	–	3,546,752
Other income	4	340,589	–	340,589
Total Income		4,043,516	225,070	4,268,586
Expenditure				
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	7	(1,200,582)	–	(1,200,582)
Charitable activities	8	(7,787,787)	(147,499)	(7,935,286)
Total Expenditure		(8,988,369)	(147,499)	(9,135,868)
Net (Expenditure)/Income before gains on investments		(4,944,853)	77,571	(4,867,282)
Exchange (loss)/gain		(725,744)	–	(725,744)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	3,089,307	–	3,089,307
Net (expenditure)/income	5	(2,581,290)	77,571	(2,503,719)
Transfers between funds		(3,945)	3,945	–
Net movement in funds		(2,585,235)	81,516	(2,503,719)
Fund balances brought forward (restated)	16	194,142,152	81,426	194,223,578
Fund balances carried forward		191,556,917	162,942	191,719,859

The income and the resulting net movement in funds arise from continuing operations.
The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those shown above.

Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Restated Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Income				
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	75,817	98,321	174,138
Investments	2	3,663,835	–	3,663,835
Other income	4	382,166	–	382,166
Total Income		4,121,818	98,321	4,220,139
Expenditure				
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	7	(1,187,470)	–	(1,187,470)
Charitable activities	8	(7,123,208)	(17,687)	(7,140,896)
Total Expenditure		(8,310,678)	(17,687)	(8,328,366)
Net (Expenditure)/Income before gains on investments		(4,188,860)	80,634	(4,108,226)
Exchange (loss)/gain		(716,222)	–	(716,222)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	15,069,935	–	15,069,935
Net (expenditure)/income	5	(10,164,853)	80,634	10,245,487
Transfers between funds		–	–	–
Net movement in funds		(10,164,853)	80,634	10,245,487
Fund balances brought forward (restated)	16	183,977,299	792	183,978,091
Fund balances carried forward		194,152,152	81,426	194,223,578

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	£	Restated 2024 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	10		322,712		360,740
Investments	11		192,857,129		194,438,300
			193,179,841		194,799,040
Current Assets					
Debtors	12	298,325		225,936	
Cash at bank and in hand		488,421		1,597,470	
		786,746		1,823,406	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,074,787)		(1,111,059)	
Net Current Assets			(288,041)		712,347
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			192,891,800		195,511,387
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	14		(1,171,941)		(1,287,809)
Net Assets	17		191,719,859		194,223,578
Funds					
Restricted funds			162,942		81,426
Unrestricted funds			191,556,917		194,142,152
	17		191,719,859		194,223,578

The financial statements were approved by the General Committee on the 13th November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

George Graham
Trustee

Edward Kemp
Chief Executive Officer

Cash flow statement

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Net cash used in operating activities			(9,164,888)		(8,223,984)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Investment income		3,522,446		3,663,835	
Capital expenditure and financial investment:					
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(25,613,297)		(84,314,038)	
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		4,291		–	
Proceeds from sale of investments		29,640,735		80,332,004	
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities			7,554,175		(318,199)
Change in cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			(1,610,713)		(8,542,183)
Net cash at the start of the year	18		8,199,008		16,741,191
Net cash at the end of the year	18		6,588,295		8,199,008
Reconciliation of changes in net expenditure before other recognised gains and losses to net cash flow					
Net expenditure before other recognised gains and losses			(4,867,282)		(4,108,226)
Investment income			(3,546,752)		(3,663,835)
Depreciation			33,737		34,095
Net investment expenses			(613,442)		(714,795)
Foreign exchange movements			29,074		(45,980)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors			(48,083)		144,621
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors			(152,140)		130,136
Net cash used in operating activities			(9,164,888)		(8,223,984)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting policies

Charity information

The Royal Literary Fund is registered charity, constituted under a Royal Charter. The registered office is 3 Johnston's Court, London, EC4A 3EA.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Update Bulletin 2, and the Charities Act 2011.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statement are rounded to the nearest pound.

Income

All income is included when the charity has entitlement to the income, there is probability of receipt and the amount can be measured. Donations are recognised upon receipt unless the donor specifies that the donation relates to a future period or that certain pre-conditions must be fulfilled before use. Interest income is included on an accruals basis. Investment income is accounted for when receivable. Royalties income is accounted for when received.

For legacies, entitlement is taken on a case by case basis as the earlier of the date when the charity is aware that probate has been granted, and either:

- the estate has been finalised and estate accounts have been received by the charity; or
- notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made; or
- when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably.

In estimating the value of legacies at the year end, the trustees have exercised their judgement based on the available information and the appropriate application of the Charities SORP.

Expenditure

Expenditure is classified under the principal categories of charitable and other expenditure rather than the type of expense, in order to provide more useful information to users of the financial statements. Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Actitvities (SOFA) on an accruals basis.

Charitable activities comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to the activity. Support costs, including governance costs, have been allocated to activities based on average staff time spent.

One off grants are recognised when they are awarded. Instalment three and five year grants are awarded over a three and five year period respectively and recognised in full when they are awarded. Annual payments are made based on the initial award on application. Five year grants are reviewed for renewal after the five year period.

Governance costs, which are included within expenditure on charitable activities, comprise the costs of compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and include auditor's remuneratione and legal and professional fees.

Accounting policies (continued)

Heritage assets

The Fund's archives which consist of the records of cases, minutes, annual reports and matters of administration and are of considerable interest to scholars and researchers are maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture and therefore fall within the definition of heritage assets under Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities SORP. The archives of the Fund from 1790 up to 1939 have been placed at the British Library on indefinite loan. Reliable market valuation information is not available, however, recent valuations for insurance and indemnification purposes suggest a value for the total archive of around £3 million.

Heritage assets are measured at cost (or valuation on the date received if donated to the charity). Given the historic nature of the heritage assets the charity currently holds, they have no attributable cost / minimal value at the date they were donated to the organisation and as such are held in the financial statements at £nil value.

Fixed asset accounting policy

Expenditure on the acquisition of fixed assets are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets, except freehold land, by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% of cost per annum
Fixtures and fittings	25% of written down value per annum
Office equipment	25% of written down value per annum
Motor vehicles	25% of written down value per annum

Investments

Investments are shown at market value in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities". Realised gains or losses on the sale of investments represent sale proceeds, less market value brought forward and investment management fees and commissions. Unrealised gains or losses represent the movement between the brought forward and carried forward market value of the investments in the period.

Intangible fixed assets

The Fund owns or has a share in the copyright to the works of several authors, which were bequeathed to the Fund. The Committee does not consider it practical to place a value on these copyrights, so they are not shown in the balance sheets; as charitable bequests they attract no taxable cost.

Three and five year grants liability

Liabilities for three and five year grants are recognised in the balance sheet when the Fund has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

Post-retirement benefits

The amount charged against profits represents the contributions payable to employees' private pension schemes in respect of the accounting period.

Funds

Unrestricted funds
These funds are used to satisfy the provision of the charter of The Royal Literary Fund and are used at the discretion of the trustees. Income for the fund is generated through donations, but is mainly derived from the expendable endowment fund.

Restricted funds
Restricted funds are funds that are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or that have been raised by the Fund for particular purposes. Details of the restricted funds held are given in note 16 to the financial statements.

Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exceptions of prepayments and deferred income all other debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102. See notes 12, 13 and 14 for the debtor and creditor notes.

Cash and liquid resources

Cash, for the purpose of the cash flow statement, comprises cash in hand and deposits repayable on demand, less overdrafts payable on demand. Liquid resources are included within fixed asset investments which are disposable without curtailing or disrupting the business and are either readily convertible into known amounts of cash at or close to their carrying values or traded in an active market. Liquid resources comprise term deposits of less than one year.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. Exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities. The charity does not own any non-monetary assets abroad.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no significant estimates or judgements involved in the preparation of these financial statements.

Prior year restatement

The Fund is a beneficiary of the AA Milne Estate, and receives the rights to a share of future royalties as a result. When the commercial rights to Winnie the Pooh were sold, the Fund invested money in an investment portfolio. The invested funds were classified as an expendable endowment fund in the accounts. This reflected the trustees' intention to invest the funds and use them for the long term benefit of the Trust. Whilst this remains the trustees' intention, on review, the trustees consider that it is more appropriate to classify the funds as unrestricted funds as there is no donor imposed restriction upon the use of the funds. The funds have consequently been reclassified in these accounts as unrestricted funds and prior year comparatives have been restated. The reclasification of the funds has no impact on the Fund's overall financial position as at 31 March 2024 or on its result for that year. See note 16 for further details.

The trustees intend to continue to invest and manage the funds to support the Fund over the long term, using the investment return generated by the funds to fund its charitable grants programme. Further details of the trustees' reserves policy are provided in the annual report.

2. Investment income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income from investments	3,297,408	3,097,889
Interest on cash deposits held by investment managers	238,100	489,637
Interest on other cash deposits	11,244	76,309
	3,546,752	3,663,835

All investment income is held as unrestricted income (2024: all held as unrestricted income).

3. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total
	£	£	£
Legacies	118,433	–	118,433
	118,433	–	118,433
Donations & Grants			
Charities Aid Foundation America	–	38,652	38,652
Sidney E. Frank Foundation	–	26,480	26,480
The Marus Trust	25,000	–	25,000
Charlotte Brunsdon	3,000	–	3,000
The Louise Edith Collis Charitable Trust	5,906	–	5,906
The Kington Oliphant of Gask Trust	1,203	–	1,203
Anonymous	–	150,438	150,438
Gift Aid	890	9,500	10,390
Other donations under £500	1,743	–	1,743
	37,742	225,070	262,812
Total	156,175	225,070	381,245

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total
	£	£	£
Legacies	68,285	–	68,285
	68,285	–	68,285
Donations & Grants			
Charities Aid Foundation America	–	49,169	49,169
The Louise Edith Collis Charitable Trust	6,146	–	6,146
The Kington Oliphant of Gask Trust	1,201	–	1,201
In memory Robert Holman	–	8,152	8,152
Anonymous	–	41,000	41,000
Other donations under £500	185	–	185
	7,532	98,321	105,853
Total	75,817	98,321	174,138

4. Other income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Royalties		
Pooh Properties Trust	116,250	127,500
W Somerset Maugham	179,644	117,990
A Ransome	(6,451)	47,789
P Hamilton	35,085	34,448
GK Chesterton	9,404	30,249
Henry Reed	1,196	1,639
C MacInnes	1,115	1,052
A Wilson	935	463
P Clough	692	14,933
NF Simpson	50	2,612
Others*	1,977	1,685
Anon	691	2,014
	340,588	382,374
Other income	1	(208)
Total	340,589	382,166

*Others includes royalty income from various artists, more information can be found on the charity's website.

5. Net income /(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	33,738	34,095
Amounts paid to auditor		
Audit fee – current year	24,900	18,000
Audit fee – prior year under accrual	5,208	6,600

6. Taxation

The Royal Literary Fund, as a registered charity, is exempt from taxation on its income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives. No tax charge has arisen in the year.

7. Raising funds expenditure

	2025	2024
	£	£
Investment management fees	1,162,069	1,153,718
Commissions on royalties	38,159	33,752
Other	354	–
	1,200,582	1,187,470

8. Charitable activities expenditure

	Unestricted	Restricted	2025 Total
	£	£	£
Direct costs			
Education	4,079,718	–	4,079,718
Grant Making*	2,198,568	77,337	2,268,274
WritersMosaic	484,251	69,706	553,957
	6,762,537	147,043	6,909,580
Support Costs			
Education	352,669	–	352,669
Grant Making	349,560	100	349,660
WritersMosaic	323,021	356	323,377
	1,025,250	456	1,025,706
Total charitable activity costs by activity	7,787,787	147,499	7,935,286

**Of which £1,993,545 related to grants to individuals, £32,786 related to grants to institutions and £249,577 related to other direct costs of grantmaking.*

Support costs comprise:			
Governance costs:			
Audit fees	30,108	–	30,108
Board costs	9,991	–	9,991
Legal & strategy costs	24,648	–	24,648
Other support costs:			
Staff costs	254,907	–	254,907
Staff related costs	33,202	–	33,202
Professional fees	93,980	–	93,980
Recruitment & temporary staff	24,540	300	24,840
Finance & insurance costs	13,377	56	13,433
Premises expenses	50,999	–	50,999
Postage, printing, telephone & IT	59,315	–	59,315
Communications	396,445	100	396,545
Depreciation	33,738	–	33,738
Total support costs	1,025,250	456	1,025,706

	Unestricted	Restricted	2024 Total
	£	£	£
Direct costs			
Education	3,673,782	–	3,673,782
Grant Making*	1,824,152	–	1,824,152
WritersMosaic	396,425	16,989	413,414
	5,894,359	16,989	5,911,348
Support Costs			
Education	423,791	–	423,791
Grant Making	414,547	698	415,245
WritersMosaic	390,511	–	390,511
	1,228,849	698	1,229,547
Total charitable activity costs by activity	7,123,208	17,687	7,140,896

**Of which £1,701,235 related to grants to individuals, £0 related to grants to institutions and £122,917 related to other direct costs of grantmaking.*

Support costs comprise:			
Governance costs:			
Audit fees	24,660	–	24,660
Board costs	33,453	–	33,453
Legal & strategy costs	33,462	–	33,462
Other support costs:			
Staff costs	249,183	–	249,183
Staff related costs	36,723	–	36,723
Professional fees	53,337	–	53,337
Recruitment & temporary staff	22,920	–	22,920
Finance & insurance costs	14,192	502	14,694
Premises expenses	55,904	–	55,904
Postage, printing, telephone & IT	54,866	196	55,062
Communications	616,056	–	616,056
Depreciation	34,094	–	34,094
Total support costs	1,228,849	698	1,229,547

Charitable activities expenditure (continued)

Grants paid to individuals

The aggregate amount of three and five year grants paid to individuals during the year was £1,201,185 (2024: £963,398). The total number of grants awarded to other charities was 2 (2024: 0). At the year end £2,040,729 (2024: £2,161,699) of three and five year grants were committed and a liability has been recognised in the accounts to reflect this (see notes 13 and 14).

The total number of writers in receipt of a three year grant annual instalment during the year was 59 (2023: 59).

9. Employees

The average number of employees during the year was 12 (2024: 11).

	2025	2024
Support	2	2
Education	7	7
Grant Making	3	2
	12	11

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs:		
Wages, salaries and benefits	693,277	624,595
Social security costs	76,652	69,584
Other pension costs (see note 15)	96,421	93,358
	866,350	787,537

Included in wages and salaries is an amount of 13,042 (2024: £0) for termination payments (relating to redundancies).

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Chief Executive Officer, the Co-Directors of Education and the Head of Grants. The total management benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £461,654 (2024: £446,446).

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025	2024
£60,000 – £70,000	2	0
£90,000 – £100,000	1	3
£100,000 – £110,000	2	0

Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses totalling £3,987 were made to 4 trustees during the year (2024: £3,422 to 2 trustees). These expenses related to travel costs incurred in relation to work carried out for the charity.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	613,020	99,138	46,300	90,522	848,980
Disposals	–	(4,289)	(36,372)	–	(40,661)
At 31 March 2025	613,020	94,849	9,928	90,522	808,319
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	317,784	79,467	38,656	52,333	488,240
Disposals	–	(4,207)	(32,163)	–	(36,370)
Charge for the year	12,260	8,495	3,435	9,547	33,737
At 31 March 2025	330,044	83,755	9,928	61,880	485,607
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2025	282,976	11,094	(0)	28,642	322,712
At 1 April 2024	295,236	19,671	7,644	38,189	360,740

11. Fixed asset investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Listed investments and private equity funds	186,757,255	187,836,762
Cash deposits held by investment managers	6,099,874	6,601,538
	192,857,129	194,438,300
Quoted investments		
Market value as at 1 April 2024	187,836,763	168,740,239
Additions	25,613,297	84,314,038
Disposals	(29,640,735)	(80,332,004)
Net gains/(losses)	3,089,307	15,069,935
Net movement in income/(expenses)	613,442	714,795
Exchange gain	(754,819)	(670,241)
Market value as at 31 March 2025	186,757,255	187,836,762
Geographical Analysis		
United Kingdom	50,564,642	48,102,097
Overseas	142,292,487	146,336,203
	192,857,129	194,438,300

The charity's investments include private equity funds of £28,775,214 (2024: £30,229,691). At the year end, the charity had outstanding commitments of £6,362,814 (2024: £7,566,542) relating to these funds.

Fixed asset investments (continued)

Investments representing more than 5% of the value of the portflio:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cazenove	164,081,914	163,445,391
Pantheon RLF 2014 Fund	9,535,468	10,533,616

12. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Sundry debtors	59	–
Prepayments and accrued income	298,266	225,936
	298,325	225,936

All debtors fall due within one year.

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Creditors	87,762	115,413
Accruals	61,690	83,422
Tax and social security	25,786	27,462
Other creditors	30,761	10,872
Accrued grants and pension commitments	868,788	873,890
	1,074,787	1,111,059

14. Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accrued grants and pension commitments	1,171,941	1,287,809

The trustees have accrued for three and five year grants awarded in the year, which are payable over a three and five year period, respectively. Although all payments are subject to an annual review, the Fund accepts a 'no changes in circumstances' return. Since the assessment of the beneficiary's financial well being is outside the Fund's control, a full accrual for this commitment has been made this year.

15. Pension Scheme

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions of £96,421 (2024: £93,358) were charged to the statement of financial activities as they became payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. Contributions of £3,919 (2024: £7,667) remained outstanding at the year end.

16. Analysis of movements on the funds

	Restated Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restated Expendable Endowment Funds	2025
	General	Robert Holman	Hawthornden Writers' Retreat	Hanif Kureishi	Brinkerhoff Foundation	General	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening funds as previously stated	236,900	8,246	32,180	41,000	–	193,905,252	194,223,578
Reclassification (see note overleaf)	193,905,252	–	–	–	–	(193,905,252)	–
Opening funds as restated	194,142,152	8,246	32,180	41,000	–	–	194,223,578
Income	4,043,516	–	38,652	159,938	26,480	–	4,268,586
Expenditure	(8,988,369)	(7,100)	(47,534)	(70,336)	(22,529)	–	(9,135,868)
Gains/(losses)	2,363,563	–	–	–	–	–	2,363,563
Fund transfers	(3,945)	–	3,945	–	–	–	–
Closing value of funds	191,556,917	1,146	27,243	130,602	3,951	–	191,719,859

	Restated Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restated Expendable Endowment Funds	Restated 2024
	General	Robert Holman	Hawthornden Writers' Retreat	Hanif Kureishi	General	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening funds as previously stated	2,288,960	792	–	–	181,688,339	183,978,091
Reclassification (see note overleaf)	181,688,339	–	–	–	(181,688,339)	–
Opening funds as restated	183,977,299	792	–	–	–	183,978,091
Income	4,121,818	8,152	49,169	41,000	–	4,220,139
Expenditure	(8,310,678)	(698)	(16,989)	–	–	(8,328,366)
Gains/(losses)	14,353,713	–	–	–	–	14,353,713
Fund transfers	–	–	–	–	–	–
Closing value of funds	194,142,152	8,246	32,180	41,000	–	194,223,578

The Fund is a beneficiary of the AA Milne Estate, and receives the rights to a share of future royalties as a result. When the commercial rights to Winnie the Pooh were sold, the Fund invested money in an investment portfolio. The invested funds were classified as an expendable endowment fund in the accounts. This reflected the trustees' intention to invest the funds and use them for the long term benefit of the Trust. Whilst this remains the trustees' intention, on review, the trustees consider that it is more appropriate to classify the funds as unrestricted funds as there is no donor imposed restriction upon the use of the funds. The funds have consequently been reclassified in these accounts as unrestricted funds and prior year comparatives have been restated. The reclasification of the funds has no impact on the Fund's overall financial position as at 31 March 2024 or on its result for that year.

The trustees intend to continue to invest and manage the funds to support the Fund over the long term, using the investment return generated by the funds to fund its charitable grants programme. Further details of the trustees' reserves policy are provided in the annual report.

General fund
The general fund is unrestricted and are used to satisfy the provision of the charter of The Royal Literary Fund. There are sufficient funds to enable this to occur.

The Robert Holman Award
The Robert Holman Award has been established with the friends and executors of playwright and Royal Literary Fund beneficiary Robert Holman with funds donated at Robert's funeral and subsequently. It will provide hardship support for professional playwrights from the North England.

Hanif Kureishi
In 2022 the writer Hanif Kureishi suffered a fall which has left him paralysed. The restricted fund receives donations made towards Hanif's ongoing care and is administered by the RLF to this end.

Hawthornden Foundation
The RLF received a second grant from the Hawthornden Foundation via CAF America to support a writers' retreat led by *WritersMosaic* editors. Expenditure against the first grant was slightly more than expected and a transfer of £3,945 was made from unresticted funds to meet the shortfall. The grant is being repeated a third time in 2025/26.

Adrian Brinkerhoff Poetry Foundation
The RLF received a grant from the Adrian Brinkerhoff Poetry Foundation to create eight short poetry films in 2025 with poets drawn from the cohort of writers who have been profiled and platformed *WritersMosaic*. The grant is being repeated in 2025/26.

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	322,712	–	322,712
Investments	192,857,129	–	192,857,129
Net current assets	(450,983)	162,942	(288,041)
Creditors due in more than one year	(1,171,941)	–	(1,171,941)
Closing value of funds	191,556,917	162,942	191,719,859

	Restated Unrestricted Funds	Restated Restricted Funds	Restated Total 2024
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	360,740	–	360,740
Investments	194,438,300	–	194,438,300
Net current assets	630,921	81,426	712,347
Creditors due in more than one year	(1,287,809)	–	(1,287,809)
Closing value of funds	194,142,152	81,426	194,223,578

18. Net cash

	Cash brought forward	Cash	Cash carried forward
	£	£	£
Cash in hand, at bank	1,597,470	(1,109,049)	488,421
Cash deposits held by Investment Managers	6,601,538	(501,664)	6,099,874
Total	8,199,008	(1,610,713)	6,588,295

19. Related party transactions

As one of the beneficiaries of the Estate of AA Milne, the Fund is one of four members of the Pooh Properties Trust (PPT). Mark Lawson represented the Fund's interests as a trustee of PPT. PPT's decisions are based upon unanimous agreement and no trustee has any controlling interest. Mark Lawson received no remuneration from either charity for this role. During the year Royalties of £116,250 (2024: £127,500) were received.

20. Post balance sheet event note

On 2 October 2025, a wholly owned trading subsidiary was incorporated called RLF Volta Ltd (company registration number 16757457). The company has not yet traded. Trading is expected to commence during 2025/26.

Administrative Information

Administrative Information

The Royal Literary Fund
Registered Charity 219952

Patron
Her Majesty The Queen

President and Chair
Sir Ian Blatchford

General Committee
Nelle Andrew
Terence Blacker
Dan Franklin – Registrar
Mark Gardiner
Brenda Gardner
George Graham – Treasurer
Hilary Hale – Deputy President & Registrar
Sammia Hamer
Paula Hawkins – Treasurer
Dotti Irving
Mark Lawson
Colin Ludlow
Colin Luke – Treasurer
Dreda Say Mitchell MBE
Judith Murray
Susheila Nasta MBE
Michael Symmons Roberts – Registrar
Fiona Sampson MBE
Rosalynn Try-Hane
Marianne Velmans
Ellah P Wakatama OBE

Subcommittees

Finance and Investment
Ian Blatchford, George Graham, Paula Hawkins, Colin Luke

Nominations
Ian Blatchford, Hilary Hale, Mark Lawson, Dreda Say Mitchell, Fiona Sampson

Education
Michael Symmons Roberts (Chair), Brenda Gardner, Mark Lawson, Colin Luke, Judith Murray

WritersMosaic
Colin Grant (Chair, Director *WritersMosaic*), Bashabi Fraser*, Gabriel Gbadamosi*, Colin Ludlow, Susheila Nasta, Ellah Wakatama, Jonny Wright*.

**Elected from WritersMosaic Editorial team*

Auditors
Saffery LLP

Accountants
Amanda Hall
CounterCulture LLP

Solicitors
Farrer & Co
66 Lincoln's Inns Fields
London WC2A 3LH

Bankers
Coutts & Co
440 Strand
London WC2R 0QS

Staff

Dr Karin Altenberg FRSL
Head of Bridge (England and Wales)

Mary Colson
Assistant Head of Outreach

Steve Cook HON FRSL
Director of Education

Louise Faith
Grants Officer

Colin Grant FRSL
Director, WritersMosaic

Rebecca Hindmarsh
Grants Officer

Laura Hird
Head of Bridge (Scotland and N Ireland)

Edward Kemp
Chief Executive

Richard Le Cocq
Head of Marketing and Communications

Katharine McMahon
Head of Outreach

Justine Palmer
Head of Grants

Dr David Swinburne
Systems Director, Co-Director of Education

Some applicants helped during the year

Amongst those awarded grants during the year:

A children's author and single parent had struggled for many years with insecure housing; she had been given notice to vacate her home. She had a high level of debt and was unable to cover the cost of a deposit or moving costs. The committee awarded a one-off grant to help her and her child find new accommodation.

An elderly writer of non-fiction was living on a very low income and struggling to cover his basic living costs following the death of his wife. The committee awarded him a five-year renewable grant.

An elderly romance writer was evicted from her home and had found herself temporarily homeless. During this time, she amassed debt related to temporary housing and storage costs. The committee helped with a one-off grant to help clear the debts which she was unable to service.

A novelist had been diagnosed with terminal cancer; his partner had reduced her working hours to support him at home during his final months and the couple were unable to cover their outgoings. The committee awarded an interim grant to help them cover their living costs.

A translator was struggling to rebuild momentum in her work following maternity leave. She was finding it difficult to meet immediate child-related costs whilst pitching for new projects. The committee awarded her a two-year grant whilst she secured new work.

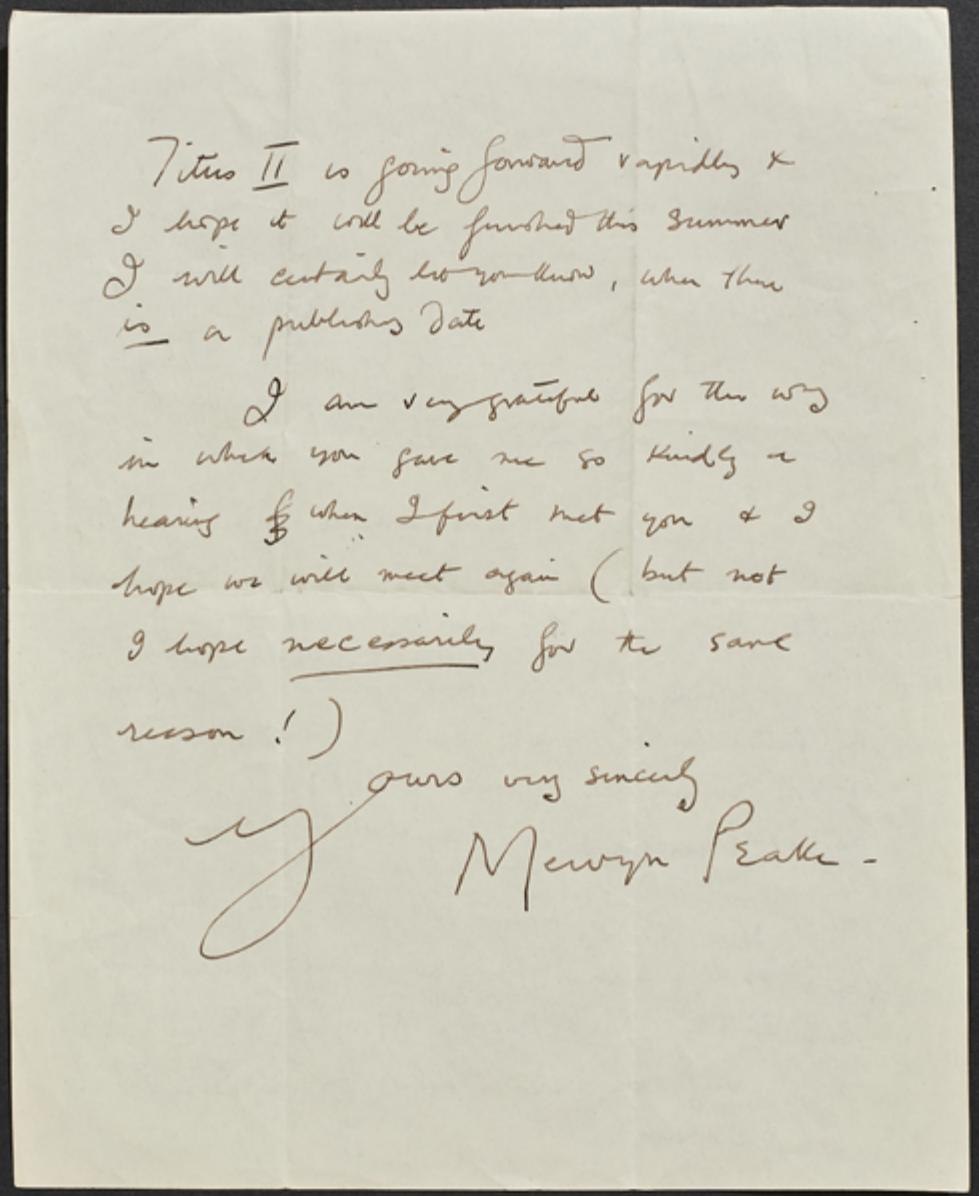
A novelist had, following a divorce, become the sole carer for her three young children. The change in family circumstances meant she was unable to continue in her long-term supporting work and was looking for a new post. The committee awarded her a two-year grant to help towards household expenses whilst the family transitioned into a new living arrangement.

A playwright was slipping into debt following the unexpected cancellation of three projects. Whilst she had work lined up for the future, there were no payments due to her for several months. The committee awarded her a one-off grant to help cover household costs whilst she waited for her work to begin.

A children's author had been forced to step down from his supporting work to care for an elderly relative. His wife was unable to work due to a long-term health condition. During this period of care, he had taken out a loan to cover his day-to-day living cost; despite being back in work he was struggling to make the repayments. The committee awarded a one-off grant to help repay the loan.

A screenwriter was living in a property in a state of serious disrepair and had been required to pay for urgent structural work. The work on the property had coincided with the writers' strikes in the previous year, seriously impacting her work as projects were halted or postponed. The committee awarded a one-off grant towards the cost of home repairs.

Thank you letter from Mervyn Peake to the RLF, 4 April 1948.
Used with permission from the Estate of Maeve Gilmore.



Titus II is going forward rapidly & I hope it will be finished this Summer I will certainly let you know, when there is a publishing Date

I am very grateful for the way in which you gave me so kindly a hearing & when I first met you & I hope we will meet again (but not I hope necessarily for the same reason!)

Yours very sincerely
Mervyn Peake

Extracts from thank-you messages

"That is absolutely incredible. I never expected that much help. Thank you so much for guiding me through the application. This will make a huge difference and give options as I transition to the next stage of my career."

"I'm sat in a coffee shop trying not to weep with gratitude and relief. I cannot thank you enough for being so patient and supporting (especially with my lack of maths skills). Please pass on my sincerest thanks to the committee and tell them it means the world to me and my family."

"I am utterly overwhelmed with gratitude for the committee's generosity, not just for giving me a financial lifeline when I need it but for our daughter as well. This is going to have such an incredible and positive impact on her, I am honestly lost for words. Thank you so, so much."

"I'm extremely thrilled to report that the time your grant paid for enabled me to complete my book proposal and now I have a contract with Granta to publish it!... I might easily have given up if I hadn't had the space to think and work that the grant allowed with everything else that's been going on in my life."

"I can't thank you and the RLF enough for helping me. My house is heated with a solid fuel burner and now the house is warm! I also no longer feel afraid when the phone rings as I'm debt free. It's really unbelievable – a huge cloud has been lifted, and I've been able to start my new novel. I'm a writer – I should know what to say – but I don't. Just thank you – to all of you."

"Thank you so much. You have all honestly saved me in a really testing time. If it wasn't for this grant I really don't know how I would get through. Words alone cannot express my gratitude. This will allow me to look after my family and to keep writing."

"The relief this has brought is hard to put into words – I'm not sure I realised quite how stressed I'd been until I read your email, and now I'm in tears. I am truly so thankful, and hope that one day I can repay the kindness of the Fund in some way. This money will enable me to keep writing and to pursue a career that I was beginning to think was impossible under the current pressures. Truly, thank you, and please pass on my gratitude to the Committee and the benefactors that have made pursuing a career as an author a possibility for myself and so many other writers in need."

Members

As at 31 March 2025

Sir Alan Ayckbourn

David Bacon
Antonia Barber
Janet Barber
Nicholas Baring*
M Bernstein
Philippa Blake-Roberts
Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO
Michael Bunting

Andrew Crawshaw

Peter Daniels
Dame Margaret Drabble*

Miss EJ Fenwick
Michael Frayn
Ingrid Freebairn

EA Greey
I Gundry

Celia Haddon
Lady Selina Hastings
Sir Max Hastings
Sir Michael Holroyd*
Bruce Hunter

Sir Kazuo Ishiguro

Mrs Catherine M Lambert
Mark Le Fanu OBE

Rupert Murdoch
Stephen Maitland-Lewis
Michelle Magorian

P O'Leary
Betty Parvin
Kate Pool*

Mrs B Quartermaine

Michael Ridpath

Katherine Scholfield
Mike Shaw
Hilary Spurling*

Andrew Taylor
Claire Tomalin*
Peter Troughton CBE

Lady Jane Willoughby de Eresby

**Honorary Member*

The Royal Literary Fund
Trustees' report and financial statements

Registered Charity number 219952
31 March 2025

3 Johnson's Court
London EC4A 3EA

020 7353 7159
rlf.org.uk

THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 219952

Accounts

Annual Report 2024

RLF

SUPPORTING
WRITERS
SINCE 1790

"Thanks to the generosity of the Royal Literary Fund, I have survived. You consistently restore my faith in humanity."

RLF Beneficiary 2024

The Royal Literary Fund
Trustees' report and financial statements

Registered Charity number 219952
31 March 2024

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Photography and Illustration credits: Diana Ejaita, Tony Hay, Adam Laycock, Fernando Manoso, Andy Martinez, Jennifer Tapias Derch, Paul Wearing and Adïam Yemane.

Trustees' Report

Trustees' Report

INTRODUCTION

Through 2023 work continued on the governance, strategy and process development that has been a focus of recent years. Between October and December staff and trustees worked with Sandeep Mahal and Caroline McCormick of Achates to review the Fund's organisational strategy, culminating in a day-long workshop held at the Royal Society of Arts. The conclusions from these discussions are now being developed to form the foundation of a new three-year strategy and business plan which will be unveiled in 2024-25.

In parallel to this work, the trustees approved a new set of grants guidelines and handbook, the first major review of the grants process in this century. Central to the new process are revised eligibility criteria to reflect an increasingly diverse publishing landscape and more objective criteria for the assessment of literary merit. A new points-based scoring system was piloted in September 2023 and fully adopted in March 2024.

Dawn Cameron of Cameron & Co has been commissioned to undertake evaluations of Writing for Life and *WritersMosaic*. Included in the brief is a proposal to devise a method for future internal evaluation of the impact of our programmes.

Having agreed to a one-year extension to aid transition, Mark Le Fanu retired as trustee and Treasurer. Paula Hawkins was elected Treasurer. Mark Lawson joined the Education Subcommittee.

A major feature of the year was the development of a new brand and communications strategy for the RLF. The fresh identity was created by Hat-trick Design and was launched in October 2023, leading to the build of a new website and delivery of a new content strategy developed by Situation UK, which went live in April 2024. Our first paid digital and print campaign quadrupled the number of grant enquiries in six weeks. Since the relaunch, we have received over 1,500 email newsletter sign-ups and a similar number of subscribers on Substack, together with a near 300% increase in social media followers. The marketing team have learned much from this initial campaign and will use the data gathered to refine public messaging and objectives over the next year.

The plan to move the next tranche of beneficiary files into the British Library, where the Fund's archive is on long-term loan, has been delayed by the Library's cyberattack in October 2023. Joan Winterkorn has completed her review of the archive and produced a paper for the trustees on significant items from the post-war period.

The year saw a further expansion of our Bridge workshops in schools, with Karin Altenberg and Laura Hird being appointed Heads of Bridge in England & Wales and Scotland & Northern Ireland respectively.

As part of the re-branding process our social sector work, under the leadership of Katharine McMahon, was re-titled 'Writing for Life'. Kerry Young, who has been a fundamental part of the development of this work since 2017, stepped down to pursue other freelance activities.

For the first time we recruited a proportion of new Reading Round Fellows (or Lectors) via the *WritersMosaic* team, rather than exclusively from those writers who had already completed a university Fellowship. This successful development has enabled us to fast track a greater diversity of writers into our social and community programmes.

WritersMosaic has gone from strength to strength. Now recognised as a division rather than an initiative of the RLF, it has seen a significant growth in live events, notably a regular series at the British Library, curated in collaboration with the Library's Eccles Centre.

More detail on the RLF's activities within the year is provided in the reports that follow.

"I am overwhelmed and very moved by the support you and the RLF have offered me and I am very happy that my work and career was judged worthy of such support. I know you understand the difference this will make to me."

RLF Beneficiary 2024

Trustees' Report

ROYAL PATRON

In May 2024, slightly outside the timescale of this report, we were informed by Buckingham Palace that Her Majesty The Queen would be the RLF's new Royal Patron. As a patron of numerous other literary bodies, including her own Queen's Reading Room, we were delighted to welcome a patron who has such an evident passion for and engagement in literature. We very much look forward to introducing Her Majesty to the RLF's work in the years to come.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Fund was established in 1790. It was incorporated and granted a Charter in 1818 and in 1842 this was made a Royal Charter. Subsequently, the Charter has been revised by Order of the Privy Council in 1968, 2002, 2006 and most recently in 2023.
The Fund is governed by the General Committee chaired by the President, Sir Ian Blatchford, and in his absence by the Deputy President, Hilary Hale.

The General Committee defines the RLF's strategic direction and policies. Trustees ensure that the activities of the Fund are in accordance with its Royal Charter.
The Committee currently meets eleven times a year. Four of these meetings are nominated as 'Board' meetings when the committee consider the whole range of the RLF's activity, receiving and reviewing reports from sub-committees and considering the financial and strategic direction of the Fund. The remaining seven meetings focus primarily on grantgiving activity.

The General Committee delegates discussion and consideration of some areas of policy and activity to sub-committees. These are currently:

Finance and Investment (including Remuneration) - reviews budgeting, financial and investment strategy, financial and investment performance.

Nominations – considers the appointment of trustees and co-opted advisors in collaboration with the Chief Executive and makes recommendations to the General Committee.

Education – reviews the work of the Education team, including the RLF Fellowships, Bridge, Reading Round and Writing for Life. Oversees the appointment of RLF university Fellows.

Executive decisions are delegated to the Chief Executive, the Director of Education, the Director of Digital and the Director of *WritersMosaic* in their respective areas of responsibility.

William Somerset Maugham was born 150 years ago on 25 Jan 1874.
Maugham bequeathed his estate to the Royal Literary Fund after he died in 1965.
© National Portrait Gallery, London.

Trustees' Report

CHARITABLE OBJECTS

The Royal Charter (2023) delineates two charitable objects:

i) The relief of poor and distressed authors of published works of approved literary merit including important contributions to Periodical Literature and of the families of such deceased authors who are themselves in distress and in need of relief; and

ii) the advancement of public education and the improvement of the public taste in the field of literary work.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

GRANT-GIVING

The Fund awards hardship grants to professional authors facing financial hardship. Writers applying to the Fund must meet the eligibility criteria and may be asked to provide samples of their work.

The committee meets 11 times a year to consider applications. Before an application may be considered, the literary merit of the author must first be passed by the committee. Once passed, the committee will consider the writer's circumstances and, if need is established, a grant may be awarded.

Grants are usually one of three kinds: a one-off grant; a non-renewable recurring grant across two or three years; a recurring grant across five years which can be renewed.

The last of these, formerly referred to as 'pensions', are inflation-indexed and generally only awarded to writers above pensionable age or those with long-term disabilities.

"The effect of the award is not only practical. The validation of my writing which the award represents is, for me, of equal value. It's enormously encouraging to have this endorsement of past publications and belief in future ones. Since receiving the news, I've been working with more impetus and energy."

Writer supported by the RLF

GRANTS

£1,680,943

The total sum of grants made to beneficiaries during the year was £1,680,943.

The total number of individual writers assisted between 01 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 was 227; of these 46 were new to the RLF (an increase from 25 in the previous year) and 181 had previously received grants. At 31 March 2024, the Fund had a commitment to make five-year recurring grants to 95 beneficiaries. During the year, 11 new recurring grants were awarded, 13 were renewed, and ten writers in receipt of these grants died.

In October 2023, the General Committee completed a review of the grant-giving programme. The review, led by Head of Grants Justine Palmer, considered all policies and procedures to ensure that they are clear, inclusive, and accessible to all professional writers who meet the eligibility criteria. These policies are now gathered together in a handbook for trustees and a digest of key information is made available on the new website. As part of the review, the committee updated the process by which literary merit is assessed by the trustees. While the reading of applicants' work by trustees remains a valuable and necessary part of the process with some applicants, where possible the new process draws on objective criteria to establish a writer's standing in the literary community. This would appear to be the first major reconsideration of the Fund's process for assessing literary merit since the 1960s.

In November 2023, the Grants department introduced a new database, digitising the applications process for the first time in the RLF's history. Working alongside Time Technology Ltd, the Grants team developed a robust and fully customised system allowing for more efficient processing of the grants applications.

In December 2023, the General Committee awarded one-off 'winter top-up' grants to 27 current UK-based beneficiaries in response to the cost-of-living crisis. Writers in receipt of the winter top-ups were identified as being particularly vulnerable due to low household income. They were not asked to apply and grants were awarded automatically by the Fund.

Also in December, the Fund launched the Robert Holman Award, in memory of the playwright and RLF beneficiary. The award is for playwrights from the north of England and is partly funded by donations to a designated fund. This is the first newly named award created by the RLF since the JB Priestley Award began in 1997.

"There is no judgment. It is one of the most generous places that I have ever reached out for help for and been granted something that has absolutely changed my life."

RLF beneficiary, Anna Ellroy

Trustees' Report

EDUCATION

"The RLF is truly a sustaining and invigorating body to be a part of, and its work in promoting and supporting writing, reading, communication, creativity, and the associated values that we treasure, is second to none."

RLF Advisory Fellow, Clare Morgan

RLF Education programmes provide educational benefits to the public, while enabling writers to earn additional income and share their professional skills and knowledge. Most writers begin their work with the RLF on the university Fellowship scheme, from where they may progress to one or more of a range of other programmes, including Bridge, Reading Round and Writing for Life.

University Fellowships

The RLF Fellowship scheme, launched in the autumn of 1999, places published authors from an array of genres into universities and colleges across the UK where, through one-to-one coaching, they help students develop better writing abilities. Fellows work with students at all levels and across the disciplines.

In its 25th year, the Fellowship scheme welcomed 38 new recruits:

Peter Arnott
Craig Baxter
Anna Beer
Melissa Benn
Matthew Carr
Jim Carruth
Rowan Coleman
Vanessa Collingridge
Brian Conaghan
Ben Cottam
Sharon Duggal
Ele Fountain
Ella Frears
Clare Furniss
Caroline Gawn
Kate Hewitt
Christopher Hill
Julia Hollander
Megan Hunter
Anjali Joseph
Gregory Keen
Matt Killeen
Richard King
Olivia Lichtenstein
Richard Madden
Karen McCombie
Simon Okotie
Mary Paulson-Ellis
Ian Pople
Chris Power
Ian Seed
Miranda Seymour
Amanda Smyth
Em Strang
Gillian Thompson
Roz Watkins
Roy Williams
Alex Wong

Another 58 Fellows continued in post from the previous year and 17 former Fellows returned to take up new posts. In total, 113 writers worked as RLF Fellows at 81 university/college postings, including four new ones: Birkbeck University London, University of Edinburgh, Kellogg College Oxford and the University of Law in Birmingham.

Trustees' Report

CONSULTANT FELLOWS

"I have thoroughly enjoyed both days of this workshop! It has given me a multitude of ways to connect with my own writing, and approach the different stages in lots of new and exciting creative ways."

Humanities doctoral student

"I feel completely enlightened about how I want to present my work in future. I feel more confident in my writing and I understand how best to write for my audience."

Science doctoral student

"Thank you so much. This has been really fantastic and incredibly helpful and unblocking!"

Arts doctoral student

Consultant Fellows (CFs) provide specialised writing development interventions to clients across higher education and beyond. A small cohort of Fellows, after several years working in the university Fellowship programme, undertake rigorous training to design and deliver bespoke workshops, training days and writing retreats. Once qualified, they form a community of independent practitioners showcased on the Consultants Fellows website.

This year saw a 40% increase in the total number of interventions, working with 34 different institutions. As well as their monthly online meetings featuring topics such as workshop feedback and the impact of large language models, this year the CFs met in person to bolster their professional development through presentations and discussion.

BRIDGE

"It helps me so much, as there are many things I could use to write or help me write an essay or assignment. It was a wonderful writing session. I loved it."

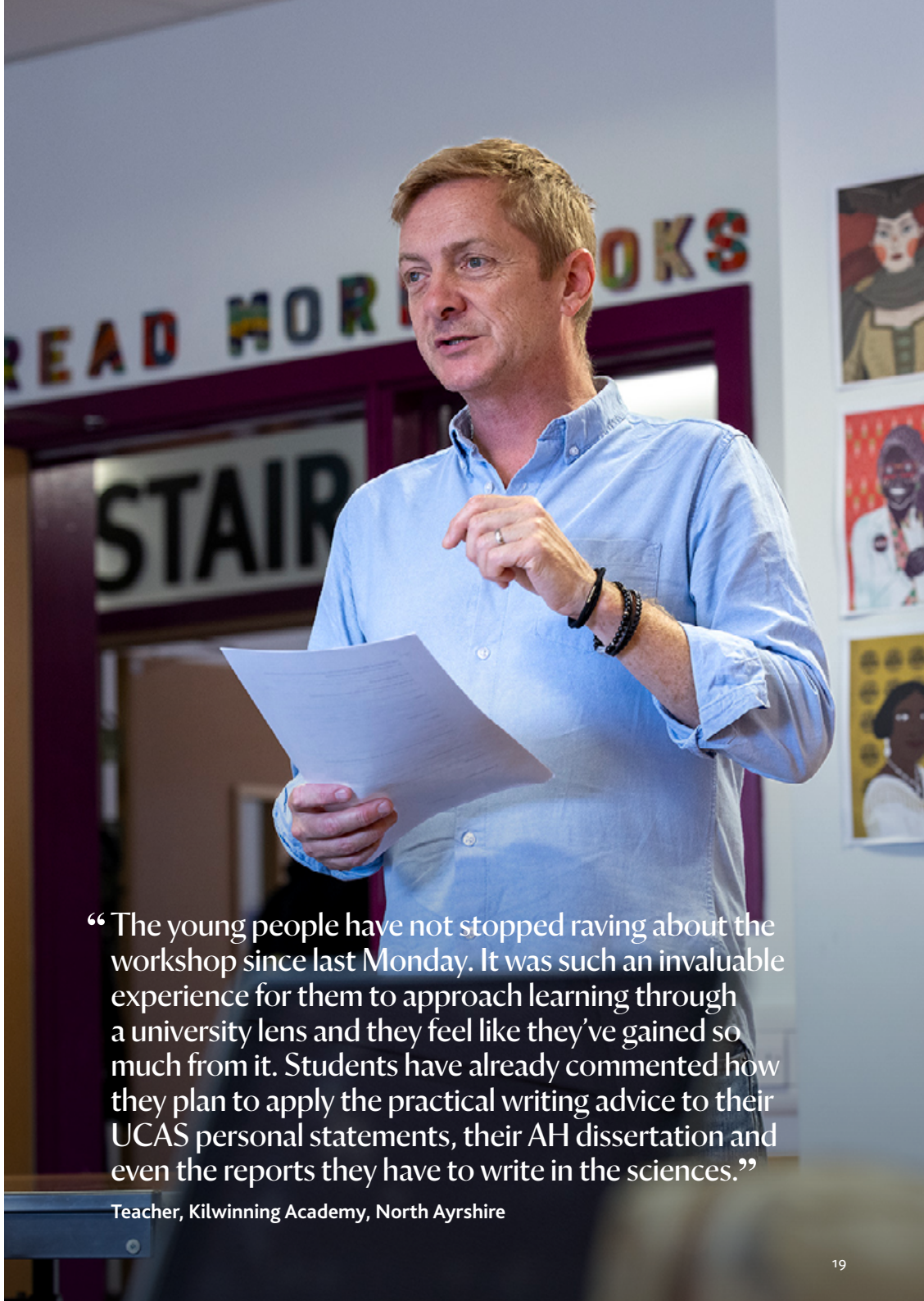
Pupil, Swan School, Oxford

"I feel I have gained skills to help me know how to bit-by-bit go through and cut down my work to ensure I don't lose the interest of the reader. I also feel I know how to plan an essay more clearly so that the first draft comes easier."

Student, Currie Community High School

As young people continue to suffer from the disruption to their education during lockdowns, the Bridge programme offers a series of structured workshops that builds their confidence. The carefully developed materials, delivered by an RLF Fellow, demystify the process of writing and providing practical techniques to make writing easier. Bridge Fellows have all previously worked in our university programme and understand the challenges faced by young people in committing their thoughts to paper or screen.

This year we trained 16 additional Fellows to deliver Bridge, enabling us to expand our coverage across the nations of the UK. Bridge workshops have now taken place from Shetland to Cornwall. As well as working in schools, we strengthened our existing partnerships with libraries and other educational organisations to deliver nearly 500 Bridges to thousands of students.



"The young people have not stopped raving about the workshop since last Monday. It was such an invaluable experience for them to approach learning through a university lens and they feel like they've gained so much from it. Students have already commented how they plan to apply the practical writing advice to their UCAS personal statements, their AH dissertation and even the reports they have to write in the sciences."

Teacher, Kilwinning Academy, North Ayrshire

Trustees' Report

WRITING FOR LIFE

A significant development this year has been a new title, Writing for Life, which is the umbrella for all the RLF's projects in the community and workplace.

We ran over a hundred Writing for Life projects, many with organisations with whom we are now in long-term collaboration, and we have developed new relationships within the sectors where we are firmly established – NHS, Recovery Colleges, Unions and the Voluntary Sector. New ventures have been a successful pilot in a Hospice Outpatients, where we ran a form of Reading Round, more Story Tree projects with refugee and asylum seekers, and Writing for Self-Expression courses with an approved premises and a charity for the blind and partially sighted.

Some of our Fellows have also delivered outreach sessions with groups such as Doctors in Distress and Waterloo Community Counselling which have led to further project work.

We ran a continuous training programme, including compulsory safeguarding training, which we also provide for university Fellows; a day on our new iteration of Writing for Self-Expression; refresher training for all writers, with a presentation from a visiting speaker on listening skills; and training on individual workshops such as Report-Writing and Story Tree.

As ever, Writing for Life has been fleet-footed in responding to requests from partner organisations. We have also managed to replace the work lost due to central government removing funding for the regional Academies for Social Prescribing (aka Thriving Communities) through developing more partnerships in the community sector.

Kerry Young, who was instrumental in pioneering and developing many of our Writing for Life projects, retired from RLF work at the end of March. We are hugely grateful for her unfailing commitment and dynamic approach to our work and we are delighted to welcome Anna Reynolds to replace her two days a week.

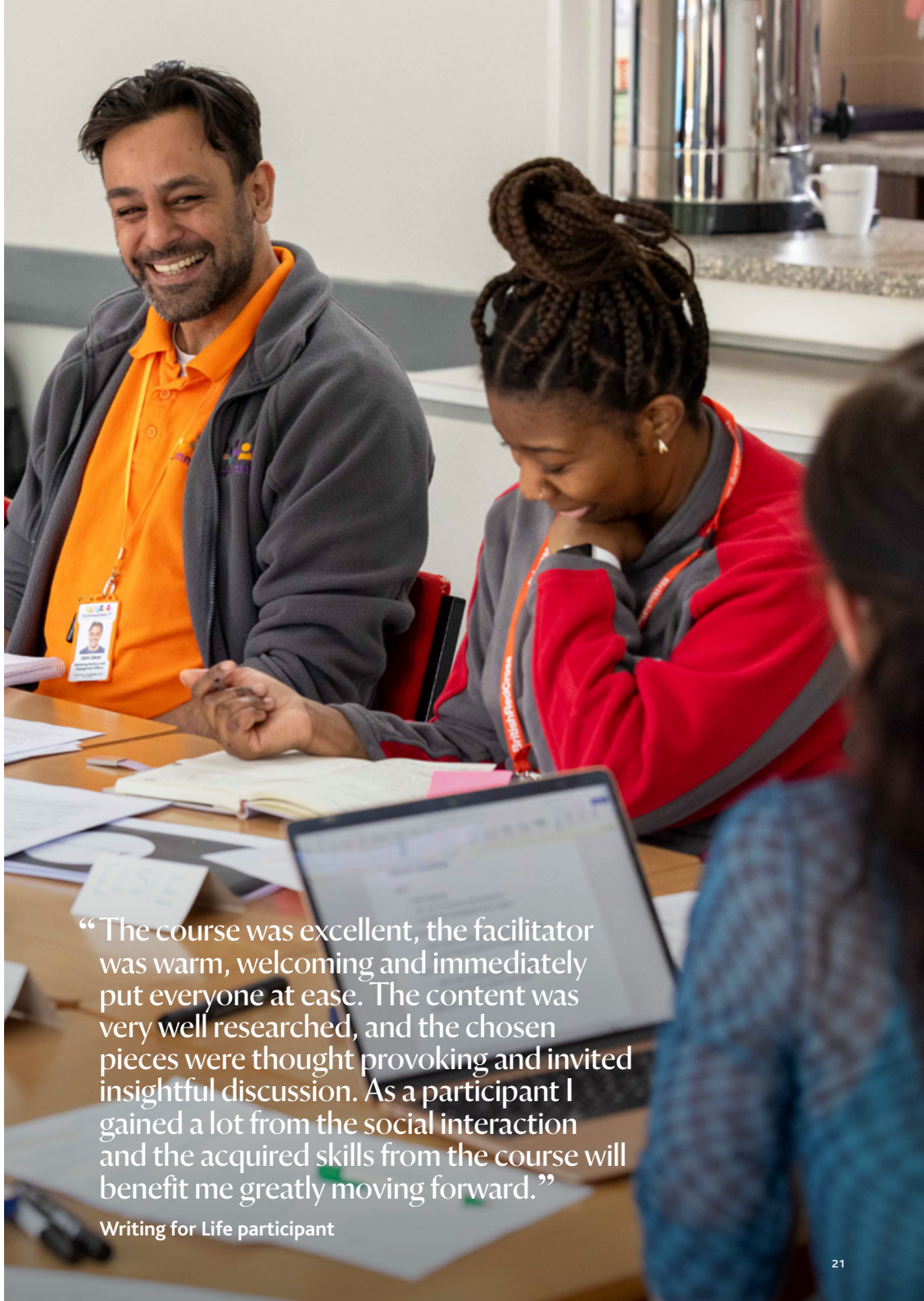
What our Fellows say about Writing for Life:

"It's honestly the first time in my working life that I can see where I am having a positive impact. At last, I feel useful."

"Just that it is the BEST work. I really love it. I always say that if I ever got a brilliant book deal there is a lot of freelance work I'd be happy to give up – but never this!"

"I had the most wonderfully positive and uplifting experience working with the students at the Recovery College. It was one of the most engaged, articulate, insightful, compassionate, open and generous group of people I have ever worked with."

"I learn so much about myself during these sessions and am grateful for the time spent with these extraordinary, trusting, clever, funny, creative people."



“Reading Round has... reconnected me to my roots in fiction and poetry... It's hard to explain how deeply I've enjoyed reading aloud with the group. I will miss this. There's been a wonderful, generous shared energy around the room... So I have learned (if I didn't know it before) how much is lacking in life at the writing table. I can also say that, with every text I've shared with the group, someone has come up with an observation, a new angle, that has enriched my own reading.”

Teacher, Kilwinning Academy, North Ayrshire

Trustees' Report

READING ROUND

This year saw a major departure for Reading Round in that half the new Lectors (soon to be called Reading Round Fellows in line with other RLF nomenclature) were recruited through *WritersMosaic*. Contracts for Lectors were restricted to one rather than two years, as previously.

The 19 new Lectors were Nathalie Abi-Ezzi, Lulu Allison, Michael Bird, Sue Brown, Edson Burton, Trish Cooke, Jonathan Edwards, Fiona Evans, Shanta Everington, Deanne Heron, Andy Jackson, Carol Leeming, Simon Mason, Louise Mulvey, Chitra Ramaswamy, Juliet Gilkes Romero, Amaal Said, Umi Sinha, Heidi Williamson.

The pilot proved highly successful. A bond was created between all the writers and mentors (experienced Reading Round Lectors) at the Induction, and everyone involved in the scheme benefitted from the much increased diversity of the group. Groups were run in a variety of locations – from St Ives to Dundee, Gwent to Leigh-on-Sea, and in venues that varied from libraries and community centres to the back room of a pub.

For most groups the Reading Round experience creates a literary and community bond that they hope to continue once the writer no longer leads them.

We ran two group lunches, in London and Glasgow, to give writers the opportunity to exchange experience, and writers attended safeguarding training, and another session on RLF record-keeping and text selection.

Isabel Ashdown, Sarah Salway, John Siddique and Rhiannon Tise continued to support the project as mentors, helping to select texts for the Text Bank (along with Judith Allnatt) and contributing to discussions on the Online Forum.

“It is easy to take the craft of writing for granted when reading alone. Structure, word choice, beginnings, endings... they become limitless possibilities, and the fact that they are limited within a text because of a writer's choice is interesting to me.”

Reading Round group member

Trustees' Report

WRITERSMOSAIC

This year *WritersMosaic* has endeavoured increasingly to spread its wings and to provide new opportunities and support for writers of the global majority.

We published the profiles of 22 writers, commissioning them to write pieces and interviewing them about their writing lives. We continued to publish guest editions with themes ranging from 'Fantasy and Science Fiction' to the legacy of James Baldwin. We increased the number of new reviewers and feature writers on the site in the Reviews and Close Up sections.

We further developed our strategy of raising our profile and that of the RLF by attending literary festivals and putting on our own live literature events. In June, we were invited to attend the Hay Festival for the first time, where our writers took part on several panels in front of audiences of over 200 people. We also hosted a press breakfast presentation at Hay to introduce *WritersMosaic* as a division of the Royal Literary Fund, and to announce our new collaboration with the British Library. We were invited to the Bradford Literature Festival to curate a couple of panels, building on our previous participation at the festival last year. We had just published a timely guest edition on writing and AI called 'Cybernetics and ghosts: the digital future of writing'. Our panel reflected on this pivotal moment in our culture and our writers took part in other debates on the subject during the festival. We attended the Edinburgh International Book Festival again, where *WritersMosaic* Director Colin Grant shared a stage with Alford Gardner, a nonagenarian pioneer of the Windrush generation, and we were also invited to take part in the Cheltenham Festival for the first time.

As is reported elsewhere, *WritersMosaic* proposed ten writers to become Reading Round Fellows. The enthusiasm for the project is summed up by *WritersMosaic's* Carol Leeming: "Leicester is a literary beacon. Our Royal Literary Fund Reading Round was scintillating."

We also introduced a new strand of post-theatre production Q&A sessions, starting with Tanika Gupta talking about her play *The Empress* which transferred from the RSC to the Lyric Hammersmith in October.

WritersMosaic writers' residency in Italy supported by Hawthornden Foundation

James Baldwin's Centenary at the British Library

The Forensic and the Fantastic: A celebration of LatinX writers at the British Library

Trustees' Report

Our most exciting collaboration was with the British Library: a year-long series of public literary events, staged approximately every six weeks in the Eccles Centre at the Library. Launching on 12 September with an audience of 255 in the Pigott Theatre, the evenings have featured a range of *WritersMosaic* writers, including poets, playwrights, novelists, and lyricists, and a significant musical component. We have also broadened the number of young creatives we have worked with, commissioning photographers such as Adïam Yemane to take portraits of profiled writers, and videographers such as Rob Akin to film the British Library events.

In November, *WritersMosaic* received a grant from the Hawthornden Foundation to take six writers to a retreat planned for May 2024. In completing the requirements for the grant, we applied for, and successfully received, CAF International accreditation which will ensure eligibility for other possible US grants in the future.

This year we continued to expand the kind of writing that we commission for *WritersMosaic*, including an oral history project on migration called 'What We Leave We Carry' and a new strand, My Hit List, where a writer is tasked with writing a feature on six subjects which they consider to be the year's cultural highlights.

"It's a generous and thrilling invitation to be on a *WritersMosaic* panel. *WritersMosaic* is a fantastic achievement. Thanks so much for the celebration of Baldwin's centenary (at the British Library). I thought it was a beautiful night and Baldwin himself would have loved it, and not solely because it was all about him!"

Chitra Ramaswamy

FUTURE PLANS

The newly formed *WritersMosaic* board, a subcommittee of the General Committee, will come into existence in late 2024. Composed of RLF trustees and elected members from the existing *WritersMosaic* Editorial Board it will significantly strengthen and clarify the status of *WritersMosaic* within the RLF structure. Due to an increasing number of applications for grants a wide-ranging review is underway to establish an appropriate and effective governance model for grant-giving.

An outline of a new three-year strategy will be considered by the General Committee in Autumn 2024, with a fuller proposal and outline business plan to be reviewed in early 2025.

The staffing of the grants team will be reviewed in 2024-25 to adjust to the increase in grant applications and the additional demands of the new application and grant-giving process.

The long-standing role of grants assistant will be made redundant and two new grants officers posts created.

Work continues to refine and develop the new visual identity, website and marketing operation. A social media strategy is being evolved, alongside new marketing assets for both grants and education programmes. A new area of the website will celebrate the wide range of authors who have bequeathed all or part of their estate to the Fund. Michael Salu, who originally designed the *WritersMosaic* visual identity, has been commissioned to integrate the new RLF brand with *WritersMosaic*, especially for the growing number of public collaborations being undertaken by the latter.

A new format for our audio content, Collected, will be launched in early 2025. We have also been exploring how we can improve access to the large archive of material about writers and writing commissioned from RLF Fellows over the years.

The new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database for grants and marketing, and improved systems across Education programmes, will permit more effective monitoring and reporting of the range of writers engaging with the Fund. We will be building on the work already undertaken with Dawn Cameron on Writing for Life/Social Sector to explore appropriate models of evaluation for the diverse array of programmes run across the RLF.

The first major review of the university Fellowship has been commissioned from Caroline McCormick and Fiona English of Achates. This will be received by trustees in July 2024 and should provide useful guidance on the future development of the scheme within the new long-term strategy.

The strategy is also considering how to build upon the considerable experience and expertise accumulated over the last 25 years in training and preparing writers to work in a wide range of educational, community and workplace setting. There is much here that is of value to writers and organisations beyond the RLF and we are considering how we can make it available.

There are also plans to enhance the RLF's national presence by strengthening our extensive regional networks with the creation of 'hubs' outside London to connect and promote RLF writers and activity.

We will repeat the successful experiment of drawing on *WritersMosaic* writers to become Reading Round Fellows, and we are also exploring how to use the Reading Round model as the basis of future Writing for Life projects, along the lines of work already undertaken with refugees and asylum seekers, and in hospices.

WritersMosaic will run its first writers' retreat in May 2024, supported by the Hawthornden Foundation, which has committed the funds to run a second retreat in 2025. A successful bid to the Adrian Brinkerhoff Poetry Foundation will lead to the creation of six short poetry films to be released in early 2025. Colin Grant has also been in discussion with the Hay Festival regarding a regular appearance at the festival.

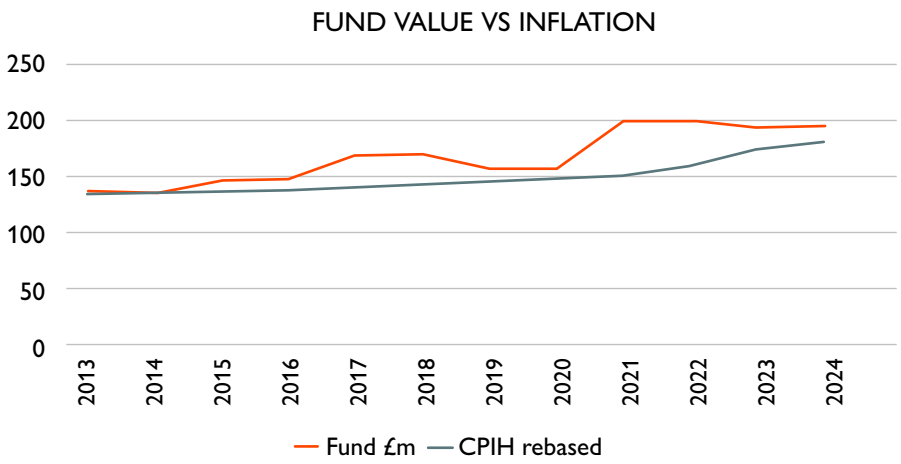
After a pause in Autumn 2024 *WritersMosaic* will continue the programme of public events at the British Library.

Financial Review

Financial Review

The Fund depends on its investment portfolio for the greatest part of its income. The portfolio is managed as expendable endowment funds on a total return basis, so that charitable expenditure may be supported both by investment income, such as dividends and bond coupons, and by capital gains harvested from the growing portfolio. The objective remains to support a target spending rate of 3 ¼ % of the average asset value of the portfolio over the three preceding years, while at the same time maintaining the real value of the investments over time.

The chart shows that over the long term the Fund has consistently outperformed this objective, though results have varied considerably over shorter periods.



We completed the transfer of the bulk of our investment portfolio to the management and administration of Cazenove Capital at the start of the year. Cazenove manages just over half the portfolio on a discretionary basis, while at the same time administering a satellite portfolio comprising the Fund's low cost passive equity investments as well as its property fund holdings. The new arrangements have bedded in well and have greatly assisted the smooth running of the Fund, as well as helping to lower investment management costs.

Alongside the main portfolio, the Fund retains holdings in and commitments to a number of private equity funds; the trustees have decided to make no new allocations to this private equity portfolio but to allow it to run off over time. The combined private equity holdings were valued at £30.99 million at 31 March 2024.

Returns from the portfolios rebounded strongly in the year ended 31 March 2024, following the disappointing performance recorded in the prior year. Investments were valued at £194.4 million at 31 March 2024, up 10% from the prior year. Overall investment income in the year was £3.66 million (2023: £2.82 million), while investment management costs totalled £1.19 million (2023: £1.26 million).

The size of the Fund's investment portfolio means that swings in the market value of investments are usually the dominant factor in our statement of financial activities. That remained the case last year, with these largely unrealised investment gains more than accounting for the Fund's reported net income of £10.25 million.

Investment performance benefited from exposure to US equities, aided by the sizeable allocation within our passive global equity funds, while the actively managed allocation to Japan also proved helpful to performance. Cash balances delivered better returns, helped by the trustees' decision to move surplus bank balances to money market funds paying higher interest. Our property fund investments were less helpful to performance.

Financial Review

RESERVES

The majority of the Fund's assets are held as an investment fund and are recorded as expendable endowment funds. These totalled £193.9 million at 31 March 2024 (2023: £182.0 million). These investments are intended to produce income to finance the Fund's activities, but a significant portion of the investment portfolio is held in cash and most of the remainder is in highly liquid and easily accessible securities, which therefore, though not formally designated as free reserves, also provide a substantial buffer that can be accessed to help the Fund weather any unforeseen adverse shocks.

RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Risk is managed by the trustees and senior staff. A Risk Register indicating likelihood, impact and mitigating actions is reviewed regularly by the General Committee and separate sub-registers for particular areas of activity reviewed by relevant sub-committees.

REMUNERATION

Remuneration is considered annually by the Finance and Investment Subcommittee. It takes advice from the Chief Executive, who provides current figures and relevant information for all key management personnel. The sub-committee determines pension arrangements and other benefits, and ensures that contractual terms on termination are fair to the individual and the charity, and that poor performance is not rewarded. It recommends its decisions to the General Committee for approval.
In determining the RLF's remuneration policy, the Subcommittee takes into account that as an organisation it has few employees; it wishes therefore to recognise the broader than normal range of skills and competencies required in many roles.

The appropriateness and relevance of the remuneration policy is reviewed annually, including reference to comparisons with other charities and/or Higher Education roles, ensuring the RLF remains sensitive to the broader issues – for example, pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

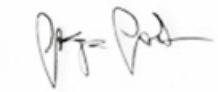
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- **select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;**
- **observe methods and principles in the Charities SORP;**
- **make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;**
- **state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;**
- **prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.**

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved on behalf of the General Committee and signed on its behalf by



George Graham
Trustee

15 January 2025

Auditor's Report

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Literary Fund for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- **give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;**
- **have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and**
- **have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.**

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Auditor's Report

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- **the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or**
- **the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or**
- **the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or**
- **we have not received all the information and explanations we required for our audit.**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

EXPLANATION AS TO WHAT EXTENT THE AUDIT WAS CONSIDERED CAPABLE OF DETECTING IRREGULARITIES, INCLUDING FRAUD

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- **We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.**
- **We obtained an understanding of how the charity complies with these requirements by discussions with management.**
- **We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management.**
- **We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.**
- **Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.**

Auditor's Report

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- **Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.**

- **Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.**

- **Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.**

- **Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.**

- **Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.**

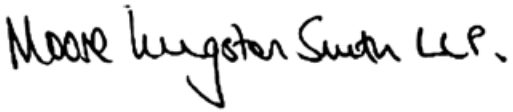
We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charity and charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Jonathan Aikens
Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Statutory auditor
9 Appold Street
London
EC2A 2AP

Moore Kingston Smith LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.



Date: 15 January 2025

Financial Statements

Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Expendable endowment funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income					
Income from					
Donations and legacies	3	75,817	98,321	–	174,138
Investments	2	3,663,835	–	–	3,663,835
Other income	4	382,166	–	–	382,166
Total income		4,121,818	98,321	–	4,220,139
Expenditure					
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	7	–	–	(1,187,470)	(1,187,470)
Charitable activities	8	(7,123,208)	(17,687)	–	(7,140,896)
Total expenditure		(7,123,208)	(17,687)	(1,187,470)	(8,328,366)
Net income/(expenditure) before gains on investments		(3,001,390)	80,634	(1,187,470)	(4,108,226)
Exchange gains		(50,670)	–	(665,552)	(716,222)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	–	–	15,069,935	15,069,935
Net (expenditure)/income	5	(3,052,060)	80,634	13,216,913	10,245,487
Transfers between funds		1,000,000	–	(1,000,000)	–
Net movement in funds		(2,052,060)	80,634	12,216,913	10,245,487
Fund balances brought forward		2,288,960	792	181,688,339	183,978,091
Fund balances carried forward		236,900	81,426	193,905,252	194,223,578

The income and the resulting net movement in funds arise from continuing operations.
The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those shown above.

Statement of financial activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Expendable endowment funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income					
Income from					
Donations and legacies	3	4,420	792	–	5,212
Investments	2	2,816,813	–	–	2,816,813
Other income	4	338,827	–	–	338,827
Total income		3,160,060	792	–	3,160,852
Expenditure					
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	7	–	–	(1,264,689)	(1,264,689)
Charitable activities	8	(6,552,303)	–	–	(6,552,303)
Total expenditure		(6,552,303)	–	(1,264,689)	(7,816,992)
Net income/(expenditure) before gains on investments		(3,392,243)	792	(1,264,689)	(4,656,140)
Exchange gains		260,503	–	3,236,444	3,496,947
Net gains/(losses) on investments		–	–	(10,562,502)	(10,562,502)
Net (expenditure)/income	5	(3,131,740)	792	(8,590,747)	(11,721,695)
Transfers between funds		–	–	–	–
Net movement in funds		(3,131,740)	792	(8,590,747)	(11,721,695)
Fund balances brought forward		5,420,700	–	190,279,086	195,699,786
Fund balances carried forward		2,288,960	792	181,688,339	183,978,091

Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	10		360,740		394,835
Investments	11		194,438,300		177,416,214
			194,799,040		177,811,049
Current assets					
Debtors	12	225,936		370,557	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,597,470		8,065,217	
		1,823,406		8,435,774	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,111,059)		(948,366)	
Net current assets			712,347		7,487,408
Total assets less current liabilities			195,511,387		185,298,457
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	14		(1,287,809)		(1,320,366)
Net assets	17		194,223,578		183,978,091
Funds					
Restricted funds			81,426		792
Unrestricted funds			236,900		2,288,960
Expendable endowment funds			193,905,252		181,688,339
	17		194,223,578		183,978,091

The financial statements were approved by the General Committee on the 15th January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

George Graham
Trustee

Edward Kemp
Chief Executive Officer

Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Net cash used in operating activities			(8,223,984)		(5,491,394)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Investment income		3,663,835		2,816,813	
Capital expenditure and financial investment:					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		–		(21,516)	
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(84,314,038)		(64,081,546)	
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		–		–	
Proceeds from sale of investments		80,332,004		73,115,943	
Net cash provided by investing activities			(318,199)		11,829,694
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	18		(8,542,183)		6,338,300
Change in cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			(8,542,183)		6,338,300
Net cash at the start of the year	18		16,741,191		10,402,891
Net cash at the end of the year	18		8,199,008		16,741,191
Reconciliation of changes in net expenses before other recognised gains and losses to net cash flow					
Net expenses before other recognised gains and losses			(4,108,226)		(4,656,140)
Investment income			(3,663,835)		(2,816,813)
Depreciation			34,095		36,591
Net investment income/(expenses)			(714,795)		938,368
Foreign exchange movements			(45,980)		206,708
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors			144,621		407,318
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors			130,136		392,574
Net cash outflow from operating activities			(8,223,984)		(5,491,394)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Update Bulletin 2, and the Charities Act 2011.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the forseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statement are rounded to the nearest pound.

Income
All income is included when the charity has entitlement to the income, there is probability of receipt and the amount can be measured. Donations are recognised on a receipts basis unless the donor specifies that the donation relates to a future period or that certain pre-conditions must be fulfilled before use. Interest income is included on a receivable basis.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Expenditure
Expenditure is classified under the principal categories of charitable and other expenditure rather than the type of expense, in order to provide more useful information to users of the financial statements. Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Actitvities (SOFA) on an accruals basis.

Charitable activities comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to the activity. Support costs, including governance costs, have been allocated to activities based on the average staff time spent.

Heritage assets
The Fund's archives which consist of the records of cases, minutes, annual reports and matters of administration and are of considerable interest to scholars and researchers are maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture and therefore fall within the definition of heritage assets under Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities SORP. The archives of the Fund from 1790 up to 1939 have been placed at the British Library on indefinite loan. Reliable market valuation information is not available, however, recent valuations for insurance and indemnification purposes suggest a value for the total archive of around £3 million.

Heritage assets are measured at cost (or valuation on the date received if donated to the charity). Given the historic nature of the heritage assets the charity currently holds, they have no attributable cost / minimal value at the date they were donated to the organisation and as such are held in the financial statements at £nil value.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Depreciation
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets, except freehold land, by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% of cost per annum
Fixtures and fittings	25% of written down value per annum
Office equipment	25% of written down value per annum
Motor vehicles	25% of written down value per annum

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

Three and five year grants
Liabilities for three and five year grants are recognised in the balance sheet when the Fund has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. One off grants are recognised when they are awarded. Instalment three and five year grants are awarded over a three and five year period respectively. Annual payments are made based on the initial award on application. Five year grants are reviewed for renewal after the five year period.

Operating leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Post-retirement benefits
The amount charged against profits represents the contributions payable to employees' private pension schemes in respect of the accounting period.

Funds
Unrestricted funds
These funds are used to satisfy the provision of the charter of The Royal Literary Fund and are used at the discretion of the Trustees.

Income for the fund is generated through donations, but is mainly derived from the expendable endowment fund.

Restricted funds
Restricted funds are funds that are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or that have been raised by the Fund for particular purposes. Details of the restricted funds held are given in note 16 to the financial statements.

Expendable endowment funds
From funds obtained from the sale of its share of the commercial rights to Winnie the Pooh received from AA Milne Estate, the Fund invested money in an investment portfolio. It is from this portfolio that income is generated every year to fund the majority of the grant making programme.

The Trustees have the power to release the expendable endowment funds to the Fund's unrestricted income funds, which may be spent on charitable activities.

Investments
Investments are shown at market value in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Realised gains or losses on the sale of investments represent sale proceeds, less market value brought forward and investment management fees and commissions.

Unrealised gains or losses represent the movement between the brought forward and carried forward market value of the investments in the period.

Intangible fixed assets
The Fund owns the copyright to the works of several authors. The Committee does not consider it practical to place a value on these copyrights, so they are not shown on the balance sheet.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exceptions of prepayments and deferred income all other debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102. See notes 13, 14 and 15 for the debtor and creditor notes.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty
In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The most significant estimates and assumptions which affect the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the accounts relate to:

Useful Economic Lives – The annual depreciation charge for fixed assets is sensitive to change in the estimated useful economic lives and residual value of the assets. These are reassessed annually and amended where necessary to reflect current circumstances.

Cash and liquid resources
Cash, for the purpose of the cash flow statement, comprises cash in hand and deposits repayable on demand, less overdrafts payable on demand. Liquid resources are included within fixed asset investments which are disposable without curtailing or disrupting the business and are either readily convertible into known amounts of cash at or close to their carrying values or traded in an active market. Liquid resources comprise term deposits of less than one year.

Foreign currencies
Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. Exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities. The charity does not own any non-monetary assets abroad.

2. Investment income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income from fixed interest securities	–	829,672
Income from managed or unitised funds	3,097,889	1,929,017
Interest on cash deposits held by investment managers	489,637	30,839
Interest on other cash deposits	76,309	27,285
	3,663,835	2,816,813

All investment income is held as unrestricted income (2023: all held as unrestricted income).

3. Donations and legacies

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Legacies	68,285	–	68,285	–	–	–
	68,285	–	68,285	–	–	–
Donations and grants						
Charities Aid Foundation America	–	49,169	49,169	–	–	–
In memory Robert Holman	–	8,152	8,152	–	792	792
The Louise Edith Collis Charitable Trust	6,146	–	6,146	–	–	–
Anonymous	–	41,000	41,000	3,231	–	3,231
The Kington Oliphant of Gask Trust	1,201	–	1,201	1,079	–	1,079
Other donations under £500	185	–	185	110	–	110
	7,532	98,321	105,853	4,420	–	5,212
Total	75,817	98,321	174,138	4,420	–	5,212

4. Other income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Royalties		
Pooh Properties Trust	127,500	150,000
W Somerset Maugham	117,990	106,210
A Ransome	47,789	38,207
P Hamilton	34,448	23,924
GK Chesterton	30,249	6,060
P Clough	14,933	1,519
NF Simpson	2,612	405
Henry Reed	1,639	681
C MacInnes	1,052	4,670
A Wilson	463	511
E Marshall	246	–
H F Summers	167	–
M Robson	166	55
L Summers	166	122
T J Lawson	165	–
J Hanson	139	103
R Ketton-Cremmer	138	103
A Gotch	138	103
R Brooke	138	198
P Mallett	117	–
M Steen	47	110
M Hamilton	25	–
M Roberts	16	–
V G Wort	14	–
M Hocking	3	33
A Vivis	–	1,078
Anonymous	2,014	2,039
	382,374	336,131
Other income	(208)	2,696
Total	382,166	338,827

5. Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	34,095	36,591
Amounts paid to auditor		
Audit fee – current year	18,000	18,000
Audit fee – prior year under accrual	6,600	1,480

6. Taxation

The Royal Literary Fund, as a registered charity, is exempt from taxation on its income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives. No tax charge has arisen in the year.

7. Raising funds expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Investment management fees	1,153,718	1,240,424
Commissions on royalties	33,752	24,265
	1,187,470	1,264,689

8. Charitable activities expenditure

2024	Education	Grant making	Writers Mosaic	Total
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Direct activity costs*	3,233,983	–	321,817	3,555,800
Direct staff costs	362,979	100,038	75,336	538,353
Outright grants	–	722,545	–	722,545
Three year instalment grants	–	426,851	–	426,851
Five year grants – total commitments payable	–	551,839	–	551,839
Other direct costs	76,820	22,879	16,261	115,960
	3,673,782	1,824,152	413,414	5,911,348

*Of which £16,989 *WritersMosaic* activity costs were restricted

Support costs				
Governance costs				
Audit fees	8,220	8,220	8,220	24,660
Board costs	11,151	11,151	11,151	33,453
Legal and strategy costs	11,154	11,154	11,154	33,462
Other support costs				
Staff costs	83,061	83,061	83,061	249,183
Staff travel, accomm, subsistence, training, healthcare	12,241	12,241	12,241	36,723
Professional fees	17,779	17,779	17,779	53,337
Recruitment and temporary staff	_	4,620	18,300	22,920
Finance and insurance costs*	4,898	4,898	4,898	14,694
Premises expenses	27,952	27,952	–	55,904
Postage, printing, stationery, telephone and IT**	18,354	18,354	18,354	55,062
Communications	205,352	205,352	205,352	616,056
Depreciation	23,629	10,465	–	34,094
	423,791	415,245	390,510	1,229,547
Total charitable activity costs by sector	4,097,573	2,239,399	803,924	7,140,896

*Of which £502 restricted **Of which £196 restricted

2023	Education	Grant making	Writers Mosaic	Total
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Direct activity costs*	3,090,096	–	254,973	3,345,069
Direct staff costs	257,357	84,606	47,280	389,243
Outright grants	–	554,754	–	554,754
Three year instalment grants	–	455,910	–	455,910
Five year grants – total commitments payable	–	1,025,527	–	1,025,527
Other direct costs	51,986	2,110	6,692	60,788
	3,399,439	2,122,907	308,945	5,831,291

*Of which £16,989 *WritersMosaic* activity costs were restricted

Support costs				
Governance costs				
Audit fees	6,493	6,493	6,493	19,479
Board costs	10,767	10,767	10,767	32,301
Legal and strategy costs	3,688	3,688	3,688	11,064
Other support costs				
Staff costs	64,100	64,100	64,100	192,300
Staff travel, accomm, subsistence, training, healthcare	7,246	7,246	7,246	21,738
Professional fees	20,602	20,602	20,602	61,806
Recruitment and temporary staff	4,077	4,077	13,607	21,761
Finance and insurance costs*	5,644	5,644	5,644	16,932
Premises expenses	54,655	54,655	–	109,310
Postage, printing, stationery, telephone and IT**	12,526	12,526	12,526	37,578
Communications	53,384	53,384	53,384	160,152
Depreciation	27,071	9,520	–	36,591
	270,252	252,702	198,057	721,012
Total charitable activity costs by sector	3,669,692	2,375,609	507,002	6,552,303

*Of which £502 restricted **Of which £196 restricted

8. Charitable activities (continued)

Grants paid to individuals
The aggregate amount of three and five year grants paid to individuals during the year was £963,398 (2023: £1,104,798). The total number of grants awarded to other charities was 0 (2023: 0). At the year end £2,161,699 (2023: £2,141,407) of three and five year grants were committed and a liability has been recognised in the accounts to reflect this (see notes 13 and 14).

The total number of writers in receipt of a three year grant annual instalment during the year was 59(2023: 59).

9. Employees

The average number of employees during the year was 11 (2023: 8.5).

	2024	2023
Support	2.00	1.50
Education	7.00	5.00
Grant making	2.00	2.00
	11.00	8.50

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs			
Wages, salaries and benefits		624,595	454,390
Social security costs		69,584	52,537
Other pension costs	15	93,358	74,616
		787,537	581,543

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Chief Executive Officer, the Directo of Education, the Director of Digital and the Head of Grants. The total management benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £446,446 (2023: £386,295).

3 employees (2023: 0) earned between £90,000 and £100,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for these individuals were £42,801 (2023: N/A).

No employees (2023: 2) earned between £80,000 and £90,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for these individuals were N/A (2023: £26,305).

No employees (2023: 1) earned between £70,000 and £80,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for this individual was N/A (2023: £11,340).

Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses totalling £3,422 were made to 2 trustees during the year (2023: £4,050 to 3 trustees). These expenses related to travel costs incurred in relation to work carried out for the charity.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	613,020	99,138	46,300	90,522	848,980
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	305,524	72,910	36,108	39,603	454,145
Charge for the year	12,260	6,557	2,548	12,730	34,095
At 31 March 2024	317,784	79,467	38,656	52,333	488,240
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2024	295,236	19,671	7,644	38,189	360,740
At 1 April 2023	307,496	26,228	10,192	50,919	394,835

11. Fixed asset investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fixed interest securities	_	8,420,706
Managed or unitised funds	187,836,762	160,319,533
	187,836,762	168,740,239
Cash deposits held by investment managers	6,601,538	8,675,976
	194,438,300	177,416,214
Quoted investments		
Market value as at 1 April 2023	168,740,239	185,985,266
Additions	84,314,038	64,081,546
Disposals	(80,332,004)	(73,115,943)
Net (losses)/gains	15,069,935	(10,562,502)
Investment management fees	714,795	(938,368)
Exchange gain	(670,241)	3,290,239
Market value as at 31 March 2023	187,836,762	168,740,239
Historical cost as at 31 March 2023	163,533,335	121,571,799
Geographical analysis		
United Kingdom	48,102,097	108,236,680
Overseas	146,336,203	69,179,534
	194,438,300	177,416,214

The following investments represent more than 5% of the value of the portfolio. Their year end market values have also been stated for clarity. Cazenove, £163,445,391 and Pantheon RLF 2014 Fund, £10,533,616.

During the year a number of investments were transferred into a consolidated portfolio with Cazenove. Investments representing more than 5% of the value of the portflio in 2023 were Cazenove, £61,570,719; Blackrock MSCI, £52,406,202; Blackrock Midcap UK Equity, £14,152,824 and Pantheon RLF 2014 Fund, £11,335,955.

12. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accounts receivable	–	350
Prepayments and accrued income	225,936	370,207
	225,936	370,557

All debtors fall due within one year.

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	115,413	72,088
Accruals	83,422	27,690
Tax and social security	27,462	21,661
Other creditors	10,872	5,886
Accrued grants and pension commitments	873,890	821,041
	1,111,059	948,366

14. Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued grants and pension commitments	1,287,809	1,320,366

The trustees have accrued for three and five year grants awarded in the year, which are payable over a three and five year period, respectively. Although all payments are subject to an annual review, the Fund accepts a 'no changes in circumstances' return. Since the assessment of the beneficiary's financial well being is outside the Fund's control, a full accrual for this commitment has been made this year.

15. Pension scheme

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions of £93,358 (2023: £74,616) were charged to the statement of financial activities as they became payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. Contributions of £7,667 (2023: £5,889) remained outstanding at the year end.

16. Analysis of movements on the funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable Endowment Funds	2024
	General	R Holman	Hawthornden	H Kureishi	General	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening funds	2,288,960	792	–	–	181,688,339	183,978,091
Income	4,121,818	8,152	49,169	41,000	–	4,220,140
Expenditure	(7,123,208)	(698)	(16,989)	–	(1,187,470)	(8,328,366)
	(712,430)	8,246	32,180	41,000	180,500,869	179,869,864
Fund transfers	1,000,000	–	–	–	(1,000,000)	–
Other net recognised gains	(50,670)	–	–	–	14,404,384	14,353,713
Closing value of funds	236,900	8,246	32,180	41,000	193,905,253	194,223,579

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable Endowment Funds	2023
	General	R Holman	General	Total
	£	£	£	£
Opening funds	5,420,700	–	190,279,086	195,699,786
Income	3,160,060	792	–	3,160,852
Expenditure	(6,552,303)	–	(1,264,689)	(7,816,992)
	2,028,457	792	189,014,397	191,043,646
Fund transfers	–	–	–	–
Other net recognised gains	260,503	–	(7,326,058)	(7,065,555)
Closing value of funds	2,288,960	792	181,688,339	183,978,091

The general fund and designated funds are unrestricted and are used to satisfy the provision of the charter of The Royal Literary Fund. There are sufficient funds to enable this to occur.

The Robert Holman Award has been established with the friends and executors of playwright and Royal Literary Fund beneficiary Robert Holman with funds donated at Robert's funeral and subsequently. It will provide hardship support for professional playwrights from the North of England.

Hanif Kureishi: In 2022 the writer Hanif Kureishi suffered a fall which has left him paralysed. The restricted fund receives donations made towards Hanif's ongoing care and is administered by the RLF to this end.

Hawthornden Foundation: The RLF received a grant from the Hawthornden Foundation via CAF America to support a writers' retreat led by *WritersMosaic* editors. The grant is being repeated in 2024/25.

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	2024
Fixed assets	360,740	–	–	360,740
Investments	–	–	194,438,300	194,438,300
Net current assets	1,163,969	81,426	(533,048)	712,347
Creditors due in more than one year	(1,287,809)	–	–	(1,287,809)
Closing value of funds	236,900	81,426	193,905,252	194,223,578

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	2023
Fixed assets	394,835	–	–	394,835
Investments	–	–	177,416,214	177,416,214
Net current assets	3,214,491	792	4,272,125	7,487,408
Creditors due in more than one year	(1,320,366)	–	–	(1,320,366)
Closing value of funds	2,288,960	792	181,688,339	183,978,091

18. Net cash

	Cash brought forward	Cash	Cash carried forward
	£	£	£
Cash in hand, at bank	8,065,217	(6,467,747)	1,597,470
Cash deposits held by Investment Managers	8,675,974	(2,074,436)	6,601,538
Total	16,741,191	(8,542,183)	8,199,008

19. Related party transactions

As one of the beneficiaries of the Estate of AA Milne, the Fund is one of four members of the Pooh Properties Trust (PPT). Mark Lawson represented the Fund's interests as a trustee of PPT. PPT's decisions are based upon unanimous agreement and no trustee has any controlling interest. Mark Lawson received no remuneration from either charity for this role. During the year Royalties of £127,500 (2023: £150,000) were received.

Administrative Information

Administrative Information

The Royal Literary Fund
Registered Charity 219952

Patron
Her Majesty The Queen

President and Chair
Sir Ian Blatchford

General Committee (as at 31 March 2024)
Nelle Andrew
Terence Blacker
Dan Franklin – Registrar
Brenda Gardner
George Graham – Treasurer
Hilary Hale – Deputy President & Registrar
Paula Hawkins – Treasurer
Mark Lawson
Colin Ludlow
Colin Luke - Treasurer
Dreda Say Mitchell MBE
Judith Murray
Susheila Nasta MBE
Michael Symmons Roberts – Registrar
Fiona Sampson MBE
Marianne Velmans
Ellah P Wakatama OBE

Sub-committees

Finance and Investment
Ian Blatchford, George Graham, Paula Hawkins, Colin Luke

Nominations
Ian Blatchford, Hilary Hale, Mark Lawson, Dreda Say Mitchell, Fiona Sampson

Education
Michael Symmons Roberts (Chair), Brenda Gardner, Mark Lawson, Colin Luke, Judith Murray

Auditors
Moore Kingston Smith LLP
9 Appold Street
London EC2A 2AP

Accountants
Amanda Hall
CounterCulture LLP

Solicitors
Farrer & Co
66 Lincoln's Inns Fields
London WC2A 3LH

Bankers
Coutts & Co
440 Strand
London WC2R 0QS

Staff
Karin Altenberg
Head of Bridge (England and Wales)

Mary Colson
Assistant Head of Outreach

Steve Cook Hon FRSL
Director of Education

Colin Grant FRSL
Director, WritersMosaic

Laura Hird
Head of Bridge (Scotland and N Ireland)

Vanessa Holt
Grants Assistant

Edward Kemp
Chief Executive

Richard Le Cocq
Head of Marketing and Communications

Katharine McMahon
Head of Outreach

Justine Palmer
Head of Grants

Dr David Swinburne
Systems Director, Co-Director of Education

Some applicants helped during the year

Amongst those awarded grants during the year:

A poet approached the fund after being required to take an extended period of time away from work to care for her elderly mother. The Fund provided her with a three-year grant whilst she found new supporting work and helped cover the cost of repairs to her home following flood damage.

A travel writer, whose work had been severely impacted by the pandemic, was struggling with rising fuel costs. He was suffering from depression and struggling to find suitable supporting work. The Fund provided him with a two-year grant to help cover his living costs whilst he waited for his state pension to start.

A novelist and single parent to a young child with complex needs was struggling to cover the cost of her rent. The Fund awarded her a three-year grant to assist with the rent and helped clear credit card debts to reduce her liability repayments.

An elderly romantic fiction writer was living on a low income. She suffered from osteoporosis and sciatica; both of which greatly affected her mobility and led to additional costs. The Fund renewed her five-year grant to help cover her day-to-day living expenses and additional support needs.

A poet with a disability and his partner received an unexpected bill for home repairs that they were unable to cover. The committee awarded an outright grant to pay for the repairs.

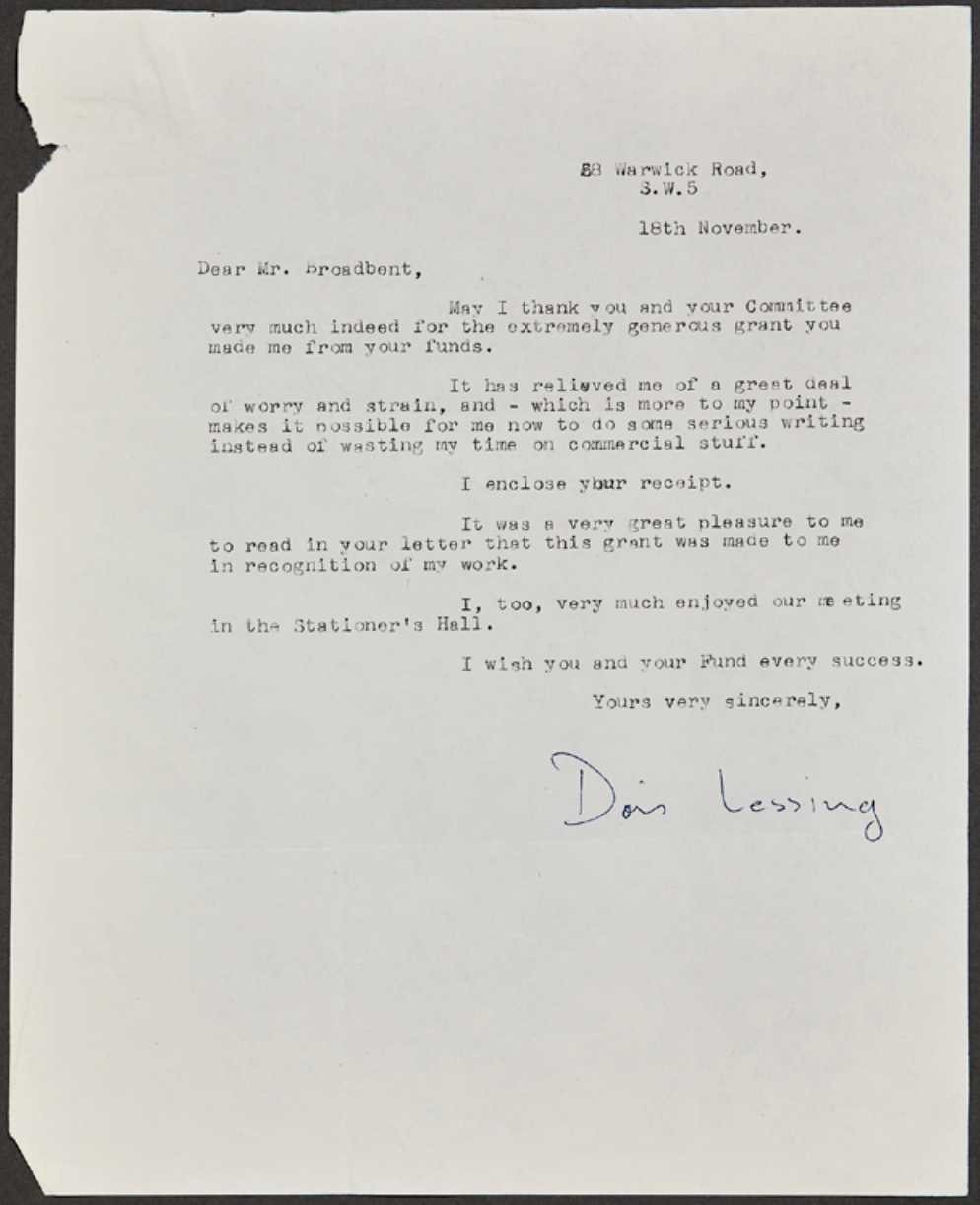
The widow of a playwright, diagnosed with terminal cancer, required round-the-clock care. The Fund helped cover the cost of her care whilst the family applied for support from their local authority.

A novelist and former asylum seeker was suffering from health complications due to injuries sustained in the conflict in his home country. His family was struggling with budgeting and covering household costs. The committee awarded him an interim grant to help cover the cost of expenses and referred him to Pennysmart for advice on debts and budgeting.

A non-fiction writer had been left unable to work and without an income following a serious stroke. The Fund awarded him an interim grant to help cover his immediate living costs whilst his family helped him to apply for the state support to which he was entitled.

A retired poet and short story writer was living alone in a property with damp issues. She was living on a very low income and had been severely impacted by the rising costs of fuel and food. The committee increased her five-year grant to help cover the increased costs.

A screenwriter and regular contributor to a long-running television series contacted the Fund after the show was cancelled with little notice, causing a sudden loss of income. He was looking for new work but had nothing under contract. The committee awarded him a one-off grant to help cover day-to-day living costs whilst he looked for new work.



88 Warwick Road,
S.W.5

18th November.

Dear Mr. Broadbent,

May I thank you and your Committee very much indeed for the extremely generous grant you made me from your funds.

It has relieved me of a great deal of worry and strain, and - which is more to my point - makes it possible for me now to do some serious writing instead of wasting my time on commercial stuff.

I enclose your receipt.

It was a very great pleasure to me to read in your letter that this grant was made to me in recognition of my work.

I, too, very much enjoyed our meeting in the Stationer's Hall.

I wish you and your Fund every success.

Yours very sincerely,

Doris Lessing

In 1955, Doris Lessing applied for financial help and was awarded a grant which allowed her to sustain her writing career as a single mother. Lessing is the only British female writer to date to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Extracts from thank-you letters

"I am still walking around in the clouds... The sense of calm it has left, knowing the real worry that has burdened me for some time now has lifted, means I can write and work in a happier mindset. Thanks again to the people who gave me this peace of mind and not just for this year but for the three years of support. I cannot even begin to say what that means. I am so grateful to the Royal Literary Fund."

"The grant will make every difference and really help me get my finances back in order. I can't tell you the relief - and I know it will make a huge impact on my writing and other work, too, freeing up my headspace now that constant, pressing worry has been removed."

"It also means so much to me that the committee saw literary merit in my work and also understood my situation. As I said in my original note, even writing the letter was helpful, and I'm so glad I took the plunge and contacted you."

"Oh my goodness ... I'm just agog at the RLF's generosity and kindness. Emotional and speechless! Please pass on my huge, heartfelt thanks."

"I am writing to express my profound gratitude to the Literary Fund for their generous grant. This level of financial support will have a significant impact on my circumstances, freeing up psychic space to allow me to continue to write. The application process was also instructive - it enabled me to gain an overview of my financial situation and to begin to think more clearly about possible next steps. I especially appreciated the formal approval of my literary merit given the current tough publishing climate. After years of challenge, such affirmation serves as a major confidence boost which I am sure will sustain me going forward. Hopefully the outcome will be a publication (or two) where I can formally acknowledge the Literary Fund's generous support."

"I wanted to add my heartfelt thanks for the grant you've awarded my husband. We are both blown away by the generosity and the profound impact this will have on our lives for the next three years. My husband probably didn't underline how much of a caring role he has undertaken in the last few years due to my health, and with upcoming surgery in January, my recovery will again mean I can't work and put strain on him. This money makes the next year feel possible. Thank you for believing in my husband as much as I do."

"Now that I have got used to the grant, I realise what a difference it makes. It means I don't have to worry. I feel so much more relaxed and confident because I have this security. I also have choices that make me feel empowered."

Members

As at 31 March 2024

Sir Alan Ayckbourn

David Bacon
Antonia Barber
Janet Barber
Nicholas Baring*
M Bernstein
Philippa Blake-Roberts
Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO
Michael Bunting

Andrew Crawshaw

Peter Daniels
Dame Margaret Drabble*

Miss EJ Fenwick
Michael Frayn
Ingrid Freebairn

EA Greey
I Gundry

Celia Haddon
Duff Hart-Davis
Lady Selina Hastings
Sir Max Hastings
Sir Michael Holroyd*
Bruce Hunter

Sir Kazuo Ishiguro

Mrs Catherine M Lambert
David Lodge CBE
Mark Le Fanu OBE

Rupert Murdoch
Stephen Maitland-Lewis
Michelle Magorian

P O'Leary

Derek Parker*
Betty Parvin
Kate Pool*

Mrs B Quartermaine

Michael Ridpath

Katherine Scholfield
Mike Shaw
Hilary Spurling*

Andrew Taylor
Judy Taylor MBE
Claire Tomalin*
Peter Troughton CBE

Lady Jane Willoughby de Eresby

**Honorary Member*

"I wish I could tell you what anxiety this dispels. I feel so beautifully supported by the RLF, it makes the world seem like such a more benevolent place and makes me feel I can write again."

RLF Beneficiary 2024

The Royal Literary Fund
Trustees' report and financial statements

Registered Charity number 219952
31 March 2023

3 Johnson's Court
London EC4A 3EA

020 7353 7150
www.rlf.org.uk

THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 219952

Accounts

Annual Report 2023

RLF

SUPPORTING
WRITERS
SINCE 1790

“That there is this resource to support writers during difficult times is something very wonderful.”

RLF Beneficiary 2023

The Royal Literary Fund
Trustees’ report and financial statements

Registered Charity number 219952
31 March 2023

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Trustees' Report

Trustees' Report

INTRODUCTION

In March 2023 the trustees received Privy Council approval for revisions to the Royal Charter. These changes bring the governance of the Fund up to date and will permit clearer lines of delegation to sub-committees and more robust trustee oversight of operations.

Paula Hawkins and Susheila Nasta joined the General Committee as trustees. Colin Luke passed the chair of the Education Subcommittee to Michael Symmons Roberts, who became a Registrar.

As part of a range of organisational changes, Amanda Hall of Counterculture LLP was appointed as Finance Consultant. Amanda and her team have taken over book-keeping for the RLF using Xero software and now produce quarterly management accounts for the management and trustees, providing improved oversight of expenditure. These are the first accounts produced based upon her work.

In autumn 2022 the trustees appointed Cazenove Capital as the Fund's investment managers, following a tender process led by Stanhope Consulting. The majority of the Fund's existing investments have now been moved to Cazenove's custody. The consolidation of investments under a single manager will allow more effective trustee engagement with the Fund's primary source of income.

In October Richard Le Cocq joined the Fund as its first ever Head of Marketing and Communications. He has conducted an extensive review of the Fund's current marketing activities and work is now underway to create a new visual identity and website, which will be launched in late 2023 and early 2024.

Justine Palmer, who took on the role of Interim Grants Manager following the departure of Eileen Gunn, has been appointed Head of Grants on a permanent basis.
She has been guiding the trustees on a major review of the Fund's grant-making processes and programme. A revised application and grant-giving process will be piloted from September 2023. This includes a substantial reconsideration of the means of determining literary merit (a criterion required but not defined by the Royal Charter).

We were delighted that Director of Education Steve Cook was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, in recognition of his contribution to literature and education.

In October two symposia, one in Leeds and one online, were conducted by RLF Fellows Dr Anna Barker and Clare Shaw. The participants were all writers, who, although many were new to the RLF, met eligibility criteria for grant support or for employment as university writing Fellows. They came from a wide demographic, write in a diverse array of genres and were at differing points in their careers. They were asked to reflect on the obstacles that they had experienced in their writing lives and how an organisation such as the RLF might assist them. The online symposium additionally focused particularly on the challenges facing writers with a disability or a long-term health condition.

A report, compiled by Barker and Shaw, was presented to the trustees in February and an action plan subsequently drawn up.

WritersMosaic, as a division of the RLF, continued to develop its outreach network for supporting writers of the global majority across the regions and nations of the UK, including through collaborations with industry partners such as the Hay, Bradford and Cheltenham Literary Festivals.

More detail on the RLF's activities within the year is presented in the reports that follow.

"The RLF have been an absolute lifeline for me as I continue with my work as an author. I have no idea how I'd have been able to do so without your organisation's incredible kindness, understanding, and assistance."

RLF Beneficiary 2023

Trustees' Report

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Fund was established in 1790. It was incorporated and granted a Charter in 1818 and in 1842 this was made a Royal Charter. Subsequently, the Charter has been revised by Order of the Privy Council in 1968, 2002, 2006 and most recently in 2023.

The Fund is governed by the General Committee chaired by the President, Sir Ian Blatchford, and in his absence by the Deputy President, Hilary Hale.

The General Committee defines the RLF's strategic direction and policies. Trustees ensure that the activities of the Fund are in accordance with its Royal Charter. The Committee currently meets eleven times a year to consider applications and other grant-giving activity, and in addition four of these meetings are nominated as 'Board' meetings when the committee consider the whole range of the RLF's activity, receiving and reviewing reports from subcommittees and considering the financial and strategic direction of the Fund.

The General Committee delegates discussion and consideration of some areas of policy and activity to sub-committees. These are currently:

Finance and Investment (including Remuneration) - reviews budgeting, financial and investment strategy, financial and investment performance.

Nominations – considers the appointment of trustees and co-opted advisors in collaboration with the Chief Executive and makes recommendations to the General Committee. The committee meets as and when necessary.

Education – reviews the work of the Education team, including the RLF Fellowships, Bridge, Reading Round and Social Sector. Oversees the appointment of RLF University Fellows.

Executive decisions are delegated to the Chief Executive, the Director of Education, the Director of Digital and the Director of *WritersMosaic* in their respective areas of responsibility.

CHARITABLE OBJECTS

The Royal Charter (2023) delineates two charitable objects:

i) The relief of poor and distressed authors of published works of approved literary merit including important contributions to Periodical Literature and of the families of such deceased authors who are themselves in distress and in need of relief; and

ii) the advancement of public education and the improvement of the public taste in the field of literary work.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Dylan Thomas, RLF grant beneficiary who died 70 years ago in 1953.
Dylan Thomas by John Gay © National Portrait Gallery, London.

Trustees' Report

GRANT-GIVING

The Fund awards hardship grants to professional authors facing financial hardship. Writers applying to the Fund must meet the eligibility criteria and may be asked to provide samples of their work.

The committee meets eleven times a year to consider applications. Before an application may be considered, the literary merit of the author must first be passed by the committee. Once passed, the committee will consider the writer's circumstances and, if need is established, a grant may be awarded.

Grants are usually one of three kinds: a one-off grant; a non-renewable recurring grant across two or three years; a recurring grant across five years which can be renewed.

The last of these, formerly referred to as 'pensions', are inflation-indexed and generally only awarded to writers above pensionable age or those with long-term disabilities.

"I wanted to let you know how appreciative I was of the RLF's application process. What might have been a rather daunting and unpleasant experience was actually made very smooth and easy - I felt I was treated with great respect and courtesy, and never made to feel there was any indignity in asking for help."

RLF Beneficiary 2023

GRANT-GIVING

£1,409,406

The total sum of grants made to beneficiaries during the year was £1,409,406.

The total number of individual writers assisted between 01 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 was 215; of these 32 were new to the RLF and 183 had previously received grants. At 31 March 2023, the Fund had a commitment to make five-year recurring grants to 89 beneficiaries. During the year, seven new recurring grants were awarded, nineteen were renewed, and eight writers in receipt of these grants died.

In June 2022 the General Committee committed to undertaking a full and comprehensive review of the grant-giving programme. The review, led by Head of Grants Justine Palmer, is considering all policies and procedures to ensure that they are clear, inclusive, and accessible to all professional writers who meet the eligibility criteria. The review is anticipated to be concluded by autumn 2023.

In December 2022, the Fund started working with Pennysmart CIC, a social business aiming to help those facing financial crisis to stabilise their finances, deal with problem debt and improve their financial resilience. Pennysmart offer clients advice on budgeting and benefits alongside accredited debt advice. At 31 March 2023, the Fund had referred eight beneficiaries to Pennysmart.

In December 2022, the General Committee awarded one-off 'winter top-up' grants to 44 current UKbased beneficiaries in response to the cost-of-living crisis. Writers in receipt of the winter top-ups were identified as being particularly vulnerable due to low household income. They were not asked to apply and grants were awarded automatically by the Fund.

Robert Holman Award

Robert Holman, a playwright who had been a beneficiary of the RLF, died in December 2021. The trustees have been in conversation with Robert's friends and executors about the creation of a new grant in his name to be awarded to playwrights from the north of England who are in financial need.

This would be the first new named award created by the Fund since the JB Priestley Award started in 1997 and will be partly funded by donations to a designated fund. The new award, announced at an event to celebrate Holman's life and work at the Royal Court Theatre, London in May 2023 with its own bespoke website, will be launched in autumn 2023.

"Thank you so much for the opportunity of such an enjoyable job. I have really loved meeting such a range of people and, most importantly, being able to help them in some way. It is great to be part of such a well organised team. The efficiency of the organisation and its administration have been excellent and I feel privileged to take part in the RLF's work."

RLF Fellow (First Year)

Trustees' Report

RLF EDUCATION

"How I would have coped without it, I dread to think. These Fellowships are a lifeline for writers and our continuing careers, and it's great that increasing numbers of new writers are entering the fold... The students really appreciate us: it's such a joy to see the 'penny drop' when explaining about academic structure. I wish this service had been available when I was at university!"

RLF Fellow (Second Year)

RLF University Fellowships

The RLF University Fellowships, first established in autumn 1999, offer professional writers the opportunity to work for one or two days a week in a university helping students to develop their academic writing skills.

In its 24th year, the Fellowship scheme took on 37 new recruits:

James Attlee
Elizabeth Barrett
Jasbinder Bilan
Mark Blacklock
Sarah Butler
Rebecca Colby
Kim Curran
Sonia Faleiro
Peter Fiennes
Alys Fowler
Spenser Frearson
Lesley Glaister
Kirsty Gunn
Sarah Hilary
Charlie Hill
Lauren James
Richard Lambert
Garry MacKenzie
Harry Man
David Mark
Irfan Master
Felicity McCall
Michaela Morgan
Steph Morris
Alex Nye
Phoebe Power
Anthony J Quinn
Jini Reddy
Mary-Jane Riley
Pauline Rowe
Luiza Sauma
Jamie Lee Searle
Claudine Toutoungi
Jeremy Treglown
Rebecca Watts
Claire Williamson
Michael Woods

They were joined by six former Fellows returning to the scheme and 66 others continuing from a previous year. In total, 109 writers worked as RLF Fellows at 80 university/college postings, two of which were new: Northumbria University and Ulster University (Magee Campus).

Consultant Fellows programme

"Thank you (to the Consultant Fellows) for their time and expertise. This is a really useful, if not vital, workshop for me and has helped me get control of my thesis. It's been invaluable and has absolutely helped me find a path through my current writing."

Writing Retreat Participants, Techne Doctoral Training Partnership

As professional writers RLF Consultant Fellows (CFs) bring a different perspective to academic writing development. All have experience in the University Fellowship scheme and subsequently undertake intensive training to deliver workshops and other writing and professional development interventions at all levels of higher education. This year seventeen Consultant Fellows, working as independent contractors though the RLF CF register, delivered over 150 interventions to 22 universities and nine doctoral training entities. Most work has returned to in-person delivery, but some institutions still want online sessions, especially for masters and doctoral students.

The CF community of practice continues to flourish under the skilled coordination of Katie Grant, bolstered by peer support in online meetings throughout the year. These meetings covered topics in professional development including handling pre-workshop preparations, giving feedback and resilience.

Trustees' Report

RLF Bridge programme

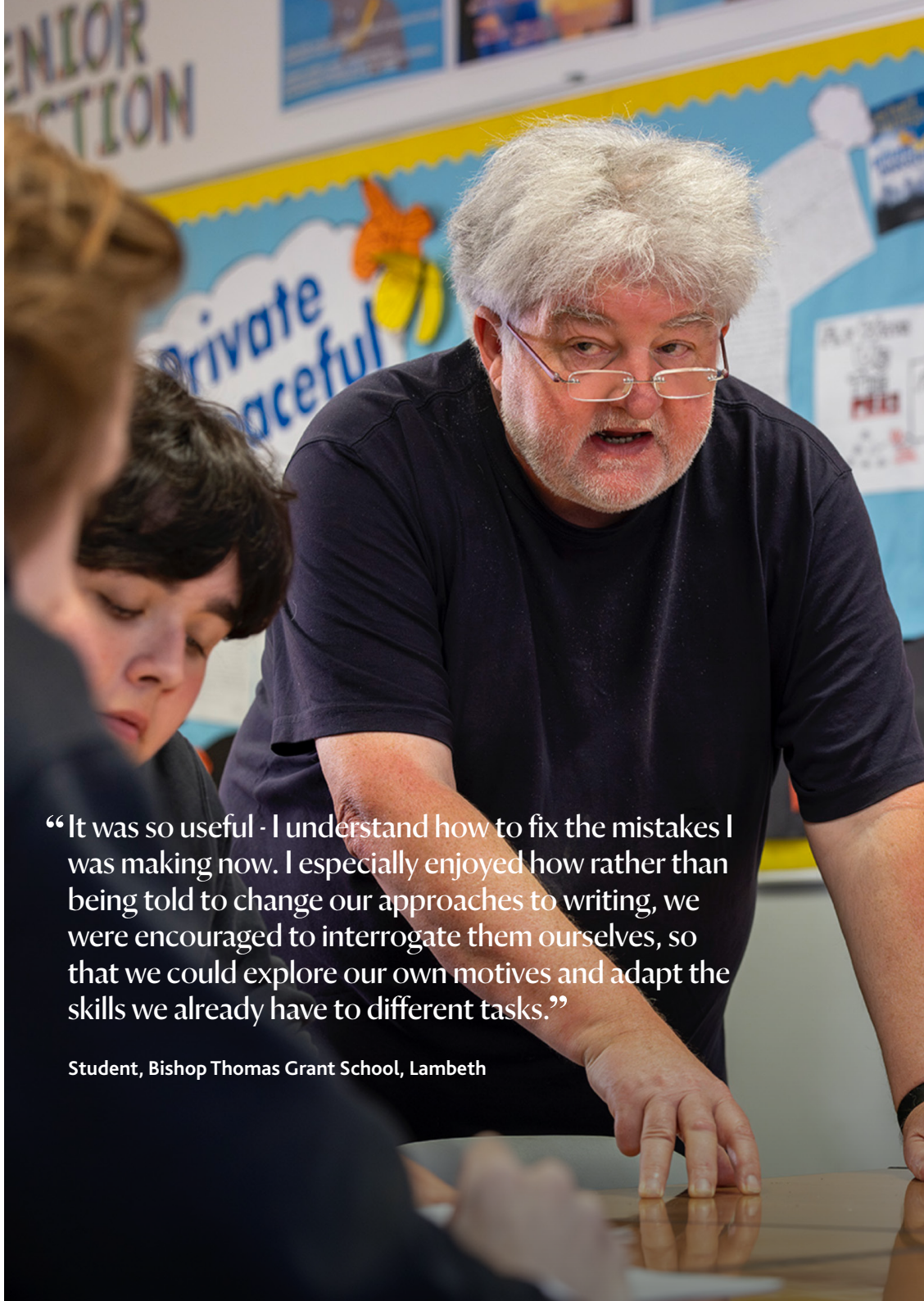
"The RLF sessions were invaluable in encouraging students to mindfully consider the purpose of written communication and the most effective way to organise and express ideas. The RLF Fellow's calm manner, thoughtful questioning and gentle reflections prompted pupils to critically engage and evaluate the extent to which written texts achieved their objectives. Pupils were encouraged to reflect on the way they expressed themselves and think about ways in which their point of view could be better or more succinctly articulated."

Teacher, Maricourt Catholic High School, Liverpool

Through the Bridge programme in schools, RLF Writing Fellows deliver a series of structured workshops to bolster young people's confidence and ability to write well, seeking to ensure that none are put off future opportunities by a belief that they cannot write. The workshops are designed to advance pupils' writing skills by demystifying the writing process and through exploring techniques to help them write clearly and confidently in all contexts and situations.

This year saw a welcome return to face-to-face work: Bridge Fellows delivered over 260 sessions in schools as well as a further 86 online. We expanded the reach of the network across the UK by training an additional 20 Fellows. As well as deepening existing partnerships with the Lothian Equal

Access Project, the British Library and the Creative Education Trust, we established new strategic partnerships to broaden the range of students we reach, working with the National Library of Scotland, the Bodleian Libraries, Mitchell Library Glasgow, the National Extension College and Catch 22 / Community Links.



"It was so useful - I understand how to fix the mistakes I was making now. I especially enjoyed how rather than being told to change our approaches to writing, we were encouraged to interrogate them ourselves, so that we could explore our own motives and adapt the skills we already have to different tasks."

Student, Bishop Thomas Grant School, Lambeth

Trustees' Report

SOCIAL SECTOR

Our focus during this period has been on consolidation and training.

In September 2022 we ran induction events for an additional 25 writers who had completed the University Fellowship scheme, so that during this period we have worked with 60 writers. We rewrote our Nine Writing Development workshops and trained interested writers in how to deliver them. The workshops are: Report Writing, Case Studies, Writing for Publication, Funding Applications, Boost Your Writing Confidence, Narrative and Structure, CV Writing, Editing and Proofreading, Reflective Writing.

We also ran a training session, led by our own expert facilitators, focussed on our Expressive Writing model, and on Facilitation Skills. In addition to attendance at training, all writers have to observe others at work, and themselves be observed by other writers, or by one of the Social Sector team. We have written Good Practice Guidance for our writers, developed a Safeguarding Policy, developed the Forum to hold shared resources, and offered training on online facilitation.

We provided workshops for approximately 50 different organisations, ranging from NHS Trusts to small community groups such as WAVE Trauma Centre in Northern Ireland. Whilst being always open to suggestions from writers, partner organisations or through the website, we have consolidated our work under three main headings:

- **Expressive Writing** – in which we run workshops to enable people in community organisations and members of trades unions to write about their experiences and plans in creative and coherent ways;
- **Writing Development** - writers work with groups in the workplace to help them write more skilfully in their professional lives;
- **Story Tree -** An adaptation of the Reading Round model for Refugees and Asylum Seeker groups.

We opened one day a week Fellowship posts with three more Hospital Trusts: Kent and Medway, Coventry and Warwick, and Somerset. These posts offer writing skills workshops, one-to-one sessions and advice on public-facing writing, to NHS staff at all levels.

"The Facilitator was engaging, gave ample time for personal writing practice while guiding us through the process, sought our feedback and gave attention to our suggestions and views. She also made me challenge my thoughts in order to get to the best version of my writing."

Feedback, Writing for Publication workshop for the organisation *Communities First*

"Every time I shut down my computer after this course it was with a feeling that I had been part of something very valuable."

Social Sector Writer

Trustees' Report

READING ROUND

Reading Round is a network of reading groups, each led by an RLF writer, known as a 'Lector', who selects material to read and offers a professional author's perspective on the works under discussion.

In 2022, the current Reading Round Lectors, all of them former RLF University Fellows, were asked to recruit new participants to their groups over the summer. In addition, we developed a Safeguarding Policy and accompanying training for Reading Round Lectors, and held a profound and spirited online discussion on the selection and exploration of texts. This was the last time that Lectors were appointed for a two-year term, and although they had formed a strong and purposeful bond with their first groups, they all reported that it was challenge and a joy to start afresh and offer the opportunity of Reading Round to a brand new group of readers.

"An intellectual space to share, a little escape from routine, a great place to enjoy. I learnt that everyone's opinion is valid and important. Provided guidance to a wider world. It has been an opportunity to explore literature and ideas in a secure environment."

Reading Round participant, 2022-23

Trustees' Report

WRITERSMOSAIC

WritersMosaic has built on its promising beginning as a platform for new writing both for relatively untested and under-supported fledgling writers as well as established writers of the global majority.

Our board members, all RLF Fellows, have continued to map and chart the needs of writers across myriad genres. The platform brings writers into the fold by profiling them, by commissioning them to write reviews and long form essays, and through themed guest editions, all with strong editorial support. It is heartening to see that we are increasingly seen as an important platform by publishers who now regularly send us books written by writers of the global majority for WritersMosaic to review.

WritersMosaic has continued to raise its and the RLF's profile through the appearance of its writers at literary festivals, such as Bradford, Edinburgh and Ilkley. We have begun to produce our own bespoke live literature events and have expanded collaborations with organisations such as the British Library, Speaking Volumes, the 5x15 platform and the London Review of Books bookshop. We have worked with a number of prominent writers such as Bernardine Evaristo, Charlotte Williams and Anthony Joseph who earlier this year won the TS Eliot Prize, joining previously profiled winners Hannah Lowe and Roger Robinson.

"Seeing my writer's profile has been wonderful; it means a lot. I'll be grateful to you forever! I can't find the right words right now, but you surely understand how important it is to gain true recognition, not only in an emotional way, but, more significantly, in a practical way."

Shara Atashi

Trustees' Report

We have expanded our commissioning of short films, focusing initially on poets with 'Paradise' based on Roger Robinson's poem and 'Torn Lace' by Shivanee Ramlochan. And we have explored how best to make connections with younger audiences through planning a Young Reviewers of the Year competition with, in the first instance, a small number of sixth form colleges such as BSIX in Upper Clapton. We are also developing a 'takeover' edition of WritersMosaic focused on Children's and Middle Grade Literature, in consultation with experience and prize-winning members of our editorial team, Trish Cooke, Sita Brahmachari and Roopa Farooki.

WritersMosaic continues its outreach to map the development needs of writers of the global majority across the regions and nations of the UK. We are especially pleased to have identified and profiled young, talented writers such as Moses McKenzie who has just won the 2023 Hawthornden Prize for Literature.

We were delighted that our work has attracted the attention of publications such as the TLS which published a very favourable and encouraging review of WritersMosaic:

> "*WritersMosaic's* richest offering is possibly its series of guest-edited numbers, which explore subjects as diverse as "Jewish multiculturalism", "Race in the time of childhood" and "Sonic Vibrations". Pieces take prompts in unexpected and exciting directions, telling powerful, instructive and sometimes witty tales via word, image or both."

Times Literary Supplement, November 2022

Financial Review

Financial Review

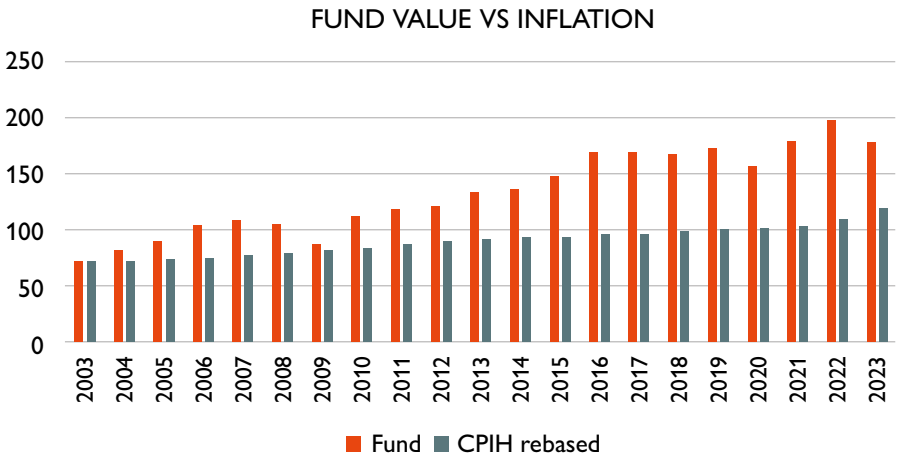
The Fund's investment portfolio is its principal source of income, and the Trustees keep its structure, management and administration under close review. In 2022 the Trustees undertook a comprehensive appraisal of the Fund's investment arrangements and concluded that we needed greater administrative support and tighter controls to manage a portfolio of this size. After a tender process conducted with the assistance of Stanhope Consulting, the Fund awarded a mandate to Cazenove Capital for management and administration of the portfolio.

The overall investment objective remains unchanged. The portfolio is managed as expendable endowment funds on a total return basis, so that charitable expenditure is supported both by investment income, such as dividends and bond coupons, and by capital gains harvested from the growing portfolio. The objective is to support a target spending rate of 3 ¼% of the average asset value over the three preceding years while at the same time growing the real value of the investments over the long term.

Approximately half of the portfolio will be managed directly by Cazenove Capital. Alongside this, Cazenove will administer a satellite portfolio comprising the Fund's passive equity fund holdings as well as its existing property fund investments. In addition, the Fund maintains holdings in and commitments to a number of private equity funds; the Trustees have decided to make no new allocations to this private equity portfolio but to allow it to run off over time. This structure is aimed at delivering good long term investment performance while controlling investment management fees and tightening administration and reporting. The transfer of our investments to Cazenove's custody was still in progress at the financial year end, so the balance sheet does not offer a clear picture of the future portfolio structure.

The Trustees are grateful to Cambridge Associates, our strategic investment advisers for many years, for their valuable support.

Overall investment performance in the year ending 31 March, 2023, has been disappointing with equity, bond and property markets all showing significant falls. As a consequence, the Fund's investment portfolio declined In value to £177.4 million, down 5% compared with the previous year end. Over the long term, however, the Fund's investment strategy has achieved its objective of supporting charitable spending while maintaining the real value of the investments. The chart below shows that over the last 20 years the Fund's investments have grown faster than as measured by the UK CPIH index, although in any given year values may fall.



Investment management fees remained broadly similar to the prior year at £1.24 million.

As a consequence of these market swings, net losses on investments of £10.5 million were recorded, resulting in a net deficit for the year of £11.7 million.

Financial Review

RESERVES

The majority of the Fund's reserves are held as an investment fund to produce income to finance its activities and are recorded as expendable endowment funds. The Trustees have set the investment policy of the Fund with the aim of supporting anticipated spending on current and future beneficiaries while maintaining the real value of the investment funds over the long term.

The Trustees aim to maintain free reserves to ensure that the Fund is able to meet the needs of its beneficiaries, take advantage of strategic opportunities and weather risks such as large fluctuations in the value of its investment fund. In general, the Fund will therefore seek to retain between 6 and 12 months expenditure in cash or readily liquidated funds.

The level of free reserves fell over the course of last year to £1.9 million. This is lower than the Trustees would generally aim to maintain in this category. However, the expendable endowment funds of £181.7 million include significant levels of cash and readily liquidated funds, which provide the Fund with flexibility.

RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Risk is managed by the trustees and senior staff. A Risk Register indicating likelihood, impact and mitigating actions is reviewed regularly by the General Committee and separate sub-registers for particular areas of activity reviewed by relevant subcommittees.

REMUNERATION

Remuneration is considered annually by the Finance and Investment Sub-committee. It takes advice from the Chief Executive, who provides current figures and relevant information for all key management personnel. The Sub-committee determines pension arrangements and other benefits, and ensures that contractual terms on termination are fair to the individual and the charity, and that poor performance is not rewarded. It recommends its decisions to the General Committee for approval.

In determining the RLF's remuneration policy, the Sub-committee takes into account that as an organisation it has few employees; it wishes therefore to recognise the broader than normal range of skills and competencies required in many roles.

The appropriateness and relevance of the remuneration policy is reviewed annually, including reference to comparisons with other charities and/or Higher Education roles, ensuring the RLF remains sensitive to the broader issues, eg pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

Financial Review

FUTURE PLANS

Following the approval of changes to the Royal Charter and Byelaws, proposals are being drafted for adjustments to the governance of the Fund, in particular the creation of two new sub-committees, one to oversee Grants activity and the other, a Board for *WritersMosaic*. New regulations will be drafted to cover the Fund's activities.

Further work on strategy will be undertaken by trustees and senior staff in late 2023 to refine the Fund's strategic priorities for the future.

Winter 2023/4 will see the emergence of a new visual identity for the Fund, alongside a new website. Various events are being planned to draw attention to this work and to the roll out of revised grants application process. It is expected that some of the terminology used to describe RLF activity – 'Fellow', 'Lector', 'Social Sector' – may be revised or reconceived as part of this work in order to present a more coherent picture of the Fund's work. The adoption of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database will permit more secure handling of records, as well as more effective analysis of the range of writers the Fund is supporting.

Discussions have been taking place with the British Library both about improving awareness of the section of the Fund's archive (1790-1939) currently on loan to the Library and about the long-term future of the archive. A further tranche of documents, covering the years 1940-1970, is due to be transferred to the Library once it has been catalogued.

A review is taking place of the wide range of commissioned content currently presented by the Fund under a variety of headings – Collected, Vox, Writers Aloud – with a proposal to consolidate this work on the new website as part of a ten-year celebration of this strand of commissioning.

Two projects have been launched to consider the most effective ways of evaluating the impact and success of, respectively, *WritersMosaic* and the RLF's Social Sector work. These are expected to provide models for future evaluation and monitoring of all the Fund's activities.

Plans are being developed to mark the 25 year anniversary of the University Fellowship scheme, including a review of its achievements and impact. Bridge began a significant programme of expansion in April 2023, including the appointment of new staff and new education partners.

The new Reading Round Lectors will start work in September 23; these include ten writers drawn via recommendation by *WritersMosaic*. If successful we plan to build on this diversification model across other programmes.

In September 2023 *WritersMosaic* begins a new programme of live events in association with the British Library and Eccles Centre. These will take place every six weeks and will feature readings and discussion from a range of *WritersMosaic* writers with live music. *WritersMosaic*is deepening its relationship with a growing number of literary festivals, including Hay, Bradford, Edinburgh, Ilkley and Cheltenham. It is forging connections with theatres such as the Lyric Hammersmith to produce and record post-performance Q&As with playwrights.

WritersMosaic is also collaborating with the Jhalak Prize and the Bookseller on a new literary journal, provisionally called The Jhalak and *WritersMosaic* Review which will be published twice a year, beginning in 2024, as a sixteen page insert in the Bookseller.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- **select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;**
- **observe methods and principles in the Charities SORP;**
- **make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;**
- **state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;**
- **prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.**

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved on behalf of the General Committee and signed on its behalf by

George Graham
Trustee

15 January 2024

Auditor's Report

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Literary Fund for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- **give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;**
- **have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and**
- **have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.**

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Auditor's Report

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- **the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or**
- **the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or**
- **the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or**
- **we have not received all the information and explanations we required for our audit.**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

EXPLANATION AS TO WHAT EXTENT THE AUDIT WAS CONSIDERED CAPABLE OF DETECTING IRREGULARITIES, INCLUDING FRAUD

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- **We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.**
- **We obtained an understanding of how the charity complies with these requirements by discussions with management.**
- **We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management.**
- **We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.**
- **Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.**

Auditor's Report

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- **Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.**

- **Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.**

- **Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.**

- **Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.**

- **Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.**

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charity and charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Jonathan Aikens
Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Statutory auditor
9 Appold Street
London
EC2A 2AP

Moore Kingston Smith LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Date:

Financial Statements

Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Expendable endowment funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income					
Income from					
Donations and legacies	3	4,420	792	–	5,212
Investments	2	2,816,813	–	–	2,816,813
Other income	4	338,827	–	–	338,827
Total income		3,160,060	792	–	3,160,852
Expenditure					
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	7	–	–	(1,264,689)	(1,264,689)
Charitable activities	8	(6,552,303)	–	–	(6,552,303)
Total expenditure		(6,552,303)	–	(1,264,689)	(7,816,992)
Net income/(expenditure) before gains on investments		(3,392,243)	792	(1,264,689)	(4,656,140)
Exchange gains		260,503	–	3,236,444	3,496,947
Net gains/(losses) on investments		–	–	(10,562,502)	(10,562,502)
Net (expenditure)/income	5	(3,131,740)	792	(8,590,747)	(11,721,695)
Transfers between funds		–	–	–	–
Net movement in funds		(3,131,740)	792	(8,590,747)	(11,721,695)
Fund balances brought forward		5,420,700	–	190,279,086	195,699,786
Fund balances carried forward		2,288,960	792	181,688,339	183,978,091

The incoming resources and resulting net movement in funds arise from continuing operations. The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the net movement in funds in the year.

Statement of financial activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Expendable endowment funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income					
Income from					
Donations and legacies	3	14,605	–	–	14,605
Investments	2	4,469,345	2,486	–	4,471,831
Other income	4	230,157	–	–	230,157
Total income		4,714,107	2,486	–	4,716,593
Expenditure					
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	7	–	–	(1,257,628)	(1,257,628)
Charitable activities	8	(5,394,708)	(85,342)	–	(5,480,050)
Total expenditure		(5,394,708)	(85,342)	(1,257,628)	(6,737,678)
Net income/(expenditure) before gains on investments		(680,601)	(82,856)	(1,257,628)	(2,021,085)
Exchange gains		–	–	2,155,856	2,155,856
Net gains/(losses) on investments		–	–	13,852,105	13,852,105
Net (expenditure)/income	5	(680,601)	(82,856)	14,750,333	13,986,876
Transfers between funds		1,000,000	–	(1,000,000)	–
Net movement in funds		319,399	(82,856)	13,750,333	13,986,876
Fund balances brought forward		5,101,301	82,856	176,528,753	181,712,910
Fund balances carried forward		5,420,700	–	190,279,086	195,699,786

Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	10		394,835		409,910
Investments	11		177,416,214		186,111,860
			177,811,049		186,521,770
Current assets					
Debtors	12	370,557		777,875	
Cash at bank and in hand		8,065,217		10,276,299	
		8,435,774		11,054,174	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(948,366)		(902,286)	
Net current assets			7,487,408		10,151,888
Total assets less current liabilities			185,298,457		196,673,658
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	14		(1,320,366)		(973,872)
Net assets	17		183,978,091		195,699,786
Funds					
Restricted funds			792		–
Unrestricted funds			2,288,960		5,420,700
Expendable endowment funds			181,688,339		190,279,086
	17		183,978,091		195,699,786

The financial statements were approved by the General Committee on the 15th January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

George Graham
Trustee

Edward Kemp
Chief Executive Officer

Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Net cash used in operating activities			(2,674,581)		(788,120)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Capital expenditure and financial investment					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(21,516)		(97,327)	
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(64,081,546)		(52,519,208)	
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		–		18,593	
Proceeds from sale of investments		73,115,943		43,195,465	
Net cash provided by investing activities			9,012,881		(9,402,477)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	20		6,338,300		(10,190,597)
Change in cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			6,338,300		(10,190,597)
Net cash at the start of the year	20		10,402,891		20,593,488
Net cash at the end of the year	20		16,741,191		10,402,891
Reconciliation of changes in net expenses before other recognised gains and losses to net cash flow					
Net expenses before other recognised gains and losses			(4,656,140)		(2,021,085)
Depreciation			36,591		42,312
(Gain) on disposal of fixed assets			–		(2,064)
Investment management fees			938,368		1,241,336
Foreign exchange movements			206,708		133,057
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors			407,318		(15,343)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors			392,574		(166,333)
Net cash outflow from operating activities			(2,674,581)		(788,120)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Update Bulletin 2, and the Charities Act 2011.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the forseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statement are rounded to the nearest pound.

Income
All income is included when the charity has entitlement to the income, there is probability of receipt and the amount can be measured. Donations are recognised on a receipts basis unless the donor specifies that the donation relates to a future period or that certain pre-conditions must be fulfilled before use. Interest income is included on a receivable basis.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Expenditure
Expenditure is classified under the principal categories of charitable and other expenditure rather than the type of expense, in order to provide more useful information to users of the financial statements. Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Actitvities (SOFA) on an accruals basis.

Charitable activities comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to the activity. Support costs, including governance costs, have been allocated to activities based on the average staff time spent.

Heritage assets
The Fund's archives which consist of the records of cases, minutes, annual reports and matters of administration and are of considerable interest to scholars and researchers are maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture and therefore fall within the definition of heritage assets under Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Charities SORP. The archives of the Fund from 1790 up to 1939 have been placed at the British Library on indefinite loan. Reliable market valuation information is not available, however, recent valuations for insurance and indemnification purposes suggest a value for the total archive of around £3 million.

Heritage assets are measured at cost (or valuation on the date received if donated to the charity). Given the historic nature of the heritage assets the charity currently holds, they have no attributable cost / minimal value at the date they were donated to the organisation and as such are held in the financial statements at £nil value.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Depreciation
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets, except freehold land, by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% of cost per annum
Fixtures and fittings	25% of written down value per annum
Office equipment	25% of written down value per annum
Motor vehicles	25% of written down value per annum

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

Three and five year grants
Liabilities for three and five year grants are recognised in the balance sheet when the Fund has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. One off grants are recognised when they are awarded. Instalment three and five year grants are awarded over a three and five year period respectively. Annual payments are made based on the initial award on application. Five year grants are reviewed for renewal after the five year period.

Operating leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Post-retirement benefits
The amount charged against profits represents the contributions payable to employees' private pension schemes in respect of the accounting period.

Funds
Unrestricted funds
These funds are used to satisfy the provision of the charter of The Royal Literary Fund and are used at the discretion of the Trustees.

Income for the fund is generated through donations, but is mainly derived from the expendable endowment fund.

Restricted funds
The Robert Holman Award has been established with the friends and executors of playwright and Royal Literary Fund beneficiary Robert Holman with funds donated at Robert's funeral and subsequently. It will provide hardship support for professional playwrights from the North England.

Expendable endowment funds
From funds obtained from the sale of its share of the commercial rights to Winnie the Pooh received from AA Milne Estate, the Fund invested money in an investment portfolio. It is from this portfolio that income is generated every year to fund the majority of the grant making programme.

The Trustees have the power to release the expendable endowment funds to the Fund's unrestricted income funds, which may be spent on charitable activities.

Investments
Investments are shown at market value in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Realised gains or losses on the sale of investments represent sale proceeds, less market value brought forward and investment management fees and commissions.

Unrealised gains or losses represent the movement between the brought forward and carried forward market value of the investments in the period.

Intangible fixed assets
The Fund owns the copyright to the works of several authors. The Committee does not consider it practical to place a value on these copyrights, so they are not shown on the balance sheet.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exceptions of prepayments and deferred income all other debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102. See notes 13, 14 and 15 for the debtor and creditor notes.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty
In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The most significant estimates and assumptions which affect the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the accounts relate to:

Useful Economic Lives – The annual depreciation charge for fixed assets is sensitive to change in the estimated useful economic lives and residual value of the assets. These are reassessed annually and amended where necessary to reflect current circumstances.

Cash and liquid resources
Cash, for the purpose of the cash flow statement, comprises cash in hand and deposits repayable on demand, less overdrafts payable on demand. Liquid resources are included within fixed asset investments which are disposable without curtailing or disrupting the business and are either readily convertible into known amounts of cash at or close to their carrying values or traded in an active market. Liquid resources comprise term deposits of less than one year.

Foreign currencies
Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. Exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities. The charity does not own any non-monetary assets abroad.

2. Investment income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from fixed interest securities	829,672	3,215,720
Income from managed or unitised funds	1,929,017	1,254,524
Interest on cash deposits held by investment managers	30,839	447
Interest on other cash deposits	27,285	1,140
	2,816,813	4,471,831

All investment income is held as unrestricted income (2022: £2,486 was classified as restricted income relating to income from managed or unitised funds).

3. Donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Legacies	–	12,975
	–	12,975
Donations		
Anonymous	3,231	–
The Kington Oliphant of Gask Trust	1,079	1,065
In Memory Robert Holman	792	–
Other donations under £500	110	565
	5,212	1,630
Total	5,212	14,605

4. Other income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Royalties		
Pooh Properties Trust	150,000	135,000
W Somerset Maugham	106,210	51,357
Arthur Ransome	38,207	27,664
Patrick Hamilton	23,924	2,092
GK Chesterton	6,060	8,236
Colin Maclnnes	4,670	1,243
Anon	2,039	2,069
P Clough	1,519	1,143
A Vivis	1,078	–
Henry Reed	681	180
A Wilson	511	253
NF Simpson	405	153
Rupert Brooke	198	171
L Summers	122	–
M Steen	110	–
R Ketton-Cremmer	103	–
J Hanson	103	–
A Gotch	103	–
M Robson	55	27
M Hocking	33	–
T Faulkner	–	228
E Marsh	–	206
Lawson	–	135
	336,131	230,157
Other income	2,696	–
Total	338,827	230,157

5. Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	36,591	42,312
Payments under operating leases	–	1,688
Amounts paid to auditor		
Audit fee – current year	18,000	17,000
Audit fee – prior year under accrual	1,480	480

6. Taxation

The Royal Literary Fund, as a registered charity, is exempt from taxation on its income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives. No tax charge has arisen in the year.

7. Raising funds expenditure

	2023	2022
	£	£
Investment management fees	1,240,424	1,257,628
Commissions on royalties	24,265	–
	1,264,689	1,257,628

8. Charitable activities expenditure

	2023			
	Education	Grant making	Writers mosaic	Total
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Direct activity costs	3,090,096	–	254,973	3,345,069
Direct staff costs	257,357	84,606	47,280	389,243
Advertising	–	–	–	–
Outright grants	–	554,754	–	554,754
Three year instalment grants	–	455,910	–	455,910
Five year grants – total commitments payable	–	1,025,527	–	1,025,527
Other direct costs	51,986	2,110	6,692	60,788
The Society of Authors	–	–	–	–
	3,399,439	2,122,907	308,945	5,831,291
Support costs				
Governance costs				
Audit fees	6,493	6,493	6,493	19,479
Board costs*	10,767	10,767	10,767	32,301
Legal and strategy costs	3,688	3,688	3,688	11,064
Other support costs				
Staff costs	64,100	64,100	64,100	192,300
Staff travel, accomm, subsistence, training, healthcare*	7,246	7,246	7,246	21,738
Professional fees*	20,602	20,602	20,602	61,806
Recruitment and temporary staff	4,077	4,077	13,607	21,761
Finance and insurance costs*	5,644	5,644	5,644	16,932
Premises expenses	54,655	54,655	–	109,310
Postage, printing, stationery, telephone and IT	12,526	12,526	12,526	37,578
Communications	53,384	53,384	53,384	160,152
Depreciation	27,071	9,520	–	36,591
	270,252	252,702	198,057	721,012
Total charitable activity costs by sector	3,669,692	2,375,609	507,002	6,552,303

* Additional lines have been added to provide more detailed analysis of support costs

	2022		
	Education	Grant making	Total
	£	£	£
Direct costs			
Direct activity costs	2,949,333	–	2,949,333
Direct staff costs	307,799	118,310	426,109
Advertising	–	25,039	25,039
Outright grants	–	614,707	614,707
Three year instalment grants	–	483,192	483,192
Five year grants – total commitments payable	–	436,388	436,388
Other direct costs	(4,231)	3,714	(517)
The Society of Authors	–	100,000	100,000
	3,252,901	1,781,350	5,034,251
Support costs			
Governance costs			
Audit fees	8,740	8,740	17,480
Board costs*	–	–	–
Legal and strategy costs	36,318	36,318	72,636
Other support costs			
Staff costs	53,083	57,004	110,087
Staff travel, accomm, subsistence, training, healthcare*	–	–	–
Professional fees*	–	–	–
Recruitment and temporary staff	9,907	9,907	19,814
Finance and insurance costs*	–	–	–
Premises expenses	49,224	49,224	98,448
Postage, printing, stationery, telephone and IT	12,152	12,152	24,304
Communications	30,360	30,360	60,720
Depreciation	21,156	21,156	42,312
	220,939	224,860	445,797
Total charitable activity costs by sector	3,473,841	2,006,211	5,480,050

8. Charitable activities (continued)

Grants paid to individuals
The aggregate amount of three and five year grants paid to individuals during the year was £1,104,798 (2022 – £1,614,097). The total number of grants awarded to other charities was 1 (2022 – 1). At the year end £2,141,407 (2022 – £1,764,768) of three and five year grants were committed and a liability has been recognised in the accounts to reflect this. (See notes 13 and 14).

The total number of writers in receipt of a three year grant annual instalment during the year was 59 (2022 – 112).

9. Employees

The average number of employees during the year was 8.5 (2022:8)

	2023	2022
Support	1.50	–
Education	5.00	5.00
Grant making	2.00	2.25
	8.50	7.25

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs			
Wages, salaries and benefits		454,390	430,919
Social security costs		52,537	46,055
Other pension costs	15	74,616	59,222
		581,543	536,196

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Education, the Director of Digital and the Head of Grants. The total management benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £386,295 (2022: £359,523).

2 employees (2022: 2) earned between £80,000 and £90,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for these individuals were £26,305 (2022: £25,043).

1 employees (2022: 1) earned between £70,000 and £80,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for this individual was £11,340 (2022: £11,753).

No employees (2022: 1) earned between £60,000 and £70,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for these individuals were £0 (2022: £10,401).

Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses totalling £4,050 were made to 3 trustees during the year (2022: £1,088 to 3 trustees). These expenses related to travel costs incurred in relation to work carried out for the charity.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2022	613,020	77,622	46,300	90,522	827,464
Additions	–	21,516	–	–	21,516
At 31 March 2023	613,020	99,138	46,300	90,522	848,980
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	293,264	68,949	32,711	22,630	417,554
Charge for the year	12,260	3,961	3,397	16,973	36,591
At 31 March 2023	305,524	72,910	36,108	39,603	454,145
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2023	307,496	26,228	10,192	50,919	394,835
At 1 April 2022	319,756	8,673	13,589	67,892	409,910

11. Fixed asset investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed interest securities	8,420,706	30,122,855
Managed or unitised funds	160,319,533	155,862,413
	168,740,239	185,985,268
Cash deposits held by investment managers	8,675,976	126,592
	177,416,214	186,111,860
Quoted investments		
Market value as at 1 April 2022	185,985,266	162,027,958
Additions	64,081,546	52,519,208
Disposals	(73,115,943)	(43,195,465)
Net (losses)/gains	(10,562,502)	13,852,104
Investment management fees	(938,368)	(1,241,336)
Exchange gain	3,290,239	2,022,799
Market value as at 31 March 2023	168,740,239	185,985,268
Historical cost as at 31 March 2023	121,571,799	143,080,758
Geographical analysis		
United Kingdom	108,236,680	117,895,932
Overseas	69,179,534	68,364,727
	177,416,214	186,260,659

The following investments represent more than 5% of the value of the portfolio. Their year end market values have also been stated for clarity. Cazenove, £61,570,719; Blackrock MSCI, £52,406,202; Blackrock Midcap UK Equity, £14,152,824 and Pantheon RLF 2014 Fund, £11,335,955.

During the year a number of investments were transferred into a consolidated portfolio with Cazenove. Investments representing more than 5% of the value of the portflio in 2022 were Blackrock Midcap UK Equity, £15,826,116; Blackrock MSCI, £54,627,734; Stewart Investors Global Emerging Markets, £17,090,828; Loomis Sayles Global Opp Bond Fund, £20,768,272; Overstone Global Equity Fund, £19,373,434; Charities Property Fund, £16,428,152 and Pantheon RLF 2014 Fund £11,833,767.

12. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accounts receivable	350	–
Employees' expense float	–	6,000
Prepayments and accrued income	370,207	771,875
	370,557	777,875

All debtors fall due within one year.

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	72,088	–
Accruals	27,690	67,815
Tax and social security	21,661	43,011
Other creditors	5,886	564
Accrued grants and pension commitments	821,041	790,896
	948,366	902,286

14. Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accrued grants and pension commitments	1,320,366	973,872

The trustees have accrued for three and five year grants awarded in the year, which are payable over a three and five year period, respectively. Although all payments are subject to an annual review, the Fund accepts a 'no changes in circumstances' return. Since the assessment of the beneficiary's financial well being is outside the Fund's control, a full accrual for this commitment has been made this year.

15. Pension scheme

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions of £74,616 (2022: £59,222) were charged to the statement of financial activities as they became payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.Contributions of £5,889 (2022: £10,587) remained outstanding at the year end.

16. Analysis of movements on the funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	2023
	General	Richard Holman	General	Total
	£	£	£	£
Opening funds	5,420,700	–	190,279,086	195,699,786
Income	3,160,060	792	–	3,160,852
Expenditure	(6,552,303)	–	(1,264,689)	(7,816,992)
	2,028,457	792	189,014,397	191,043,646
Other net recognised gains	260,503	–	(7,326,060)	(7,065,555)
Closing value of funds	2,288,960	792	181,688,337	183,978,091

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	2022
	General	JB Priestley Fund	General	Total
	£	£	£	£
Opening funds	5,101,301	82,856	176,528,753	181,712,910
Income	4,714,107	2,486	–	4,716,593
Expenditure	(5,394,708)	(85,342)	(1,257,628)	(6,737,678)
	4,420,700	–	175,271,125	179,691,825
Fund transfers	1,000,000	–	(1,000,000)	–
Other net recognised gains	–	–	16,007,961	16,007,961
Closing value of funds	5,420,700	–	190,279,086	195,699,786

The general fund and designated funds are unrestricted and are used to satisfy the provision of the charter of The Royal Literary Fund. There are sufficient funds to enable this to occur.

The Robert Holman Award has been established with the friends and executors of playwright and Royal Literary Fund beneficiary Robert Holman with funds donated at Robert's funeral and subsequently. It will provide hardship support for professional playwrights from the North England.

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	2023
	General	Richard Holman	General	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	394,835	–	–	394,835
Investments	–	–	177,416,214	177,416,214
Net current assets	3,214,491	792	4,272,125	7,487,408
Creditors due in more than one year	(1,320,366)	–	–	(1,320,366)
Closing value of funds	2,288,960	792	181,688,339	183,878,091

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	2022
	General	JB Priestley Fund	General	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	409,910	–	–	409,910
Investments	–	–	186,111,860	186,111,860
Net current assets	5,984,662	–	4,167,226	10,151,888
Creditors due in more than one year	(973,872)	–	–	(973,872)
Closing value of funds	5,420,700	–	190,279,086	195,699,786

18. Net cash

	Cash brought forward	Cash	Cash carried forward
	£	£	£
Cash in hand, at bank	10,276,299	(2,211,082)	8,065,217
Cash deposits held by Investment Managers	126,592	8,549,381	8,065,217
Total	10,402,891	6,338,229	16,741,191

19. Related party transactions

As one of the beneficiaries of the Estate of AA Milne, the Fund is one of four members of the Pooh Properties Trust (PPT). Within the year an RLF trustee, Mark Le Fanu and then Mark Lawson, represented the Fund's interests as a trustee of PPT. PPT's decisions are based upon unanimous agreement and no trustee has any controlling interest. Neither Mark Le Fanu nor Mark Lawson received any remuneration from either charity for this role. During the year Royalties of £150,000 (2022: £135,000) were received.

Administrative Information

Administrative Information

The Royal Literary Fund
Registered Charity 219952

Patron
Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

President and Chair
Sir Ian Blatchford

General Committee (as at 31 March 2023)
Nelle Andrew
Terence Blacker
Dan Franklin – Registrar
Brenda Gardner
George Graham – Treasurer
Hilary Hale – Deputy President & Registrar
Paula Hawkins (joined September 2022)
Mark Lawson
Mark Le Fanu OBE – Treasurer
Colin Ludlow
Colin Luke - Treasurer
Dreda Say Mitchell MBE
Judith Murray
Susheila Nasta (joined September 2022)
Michael Symmons Roberts – Registrar (elected December 2022)
Fiona Sampson MBE
Marianne Velmans
Ellah P Wakatama OBE

Sub-committees

Finance and Investment
Ian Blatchford, George Graham, Mark Le Fanu, Colin Luke

Nominations
Ian Blatchford, Hilary Hale, Mark Lawson, Mark Le Fanu, Dreda Say Mitchell, Fiona Sampson

Education
Colin Luke (Chair to December 2022), Michael Symmons Roberts (Chair from January 2023), Brenda Gardner, Judith Murray.

Auditors
Moore Kingston Smith LLP
9 Appold Street
London EC2A 2AP

Accountants
Amanda Hall
CounterCulture LLP

Solicitors
Farrer & Co
66 Lincoln's Inns Fields
London WC2A 3LH

Bankers
Coutts & Co
440 Strand
London WC2R 0QS

Staff
Mary Colson
Assistant Head of Outreach

Steve Cook Hon FRSL
Director of Education

Colin Grant FRSL
Director, WritersMosaic

Vanessa Holt
Grants Assistant

Edward Kemp
Chief Executive

Richard Le Cocq
Head of Marketing and Communications

Katharine McMahon
Head of Outreach

Justine Palmer
Head of Grants

Dr David Swinburne
Director of Digital

Some applicants helped during the year

Amongst those awarded grants during the year:

A disabled writer approached the Fund after worsening health complications had impacted her ability to work. The RLF provided the author with an ongoing grant to help cover her living expenses.

An author of crime fiction suffering from Alzheimer's disease needed additional support with escalating end of life care costs. The trustees awarded a grant to help the family to meet the writers' needs.

A children's author was facing a serious mental health crisis which led to a decrease in income and increased debts. The trustees help cleared the author's debts to get her back onto a financial even keel.

Following a serious stroke, a writer of non-fiction was left without any income. The trustees awarded a grant whilst he applied for his state pension and the benefits to which he was entitled.

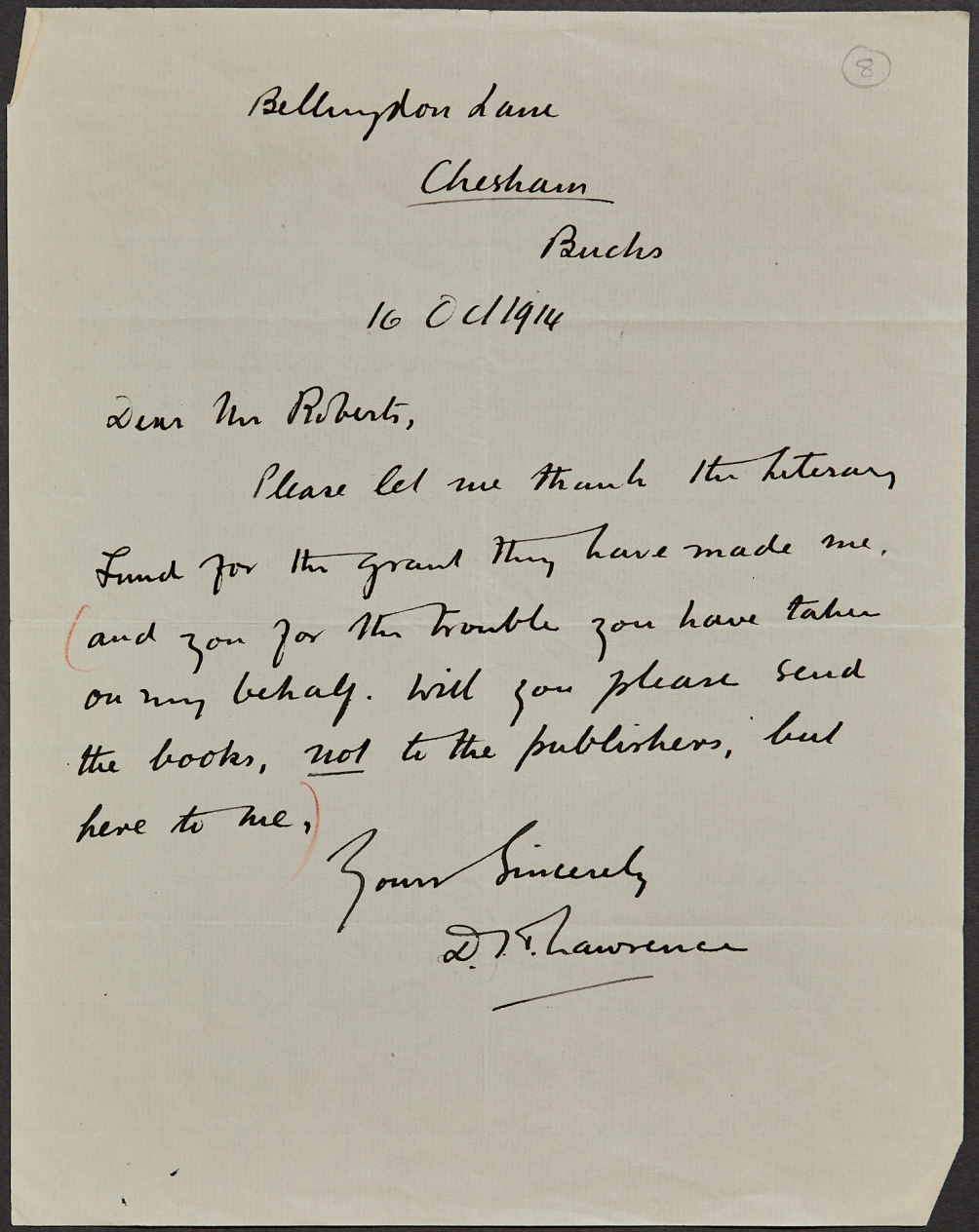
An eminent writer of fiction found her publishing contracts severely delayed due to the pandemic and the family's income seriously reduced. The trustees awarded a grant to help cover the temporary shortfall.

A science fiction writer was approaching retirement age and living on a very low income. He had debts he was unable to repay and could not to meet his basic living costs. The trustees made him a grant and cleared debts.

A playwright was struggling to regain momentum following the pandemic when productions of his work had been cancelled. The trustees awarded a grant to help cover costs whilst he found new work.

A dramatist and poet who had had a distinguished career was living with his wife on a low income. The trustees made him an annual grant.

A novelist and writer of short stories was suffering from depression; he was struggling to support himself financially. The trustees awarded him a three year grant and helped contribute to the cost of mental health support.



Bellingdon Lane
Chesham
Bucks
16 Oct 1914

Dear Mr Roberts,

Please let me thank the Literary Fund for the grant they have made me, and you for the trouble you have taken on my behalf. Will you please send the books, not to the publishers, but here to me,

Yours Sincerely
D.H.Lawrence

A thank-you letter from D.H.Lawrence to the RLF, 16 October 1914.
Photo: Tony Kay. Reproduced by permission of Paper Lion Ltd, The Estate of Frieda Lawrence Ravagli and Cambridge University Press.

Extracts from thank-you letters

"Sometimes a hard situation can be overwhelming. You are just in survival mode. When you have dependants relying on you, their needs come first. Creative endeavours fall by the wayside, and it can be tough to ask for help. It feels like a seal of approval to receive this. It will make a difference. Thank you once again for supporting writers. It means a lot. This will make a massive difference in being able to go through what needs to be done to keep myself afloat, without hunkering down or falling into panic mode."

"The RLF have been an absolute lifeline for me as I continue with my work as an author. I have no idea how I'd have been able to do so without your organisation's incredible kindness, understanding, and assistance. Writing means everything to me. Without sounding over dramatic, it's a haven, a respite, and despite it being extremely hard work, a wonderful place to be in, away from constant, chronic pain."

"It's an incredible relief to me that I will be able to focus on my writing and getting back on an even footing again and to explore where I might be able to take my writing next. Without you I'd be stuffed. Without your long-term aid, I'd still be sunk in the quicksand of foreclosure and repossession. Without your support, I'd be spraying down doors with wolf-deterrent, but I'm fond of wolves, and my bank can't be 'foxed off' with powder. Without the gift of your resuscitating rescue, I'd be throwing slings and grappling hooks merely to stay on the cliff face without facing the distance down. And now, there's real hope, and perhaps I will, at long last, finish the fourth novel."

Members

as at 31 March 2023

Sir Alan Ayckbourn

David Bacon
Antonia Barber
Janet Barber
Nicholas Baring*
M Bernstein
Philippa Blake-Roberts
Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO
Michael Bunting

Andrew Crawshaw

Peter Daniels
Dame Margaret Drabble*

Miss EJ Fenwick
Michael Frayn
Ingrid Freebairn

EA Greey
I Gundry

Celia Haddon
Duff Hart-Davis
Lady Selina Hastings
Sir Max Hastings
Sir Michael Holroyd*
Bruce Hunter

Sir Kazuo Ishiguro

Mrs Catherine M Lambert
David Lodge CBE
Mark Le Fanu OBE

Rupert Murdoch
Stephen Maitland-Lewis
Michelle Magorian

P O'Leary

Derek Parker*
Betty Parvin
Kate Pool*

Mrs B Quartermaine

Michael Ridpath

Katherine Scholfield
Mike Shaw
Hilary Spurling*

Andrew Taylor
Judy Taylor MBE
Claire Tomalin*
Peter Troughton CBE

DFJ van der Vat

Lady Jane Willoughby de Eresby

Philip Ziegler CVO*

**Honorary Member*

"It's an incredible relief to me that I will be able to focus on my writing and getting back on an even footing again and to explore where I might be able to take my writing next."

RLF Beneficiary 2023

The Royal Literary Fund
Trustees' report and financial statements

Registered Charity number 219952
31 March 2023

3 Johnson's Court
London EC4A 3EA

020 7353 7159
www.rlf.org.uk

THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 219952

Accounts

The Royal Literary Fund

Trustees' report and financial statements

Registered Charity number 219952
31 March 2022

3 Johnson's Court
off Fleet Street
London EC4A 3EA
Telephone : 020 7353 7159
www.rlf.org.uk

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Trustees' Annual Report

Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth

As these accounts were being prepared we received the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty was the Fund's patron throughout her reign, as were her predecessors since King George IV. We have been immensely grateful for Her Majesty's patronage and for the support she showed to literature and the arts in the United Kingdom and throughout the English-speaking world. The Royal Literary Fund has shared our condolences with His Majesty The King and all the members of the Royal Family.

When organisations such as the RLF step in to help a writer, they are, I humbly suggest, doing something for the culture we all share. The books of tomorrow become the culture we and our children, and their children, eventually inhabit.
Writer supported by the RLF

Introduction

In April 2021 the Fund welcomed a new Chief Executive, Edward Kemp, formerly Director of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and a playwright, dramaturg and translator.

Following Edward's arrival, Eileen Gunn retired from the RLF after 22 years as Secretary, later re-titled Chief Executive. Eileen leaves behind a remarkable legacy, having steered the RLF through a period when charitable expenditure more than doubled, from £2.5m in 1999 to £5.8m in 2021, and which included the creation of the Fellowship programme and the subsequent expansion of Education and Social Sector work; over 500 writers and their families have been the direct beneficiaries of RLF grants during Eileen's time: an impressive contribution to literature in the UK. Justine Palmer has taken on the role of Grants Manager on an interim basis while we conduct a review of our grant-giving activity and operation.

We also said farewell this year to two long-standing trustees, Bruce Hunter and Paula Johnson, both of whom, as Treasurer and Registrar respectively, have contributed many years of loyal service to the RLF. Joanna Trollope also stepped down as a trustee in this year. We welcomed new trustees, Nelle Andrew, Colin Ludlow and Judith Murray; George Graham became a Treasurer. Hilary Hale took on the role of Deputy President and chairs the General Committee when Ian Blatchford is unavailable.

The Fund's Regulations have been redrafted and several revisions are proposed to the Byelaws in order to bring the RLF's governance and operation in line with contemporary practice.

In April we launched WritersMosaic, a new initiative featuring contemporary writers who reflect the UK's widening literary culture. The editorial board of WritersMosaic, all of whom are former RLF university Fellows, operate under the leadership of Colin Grant, who has become a member of staff.

Two workshops were conducted in autumn 2021 to consider future direction and strategy. Facilitated by staff from RADA Business, these workshops were the first occasion that stakeholders from across the RLF – trustees, staff, beneficiaries and former Fellows – have come together to consider the Fund's work in totality.

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the RLF's activities. There was an increase in applications from writers, in particular playwrights, whose work had been directly impacted by the pandemic. The General Committee and Sub-committees met in-person, online and in hybrid format during the year. A significant number of RLF Fellows delivered their tutorials online, either for health reasons or due to the restrictions within the university; likewise, some Reading Round groups moved online where this was the preference of the participants or required by the venue.

Organisational Structure

The Fund was established in 1790. It was incorporated and granted a Charter in 1818 and in 1842 this was made a Royal Charter. Subsequently, the Charter has been revised by Order of the Privy Council in 1968, 2002 and 2006.

The Fund is governed by the General Committee chaired by the President, Sir Ian Blatchford, and in his absence by the Deputy President, Hilary Hale.

The General Committee defines the RLF's strategic direction and policies. Trustees ensure that the activities of the Fund are in accordance with its Royal Charter.

The Committee currently meets eleven times a year. Four of these meetings are nominated as 'Board' meetings when the committee consider the whole range of the RLF's activity, receiving and reviewing reports from sub-committees and considering the financial and strategic direction of the Fund, as well as grant-giving. The remaining seven meetings focus primarily on grant-giving activity.

The General Committee delegates discussion and consideration of some areas of policy and activity to sub-committees. These are currently:

Finance and Investment (including Remuneration) – reviews budgeting, financial and investment strategy, financial and investment performance.

Nominations – considers the appointment of trustees and co-opted advisors in collaboration with the Chief Executive and makes recommendations to the General Committee.

Education – reviews the work of the Education team, including the RLF Fellowships, Bridge, Reading Round and Social Sector. Oversees the appointment of RLF Fellows.

Executive decisions are delegated to the Chief Executive, the Director of Education and the Director of Digital in their respective areas of responsibility.

Charitable Objects

The Royal Charter (2006) delineates two charitable objects:

(i) The relief of poor and distressed authors of published works of approved literary merit including important contributions to Periodical Literature and of the families of such deceased authors who are themselves in distress and in need of relief; and

(ii) the advancement of public education and the improvement of the public taste in the field of literary work.

Public Benefit

When setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Grant-giving

> *I've been so grateful to receive this enormous help over the last few years. It still feels unreal that something like the RLF exists and I have been lucky enough to benefit from its benevolence.*
> **Writer supported by the RLF**

Writers who apply to the Fund for a grant must submit details of their published or performed works which meet the eligibility criteria and may be asked to provide samples of their work.

Where writers have provided samples of their work, these are read by two members of the General Committee, who then report at the monthly meeting and recommend whether the writer meets the appropriate criteria. Literary merit may on occasion be passed by acclaim where the trustees are confident of the writers' eminence in their field. Once literary merit has been passed, the writer's circumstances are considered and, if need is established, a grant is awarded.

Grants are usually one of three kinds: a one-off grant, a non-renewable recurring grant across two or three years, a recurring grant across five years which can be renewed. The last of these, formerly referred to as 'pensions', are inflation-indexed and generally only awarded to writers above pensionable age.

The total sum of grants made to beneficiaries during the year was £1,614,097. The total number of individual writers assisted between 01 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 was 225; of these 36 were new to the RLF and 189 had previously received grants.

At 31 March 2022, the Fund had a commitment to make five-year recurring grants to 118 beneficiaries. During the year, eight new recurring grants were awarded, 17 were renewed, and nine writers in receipt of these grants died.

Five-year renewable grants are committed to beneficiaries for a minimum period of five years. Beneficiaries are contacted annually to confirm there is still a need and there has been no material change of circumstances. Consequently, the accounting treatment in the Statement of Financial Activities in accordance with the requirements of the relevant statement of recommended practice for charities means that the full five-year charge is recognised in the statements in the year in which the grant is first awarded. The annual cash expenditure on pension grants for the year was £477,670.

RLF Education

RLF University Fellowships

> *Thank you so much for the opportunity of this wonderful job again during this difficult year. I'm really not sure what I would have done without it, and am immensely grateful for the time to write, and finish my PhD, at the same time as supporting my children as a single parent. (I was pleased to be able to write to my agent last week to say that my novel should be finished by the autumn!) The job itself has given me valuable experience and enabled me to develop specific skills that will be of use in future work.*
> **RLF University Fellow**

The RLF Fellowships, first established in autumn 1999, offer professional writers the opportunity to work for one or two days a week in a university helping students to develop their academic writing skills.

In its 23rd year, the Fellowship scheme took on 40 new recruits:

Nathalie Abi-Ezzi, Ian Ayris, Mark Blayney, Michael Bond, Sita Brahmachari, Thomas Bunstead, Anne Caldwell, Elizabeth Cook, Christy Ducker, Ruth Dugdall, Shanta Everington, Juliet Gilkes Romero, Guinevere Glasfurd-Brown, Ed Harris, Rosalind Harvey, Katie Hickman, Andrew Jackson, Sarah Jasmon, Alan Jenkins, Frances Larson, Amber Lee Dodd, Alison MacLeod, Simon Mason, Martine McDonagh. Beth Miller, Lottie Moggach, Barbara Norden, Peter Oswald, Julianne Pachico, Simon Robson, C D Rose, William Ryan, Pamela Scobie, Nikki Sheehan, C J Skuse, Malachy Tallack, Menna van Praag, Vitali Vitaliev, Sarah Ward, Anna C Wilson.

They were joined by seven former Fellows returning to the scheme and 64 others continuing from a previous year. In total, 111 writers worked as RLF Fellows at 81 university/college postings, three of which were new: City University, Kingston University, Suffolk University.

To help Fellows and students work around continuing disruption caused by lockdown restrictions the online conferencing systems introduced in autumn 2020 were maintained.

Consultant Fellows

While the primary focus of the university Fellowship scheme is working one-to-one with students, writers can play a larger role by bringing a fresh perspective to facilitating writing development with groups of undergraduates and postgraduates and enhancing the professional development of researchers and other staff. The writers on the Consultant Fellows Register have worked for at least two years as RLF university Fellows and then undergo intensive training, during which they design and facilitate group activities for students.

This year Dr Trevor Day retired from his role as Director of the Consultant Fellowship programme; under Trevor's guidance, the Consultant Fellows have evolved into a successful community of practice who support each other through monthly online meetings. Katie Grant has taken over as co-ordinator of the programme. Consultant Fellows worked extensively with over 35 universities and doctoral training partnerships, providing writing development interventions both online and in person.

Bridge

> *I feel much more confident about how to plan out, structure and edit an essay and I think I'll enjoy writing an essay better the next time I write one.*
> **Bridge participant**

Bridge expands the principles of the university Fellowship into secondary schools, using a structured series of workshops led by former RLF university Fellows to assist pupils with essay writing.

Bridge Fellows predominantly delivered a streamlined offer of online writing workshops to young people because of the challenging circumstances that schools continued to face. Pupils' enthusiasm was undimmed, however, saying after the workshops they felt:

'More confident and assured…'

'More comfortable allowing myself to draft and edit, slowly developing quality.'

'I feel less intimidated and more prepared.'

'I have a better idea on how to break up the essay to make it more manageable to write'.

Some Fellows did make it into the classroom and we will aim to prioritise a return to face-to-face delivery. A new cohort of Fellows was trained to expand the areas in which we can offer workshops. We strengthened our partnerships with LEAPS, the British Library and the Creative Education Trust, and are seeking out new strategic partnerships to develop the reach of Bridge.

Social Sector

> *It has opened up a new world where, in my imagination, I can go anywhere.*
> **Expressive Writing Participant**

Social Sector projects are delivered by writers who have previously worked as university Fellows.

During this period we worked with 35 writers and 40 partner organisations. The work divides into three categories:

- Expressive Writing – in which we run workshops to enable people in community organisations to write about their experience and plans in creative and coherent ways;
- Writing Development – writers work with groups in the workplace to help them write more skilfully in their professional lives;
- An adaptation of the Reading Round model for refugee and asylum-seeker groups, and occasionally in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Units.

We have developed excellent relationships with institutions within the NHS, and we have a writer placed two days a week at University College London Hospital (UCLH) on a similar model to the university Fellowship. Her work has been extraordinarily varied, and provided a springboard for other NHS projects, ranging from helping staff tell their Covid Stories, to Writing Development Skills workshops, to support for individuals writing for publication. UCLH is funding a research project to assess the impact of our work there, and the RLF Fellow has been nominated for the Excellence in Education Award in the 2022 Celebrating Excellence Awards.

Our work with trade unions has also broadened, through links with the TUC, and through wide-reaching webinars. Community groups have ranged from a Trauma Centre in Northern Ireland to work in Approved Premises and groups for marginalised women. We have developed a programme of workshops from Writing for Publication to Responding to Complaints, and an induction and mentoring programme for writers new to our work.

Expressive Writing workshops were run with a variety of groups, including with health care professionals and a group concerned with trauma victims. From participants in an Expressive Writing workshop:

> *'We can all be achievers in our own right.'*
>
> *'So positive and reassuring – you've provided a safe space. You've given everyone equal time.'*
>
> *'The input from other people, others' experiences, has been amazing to hear. We're all survivors of something.'*
>
> *'A remarkably safe space to be while being, at the same time, stimulating and surprisingly fertile. The reading material was inspiring and accessible – I felt totally safe throughout the whole process.'*

Reading Round

> *I have learnt to really listen, and value other perspectives. The experience will be routed into my conscious and unconscious to enhance my further reading. Thank you.*
> **Reading Round Participant**

Reading Round is a network of reading groups, each led by a former RLF university Fellow, known as a 'Lector', who selects material to read and offers an 'insider's' perspective' on the texts under discussion.

Covid-19 was a significant feature of Reading Round in this year – all the groups had to be moved online, and writers had to be flexible about returning to face-to-face groups, depending on local circumstances. In order to open up the possibilities for participation, we have for the first time asked writers to recruit new groups for their second year as Lectors, from September 2022, and we ran discussion sessions to help them make the change. The sessions also explored different approaches to choosing texts, and how to deal with changing sensibilities in relation to the values explored and language used in (especially) pre 21st Century texts.

Martina Evans, who has provided superb support in running the scheme, not least in developing the Text Bank and working tirelessly on the Forum, will be leaving Reading Round this summer.

> *What I found was a group of lovely people, yes, certainly all more literate than I, but inclusive and full of interesting ideas, guided by an enthusiastic, knowledgeable and warm facilitator who led us through a wide range of short stories and poems with lightness of touch and sensitivity.*
> **Reading Round Participant**

WritersMosaic

> *WritersMosaic's rich and insightful content is wholly indispensable to our understanding of ourselves at this crucial time.*
> **Carol Leeming**

WritersMosaic launched in April 2021. A platform for new writing, the initiative exists chiefly as a website focusing on fledgling and established writers of the global majority. WritersMosaic's board members, all Fellows of the RLF, profile authors whose work spans myriad genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, crime, playwriting and children's writing. WritersMosaic writers are nurtured through paid work – commissions to write features and to undertake interviews about their writing practices that are also recorded and updated on the site every two weeks.

The platform also brings other authors into the fold through themed guest editions, commissions to write reviews every week, and long form essays.

In addition, WritersMosaic is raising its and the RLF's profile through the appearance of its writers at literary festivals, participating in a programme of bespoke WritersMosaic Live events, short films, collaborations with organisations such as 5x15 and the London Review of Books bookshop, and through journals which republish the commissioned work of its writers.

Just a year on, WritersMosaic is finding its audience and establishing its identity. We aim to consolidate the site in the next year.

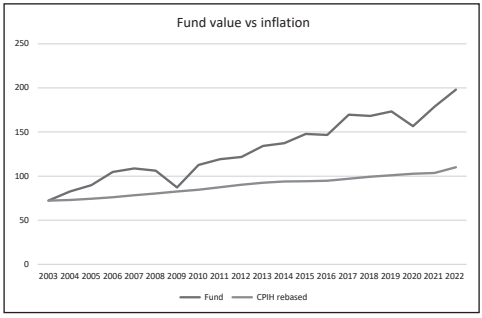
> *As a first-time writer I was challenged by the writing and editing process, and have benefited greatly from the support offered by the team at Writers Mosaic. This experience has allowed me to explore my own voice and how this resonates amongst other writers of shared and complementary practices.*
> **Yassmin Foster**

Grants to other organisations

Following last year's grant to the Covid Emergency Fund administered by the Society of Authors, a further grant of £100,000 was made to this same fund in January 2022.

Financial Review

The Fund's investment portfolio, which is its principal source of income, grew by 15% in the year ending March 31, 2022, to £186.1 million, as financial markets continued to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Investment performance benefited from strong returns in global equity and property markets, with weaker returns in UK equities and losses in fixed income and emerging markets equities.



The portfolio is managed as expendable endowment funds on a total return basis, so that charitable expenditure is supported both by investment income, such as dividends and bond coupons, and by capital gains harvested from the growing portfolio. The Fund has structured its investments with the objective of supporting a target spending rate of 3 ¼% of the average asset value over the three preceding years while at the same time growing the real value of the investments over the long term. The chart above shows that over the last 20 years the Fund's investments have grown faster than inflation, as measured by the UK CPIH index, although in any given year values may fall.

During the 2021-22 financial year investment income totalled £4.47 million, compared with £2.83 million in the previous year. Investment management fees, classed in the accounts as "Raising Funds", totalled £1.26 million, up from £1.16 million in the previous year, reflecting the growth in the value of the fund. As a result, and as anticipated in the current environment of low interest rates and bond yields, net expenditure before gains on investments represented a deficit of £2.02 million.

The Trustees review their investment policy annually to ensure that the target rate of spending remains appropriate, that investment risk remains within their appetite, and that the portfolio is appropriately structured and diversified to deliver the resources needed to meet the Fund's commitments. They have been advised by Cambridge Associates, a firm of investment consultants, on investment strategy.

At the end of the financial year asset allocation was:

Equity	54%
Fixed income	15%
Property	9%
Non-marketable alternatives	15%
Cash	7%
Total	100%

In the course of the year, one of the Fund's longest-serving managers, Cedar Rock, closed its fund and returned cash to investors. This cash has been placed with BlackRock, another of our existing managers, to maintain our exposure to equities. The Fund also began a review of its long-term investment arrangements with the aim of ensuring that the portfolio is appropriately structured and administered. The Trustees expect to conclude this review by the end of 2022.

Reserves

The majority of the Fund's reserves are held as an investment fund to produce income to fund its activities, and are recorded as expendable endowment funds. The trustees have set the Fund's Investment policy with the aim of supporting anticipated spending on current and future beneficiaries while maintaining the real value of the Investment fund over the long term.

The trustees aim to retain free reserves to ensure that the Fund is able to meet the needs of its beneficiaries, take advantage of strategic opportunities and weather risks such as large fluctuations in the market value of its Investment fund. In general the Fund will therefore seek to retain between 6 and 12 months expenditure in cash or readily liquidated funds.

At 31st March 2022 the net assets of the Fund totalled £195.7 million, comprising £190.28 million of expendable endowment and £5.42 million of unrestricted funds, or free reserves.

Risk Management Statement

Risk is managed by the trustees and senior staff. A Risk Register indicating likelihood, impact and mitigating actions is reviewed regularly by the General Committee and separate sub-registers for particular areas of activity reviewed by relevant sub-committees.

Remuneration

Remuneration is considered annually by the Finance and Investment Sub-committee. It takes advice from the Chief Executive, who provides current figures and relevant information for all key management personnel. The sub-committee determines pension arrangements and other benefits, and ensures that contractual terms on termination are fair to the individual and the charity, and that poor performance is not rewarded. It recommends its decisions to the General Committee for approval.

In determining the RLF's remuneration policy, the Sub-committee takes into account that as an organisation it has few employees; it wishes therefore to recognise the broader than normal range of skills and competencies required in many roles.

The appropriateness and relevance of the remuneration policy is reviewed annually, including reference to comparisons with other charities and/or Higher Education roles, ensuring the RLF remains sensitive to the broader issues, eg pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

Future Plans

Building on the strategy and identity work done with RADA Business in November 2021, a communications audit has been undertaken and the RLF is now in the process of appointing our first-ever Head of Marketing and Communications, who will lead on the development of a new visual identity for the Fund and the creation and implementation of comprehensive communications strategy.

Subject to Privy Council approval, the revised Royal Charter and Byelaws will permit a greater delegation of authority by the General Committee to its sub-committees, which will enable a more strategic scrutiny and support of the RLF's activity by trustees.

A review is under way of grant-giving activity, to ensure that the RLF's aid is available to the widest range of professional writers and that the process is accessible, transparent and equitable. It is expected that a clarification of the various strands of RLF financial support will result from this review. A research project has been commissioned to understand the needs of writers in the 2020s.

In Education, the university Fellowship scheme will be expanded to take account of an increase in quality applicants in particular regions. 20 additional Fellows will be trained to deliver Bridge from October 2022 to expand the scope of the programme and address the pressing needs of school pupils. The training programme for Social Sector writers is being developed and a portfolio of long-term partner organisations identified to make the programme fully sustainable.

Reading Round will recruit 20 new writers to begin work in September 2023, and serve as Lectors for one year only. Half of these writers will previously have been university Fellows, others will be recruited from WritersMosaic or alternative routes. We hope thereby to recruit a more diverse cohort of Lectors and to enable more writers access to RLF post-Fellowship work. We will adapt our existing induction programme and mentoring scheme to fit this new cohort.

WritersMosaic plans to expand its collaborations with organisations such as the British Library and festivals such as Hay, taking on a role in bespoke programming. WritersMosaic also aims to reach younger audiences in collaborations with sixth forms, and to devise other formats for its website, strengthening its appeal.

Trustees' Report *(continued)*

Auditor

The trustees who held office at the date of approval of this trustees' annual report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's Auditor is unaware. Each trustee has been made aware of the relevant audit information and it has been established that the Charity's Auditor is aware of that information.

By order of the board
George Graham
Treasurer
8th December 2022

3 Johnson's Court
off Fleet Street
London EC4A 3EA

Statement of trustees' responsibilities in respect of the trustees' annual report and financial statements

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Royal Literary Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Literary Fund for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Royal Literary Fund *(continued)*

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we required for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Royal Literary Fund *(continued)*

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charity complies with these requirements by discussions with management.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.

- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Royal Literary Fund *(continued)*

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charity and charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Statutory auditor

9 Appold Street
London
EC2A 2AP

Moore Kingston Smith LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Date:

The Royal Literary Fund
Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Expendable Endowment funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	*3*	14,605	–	–	14,605
Royalties	*4*	230,157	–	–	230,157
Investments	*2*	4,469,345	2,486	–	4,471,831
Total Income		4,714,107	2,486	–	4,716,593
Expenditure					
Expenditure on					
Raising Funds	7	–	–	(1,257,628)	(1,257,628)
Charitable activities	*8*	(5,394,708)	(85,342)	–	(5,480,050)
Total Expenditure		(5,394,708)	(85,342)	(1,257,628)	(6,737,678)
Net Expenditure before gains on investments		(680,601)	(82,856)	(1,257,628)	(2,021,085)
Exchange gains/(losses)		–	–	2,155,856	2,155,856
Net gains on investments		–	–	13,852,105	13,852,105
Net (expenditure)/income	*5*	(680,601)	(82,856)	14,750,333	13,986,876
Transfers between funds		1,000,000	–	(1,000,000)	–
Net movement in funds		319,399	(82,856)	13,750,333	13,986,876
Fund balances brought forward		5,101,301	82,856	176,528,753	181,712,910
Fund balances carried forward		5,420,700	–	190,279,086	195,699,786

The incoming resources and resulting net movement in funds arise from continuing operations. The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the net movement in funds in the year.

The Royal Literary Fund
Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Expendable Endowment funds £	2021 Total funds £
Income					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	*3*	7,880	–	–	7,880
Royalties	*4*	218,304	–	–	218,304
Investments	*2*	2,821,774	3,260	–	2,825,034
Total Income		3,047,958	3,260	–	3,051,218
Expenditure					
Expenditure on					
Raising Funds	*7*	–	–	(1,161,631)	(1,161,631)
Charitable activities	*8*	(5,457,501)	(29,100)	–	(5,486,601)
Total Expenditure		(5,457,501)	(29,100)	(1,161,631)	(6,648,232)
Net Expenditure before gains on investments		(2,409,543)	(25,840)	(1,161,631)	(3,597,014)
Exchange losses		–	–	(3,410,398)	(3,410,398)
Net gains on investments		–	–	31,764,725	31,764,725
Net (expenditure)/income	*5*	(2,409,543)	(25,840)	27,192,696	24,757,313
Transfers between funds		2,500,000	–	(2,500,000)	–
Net movement in funds		90,457	(25,840)	24,692,696	24,757,313
Fund balances brought forward		5,010,844	108,696	151,836,057	156,955,597
Fund balances carried forward		5,101,301	82,856	176,528,753	181,712,910

The incoming resources and resulting net movement in funds arise from continuing operations. The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the net movement in funds in the year.

The Royal Literary Fund
Balance sheet

at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	*10*		409,910		371,423
Investments	*12*		186,111,860		162,146,444
			186,521,770		162,517,867
Current Assets					
Debtors	*13*	777,875		762,532	
Cash at bank and in hand		10,276,299		20,475,002	
		11,054,174		21,237,534	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	*14*	(902,286)		(988,715)	
Net Current Assets			10,151,888		20,248,819
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			196,673,658		182,766,686
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	*15*		(973,872)		(1,053,776)
Net Assets	*19*		195,699,786		181,712,910
Funds					
Restricted funds			–		82,856
Unrestricted funds			5,420,700		5,101,301
Expendable endowment funds			190,279,086		176,528,753
	19		195,699,786		181,712,910

The financial statements were approved by the General Committee on the 8th December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

George Graham
Treasurer

Edward Kemp
Chief Executive Officer

The Royal Literary Fund
Cash flow statement

for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Net cash used in operating activities			(639,321)		(3,017,367)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Capital expenditure and financial investment					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(97,327)		(4,463)	
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(52,519,208)		(33,664,003)	
Proceeds of sale from fixed assets		18,593		17,004	
Proceeds from sale of investments		43,195,465		34,583,661	
Net cash provided by investing activities			(9,402,477)		932,199
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	*20*		(10,041,798)		(2,085,168)
Change in cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			(10,041,798)		(2,085,168)
Net cash at the start of the year	*20*		20,593,488		22,678,656
Net cash at the end of the year	*20*		10,551,690		20,593,488

Reconciliation of changes in net expenses before other recognised gains and losses to net cash flow

Net expenses before other recognised gains and losses	(2,021,085)	(3,597,014)
Depreciation	42,312	29,858
(Gain) on disposal of fixed assets	(2,064)	(46)
Investment management fees	1,241,336	1,076,813
Foreign exchange movements	133,057	(356,948)
Decrease/(Increase)/in debtors	133,456	(106,874)
(Decrease) in creditors	(166,333)	(63,156)
Net cash outflow from operating activities	(639,321)	(3,017,367)

The Royal Literary Fund
Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. The Royal Literary Fund meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and is a registered charity. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income. After making enquiries and considering the impact of Covid 19, the trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the forseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statement are rounded to the nearest pound.

Incoming resources
All income is included when the charity has entitlement to the income, there is probability of receipt and the amount can be measured. Donations are recognised on a receipts basis unless the donor specifies that the donation relates to a future period or that certain pre-conditions must be fulfilled before use. Interest income is included on a receivable basis.

Expenditure
Expenditure is classified under the principal categories of charitable and other expenditure rather than the type of expense, in order to provide more useful information to users of the financial statements. Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Actitvities (SOFA) on an accruals basis..

Charitable activities comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to the activity. Support costs, including governance costs, have been allocated to activities based on the average staff time spent.

1 **Accounting Policies** *(continued)*

Depreciation
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets, except freehold land, by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% of cost per annum
Fixtures and fittings	25% of written down value per annum
Office equipment	25% of written down value per annum
Motor vehicles	25% of written down value per annum

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

Three and five year grants
Liabilities for three and five year grants are recognised in the balance sheet when the Fund has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. One off grants are recognised when they are awarded. Instalment three and five year grants are awarded over a three and five year period respectively. Annual payments are made based on the initial award on application. Five year grants are reviewed for renewal after the five year period.

Operating leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Post-retirement benefits
The amount charged against profits represents the contributions payable to employees' private pension schemes in respect of the accounting period.

Funds
Unrestricted funds
These funds are used to satisfy the provision of the charter of The Royal Literary Fund and are used at the discretion of the Trustees.

Income for the fund is generated through donations, but is mainly derived from the expendable endowment fund.

Designated funds
The income funds of the charity include designated funds, which have been set aside out of general unrestricted funds. These funds are used for the same purposes as general funds.

Restricted funds
The JB Priestley fund is the only restricted fund. From the fund, both capital and income, allotments of grants are made to writers of promise, as specified by the donor. Awards are made on an occasional basis, when a suitable candidate applies to the Fund for a grant.

1 **Accounting Policies** *(continued)*

Expendable endowment funds
From funds obtained from the sale of its share of the commercial rights to Winnie the Pooh received from AA Milne Estate, the Fund invested money in an investment portfolio. It is from this portfolio that income is generated every year to fund the majority of the grant making programme.

The Trustees have the power to release the expendable endowment funds to the Fund's unrestricted income funds, which may be spent on charitable activities.

Investments
Investments are shown at market value in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Realised gains or losses on the sale of investments represent sale proceeds, less market value brought forward and investment management fees and commissions.

Unrealised gains or losses represent the movement between the brought forward and carried forward market value of the investments in the period.

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exceptions of prepayments and deferred income all other debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102. See notes 13,14 and 15 for the debtor and creditor notes.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty
In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

1 Accounting Policies *(continued)*

The most significant estimates and assumptions which affect the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the accounts relate to:

Useful Economic Lives – The annual depreciation charge for fixed assets is sensitive to change in the estimated useful economic lives and residual value of the assets. These are reassessed annually and amended where necessary to reflect current circumstances.

Cash and liquid resources
Cash, for the purpose of the cash flow statement, comprises cash in hand and deposits repayable on demand, less overdrafts payable on demand. Liquid resources are included within fixed asset investments which are disposable without curtailing or disrupting the business and are either readily convertible into known amounts of cash at or close to their carrying values or traded in an active market. Liquid resources comprise term deposits of less than one year.

Foreign currencies
Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. Exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities. The charity does not own any non-monetary assets abroad.

2 Investment Income

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income from fixed interest securities	3,215,720	1,070,1096
Income from managed or unitised funds	1,254,524	1,750,116
Interest on cash deposits held by investment managers	447	3
Interest on other cash deposits	1,140	4,806
	4,471,831	2,825,034

All investment income is held as unrestricted income except for £2,486 (2021: £3,260) which has been classified as restricted income relating to income from managed or unitised funds.

3	**Donations & legacies**	**2022**	**2021**
		£	£
	Legacies		
	PMC Whinnie	–	1,000
	A Hill	12,975	–
		12,975	1,000
	Donations		
	The Kington Oliphant of Gask Trust	1,065	1,104
	Other donations under £500	565	776
		1,630	1,880
	Total	14,605	2,880

4	**Royalties**	**2022**	**2021**
		£	£
	Royalties		
	E Marsh	206	92
	Rupert Brooke	171	16
	Patrick Hamilton	2,092	30,267
	W Somerset Maugham	51,357	44,695
	GK Chesterton	8,236	5,845
	LE Collis	–	5,000
	Pooh Properties Trust	135,000	93,750
	Arthur Ransome	27,664	37,954
	Eden Philpotts	–	1,139
	Henry Reed	180	111
	Hugh Whitmore	–	47
	Colin Maclnnes	1,243	1,154
	Anon	2,069	1,806
	Lawson	135	77
	NF Simpson	86	119
	M Robson	27	58
	P Clough	1,143	900
	A Wilson	253	–
	T Faulkner	228	–
	A Brodie	67	–
	M Hocking	–	274
		230,157	223,304

5	**Net incoming resources is stated after charging**	2022	2021
		£	£
	Depreciation	42,312	29,858
	Payments under operating leases	1,688	1,688
	Amounts paid to auditor		
	Audit fee – current year	17,000	16,500
	Audit fee – prior year under/(over) accrual	480	(300)

6 Taxation

The Royal Literary Fund, as a registered charity, is exempt from taxation on its income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives. No tax charge has arisen in the year.

7	**Raising Funds**	2022	2021
		£	£
	Investment management fees	1,257,628	1,161,631
		1,257,628	1,161,631

8 **Charitable Activities**

	2022		2021	
	Education	**Grant Making**	Education	Grant Making
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Fellowships	2,949,333	–	2,916,727	–
Staff costs	307,799	118,310	273,241	125,936
Temporary staff	–	–	–	7,389
Advertising	–	25,039	–	82,062
Outright grants	–	614,707	–	555,251
Three Year Instalment grants	–	483,192	–	314,500
Five Year Grants – total commitments payable	–	436,388	–	737,571
Office costs	(4,231)	3,714	7,671	1,996
The Society of Authors	–	100,000	–	200,000
Support costs				
Governance costs				
Audit fees	8,740	8,740	8,100	8,100
Professional fees	36,318	36,318	18,880	18,880
Other support costs				
Staff costs	53,083	57,004	–	23,919
Recruitment & temporary staff	9,907	9,907	6,000	6,000
Office expenses	49,223	49,223	32,315	32,315
Postage, printing , stationery, Telephone & IT	12,152	12,152	9,945	9,945
Website	30,360	30,360	30,000	30,000
Depreciation	21,156	21,156	14,929	14,929
Total charitable activity costs by sector	3,473,840	2,006,210	3,317,808	2,168,793

All grants given in the year were to provide support to those classified as having literary merit by the trustees.

Grants Paid to Individuals

The aggregate amount of three and five year grants awarded to individuals during the year was £1,614,097 (2021- £1,509,506). The total number of grants awarded to other charities was 1 (2021 – 1). At the year end £1,764,768 (2021 – £1,897,988) of three and five year grants were committed and a liability has been recognised in the accounts to reflect this. (See notes 14 and 15).

The total number of three year grants awarded and paid to individuals in the year was 112 (2021 – 229).

9 Employees

The average number of employees during the year was 7.25 (2021: 5)

	2022	2021
Education	5.00	3
Grant Making	2.25	2
	7.25	5

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs:		
Wages, salaries and benefits	430,919	337,411
Social security costs	46,055	39,102
Other pension costs (see note 17)	59,222	46,582
	536,196	423,095

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Chief Executive Officer (two employees held this office during the year), the Director of Education and the Director of Digital. The total management benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £359,523 (2021: £353,726).

No employees (2021:1) earned between £90,000 and £100,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for this individual was £0 (2021: £13,890).

2 employees (2021: 2) earned between £80,000 and £90,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for these individuals were £25,043 (2021: £24,995).

1 employee (2021: 0) earned between £70,000 and £80,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for this individual was £11,753 (2021: £0).

1 employee (2021: 0) earned between £60,000 and £70,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for these individuals were £10,401 (2021: £0).

Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses totalling £1,088 were made to 3 trustees in 2022. No reimbursements were made in 2021. These expenses related to travel costs incurred in relation to work carried out for the charity.

10 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Buildings £	Fixtures and Fittings £	Office Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2021	613,020	77,622	39,495	55,485	785,622
Additions	–	–	6,805	90,522	97,327
Disposals	–	–	–	(55,485)	(55,485)
At 31 March 2022	613,020	77,622	46,300	90,522	827,464
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2021	281,004	66,057	28,181	38,957	414,199
Charge for the year	12,260	2,892	4,530	22,630	42,312
Disposals	–	–	–	(38,957)	(38,957)
At 31 March 2022	293,264	68,949	32,711	22,630	417,554
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2022	319,756	8,673	13,589	67,892	409,910
At 1 April 2021	332,016	11,565	11,314	16,528	371,423

11 Intangible Fixed Assets

The Fund owns the copyright to the works of several authors. The Committee does not consider it practical to place a value on these copyrights, so they are not shown in the balance sheet.

The archives of the Fund from 1790 up to 1939 have been placed at the British Library on indefinite loan. The archives consist of the records of cases, minutes, annual reports and matters of administration and are of considerable interest to scholars and researchers.

12	**Fixed Asset Investments**	**2022**	**2021**
		£	£
	Fixed interest securities	30,122,855	29,577,972
	Managed or unitised funds	155,862,413	132,449,986
		185,985,268	162,027,958
	Cash deposits held by investment managers	126,592	118,486
		186,111,860	162,146,444
	Quoted investments		
	Market value as at 1 April 2021	162,027,958	135,313,154
	Additions	52,519,208	33,664,003
	Disposals	(43,195,465)	(34,583,661)
	Net gains	13,852,104	31,764,725
	Investment management fees	(1,241,336)	(1,076,813)
	Exchange gain	2,022,799	(3,053,450)
	Market value as at 31 March 2022	185,985,268	162,027,958
	Historical cost as at 31 March 2022	143,080,758	102,700,206
	Geographical Analysis		
	United Kingdom	117,895,932	102,586,215
	Overseas	68,364,727	59,560,229
		186,260,659	162,146,444

The following investments represent more than 5% of the value of the portfolio. Their year end market values have also been stated for clarity. Blackrock Midcap UK Equity, £15,826,116 (2021: £16,075,043); Blackrock MSCI, £54,627,734 (2021: £13,794,025); Stewart Investors Global Emerging Markets, £17,090,828 (2021: £17,708,849); Loomis Sayles Global Opp Bond Fund, £20,768,272 (2021: £19,694,428); Overstone Global Equity Fund, £19,373,434 (2021: £17,864,371); Cedar Rock Capital Fund, £0 (2021: £32,998,567); Charities Property Fund, £16,428,152 (2021: £8,754,947) and Pantheon RLF 2014 Fund £11,833,767 (2021: £9,145,537).

13 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Employees' expense float	6,000	6,000
Prepayments and accrued income	771,875	756,532
	777,875	762,532

All debtors fall due within one year.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accrued expenditure	67,815	53,281
Tax and social security	43,011	16,130
Other creditors	564	2
Accrued grants and pension commitments	790,896	919,302
	902,286	988,715

15 Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accrued three and five year grant commitments	973,872	1,053,776

The trustees have accrued for three and five year grants awarded in the year, which are payable over a three and five year period, respectively. Although all payments are subject to an annual review, the Fund accepts a 'no changes in circumstances' return. Since the assessment of the beneficiary's financial well being is outside the Fund's control, a full accrual for this commitment has been made this year.

16 Commitments

Annual commitments under other non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Minimum lease payments due in:		
– less than one year	–	–

17 Pension Scheme

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions of £59,222 (2021: £46,582) were charged to the profit and loss account as they became payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. Contributions of £10,587 (2021: nil) remained outstanding at the year end.

18 Analysis of Movements on the Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable Endowment Funds	2022
	General £	JB Priestley Fund £	General £	Total £
Opening funds	5,101,301	82,856	176,528,753	181,712,910
Income	4,714,107	2,486	–	4,716,593
Expenditure	(5,394,708)	(85,342)	(1,257,628)	(6,737,678)
	4,420,700	–	175,271,125	179,691,825
Fund transfers	1,000,000	–	(1,000,000)	–
Other net recognised gains	–	–	16,007,961	16,007,961
Closing value of funds	5,420,700	–	190,279,086	195,699,786

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable Endowment Funds	2021
	General £	JB Priestley Fund £	General £	Total £
Opening funds	5,010,844	108,696	151,836,057	156,955,597
Income	3,047,958	3,260	–	3,051,218
Expenditure	(5,457,501)	(29,100)	(1,161,631)	(6,648,232)
	2,601,301	82,856	150,674,426	153,358,583
Fund transfers	2,500,000	–	(2,500,000)	–
Other net recognised gains	–	–	28,354,327	28,354,327
Closing value of funds	5,101,301	82,856	176,528,753	181,712,910

18 Analysis of Movements on the Funds *(continued)*

The general fund and designated funds are unrestricted and are used to satisfy the provision of the charter of The Royal Literary Fund. There are sufficient funds to enable this to occur.

The JB Priestley Fund is restricted to be spent on young writers of promise. All funds under this bequest have now been allocated.

The designated funds above are in relation to substantial legacies received from the above named individuals which can be spent on general use to help writers. They have been designated as a mark of gratitude for the substantial sums of money these individuals have contributed.

The transfer from the expendable endowment to general unrestricted has been made in order that free reserves are maintained at a level of between 6 and 12 months expenditure as per the reserves policy.

19 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable Endowment Funds	2022
	General £	JB Priestley Fund £	General £	Total £
Fixed assets	409,910	–	–	409,910
Investments	–	–	186,111,860	186,111,860
Net current assets	5,984,662	–	4,167,226	10,151,888
Creditors due in more than one year	(973,872)	–	–	(973,872)
Closing value of funds	5,420,700	–	190,279,086	195,699,786

Within expendable endowment funds is included £155,748,303 (2021: £135,835,767) of material investments, as disclosed in note 12.

19 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable Endowment Funds	2021
	General £	JB Priestley Fund £	General £	Total £
Fixed assets	371,423	–	–	371,423
Investments	–	108,696	162,037,748	162,146,444
Net current assets	5,783,654	(25,840)	14,491,005	20,248,819
Creditors due in more than one year	(1,053,776)	–	–	(1,053,776)
Closing value of funds	5,101,301	82,856	176,528,753	181,712,910

Within expendable endowment funds is included £135,835,767 of material investments, as disclosed in note 12.

20 Net Cash

	Cash b/fwd £	Cash £	Cash c/fwd £
Cash in hand, at bank	20,475,002	(10,198,703)	10,276,299
Cash deposits held by Investment Managers	118,486	8,106	126,592
Total	20,593,488	(10,190,597)	10,402,891

21 Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments at 31 March 2022 (2021: Nil).

22 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year. (2021: Nil)

Administrative Information

The Royal Literary Fund
Registered Charity 219952

Patron
Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

President and Chair
Sir Ian Blatchford

General Committee (as at 31 March 2022)
Nelle Andrew (joined January 2022)
Terence Blacker
Dan Franklin – *Registrar*
Brenda Gardner
George Graham – *Treasurer* (elected November 2021)
Hilary Hale – *Deputy President & Registrar*
Bruce Hunter (retired November 2021)
Paula Johnson (retired November 2021)
Mark Lawson
Mark Le Fanu OBE – *Treasurer*
Colin Ludlow (from July 2021)
Colin Luke – *Treasurer*
Dreda Say Mitchell MBE
Judith Murray (joined January 2022)
Michael Symmons Roberts
Fiona Sampson MBE
Joanna Trollope CBE (retired November 2021)
Marianne Velmans
Ellah P Wakatama OBE

Sub-committees

Finance and Investment
Ian Blatchford, George Graham, Bruce Hunter (retired November 2021), Mark Le Fanu, Colin Luke

Nominations
Ian Blatchford, Hilary Hale, Mark Lawson, Mark Le Fanu, Dreda Say Mitchell, Fiona Sampson

Education
Paula Johnson (Chair until November 2021), Colin Luke (Chair from November 2021), Dreda Say Mitchell, Michael Symmons Roberts, Ellah P Wakatama

Administrative Information *(continued)*

Auditor
Moore Kingston Smith LLP
9 Appold Street
London EC2A 2AP

Accountants
Taxing Matters
54 Park Lane
Reigate RH2 8JX

Solicitors
Farrer & Co
66 Lincoln's Inns Fields
London WC2A 3LH

Bankers
Coutts & Co
440 Strand
London WC2R 0QS

Staff

Steve Cook
Director of Education

Colin Grant
Director, WritersMosaic

Vanessa Holt
Grants Assistant

Edward Kemp
Chief Executive

Katharine McMahon
Head of Outreach

Justine Palmer
Grants Manager (Interim)

David Swinburne
Director of Digital

Some applicants helped during the year

Amongst those awarded grants during the year:

- An award-winning writer of non-fiction had experienced a dramatic drop in earnings after an international book tour was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- A radio dramatist had seen a reduction in commissioned work following the pandemic. As the principal family earner, raising two young children, the writer approached the RLF for support whilst searching for new work opportunities. The trustees made a grant and helped clear credit card debt.
- A nature writer had his writing interrupted during the pandemic as nurseries closed and he became the main carer for two very young children. As the restrictions eased the family's financial situation remained impacted.
- An award-winning playwright had accumulated debt as she juggled work commitments and caring for her sick and dying father during the pandemic.
- A biographer was made redundant from his part-time job at the beginning of the pandemic and his supporting writing work had also suffered. He was receiving Universal Credit but was struggling to pay bills as the cost of living increased.
- An award-winning travel writer with a young family had his work interrupted during the pandemic as the world entered lockdown. He was behind with writing his next book and in need of financial help to support his family.
- A novelist approached the RLF after a storm had caused substantial damage to the roof of his house. The RLF made a grant to cover the cost of the repair work.
- A writer of Young Adult fiction had lost earnings following a series of surgeries and hospital stays for a chronic condition.
- The widow of a novelist and playwright applied to the RLF as she was struggling to cover bills following the sudden death of her husband.
- A novelist's financial circumstances had deteriorated following her husband's ill health and the delay in publication of her latest book. The couple had run up debt which they were struggling to repay. The committee awarded a grant to help clear the debts.

Extracts from thank you letters

I can sleep at night because I'm not worrying about how we will pay the bills. Your decision to pay off my credit cards was beyond any hope or expectation I might have had when I applied to the RLF. You have given me and my family a clean financial slate and we're very grateful. Thank you for the amazing work that you do and for your considerable support. It feels like a miracle that you exist.

I wanted to again extend my deepest thanks for making the process so transparent and accessible, and to the entire committee for this transformative support and championing my work in such a huge way. The grant has been significant in enabling me to continue creating and has already changed the trajectory of what has been a deeply difficult year.

I wish to thank you for the incredible financial support you've given me over three difficult years. It has made all the difference, not just financially, though that was crucial, but also emotionally, knowing that you are there and care about the welfare of authors in difficulty, about my welfare… The Royal Literary Fund is an extraordinary organisation. Thank you for being there for writers, for your kindness and generosity.

Members

as at 31 March 2022

Sir Alan Ayckbourn

David Bacon
Antonia Barber
Janet Barber
Nicholas Baring*
M Bernstein
Philippa Blake-Roberts
Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO
Michael Bunting

Fiona Clark*
Andrew Crawshaw

Peter Daniels
Dame Margaret Drabble*

Miss EJ Fenwick
Michael Frayn
Ingrid Freebairn

Charles Goodman
Mrs Susan Goodman
EA Greey
I Gundry

Celia Haddon
Duff Hart-Davis
Lady Selina Hastings
Sir Max Hastings
Sir Michael Holroyd*
Bruce Hunter

Sir Kazuo Ishiguro

Mrs Catherine M Lambert
David Lodge CBE
Mark Le Fanu OBE

Rupert Murdoch
Stephen Maitland-Lewis
Michelle Magorian

P O'Leary
Derek Parker*
Betty Parvin
Kate Pool*

Mrs B Quartermaine

Michael Ridpath

Mike Shaw
Katherine Scholfield
Hilary Spurling*

Andrew Taylor
Judy Taylor MBE
Claire Tomalin*
Peter Troughton CBE

DFJ van der Vat

Lady Jane Willoughby de Eresby

Philip Ziegler CVO*

**Honorary Member*

THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 219952

Accounts

The Royal Literary Fund

Trustees' report and financial statements

Registered Charity number 219952
31 March 2021

3 Johnson's Court
off Fleet Street
London EC4A 3EA
Telephone : 020 7353 7159
www.rlf.org.uk

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The Royal Literary Fund

Registered Charity 219952

Reference and administrative information

Founder and Resident Visitor

1790-1816 The Reverend David Williams

Past Presidents

1799-1801 The Marquess of Bute
1801-1838 The Duke of Somerset KG
1838-1863 The Marquess of Lansdowne KG
1863-1875 The Earl Stanhope FRS
1875-1893 The Earl of Derby KG FRS
1894-1903 The Marquess of Crewe KG
1903 The Rt. Hon. W E H Lecky OM
1904-1922 The Lord Tennyson GCMG
1922-1940 The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres KT
1941-1951 The Earl of Ilchester GBE
1951-1962 The Lord Gorell CBE MC
1962-1966 Frank Swinnerton
1966-1976 John Lehmann CBE FRSL
1976-1984 Janet Adam Smith OBE
1984-1990 Arthur Crook
1990-2003 Sir Stephen Tumim
2004-2005 Peter Janson-Smith
2005-2015 Sir Ronald Harwood
2015-2018 Tracy Chevalier
2018-2020 Philip Gwyn Jones *(Acting President)*
2020 Hilary Hale *(Acting President)*

Patron

Her Majesty The Queen

President and Chair

2020 Sir Ian Blatchford

Honorary Members

1992 Nicholas Baring
1997 Dame Margaret Drabble
1997 Sir Michael Holroyd
2000 Claire Tomalin
2000 Philip Ziegler CVO
2007 Derek Parker
2007 Fiona Clark
2008 Kate Pool
2008 Hilary Spurling CBE

Reference and administrative information *(continued)*

General Committee
as at 31st March 2021

2016 Terence Blacker
2016 Michael Symmons Roberts
2016 Joanna Trollope CBE
2018 Ellah Wakatama Allfrey OBE
2018 Brenda Gardner
2020 Sir Ian Blatchford
2020 George Graham
2020 Mark Lawson
2020 Fiona Sampson MBE
2020 Dreda Say Mitchell MBE
2020 Marianne Velmans

Bankers

1790 Coutts & Co
440 Strand
London
WC2R 0QS

Accountants

2017 Taxing Matters
54 Park Lane
Reigate
Surrey
RH2 8JX

Registrars

2011 Paula Johnson
2015 Hilary Hale
2016 Dan Franklin

Treasurers

2012 Mark Le Fanu OBE
2014 Bruce Hunter
2019 Colin Luke

Staff

1999 Eileen Gunn
Chief Executive

1999 *Steve Cook*
Director of Education

2006 David Swinburne
Director of Digital

2018 Katharine McMahon
Education Projects Manager

1996 Vanessa Holt
Assistant

Solicitors

1900 Farrer & Co
66 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London
WC2A 3LH

Auditor

2009 Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Devonshire House
60 Goswell Road
London
EC1M 7AD

The dates give the year of election or appointment as appropriate.

Trustees' Annual Report

Report of the General Committee presented to the 231st Annual General Meeting of the Royal Literary Fund held at the Science Museum Board Room, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD on Thursday 11th November 2021.

Introduction

The Fund was delighted to announce the appointment of a new President, Sir Ian Blatchford (Director and CEO of the Science Museum). Sir Ian said *"I am a true believer in the power of great writing, so I am honoured to be able to play a part in the life of this extraordinary benevolent fund, created more than two centuries ago by writers, for writers. Never has the work of the RLF felt more important as the publishing industry continues to grapple with the ongoing market changes. The unique and diverse voices of British novelists, biographers, playwrights and poets are needed more than ever in these uncertain political and economic times".*

All at the RLF welcomed Sir Ian's great energy, knowledge and involvement in the cultural world to help further the RLF's mission to serve all writers in need.

The RLF's educational programmes continued to expand, both its flagship Fellowship Scheme providing work for 115 writers in 82 university/college posts, as well as new initiatives to help marginalised groups such as refugees through reading/writing workshops in a wide range of community settings

During the year, RLF grants and pensions were made with 35 new applicants and 51 previous applicants receiving help. Along with grants and pensions continuing from other years, altogether 229 writers and their dependants were served by the Fund in this way. The Fund helped many writers in difficult circumstances, some suffering illness, bereavement or financial setbacks. Examples of their situations are given at the back of this report. Extracts are also provided there from the many letters of thanks indicating the difference the grants have made to the recipients.

In order to reach as many writers as possible requiring help, the Fund increased publicity about its grants and pensions, spreading the word among writers' organisations and professionals in the publishing world, by word of mouth, Twitter, Facebook, emails, advertisements and leaflets. It engaged a PR company to maximise publicity.

During the year, many Fellows, past and present, were commissioned and paid to produce original material to the 'Showcase' section of the RLF website: articles, podcasts, video and short recorded talks on topics such as 'My Reading Habits'. Overall, 50 written articles were published in the Collected strand and 50 Writers Aloud podcasts released; the popular short audio pieces (Vox) has expanded to a five times a week schedule. A Friday email newsletter informs over 500 subscribers of new content.

Work continued on the development of the dedicated database of the Fund's archives, building on the catalogue of RLF records at the British Library. This will be an enhanced resource for academics and local and family historians.

Maintaining the RLF's charitable funds while ensuring sufficient income to provide for the Fund's beneficiaries and writers on the Fellowship Scheme (and its associated educational projects) was a key feature of the financial planning decisions made by the Committee with the help of its professional advisors. Careful management of its investments has enabled the Fund to continue to meet all of its charitable objectives.

Organisational Structure

The Fund was established in 1790. Its objects are: i) *to help published writers of approved literary merit and their families in need,* and more generally, ii) *the advancement of public education and the improvement of public taste in the field of literary work*. It was incorporated and, granted a Charter in 1818, and in 1842 this was made a Royal Charter. Subsequently, the Charter has been revised by Order of the Privy Council in 1968, 2002 and 2006.

The General Committee is responsible for policy and grant-making decisions at its monthly meetings in accordance with the bye-laws of the Fund's Charter.

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance – *Public Benefit: Running a Charity (PB2)* – when reviewing the Fund's aims and objectives and in reaching its grant-making decisions. In particular, the trustees have ensured that these decisions are in line with the aims and objectives they have set, that is, all grants and pensions are awarded to writers of approved literary merit or their dependants and are to relieve poverty.

The Fund monitors all its procedures and key activities to ensure that they are effective and up to date and comply with the appropriate Charity Commission guidance and the Fund's values. Sub-committees and working parties, which meet regularly, initiate this process and make recommendations to the General Committee. A governance review had been undertaken.

Executive decisions are delegated to the Chief Executive, the Director of Education and the Director of Digital in their respective areas of responsibility.

The General Committee

The composition of the General Committee has remained as outlined in the 2020 annual report with the following changes: A new President, Sir Ian Blatchford, was elected. Five new trustees joined the Fund: George Graham, Mark Lawson, Fiona Sampson, Dreda Say Mitchell and Marianne Velmanns. Four trustees resigned from the Fund: Tessa Hadley, Meg Rosoff. Philip Gwyn Jones and Frances Fyfield.

Trustees are selected for their knowledge and experience in writing, publishing and the literary world in general. The Fund's policy is to maintain a diverse

Committee of trustees who bring different skills to the table. New trustees are provided with an induction pack containing background details on the Fund's past and current work. They also meet separately with staff to learn about the workings of the Fund, and are assigned an existing trustee to look after them and answer questions as needed. All new trustees sign a confidentiality agreement. All trustees have to declare an interest in any of the applicants at the start of consideration of applications at each monthly meeting.

All trustees are apprised of changes in legislation affecting the Fund's activities.

Review of Activities for the Year 2020-2021

Grants and Pensions

Writers who apply to the Fund for grants and pensions must submit samples of their published work. These are read by two members of the General Committee, who then report at the monthly meeting and recommend whether or not the criterion for literary merit is satisfied. If it is, the writer's circumstances are considered and, if need is established, a grant is made on the basis of the criteria set out in the Fund's Charter.

The total sum of grants and pensions made to beneficiaries during the year was £1,509,506. The total number of individual writers assisted with grants or pensions during the year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 was 229.

The Fund also helps older writers by awarding 'pensions' (renewable five-year grants). At 31st March 2020, the Fund had a commitment to 106 pensioners: Seven new pensions were awarded, 14 pensions were renewed and three pensioners died during the year.

Pensions are committed to beneficiaries for a minimum period of five years subject to confirmation that there is still a need and there has been no material change of circumstances. Consequently, the accounting treatment in the Statement of Financial Activities in accordance with the requirements of the relevant statement of recommended practice for charities means that the full five year charge is recognised in the statements. The annual cash expenditure on pension grants for the year was £680,092.

RLF Education

The RLF Fellowships offer professional writers the opportunity to work for one or two days a week in a university helping students to develop their academic writing skills.

Associated education projects continued to thrive, including an expanded round of workshops for schools through the Bridge programme in Scotland reaching as far north as Shetland, as well as increased involvement with the LEAPS widening participation programme; Bridge workshops for London schools in partnership with the British Library; workshops delivered to USDAW members at various sites across the North of England; sixteen groups across all four nations of the UK in the Reading Round scheme; and a new programme

of workshops aimed at helping marginalised groups, such as asylum-seekers, develop confidence with self-expression and reading.

In its 22nd year, the Fellowship scheme took on 41 new recruits:

Laura Barnett, Juliet Clare Bell, Andrea Bennett, Tessa Boase, Simon Booker, Penny Boxall, Clare Chambers, Martyn Crucefix, Martin Day, Paul Dodgson, Sophie Duffy, Jonathan Edwards, Robin Etherington, Fiona Evans, Clare Fisher, Rebecca Goss, Peter Hollywood, Zoe Howe, Adriana Hunter, Inbali Iserles, Liz Jobey, Marianne Kavanagh, Helen Kelly, Martin MacInnes, Kathryn Maris, Lucasta Miller, Clare Morgan, Polly Morland, Lois Pryce, Marnie Riches, Kate Rhodes, Lawrence Sail, Caroline Smailes, Jon Stock, Sara Taylor, Stuart Walton, Sara Wheeler, Karl Whitney, Christopher Woodall, Aisha Zia.

They were joined by 13 former Fellows returning to the scheme and 61 others continuing from the previous year. In total, 115 writers worked as RLF Fellows at 82 university/college postings, 12 of which were new, including Hull University, London South Bank University and Portsmouth University.

Due to UK government restrictions on freedom of movement it was impossible for Fellows to work on campus from the lead up to Easter 2020 until the end of the summer term. Fellows were also unable to return to campus in the academic year beginning autumn 2020. New systems were created to enable Fellows to provide online tutorials.

Grants to other organisations

Grants of £200,000 were made to the Covid Emergency Fund administered by the Society of Authors. The RLF was a prime mover in setting this up last year when it became apparent that professional authors were losing money from cancelled speaking engagements etc.

Financial Review

The RLF's charitable funds at 31 March 2021 totalled £181,712,910, compared with £156,955,597 in 2020. A strong recovery in financial markets, following the turbulence experienced in early 2020, helped the Fund to achieve an investment performance of 17% in the year, regaining in full the value lost in the prior year.

The Fund's investments are managed on a total return basis, so that charitable expenditure is supported both by investment income such as dividends and bond coupons and by capital gains harvested from the growing portfolio. During the year investment income totalled £2,825,034, compared with £3,496,972 in the previous year, while investment management fees, classed as "Raising Funds", were £1,161,631, down from £1,316,344 in the previous year. Net expenditure before gains on investments amounted to a deficit of £3,597,014, up from £3,289,429 in the previous year; in the current environment of very low interest rates and bond yields annual deficits at this level are to be anticipated but the Trustees believe current levels of expenditure are sustainable over the long term, given the steady growth in the investment portfolio.

The Fund has structured its portfolio with the objective of achieving growth in its real value so as to support over the long term a target rate of spending of 3 ¼% of the average asset value over the three previous years, without taking on undue risk. The investment policy is reviewed annually to ensure that the resources needed to meet our commitments will be secured. The Trustees have engaged Cambridge Associates, a firm of investment consultants, to advise them on investment strategy.

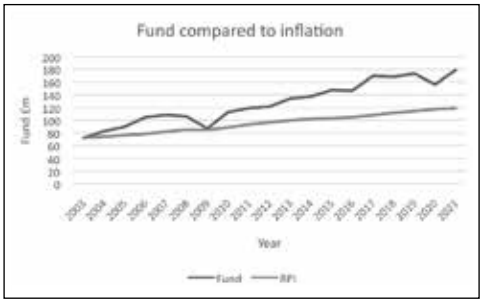
Asset allocation at year end was:

Asset allocation

Equity	55%
Fixed income	17%
Property	5%
Non-marketable alternatives	11%
Cash	12%
Total	*100%*

The very strong performance of equities during the year caused the composition of the portfolio to diverge from the long-term target asset allocation. Since the year end the Fund has moved to rebalance the portfolio, increasing its investments in fixed income and property funds. In making these adjustments to its portfolio the Fund does not seek to anticipate short-term market movements or time entry into or exit from particular asset classes, but to follow a long-term approach to asset allocation.

Since the inception of the current investment strategy in 2003, the Fund has achieved its objective of growing the real value of its investments to support its charitable expenditure. Weathering significant market downturns in 2008-9 and again in 2020, the portfolio has generated sufficient investment income and capital gains to support the Fund's growing charitable expenditure while still increasing in value by an average 5.2% per year, compared with inflation, measured by the Retail Price Index, of 2.8% per year, as shown in the chart below.



The Trustees have assessed the ability of the Fund to meet its future obligations and believe that, despite the volatility of annual investment returns, it remains

well positioned to sustain its charitable expenditure for the foreseeable future. The financial statements have therefore been prepared on the going concern basis.

The Committee is able to confirm that the Fund's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the obligations of each of its separate funds and that its investments, as managed by its investment managers, have been acquired in accordance with the powers available to the General Committee under the Charter.

Reserves

The majority of the Fund's reserves are derived from its share of the sale of the merchandising rights to Winnie the Pooh. The trustees consider these funds to be primarily an investment fund held to produce income to balance the needs of both current and future beneficiaries as required by charity law. These funds are termed expendable endowment.

The trustees have assessed the average level of expenditure for the foreseeable future as described above. In order to meet the Fund's current and expected charitable commitments to beneficiaries the trustees plan to maintain the real value of the capital funds over the long-term and set the Fund's investment policy accordingly.

Additionally, the Fund holds free reserves to ensure that it is able to meet the needs of its current and future beneficiaries given potential future risks. These can be broken down into three categories:

- short-term tactical needs such as temporary setbacks in funding or cash-flow difficulties;
- contingency needs to enable the Fund to take advantage of strategic development opportunities and to meet unexpected calls on the Fund;
- long-term strategic needs to reduce the risk posed by large external changes in the environment in which the Fund operates, in particular large falls in the stock market.

To manage this risk the Fund believes it should retain between 6 and 12 months' expenditure to be held in cash or easily liquidated funds. This equates to between £3.5 m and £5 m of funds which will be allocated to free reserves.

The net assets of the Fund at 31st March 2021 were 181,712,910 of which restricted funds represented £82,856 and expendable endowment £176,528,753 and a further £371,423 was tied up in the Fund's fixed assets. Thus, the level of free reserves stood at £5,101,301. The reserves policy is reviewed annually and performance monitored during the year as part of the Fund's monthly budgetary requirements and general financial management.

Trustees' Report *(continued)*

Risk Management Statement

Risk is managed by the trustees and executive staff . A Risk Register indicating impact, appetite is reviewed annually and approved by the General Committee.

The following were identified as major risks:

Fall in Global Markets – mitigated by a conservative target spending rate.

£4.9m is held in easily accessible free reserves in case of extreme fall in markets. Most of the Fund's investment portfolio could be liquidated at short notice if necessary. The Fund is therefore a going concern.

Breach of beneficiaries' confidentiality – All trustees and staff sign a confidentiality statement. Papers circulated at monthly trustee meetings are not retained at home but shredded in the office. Appropriate security measures are in place to protect data held on the office computer system.

Loss of key member of staff – all staff have passwords to others' computers and know the main aspects of others' jobs. Extensive files, agendas and minutes are available. The accountant has agreed to take on the Chief Executive's financial accounting work in an emergency. There are two members of staff conversant with online banking, the Chief Executive, the Director of Education.

The Risk Register is updated annually.

The Fund carries a comprehensive range of insurances; an annual budget is agreed and adhered to; a monthly statement of expenditure and income is presented and discussed at each meeting of the trustees; regular meetings are held with the Fund's investment managers to review performance. Its systems and operations are regularly monitored and discussed at trustee meetings and sub-committees to ensure that the Fund continues to be protected.

Impact of Covid-19 on Operations

During the pandemic restrictions, face to face interactions were suspended for grant applications and Education. Trustee and staff meetings, home visits, and student sessions were replaced with online activities.

The Fund's preparations have enabled it to continue all of its areas of work, and to help writers who have had work cancelled during the pandemic by direct grants to eligible writers, and donations to the Society of Authors' emergency fund.

The level of investments held, as detailed in the accounts and the financial sections of this report, are significantly in excess of the commitments at year end, and the trustees conclude that the charity has not been materially affected and continues to be a going concern.

Remuneration

At present staff remuneration is reviewed annually by the Remuneration Panel. Its main tasks are to:

- Determine the remuneration of all staff on the payroll, taking into account details in the Chief Executive's letter to Remuneration Panel, which provides current figures and relevant information, for the three key management personnel – Chief Executive, Director of Education, and Director of Digital.
- Determine pension arrangements and ensure that contractual terms on termination are fair to the individual and the charity, that poor performance is not rewarded.
- Recommend its decision to the General Committee for its approval.

In determining the RLF's remuneration policy, the Panel takes into account that as an organisation it has few employees; it wishes therefore to recognise the broader than normal range of skills and competencies required by each role.

The appropriateness and relevance of the remuneration policy is reviewed annually, including reference to comparisons with other charities and/or Higher Education managers ensuring the RLF remains sensitive to the broader issues, e.g. pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

Future Plans

The RLF set in progress the appointment of a new CEO, to join Sir Ian Blatchford, the President, in consolidating the work and governance of the Fund and to take it forward with new initiatives. Early in the new year, Edward Kemp, formerly Director of RADA, was appointed as CEO.

Preparations were made to launch in April a new online platform featuring contemporary writers who reflect the UK's widening literary culture www.writersmosaic.org.uk

An expansion of the in-house database of RLF beneficiaries was also planned, to facilitate management of the Fund's records.

The main Fellowship Scheme will be expanded to take account of an increase in quality applicants in particular regions. The Education Projects Manager will be developing further links with community organisations and charities nationwide to find how best to reach marginalised groups who would benefit from advice on reading and writing from a team of former Fellows. There will be more workshops delivered in partnership with a variety of trade unions, with the British Library's education department, and with NHS trusts.

Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions.

Trustees' Report *(continued)*

Auditor

A resolution for re-appointment of Moore Kingston Smith as Auditor of the charity is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The trustees who held office at the date of approval of this trustees' annual report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's Auditor is unaware. Each trustee has been made aware of the relevant audit information and it has been established that the Charity's Auditor is aware of that information.

By order of the board
Mark Le Fanu OBE
Hon Treasurer
11th November 2021

3 Johnson's Court
off Fleet Street
London EC4A 3EA

Statement of trustees' responsibilities in respect of the trustees' annual report and financial statements

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Royal Literary Fund

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Literary Fund for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Royal Literary Fund *(continued)*

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we required for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Royal Literary Fund *(continued)*

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charity complies with these requirements by discussions with management.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.

- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of The Royal Literary Fund *(continued)*

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charity and charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Statutory auditor

Devonshire House
60 Goswell Road
London
EC1M 7AD

Moore Kingston Smith LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Date:

The Royal Literary Fund
Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Expendable Endowment funds £	2021 Total funds £
Income					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	*3*	7,880	–	–	7,880
Royalties	*4*	218,304	–	–	218,304
Investments	*2*	2,821,774	3,260	–	2,825,034
Total Income		3,047,958	3,260	–	3,051,218
Expenditure					
Expenditure on					
Raising Funds	7	–	–	(1,161,631)	(1,161,631)
Charitable activities	*8*	(5,457,501)	(29,100)	–	(5,486,601)
Total Expenditure		(5,457,501)	(29,100)	(1,161,631)	(6,648,232)
Net Expenditure before gains on investments		(2,409,543)	(25,840)	(1,161,631)	(3,597,014)
Exchange losses		–	–	(3,410,398)	(3,410,398)
Net gains on investments		–	–	31,764,725	31,764,725
Net (expenditure)/income	*5*	(2,409,543)	(25,840)	27,192,696	24,757,313
Transfers between funds		2,500,000	–	(2,500,000)	–
Net movement in funds		90,457	(25,840)	24,692,696	24,757,313
Fund balances brought forward		5,010,844	108,696	151,836,057	156,955,597
Fund balances carried forward		5,101,301	82,856	176,528,753	181,712,910

The incoming resources and resulting net movement in funds arise from continuing operations.The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the net movement in funds in the year.

The Royal Literary Fund
Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Expendable Endowment funds £	2020 Total funds £
Income					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	*3*	19,145	–	–	19,145
Royalties	*4*	304,036	–	–	304,036
Investments	*2*	3,493,660	3,312	–	3,496,972
Total Income		3,816,841	3,312	–	3,820,153
Expenditure					
Expenditure on					
Raising Funds	7	–	–	(1,316,344)	(1,316,344)
Charitable activities	*8*	(5,788,238)	(5,000)	–	(5,793,238)
Total Expenditure		(5,788,238)	(5,000)	(1,316,344)	(7,109,582)
Net Expenditure before gains on investments		(1,971,397)	(1,688)	(1,316,344)	(3,289,429)
Exchange gains		–	–	2,022,187	2,022,187
Net losses on investments		–	–	(15,201,951)	(15,201,951)
Net expenditure	*5*	(1,971,397)	(1,688)	(14,496,108)	(16,469,193)
Transfers between funds		2,000,000	–	(2,000,000)	–
Net movement in funds		28,603	(1,688)	(16,496,108)	(16,469,193)
Fund balances brought forward		4,982,241	110,384	168,332,165	173,424,790
Fund balances carried forward		5,010,844	108,696	151,836,057	156,955,597

The incoming resources and resulting net movement in funds arise from continuing operations. The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the net movement in funds in the year.

The Royal Literary Fund
Balance sheet

at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	*10*		371,423		413,773
Investments	*12*		162,146,444		135,477,349
			162,517,867		135,891,122
Current Assets					
Debtors	*13*	762,532		655,659	
Cash at bank and in hand		20,475,002		22,514,463	
		21,237,534		23,170,122	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	*14*	(988,715)		(1,022,448)	
Net Current Assets			20,248,819		22,147,674
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			182,766,686		158,038,796
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	*15*		(1,053,776)		(1,083,199)
Net Assets	*19*		181,712,910		156,955,597
Funds					
Restricted funds			82,856		108,696
Unrestricted funds			5,101,301		5,010,844
Expendable endowment funds			176,528,753		151,836,057
	19		181,712,910		156,955,597

The financial statements were approved by the General Committee on the 11th November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Mark Le Fanu OBE
Hon Treasurer

Eileen Gunn
Secretary

The Royal Literary Fund
Cash flow statement

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Net cash used in operating activities			(3,017,367)		(1,269,279)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Capital expenditure and financial investment					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,463)		(4,079)	
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(33,664,003)		(17,945,030)	
Proceeds of sale from fixed assets		17,004		–	
Proceeds from sale of investments		34,583,661		38,110,106	
Net cash provided by investing activities			932,199		20,160,997
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	*20*		(2,085,168)		18,891,718
Change in cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			(2,085,168)		18,891,718
Net cash at the start of the year	*20*		22,678,656		3,786,938
Net cash at the end of the year	*20*		20,593,488		22,678,656

Reconciliation of changes in net expenses before other recognised gains and losses to net cash flow

Net expenses before other recognised gains and losses	(3,597,014)	(3,289,429)
Depreciation	29,858	35,426
(Gain) on disposal of fixed assets	(46)	–
Investment management fees	1,076,813	1,320,478
Foreign exchange movements	(356,948)	284,261
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(106,874)	214,441
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(63,156)	165,544
Net cash outflow from operating activities	(3,017,367)	(1,269,279)

The Royal Literary Fund
Notes *(forming part of the financial statements)*

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. The Royal Literary Fund meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and is a registered charity. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income. After making enquiries and considering the impact of Covid 19, the trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the forseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statement are rounded to the nearest pound.

Incoming resources
All income is included when the charity has entitlement to the income, there is probability of receipt and the amount can be measured. Donations are recognised on a receipts basis unless the donor specifies that the donation relates to a future period or that certain pre-conditions must be fulfilled before use. Interest income is included on a receivable basis.

Expenditure
Expenditure is classified under the principal categories of charitable and other expenditure rather than the type of expense, in order to provide more useful information to users of the financial statements. Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Actitvities (SOFA) on an accruals basis.

Charitable activities comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to the activity. Support costs, including governance costs, have been allocated to activities based on the average staff time spent.

1 Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Depreciation
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets, except freehold land, by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold buildings	2% of cost per annum
Fixtures and fittings	25% of written down value per annum
Office equipment	25% of written down value per annum
Motor vehicles	25% of written down value per annum

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

Grants and pensions
Liabilities for pensions and grants are recognised in the balance sheet when the Fund has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. One off grants are recognised when they are awarded. Instalment grants and pensions are awarded over a three and five year period respectively. Annual payments are made based on the initial award on application. Pensions are reviewed for renewal after the five year period.

Operating leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Post-retirement benefits
The amount charged against profits represents the contributions payable to employees' private pension schemes in respect of the accounting period.

Funds
Unrestricted funds
These funds are used to satisfy the provision of the charter of The Royal Literary Fund and are used at the discretion of the Trustees.

Income for the fund is generated through donations, but is mainly derived from the expendable endowment fund.

Designated funds
The income funds of the charity include designated funds, which have been set aside out of general unrestricted funds. These funds are used for the same purposes as general funds.

Restricted funds
The JB Priestley fund is the only restricted fund. From the fund, both capital and income, allotments of grants are made to writers of promise, as specified by the donor. Awards are made on an occasional basis, when a suitable candidate applies to the Fund for a grant.

1 Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Expendable endowment funds
From funds obtained from the sale of its share of the commercial rights to Winnie the Pooh received from AA Milne Estate, the Fund invested money in an investment portfolio. It is from this portfolio that income is generated every year to fund the majority of the grant making programme.

The Trustees have the power to release the expendable endowment funds to the Fund's unrestricted income funds, which may be spent on charitable activities.

Investments
Investments are shown at market value in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Realised gains or losses on the sale of investments represent sale proceeds, less market value brought forward and investment management fees and commissions.

Unrealised gains or losses represent the movement between the brought forward and carried forward market value of the investments in the period.

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exceptions of prepayments and deferred income all other debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102. See notes 13,14 and 15 for the debtor and creditor notes.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty
In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

1 **Accounting Policies** *(continued)*

The most significant estimates and assumptions which affect the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the accounts relate to:

Useful Economic Lives – The annual depreciation charge for fixed assets is sensitive to change in the estimated useful economic lives and residual value of the assets. These are reassessed annually and amended where necessary to reflect current circumstances.

Cash and liquid resources
Cash, for the purpose of the cash flow statement, comprises cash in hand and deposits repayable on demand, less overdrafts payable on demand. Liquid resources are included within fixed asset investments which are disposable without curtailing or disrupting the business and are either readily convertible into known amounts of cash at or close to their carrying values or traded in an active market. Liquid resources comprise term deposits of less than one year.

Foreign currencies
Transactions in foreign currencies are recognised at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into sterling at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. Exchange differences are recognised through the statement of financial activities. The charity does not own any non-monetary assets abroad.

2 **Investment Income**

	2021 £	2020 £
Income from fixed interest securities	1,070,109	1,771,286
Income from managed or unitised funds	1,750,116	1,707,442
Interest on cash deposits held by investment managers	3	1,193
Interest on other cash deposits	4,806	17,051
	2,825,034	3,496,972

All investment income is held as unrestricted income except for £3,260 (2020: £3,312) which has been classified as restricted income relating to income from managed or unitised funds.

3	**Donations & legacies**	**2021**	**2020**
		£	£
	Legacies		
	P McWhinnie	1,000	–
	P Taylor	–	2,000
		1,000	12,000
	Donations		
	C Lambert	–	1,000
	R Lumsden	–	509
	Peter Daniels Publisher Services	–	4,000
	The Kington Oliphant of Gask Trust	1,104	1,345
	Other donations under £500	776	291
		1,880	7,145
	Total	2,880	19,145

4	**Royalties**	**2021**	**2020**
		£	£
	Royalties		
	E Marsh	92	304
	Rupert Brooke	16	187
	Patrick Hamilton	30,267	10,487
	W Somerset Maugham	44,695	78,445
	GK Chesterton	5,845	6,249
	LE Collis	5,000	3,500
	Pooh Properties Trust	93,750	150,000
	Arthur Ransome	37,954	41,775
	Eden Philpotts	1,139	–
	Henry Reed	111	481
	Hugh Whitmore	47	–
	Colin MacInnes	1,154	639
	Anon	1,806	3,511
	Lawson	77	95
	NF Simpson	119	178
	M Robson	58	–
	P Clough	900	7,942
	M Steen	–	51
	M Hocking	274	192
		223,304	304,036

5	**Net incoming resources is stated after charging**	**2021**	**2020**
		£	£
	Depreciation	29,858	35,426
	Payments under operating leases	1,688	1,688
	Amounts paid to auditors		
	Audit fees – current year	16,500	15,900
	Audit fee – prior year over accrual	(300)	(960)

6 Taxation

The Royal Literary Fund, as a registered charity, is exempt from taxation on its income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives. No tax charge has arisen in the year.

7	**Raising Funds**	**2021**	**2020**
		£	£
	Investment management fees	1,161,631	1,316,344
		1,161,631	1,316,344

8 **Charitable Activities**

	2021		2020	
	Education	**Grant Making**	Education	Grant Making
	£	£	£	£
Direct costs				
Fellowships	2,916,727	–	3,178,984	–
Staff costs	273,241	125,936	253,708	116,654
Temporary staff		7,389		
Advertising	–	82,062	–	41,161
Literary Festivals	–	–	5,992	–
Outright grants	–	555,251	–	465,417
Instalment grants	–	314,500	–	592,753
Pensions – total commitments payable	–	737,571	–	755,463
Office costs	7,671	1,996		
Royal Society of Literature	–	–	–	15,000
The Society of Authors	–	200,000	–	100,000
Support costs				
Governance costs				
Audit fees	8,100	8,100	7,470	7,470
Professional fees	18,880	18,880	16,526	13,520
Other support costs				
Staff costs	–	23,919	–	22,596
Recruitment	6,000	6,000	–	–
Office expenses	32,315	32,315	42,578	40,454
Postage, printing, stationery, telephone & IT	9,945	9,945	10,485	10,485
Website	30,000	30,000	30,548	30,548
Depreciation	14,929	14,929	17,713	17,713
Total charitable activity costs by sector	3,317,808	2,168,793	3,564,004	2,229,234

All grants given in the year were to provide support to those classified as having literary merit by the trustees.

Grants Paid to Individuals

The aggregate amount of grants and pensions paid to individuals during the year was £1,509,506 (2020- £1,654,828). The total number of grants awarded to other charities was 1 (2020 – 2). At the year end £1,897,988 (2020 – £2,034,413) of grants and pensions were committed and a liability has been recognised in the accounts to reflect this. (See notes 14 and 15).

The total number of grants awarded and paid to individuals in the year was 229 (2020 – 214).

9 **Employees**

The average number of employees during the year was 5 (2020:5)

	2021	2020
Education	3	3
Grant Making	2	2
	5	5

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs:		
Wages, salaries and benefits	337,411	309,985
Social security costs	39,102	37,631
Other pension costs (see note 17)	46,582	45,342
	423,095	392,958

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Education and the Director of Digital. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £353,726 (2020: £334,142).

1 employee (2020: 0) earned between £90,000 and £100,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for this individual was £13,890 (2020: £0).

2 employees (2020: 2) earned between £80,000 and £90,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for these individuals were £24,995 (2020: £25,667).

0 employees (2020: 1) earned between £70,000 and £80,000 per annum. Total employer pension contributions for this individual was £0 (2020: £11,656).

No reimbursements of out of pocket expenses were made to trustees in 2021. Reimbursement amounting to £4,364 was made in 2020 to 5 trustees. These expenses related to travel costs incurred in relation to work carried out for the charity.

10 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Buildings £	Fixtures and Fittings £	Office Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2020	613,020	77,622	35,032	93,558	819,232
Additions	–	–	4,463	–	4,463
Disposals	–	–	–	(38,073)	(38,073)
At 31 March 2021	613,020	77,622	39,495	55,485	785,622
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2020	268,744	62,201	24,410	50,104	405,459
Charge for the year	12,260	3,856	3,771	9,971	29,858
Disposals	–	–	–	(21,118)	(21,118)
At 31 March 2021	281,004	66,057	28,181	38,957	414,199
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2021	332,016	11,565	11,314	16,528	371,423
At 1 April 2020	344,276	15,421	10,622	43,454	413,773

11 Intangible Fixed Assets

The Fund owns the copyright to the works of several authors. The Committee does not consider it practical to place a value on these copyrights, so they are not shown in the balance sheet.

The archives of the Fund from 1790 up to 1939 have been placed at the British Library on indefinite loan. The archives consist of the records of cases, minutes, annual reports and matters of administration and are of considerable interest to scholars and researchers.

12	**Fixed Asset Investments**	**2021**	**2020**
		£	£
	Fixed interest securities	29,577,972	29,021,048
	Managed or unitised funds	132,449,986	106,292,108
		162,027,958	135,313,156
	Cash deposits held by investment managers	118,486	164,193
		162,146,444	35,477,349
	Quoted investments		
	Market value as at 1 April 2020	135,313,154	170,262,734
	Additions	33,664,003	17,945,030
	Disposals	(34,583,661)	(38,110,106)
	Net gains/(losses)	31,764,725	(15,201,954)
	Investment management fees	(1,076,813)	(1,320,478)
	Exchange gain	(3,053,450)	1,737,928
	Market value as at 31 March 2021	162,027,958	135,313,154
	Historical cost as at 31 March 2021	102,700,206	100,360,479
	Geographical Analysis		
	United Kingdom	102,586,215	105,181,826
	Overseas	59,560,229	30,295,523
		162,146,444	135,477,349

The following investments represent more than 5% of the value of the portfolio. Their year end market values have also been stated for clarity. Blackrock Midcap UK Equity, £16,075,043 (2020: £11,127,031); Blackrock MSCI, £13,794,025 (2020: £0); Stewart Investors Global Emerging Markets, £17,508,849 (2020: £0) Loomis Sayles Global Opp Bond Fund, £19,694,428 (2020: £19,041,902); Overstone Global Equity Hedge Fund, £17,864,371 (2020: £13,379,516); Cedar Rock Capital Fund, £32,998,567 (2020: £27,670,628), Charities Property Fund, £8,754,947 (2020: £8,902,321) and Pantheon RLF 2014 Fund £9,145,537 (2020: £5,474,392).

13 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Employees' expense float	6,000	6,000
Prepayments and accrued income	756,532	649,659
	762,532	655,659

All debtors fall due within one year.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accrued expenditure	53,281	55,974
Tax and social security	16,130	15,258
Other creditors	2	2
Accrued grants and pension commitments	919,302	951,214
	988,715	1,022,448

15 Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accrued grants and pension commitments	1,053,776	1,083,199

The trustees have accrued for grants and pensions awarded in the year, which are payable over a three and five year period, respectively. Although pension payments are subject to an annual review, the Fund accepts a 'no changes in circumstances' return. Since the assessment of the beneficiary's financial well being is outside the Fund's control, a full accrual for this commitment has been made this year.

16 Commitments

Annual commitments under other non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Minimum lease payments due in:		
- less than one year	–	1,688

17 Pension Scheme

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions of £46,582 *(2020: £45,341)* were charged to the profit and loss account as they became payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. There were no contributions *(2020: nil)* outstanding at the year end.

18 Analysis of Movements on the Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable Endowment Funds	2021
	General £	JB Priestley Fund £	General £	Total £
Opening funds	5,010,844	108,696	151,836,057	156,955,597
Income	3,047,958	3,260	–	3,051,218
Expenditure	(5,457,501)	(29,100)	(1,161,631)	(6,648,232)
	2,601,301	82,856	150,674,426	153,358,583
Fund transfers	2,500,000	–	(2,500,000)	–
Other net recognised gains	–	–	28,354,327	28,354,327
Closing value of funds	5,101,301	82,856	176,528,753	181,712,910

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable Endowment Funds	2020
	General £	JB Priestley Fund £	General £	Total £
Opening funds	4,982,241	110,384	168,332,165	173,424,790
Income	3,816,841	3,312	–	3,820,153
Expenditure	(5,788,238)	(5,000)	(1,316,344)	(7,109,582)
	3,010,844	108,696	167,015,821	170,135,361
Fund transfers	2,000,000	–	(2,000,000)	–
Other net recognised losses	–	–	(13,179,764)	(13,179,764)
Closing value of funds	5,010,844	108,696	151,836,057	156,955,597

18 Analysis of Movements on the Funds *(continued)*

The general fund and designated funds are unrestricted and are used to satisfy the provision of the charter of The Royal Literary Fund. There are sufficient funds to enable this to occur.

The JB Priestley Fund is restricted to be spent on young writers of promise.

The designated funds above are in relation to substantial legacies received from the above named individuals which can be spent on general use to help writers. They have been designated as a mark of gratitude for the substantial sums of money these individuals have contributed.

The transfer from the expendable endowment to general unrestricted has been made in order that free reserves are maintained at a level of between 6 and 12 months expenditure as per the reserves policy.

19 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable Endowment Funds	2021
	General £	JB Priestley Fund £	General £	Total £
Fixed assets	371,423	–	–	371,423
Investments	–	108,696	162,037,748	162,146,444
Net current assets	5,783,654	(25,840)	14,491,005	20,248,819
Creditors due in more than one year	(1,053,776)	–	–	(1,053,776)
Closing value of funds	5,101,301	82,856	176,528,753	181,712,910

Within expendable endowment funds is included £135,835,767 of material investments, as disclosed in note 12.

19 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable Endowment Funds	2020
	General £	JB Priestley Fund £	General £	Total £
Fixed assets	413,773	–	–	413,773
Investments	–	110,384	135,366,965	135,477,349
Net current assets	5,680,270	(1,688)	16,469,092	22,147,674
Creditors due in more than one year	(1,083,199)	–	–	(1,083,199)
Closing value of funds	5,010,844	108,696	151,836,057	156,955,597

Within expendable endowment funds is included £104,514,178 of material investments, as disclosed in note 12.

20 Net Cash

	Cash b/fwd £	Cash £	Cash c/fwd £
Cash in hand, at bank	22,514,463	(2,039,461)	20,475,002
Cash deposits held by Investment Managers	164,193	(45,707)	118,486
Total	22,678,656	(2,085,168)	20,593,488

21 Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments at 31 March 2021 (2020: Nil).

22 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year. (2020: Nil).

Some applicants helped during the year

A sports journalist's earnings had decreased dramatically since March 2020 as the independent magazine sector had shut down and sporting events and exhibitions had been cancelled. The trustees made him a grant.

✦

A writer of YA fiction and non-fiction, continued to work where he could, but all venues for workshops and writing courses were now closed. The trustees made him a grant.

✦

A playwright was receiving treatment for bowel cancer. He lived on the state pension. A new play had been postponed, which would have allowed him to spend a little more. The trustees made him an annual grant for three years.

✦

A nature writer made a steady income from his writing from journalism, books and face to face talks and tours. Much of his work had been cancelled because of the pandemic. The trustees made him a grant.

✦

An award-winning translator and his wife had both suffered ill health, loss of income and fewer translating commissions. The trustees made him a grant.

✦

A novelist had lost earnings from her travel website which provided a crucial part of other income. This had had a huge impact on her and her partner's financial circumstances. The trustees made her a grant.

✦

A poet was weighed down by his financial situation and finding it difficult to write. He had accumulated debts including rent arrears. The trustees made him an annual grant and cleared debts.

✦

An acclaimed novelist had been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease. Her health was deteriorating. The trustees made her a grant to help with care.

✦

A poet suffered from mental health issues including OCD and anxiety. He was carer for his partner who also had health problems. They subsisted on benefits. The grant from the Fund was a great help to them. The trustees renewed an annual grant.

✦

A writer of poetry in English and Gaelic, suffered from clinical depression and spent long periods in hospital. She had recently suffered several falls and chest infections and was currently in hospital. The trustees made her an annual grant.

✦

A novelist had separated from his partner and had had to rent a new place. A teaching job had been delayed. He was a recovering drug addict and alcoholic. The trustees made him a grant.

✦

An acclaimed scriptwriter was living on a low income. He had lost investments due to fraud. He was suffering from Parkinson's disease and early-stage Alzheimer's. The trustees cleared a large loan.

✦

An author's first novel had been shortlisted for the Booker Prize and resulted in large literary earnings. He had been living on these as his second book had not sold well. He was worried and depressed about his future. The trustees made him a grant.

✦

A writer of fiction and non-fiction had demanding teaching commitments which this year required additional hours to convert to online classes. She was exhausted and had little time for writing. The trustees made her a grant to help reduce her hours.

✦

A novelist had had delays and cancellations caused by the pandemic. She was worried about running up debts before taking up an RLF Fellowship in the Autumn. The trustees made her a grant.

✦

A crime writer was living in a shepherd's hut he had built in a friend's garden. The facilities were spartan and cold. The trustees made him an annual grant so that he was able to look for more conventional accommodation.

✦

A novelist's latest book had been delayed when her publisher was sold to another company. Her husband had developed a serious back condition and had been unable to work. He was receiving surgery and treatment. The trustees made her a grant.

✦

An acclaimed writer of fiction and non-fiction relied on her income from renting out her spare room on Airbnb. This had stopped since March 2020. She had large debts. The Committee cleared her debts.

✦

An author of books on true crime had been teaching in Saudi Arabia in order to clear debts and make some savings. He had had to return home at the start of the first lockdown. The trustees made him a grant.

✦

The widow of a writer for children, who had died in 2019, had several health problems and was struggling to make ends meet. The trustees made her a grant and cleared debts.

✦

An acclaimed writer had had a long and distinguished career in several genres. He and his wife (also a writer) lived on a low income. The trustees made him an annual grant.

✦

A poet and novelist's work as a creative writing tutor had reduced, and anxiety about the pandemic was affecting her ability to write. The Committee made her an annual grant for three years.

Extracts from thank you letters from recent beneficiaries

I will never be able to adequately express what this support means to me, and what a difference your generosity will make to my immediate day to day life, and to my mental health, my professional confidence, and my sense of hope for the future. You have allowed me to have faith again in the dream of my life's work, work which I can now re-commit to with renewed purpose and belief.

★★★★

I wanted to say thank you for everything the RLF has done for me in the last twelve months. I looked back recently at pictures from this time last year, including a photo I had taken of your letter. It was a turning point for me after a very hard period. I remain hugely grateful.

★★★★

The grant was credited to my bank account yesterday and will be of the greatest assistance as I redefine my writing life in the face of the pandemic severe restrictions on travel. I just wish all of life proceeded with the care and efficiency shown at the RLF.

★★★★

I was suffering with fear of debt and inhibited creative activity. This grant bestowal is valuable on so many levels. Of course, it alleviates financial anxiety with our house – but it has done something even more important. I have found fresh determination to write and recover.

★★★★

What unbelievably wonderful news! Thank you so much for organising all the logistics for this and please thank the trustees for taking the time to read my work and having confidence in my ability. I am completely bowled over – and thoroughly relieved too. I appreciate this so very, very much.

★★★★

I can't thank you and the Fund enough for your generosity and your kindness. It's a life changing amount of money for us, it will give me the time to keep writing, and to hopefully get that new deal. And it will take that terrible weight off my shoulders, the fear of not being able to provide for the family. It's more than that, though, I feel like it has given me back some of the confidence that I've lost in the last few years, for which I am so thankful! It has given me a real sense of excitement and enthusiasm and positivity for the future.

★★★★

Again, my heartfelt thanks. I have received the official letter of confirmation, and this is to confirm that the money was indeed credited to our bank account yesterday. This will not only mean we can survive financially during my husband's forthcoming operation and recovery period, but also takes away so many of the associated worries we can so do without at this time. It also means I can relax now and concentrate on writing the new books Headline are looking for. We are very, very grateful. Thank you again.

★★★★

I am very grateful for this award – thank you so much. It has relieved a huge amount of pressure and will really help me move forward. Please thank the trustees for me. I am also delighted to know the trustees enjoyed my books and feel very much encouraged.

★★★★

Oh my word. I wasn't expecting anything like that! What an amazingly generous offer and a fabulous vote of confidence in my work. I feel pretty gobsmacked. (for the want of a better word!) Wow. That will enable me to do so much and find so much time in which to write. I can't thank you enough.

Members

as at 31st March 2021

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Sir Alan Ayckbourn

David Bacon
Antonia Barber
Janet Barber
Barnsbury Charitable Trust
M Bernstein
Philippa Blake-Roberts
Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO
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