

Company number: 1056004
Charity number: 264221

LISTENING BOOKS
(A company limited by guarantee)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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(A company limited by guarantee)
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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LISTENING BOOKS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Council of Management, the members of which are directors of the company, are pleased to present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Annual Report contains the Director's report as required by company law.

The financial statements comply with the Memorandum of Association, the Companies Act 2006, The Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

Reference and Administrative Details

Directors and Council of Management

The members of the Council of Management, who are also the directors of the company and who served during the year are as follows:

G M Howarth	<i>Chairman</i>	
A Williams	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>(resigned 9 September 2024)</i>
C Bainbridge	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>(appointed 12 March 2025)</i>
C T Sinclair-Stevenson		<i>(resigned 9 September 2024)</i>
J Eccleshare		
D O'Neill		
N Forster		
S.Tekin		<i>(appointed 12 March 2025)</i>
H Grant		<i>(appointed 12 March 2025)</i>

The company has no share capital and is limited by guarantee (company number: 1056004 and charity number: 264221).

Registered Office

The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR

Charity number

264221

Company Secretary

Bill Dee

Auditors

Xeinadin Audit Limited, 5 Robin Hood Lane, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2SW

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc, 69/73 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NQ

Solicitors

Pothecary Witham Weld Solicitors, 70 St George's Square, London SW1V 3RD

Investment Managers

CCLA Investment Management Ltd, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria St, London EC4V 4ET

Key Management Personnel

The Trustees

Bill Dee

Robert Marchant

Amy Flinders

Louise Barling

Claire Bell

LISTENING BOOKS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution and Structure

Established in 1959 (as the National Listening Library Limited), Listening Books is a registered charity incorporated on 26 May 1972. The governing instrument is our Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22 June 1998.

The Council of Management, whose seven members represent organisations and individuals having an interest in people with special needs, are not remunerated for the duties they undertake.

The day-to-day management of the company is delegated by the Council to the Director, who reports to the Council of Management, which approves major decisions and has overall responsibility for the company's activities. The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and normally increases in accordance with average earnings bearing in mind charities of similar size and activity.

Election of Council Members

A person or persons may be invited to join the Council of Management of the company where they are:

- At least 18 years of age;
- Otherwise not disqualified from being so appointed under Sections 72 and 73 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- Felt able to bring relevant experience and influence to the company.

Board reviews its own performance in changing circumstances and considers whether additional trustees with new skills are required. Trustees are usually appointed by either placing adverts in the charity press or by consideration of whether there is someone suitable known to the company. Potential new trustees have an initial meeting with the Chair, are then introduced to the Board, and only then if elected join the Board. Subsequently they have meetings as necessary with the Chair and receive an induction pack. Further training could be offered if considered beneficial.

Risk management

The charity has undertaken a risk appraisal as required by the Charity Commission. Based on this risk review, the Trustees' and executive team consider the most relevant risks, and the means by which they may be mitigated, to be as follows:

- Safety and security of staff, volunteers and members (mitigation includes an annual risk assessment dedicated to health and fire safety, which is conducted through consultation with staff, providing first aid and fire safety training to key members of staff, and a child and vulnerable adult protection policy).
- Data security breaches (mitigation includes measures to restrict access to sensitive information and the successful implementation of a new IT system, which has improved the handling of sensitive data).
- Deterioration of relationships with publishers (mitigation includes a copyright policy outlining the management of copyrighted material and ensuring that staff, volunteers and members are aware of their duty to respect the conditions of our agreements with publishers).
- Service delivery failure (mitigation includes the training of staff, thorough backing up of data, comprehensive IT support and the implementation of a new, bespoke IT system).
- Reduction of trust funding (mitigation includes high quality service delivery, budgeting for possibility of reduced funding in any given year, establishment of appropriate financial reserves level, and income diversification through alternative sources of income where available).

LISTENING BOOKS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and Activities

The Charity's objects are:

To relieve disability or incapacity, whether permanent or temporary, arising from any sickness, injury or other physical or mental condition, in particular, by the provision of an audio book library service including recorded literature and other material, together with equipment for the reproduction of such literature or other material, including the advancement of education of persons suffering from such conditions.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Achievements and Performance

In a year which has been difficult financially for many charities, we have not been immune. But as I write, there are good reasons to be both proud of what we have been achieving and sanguine about the future. This is particularly down to the dedication of the staff, the leadership of our Director Bill Dee and the collective wisdom of the Trustees. Among the latter, it was a great sadness to lose Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, the legendary publisher, who died in January this year aged 85, and is sorely missed. In September last year our Treasurer, Ann-Marie Williams, resigned from her post before moving to the Lake District. We have always believed in having a small board of Trustees working closely together, contributing their particular expertise, so the loss of anyone leaves a big gap. The charity owes much to both Christopher and Ann-Marie and I would like to take this opportunity of recognising all they have both done to bring us to this positive moment in our history. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our three new Trustees, Charlotte Bainbridge - taking over the onerous role of treasurer, Helen Grant and Sayra Tekin, who is already familiar with Listening Books as a member.

The big news of this year was our move from our offices in Lant Street to The Foundry near the Oval. As with any such move, it placed a considerable extra burden on the staff and I would like to thank them specially for their management of the move while maintaining and indeed improving our service to members. It was, of course, a sad decision in some ways because Lant Street held so many memories - not least of our founder Norma Skemp who would visit often in the early days. But The Foundry offers many advantages - considerably reduced costs, maintenance of the building managed by the landlord - a great saving of our time - and an altogether more comfortable environment for our staff.

Given the pressures of the move it is especially gratifying to report on our record membership figures - individual membership standing in March at 10,995 and knowing that through our group membership we are reaching over 100,000. Such bold figures do not, however, do justice to the qualitative difference the service is making to the lives of so many varied people. It opens up the delight of stories to our younger members and can reduce the exclusion caused by a physical disability or dyslexia. It levels up the playing field for students and, at the other end of the spectrum, provides stimulus, entertainment and solace to older members for whom reading print has, for one reason or another, become exhausting or even impossible.

LISTENING BOOKS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We know how important it is to keep updating our titles and we are grateful to those members, who through our Members' Forum, provide us with title suggestions. We now have 9,800 audiobooks to choose from along with many newspapers and magazines through PressReader. It is lovely that more and more members are discovering the benefits of this relatively new service – with the number of members using it having doubled over the past year.

Thank you to all those who have recognised and supported our work; trusts, publishers, partner organisations and most importantly, our members. I know I speak for us all in saying we shall earnestly continue in our endeavours to provide you with the most personal and imaginative service we can.

Financial Review

Reserves policy

Unrestricted funds comprise the accumulated funds which are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the objectives of the company. Further, it is the intention of the directors that such funds be maintained at a level which, if required, would fund the core costs of the organisation for a period of one year. This duration takes account of the nature of the funding of the company, where the majority of income is from Charitable Trusts being of a cyclical nature affected by the general economic climate, and legacies which are unpredictable in nature.

This target unrestricted reserves level has been reduced this year from £625k in 2024 to £450k, made possible by cutting costs in several areas: by moving the company office from a large to a much smaller premises, by closing our old postal service, and this combined with the service being now entirely online has allowed staff numbers to be reduced.

At year-end, the unrestricted reserves balance stood at £264,680, being £185,320 below the target level set out in our reserves policy. This shortfall has arisen mainly from the necessity to provide working capital for the charity during a period where costs unexpectedly exceeded income. The trustees are reviewing income streams and expenditure forecasts with a view to restoring reserves to the target level as a priority and as soon as possible.

Financial position

The net deficit of unrestricted funds during the year ended 31 March 2025 amounted to £40,282 (2024: £134,834 deficit). This has resulted in total unrestricted funds available for use at the discretion of the Council of Management of £264,680 (2024: £304,962). Taking account of commitments in Fixed Assets (£14,562) and long-term legacy debtor (£27,104) this unrestricted fund balance was £223,014.

Net deficit on restricted funds in the year amounted to £73,225 (2024: £57,139 surplus). This has resulted in total restricted funds at 31 March 2025 of £140,604 (2024: £213,829).

LISTENING BOOKS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Investment powers

The Trustees accept responsibility for the effective and efficient management of the company's investments. Management of the company's investment portfolio is by COIF Charity Funds. The investment objective is to achieve a balance between income and capital growth through investment in cash, bonds and equities. Exposure to equity markets will normally be gained through investment in authorised unit trusts and investment trusts.

Fundraising Policy

The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Requests for funds are largely through grant applications to sympathetic charitable trusts and the purposes are clearly described. During the year no professional fundraisers were employed and appeals were generally made by email or letter. A complaints procedure is set out as part of the Privacy Policy on the website. No complaints or criticisms were raised concerning the fundraising activities during the period.

Investment policy

The current investment policy of the charity is to aim to hold bank balances of a minimum of £80,000 mainly for working capital, and the Trustees have an ethical investment policy:

Listening Books investments are managed in an Ethical Fund which invests responsibly according to ESG standards, by excluding companies scoring less than 2 on any FTSE ESG theme. This goes towards ensuring that our investments are compatible with our mission as a charity. One particular ESG issue, Climate Change, is increasingly threatening to pose an existential risk to society itself, not just to the financial system, so it is imperative that investors look beyond financial risk and return and consider the real world impact of their investments. To this end Listening Books is invested in the CCLA Ethical Fund which excludes investment in certain companies including those which derive more than 5% of revenues from the extraction of Oil Sands or Thermal (Energy) coal and also companies which derive more than 10% of revenues from the extraction, production and refining of Oil and Gas. Also excluded are companies whose principal business is the generation of electricity that have not demonstrated the ability to align their business with the Paris Climate Change Agreement (as determined by the Investment Manager), and also extractives or utilities sector companies where productive engagement is not believed to be possible (at the discretion of the Investment Manager). It is clear for example that Oil Sands and Coal extraction have no place in a world of net zero emissions, which we need to reach as soon as possible, and at the latest by 2050. There is also an urgent need for all fossil fuels to be phased out by this date. The full list of investment restrictions on the CCLA Ethical Fund are set out in note 15 to these accounts.

Disclosure of information to auditors

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware and they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

LISTENING BOOKS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

The Council members are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Council members, who are the directors for the purposes of company law, to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Council members have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Council members must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Council members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will be able to continue in operation.

The Council members are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

A resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting to appoint auditors to the company for the ensuing year.

The Trustees' Report was prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies.

Approved by the Council of Management and signed on its behalf by:



G Howarth
Chairman

Date: 1/10/2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LISTENING BOOKS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Listening Books (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the 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 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 charitable company'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 Companies Act 2006.

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 charitable company 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 12 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, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LISTENING BOOKS

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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included with the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LISTENING BOOKS

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:

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to employment and financial reporting legislation and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management, considering the internal controls in place and discussion amongst the engagement team.

We determined that the principal risks were related to management bias in accounting estimates, presentation of separately disclosed items and management override of controls.

In response to the risks identified we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to reviewing trustees' minutes, challenging significant accounting estimates, evaluating the internal controls, agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and identifying and testing journal entries.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://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 charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

P Newton

Paul Newton FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Xeinadin Audit Limited
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Date: 2/10/2025

5 Robin Hood Lane
Sutton
Surrey
SM1 2SW

**LISTENING BOOKS STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £
Income from:	1e-h						
Donations and legacies		226,373	803,786	1,030,159	223,400	723,001	946,401
Charitable activities		82,217	-	82,217	73,887	-	73,887
Investment income		680	-	680	744	-	744
Other trading activities		-	-	-	13,374	-	13,374
Total income	2	309,270	803,786	1,113,056	311,405	723,001	1,034,406
Expenditure on:	1j-k						
Raising funds		32,431	-	32,431	40,829	-	40,829
Charitable activities		323,534	868,724	1,192,258	438,046	667,362	1,105,408
Total expenditure	3	355,965	868,724	1,224,689	478,875	667,362	1,146,237
Net (losses)/gains on investments	6	(1,874)	-	(1,874)	34,136	-	34,136
Net income/(expenditure)		(48,569)	(64,938)	(113,507)	(133,334)	55,639	(77,695)
Transfers between funds		8,287	(8,287)	-	(1,500)	1,500	-
Net movement in funds		(40,282)	(73,225)	(113,507)	(134,834)	57,139	(77,695)
Funds brought forward at 1 April 2024		304,962	213,829	518,791	439,796	156,690	596,486
Funds carried forward at 31 March 2025		264,680	140,604	405,284	304,962	213,829	518,791

All of the activities are continuing. There were no recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.
The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**LISTENING BOOKS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	5	14,562	34,391
Investments	6	126,097	267,971
		140,659	302,362
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	145,345	117,744
Cash at bank and in hand		154,063	140,458
		299,408	258,202
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	34,783	41,773
NET CURRENT ASSETS		264,625	216,429
NET ASSETS		405,284	518,791
FUNDS	11		
Unrestricted		264,680	304,962
Restricted	10	140,604	213,829
NET ASSETS		405,284	518,791

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Council of Management and signed on its behalf by:

G Howarth

G Howarth
Chairman

Date: 1/10/2025

Company Registration No: 01056004

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**LISTENING BOOKS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Cash (used in) operating activities (see below)		(126,395)		(102,921)
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		-	(6,691)	
Proceeds from sale of investments	140,000		70,000	
Cash provided by investing activities		140,000		63,309
Net cash inflow/(outflow)		13,605		(39,612)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024		140,458		180,070
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025		154,063		140,458
Cash flows from operating activities				
Net (expenditure)		(113,507)		(77,695)
Net losses/(gains) on investments		1,874		(34,136)
Depreciation		19,829		23,544
(Increase) in debtors		(27,601)		(23,147)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(6,990)		8,513
Cash (used in) operating activities		(126,395)		(102,921)

**LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting as modified by the revaluation of investments to market value and prepared in sterling, which is the financial currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest £1.

Listening Books is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

b. Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. Equipment is depreciated over 5 years on cost.

c. Investments

Investments are stated at market value based on the bid price at the Balance Sheet date and the surplus or deficit of this revaluation is shown as unrealised gains or losses on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities after the Income and Expenditure Statement has been concluded.

Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the proceeds of sale at the date of disposal and market value at the previous Balance Sheet date or cost of acquisition if purchased during the year. These are shown as realised gains or losses on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities and are also included in the Income and Expenditure Statement contained therein.

d. Operating Leases

Annual rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

e. Income

Grants restricted to use in future accounting periods are deferred and recognised in those accounting periods.

Legacies are accounted for as soon as the charity is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the charity is reasonably certain. Amounts receivable after more than one year from the balance sheet date are measured at their present value and an interest element is accounted for each year.

Charitable activities consist of membership subscriptions and trading activities of sales of accessories and other income.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

f. Investment Income

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes the associated tax credits.

g. Gifts in Kind (Publishers)

The company receives discounts from content publishers in the year beyond that normally obtained on a commercial basis. These amounts are included in incoming resources and in resources expended and amounted to £453,359 (2024: £239,163).

h. Gifts in Kind (Advertisers)

The company receives discounts from advertisers in the year beyond that normally obtained on a commercial basis. These amounts are included in incoming resources and in resources expended and amounted to £44,385 (2024: £27,856).

i. Gifts in Kind (Legal)

The company receives discounts from legal advisors in the year beyond that normally obtained on a commercial basis. These amounts are included in incoming resources and in resources expended and amounted to £26,124 (2024: £76,005).

j. Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are those subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by sponsors or other donors or by the purpose of the appeal.

k. Pension Costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme in respect of all employees. Contributions are charged in the accounts as they are incurred.

l. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT relating to such expenses. Expenditure incurred in connection with the specific activities as shown on the Statement of Financial Activities represents the direct costs of that activity together with an apportionment of the general overheads of the company as support costs. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Governance costs are incurred in the course of the company complying with its legal and regulatory obligations.

m. Cash and bank

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of opening of the deposit.

n. Debtors

Staff loans and other debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

o. Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

p. Basic financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2 INCOME

	2025 £	2024 £
Donations and legacies		
General donations	13,038	4,640
Grants	441,327	589,963
Gifts in kind	523,868	343,024
Legacies	51,926	8,774
Charitable activities		
Membership subscriptions	82,217	73,887
Investment income	680	744
Other trading activities		
Other	-	13,374
	<u>1,113,056</u>	<u>1,034,406</u>

3 EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £	Depreciation £	Other Costs £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cost of raising funds	11,081	2,478	18,872	32,431	40,829
Membership services	420,472	16,112	716,673	1,153,257	1,061,775
Support costs	16,621	1,239	13,705	31,565	37,353
Governance costs	-	-	7,436	7,436	6,280
Total expenditure	<u>448,174</u>	<u>19,829</u>	<u>756,686</u>	<u>1,224,689</u>	<u>1,146,237</u>

Support costs all related to the provision of membership services, and governance costs include auditors' remuneration of £6,816 (2024: £6,280) (inclusive of VAT) of which £6,144 (2024: £5,608) relates to the fee for the audit and £672 (2024: £672) for non-audit services.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 STAFF COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	388,546	424,612
Social security costs	35,048	29,621
Pension costs	24,580	25,762
Total staff costs	448,174	479,995
	2025	2024
The average number of persons employed by functional activity was:	No	No
Cost of raising funds	1	1
Charitable expenditure	9	12
	10	13

Members of the Council of Management received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year (2024: nil).

The total remuneration (including pension and other employee benefits) of the key management personnel of the charity (as detailed on page 1) during the year was £275,518 (2024: £267,718).

One employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 per annum (2024: one). One employee received remuneration in band £90,000 - £100,000 per annum (2024: one).

5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	262,423
Additions	-
Disposals	(41,946)
At 31 March 2025	220,477
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2024	228,032
Charge for the year	19,829
Released on disposals	(41,946)
At 31 March 2025	205,915
Net book value	
At 31 March 2025	14,562
At 31 March 2024	34,391

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 LISTED INVESTMENTS

	At 1 April 2024 £	Additions £	Disposals £	Gains/ (losses) on reval- uation £	At 31 March 2025 £
At market value:					
COIF	267,971	-	(140,000)	(1,874)	126,097
Total market value	<u>267,971</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(140,000)</u>	<u>(1,874)</u>	<u>126,097</u>
Historical cost including cash	<u>124,358</u>				<u>59,642</u>

7 DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	139,424	94,123
Prepayments	5,921	23,621
	<u>145,345</u>	<u>117,744</u>

Other debtors includes amounts falling due after more than one year of £24,529 (2024: £27,104).

8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	7,085	8,433
Taxation and social security	9,151	9,808
Other creditors	11,031	15,760
Accruals and deferred income	7,516	7,772
	<u>34,783</u>	<u>41,773</u>

9 LEASING COMMITMENTS

Operating leases

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under operating leases at 31 March 2025 were payable as set out below:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	12,473	6,250
Within two to five years	-	-
More than 5 years	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
The operating lease charges for the year were:		
Hire of premises	<u>37,978</u>	<u>75,000</u>

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2025 £
Downloadables	30,872	491,711	(473,313)	2,000	51,270
Sponsored Membership	1,227	306,075	(307,302)	-	-
Children's Hospitals	147,663	-	(64,152)	(10,563)	72,948
Palliative Care	11,362	6,000	(12,637)	276	5,001
I.T.System Purchase	18,628	-	(9,181)	-	9,447
PC Purchase	250	-	(235)	-	15
Pre-loaded Tablets	3,827	-	(1,904)	-	1,923
	<u>213,829</u>	<u>803,786</u>	<u>(868,724)</u>	<u>(8,287)</u>	<u>140,604</u>
	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
Downloadables	1,956	279,254	(250,338)	-	30,872
Sponsored Membership	10,000	298,975	(307,748)	-	1,227
Children's Hospitals	113,937	114,372	(80,646)	-	147,663
Palliative Care	-	22,400	(12,538)	1,500	11,362
I.T.System Purchase	28,516	-	(9,888)	-	18,628
PC Purchase	1,054	-	(804)	-	250
Covid-19 Tablets Fund	655	-	(655)	-	-
Pre-loaded Tablets	572	8,000	(4,745)	-	3,827
	<u>156,690</u>	<u>723,001</u>	<u>(667,362)</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>213,829</u>

Downloadables

To provide funding for titles bought for the audiobook catalogue in both CD and download formats.

Sponsored Membership

To provide funding where appropriate to cover individual members part or full costs of membership.

Children's Hospitals

To provide access to audiobooks for children in hospitals. Formerly called Readathon.

Palliative Care

To provide access to audiobooks for hospices.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

I.T.System Purchase

To greatly improve the company website and operating of internal IT systems including book managing system and substantial additional services. The balance on this fund represents both the I.T.System purchased less depreciation, and also the as yet unspent funds.

PC Purchase

To purchase new computer equipment for staff.

Covid-19 Tablets fund

To provide a preloaded selection of audiobook titles to members during the Covid restrictions.

Pre-loaded Tablets fund

To provide a preloaded selection of audiobook titles to adults who are elderly and isolated.

Transfers between funds

Income reassigned as permitted by donor charitable trusts.

11 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investment Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 2025 £
Restricted Funds	9,463	-	131,141	140,604
Unrestricted Funds	5,099	126,097	133,484	264,680
	<u>14,562</u>	<u>126,097</u>	<u>264,625</u>	<u>405,284</u>

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investment Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 2024 £
Restricted Funds	18,879	-	194,950	213,829
Unrestricted Funds	15,512	267,971	21,479	304,962
	<u>34,391</u>	<u>267,971</u>	<u>216,429</u>	<u>518,791</u>

12 LEGAL STATUS

The charitable company is limited by guarantee. The liability in respect of the guarantee, as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, is limited to £1 per member of the company. There were 7 members as at 31 March 2025 (2024: 6).

13 RELATED PARTY RELATIONSHIPS AND TRANSACTIONS

N D Forster, a trustee of Listening Books, worked at Overdrive Inc. in the year. During the year £22,408 (2024: £22,057) was paid to Overdrive Inc. in respect of purchases.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14 PROVISIONS AND CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The charity is receiving payments from a legacy that has three remaining components to be collected and distributed by the estate. Two components relate to loans the estate made to two individuals, which are being repaid over periods ending in 2029 and 2042. Annual payments are received by the charity from the estate and an asset of £27,104 (2024: £29,679) has been recognised in respect of these loans.

The third component of the legacy is in respect of a property subject to a protected life tenant. At today's prices, receipt by Listening Books is likely to be in the region of £45,000. In accordance with the SORP para 5.34, no asset has been recognised in respect of this by the charity. The charity will only recognise this component of the legacy when the estate has vacant possession of the property. However, the estate is also required to pay for certain major repairs, which it pays for by reducing the annual payments to legatees in respect of the two components described above. No provision has been made against this due to the inherent uncertainty of the payments to be made. Legacy income has been reduced in the year by £2,575 (2024: £2,575) in relation to the reduction in annual payments received.

LISTENING BOOKS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS COIF CHARITIES ETHICAL INVESTMENT FUND

The COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund is managed in accordance with an ethical investment policy that is set through consultation with unitholders. This requires CCLA to dedicate capital to positive investments, engage with companies to achieve positive changes in business practice and implement the following ethical restrictions.

Theme	Further Details	Exclusion Criteria
Climate Change	Oil sands extraction	Companies that derive more than 5% of their revenue from the extraction of these fuels are restricted
	Energy coal extraction	
	Other 'Fossil Fuel' Extraction	Companies that derive more than 10% of their revenue from extracting and refining coal, oil or gas
	Electrical Utilities	No investment in companies that cannot align with the Paris NDCs
Armaments	Strategic military sales	Restricted if derive more than 10% of revenue from strategic military sales
	Civilian firearms	10% revenue restriction
	Nuclear Weapons, Landmines, cluster munitions	Investment prohibited if involved in the production of these weapons
Oppressive Regimes	Sovereign Debt	No debt from countries identified by the Ethical Fund Advisory Committee as being the most oppressive
Tobacco		10% revenue restriction
Alcohol		10% revenue restriction
Adult Entertainment		10% revenue restriction
Gambling		10% revenue restriction
Animal Testing	Testing of cosmetics on Animals	Restricted if in priority sector and chooses to conduct testing on animals
High Interest Rate Lending		10% revenue restriction
Specific Client Restrictions	Production of single purpose abortifacients	Restricted if a producer of single-purpose abortifacient
	Baby Milk Substitutes	Minimum responsibility standards
ESG Minimum Standards	Score less than 2 on any FTSE ESG Theme	Comply/explain approach applies
Respecting International Norms	Substantiated allegations of non-conformity with recognised labour, human rights, biodiversity and climate change standards	Engagement that can lead to divestment if no progress is made
Third Party Funds	Screened Against Ethical Investment Criteria	