

ENGLISH- SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

England & Wales · Charity number 273136

Details

Other names	ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH, ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Company number	RC000177
Registered	1977-03-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Dartmouth House 37 Charles Street London W1J 5ED
Phone	02075291550
Email	esu@esu.org
Website	www.esu.org

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE MUTUAL EDUCATION OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, IN PARTICULAR (BUT WITHOUT IN ANY WAY LIMITING THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING) RESPECTING THEIR HERITAGE, TRADITIONS AND ASPIRATIONS, THE EVENTS AND ISSUES OF THE DAY AFFECTING THEM, THEIR INTERRELATIONSHIPS AND THE USE OF ENGLISH AS A SHARED LANGUAGE AND MEANS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING: PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT THE FOREGOING AIMS AND OBJECTS SHALL AT ALL TIMES BE PURSUED IN A NON-POLITICAL AND NON-SECTARIAN MANNER.

Activities: The promotion of good communication in the English language through public speaking and debate; running educational programmes; initiating and administering scholarships; youth and academic exchanges. The charity focuses on oracy development in schools, promoting social equality and international

understanding and facilitates and assists in the establishment of independent ESUs worldwide.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Albania
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bermuda
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Jordan
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lithuania
- Malaysia
- Malta

- Mauritius
- Moldova
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- Nigeria
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Scotland
- Serbia
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Switzerland
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United States
- Yemen
- Zimbabwe
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,589,501	£3,159,615	£56,045,791	27
2024-03-31	£2,753,942	£3,343,828	£50,813,178	22
2023-03-31	£2,535,000	£2,046,000	£51,145,420	18
2022-03-31	£2,297,000	£1,391,000	£42,833,000	10
2021-03-31	£2,149,000	£2,348,000	£40,951,000	10

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Claire Wright		2026-06-01
David Hatchett		2023-12-06
Francesca King		2023-12-06
Laurence Mutkin		2021-02-22
Miles Young		2023-06-01
Nicholas Archer		2023-12-06
Professor Jane Setter		2023-12-06
Rebecca Preen		2023-12-06
Simon Kearey		2023-12-06
Stephen Purcell		2021-02-22

ENGLISH- SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

England & Wales - Charity number 273136

Accounts

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The English-Speaking Union was founded in 1918 as an unincorporated association. The association was incorporated in 1922 under the Companies Act as a company limited by guarantee and without share capital. The ESU was incorporated by the Royal Charter in 1957.

Board of Trustees	Miles Young, Chair Rebecca Preen, Deputy Chair Richard Humphreys, Deputy Chair Nick Archer Rebecca Darko (resigned 28 June 2024) David Hatchett Ed Humbert Simon Kearey Francesca King Laurence Mutkin Simon Orme, Treasurer Stephen Purcell Jane Setter Sophia Taylor
Royal Charter registered number	RC000177
Charity registered number	273136
Patron	HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO
Vice-Presidents	The Lord Watson of Richmond CBE Sir Guy Weston
Senior Leadership Team	
Director-General	Charles Byrne CBE
Directors	Nathan Strong - Director of Strategy & Governance Gabriella Tamas - Director of Finance & Corporate Services (until 30 September 2024) Consola Evans - Director of Global Engagement Neeta Patel - Head of Human Resources (until 30 September 2024) Louisa Searle- Director of Education (from 10 June 2024)
Board Secretary	Nathan Strong

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Bankers

Coutts & Co
440 The Strand
London
WC2 0QS

Citibank N.Y
Citibank
PO Box 6201
Sioux Falls
SD 57117-6201
USA

Legal advisors

Russell Cooke LLP
2 Putney Hill
London
SW15 6AB

Hogan Lovells International LLP
Atlantic House
Holborn Viaduct
London
EC1A 2FG

Investment Manager

Sarasin & Partners LLP
100 St Paul's Churchyard
London
WC4M 8BU

Auditor

WR Partners
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
SY2 6LG

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

CHAIR'S STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Welcome to the Annual Report & Accounts for the English-Speaking Union (ESU) for 2024/25.

This year marked a turning point for the ESU as we completed a comprehensive strategic review that will shape the organisation's direction over the next five years. With a renewed sense of purpose grounded in our Royal Charter, we have agreed our mission and vision to reflect the increasing need for oracy.

We are proud to have reached over 2,000 young people across the UK through our oracy competitions this year. Oracy remains an important life skill, and we are pleased that more than 56% of participating schools coming from the state sector. Our flagship International Public Speaking Competition reached over 100,000 young people worldwide across 45 countries. This reinforced the ESU's role as a global movement for communication and understanding.

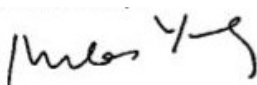
Alongside our competitions, we launched our new Teacher CPD programme, engaging around 400 educators, and delivered Discover Your Voice workshops to 60 state schools, many of whom were participating in our programmes for the first time. These initiatives strengthen our commitment to building skills and confidence among both young people and the adults who support them.

We have also deepened our international engagement, delivering public speaking and leadership training at the Commonwealth Youth Forum in Samoa and launching new partnerships with The Sutton Trust and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

Underpinning all this has been our work to build a more financially sustainable future. We have implemented effective cost controls and are actively pursuing opportunities to develop income-generating education products, we have launched successfully a new fundraising programme and are seeking to maximise value from our properties.

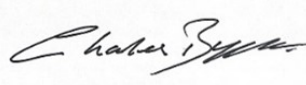
At a time when the ability to listen, think critically and speak with confidence is more important than ever, we remain dedicated to helping young people across the world develop the skills and understanding they need to thrive.

We are delighted to have welcomed Charles Byrne CBE as our new Director General in March, and are grateful to our dedicated trustees, branches, volunteers, members and international partners and staff for their contributions this year. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected and more confident global community.



Miles Young
Chair

Date: 11th September 2025



Charles Byrne CBE
Director-General

Date: 11th September 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Board of Trustees present their annual report incorporating the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025, together with an update on current plans and achievements.

Our Mission

We support young people through high-quality public speaking, debating and oracy programmes, developing skilful communicators, building cross cultural understanding and international friendships to help them become confident citizens and leaders.

About Us

Founded in 1918 by those who were experiencing firsthand the cost of global conflict, our purpose is *'to promote the use of English as a shared language and means of international communication of knowledge and understanding'* while *'fostering the spirit of friendship between the peoples...'* The English-Speaking Union is now an international organisation with representation in over 50 countries across the world. Today, our work is focused on building public speaking, listening and debating skills and cross-cultural understanding in young people – helping to shape a world where individuals, communities and ultimately nations can engage via civil, reasoned debate, and work together to address our shared challenges.

We work with young people and their teachers to improve oracy skills, cross-cultural understanding and leadership skills, to equip the next generation to build a more connected, collaborative world. We run fun, games-led debate, public speaking and performance-based competitions and workshops which encourage students to develop their ability to communicate using our signature ESU Four Key Skill Sets. We guide schools on using oracy in the classroom and on setting up and maintaining their own debate clubs; and we provide teachers with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities in the fields of speech and debate. Nationally and internationally, we run public speaking and debating competitions to hone the skills we provide and offer a variety of cultural exchanges for students and, teachers, alike to build relationships and share ideas across communities and countries.

Why we do it

The ESU was formed on the belief that more effective communication between nations would lead to improved global understanding. This belief still stands strong today. As communities become ever-more multicultural, and society more polarised, there has never been a greater need to understand different perspectives and opinions. Children need to learn how to listen and evaluate other points of view; how to distinguish fake news from real. They need to learn to disagree without being disagreeable, and they need to learn that what they think and what they have to say matters.

Our speech and debate programmes and cultural exchanges help with all these things. They improve oracy ability and academic attainment as well as a whole range of social, emotional and interpersonal skills now seen as increasingly important by both industry and educationalists. These include self-confidence, self-awareness, resilience and empathy. It is in the development of these key skills that the next generation becomes the global citizens and leaders that the world will require to thrive in the years to come. Read more about oracy and why it matters : <http://www.esu.org/oracy/>.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives

1. The full name of the Charity is The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, referred to as the ESU. The registered office and principal operating address is Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London, W1J 5ED. The Charity is registered in England and Wales under registration number 273136.
2. In 1957 the ESU was granted a Royal Charter in which its charitable objectives are '*to promote within our United Kingdom and other countries of the Commonwealth, the United States of America, Europe and elsewhere the mutual advancement of education of the English-speaking peoples of the world, in particular ... the use of English as a shared language and means of international communication of knowledge and understanding... whilst fostering the spirit of friendship*'.

Activities

3. We work with teachers and young people to improve oracy skills and cross-cultural understanding. We run debate, performance and public speaking competitions and workshops which encourage learners to explore and engage with a wide range of topical issues and with key cultural texts. We guide schools on using oracy in the classroom, support the development of academic and practical research in the field of oracy; and we provide teachers with a range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities in the fields of speech and debate.
4. Nationally and internationally, we offer a variety of programmes and cultural exchanges for students, teachers and professionals alike to build relationships and share ideas across communities and countries.
5. We engage a network of 54 National ESUs across the world, each being independent and operating according to their own jurisdiction. This important network meets every year at the International Council Meeting to share ideas and promote English as a means of communication at a global level. The international ESUs are responsible for running their own national Public Speaking Competitions which culminate in the International Public Speaking Competition finals week in London.
6. Volunteers are central to supporting the delivery of our competitions. They act as judges, comperes and chair judges. We are pleased that after a concerted effort to grow our pool of volunteers; we have a pool of over 550 individuals across England and Wales.
7. Our membership plays an important role in supporting the organisation through volunteering, advocacy and local engagement. In March 2025, we had around 1,100 members across 16 branches in England and Wales.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Achievements

ESU Activity	Description	Outputs/Impact
Schools' Mace Debate Competition	The oldest and largest schools' mace debate competition in England & Wales.	388 entries 1,500 young people
Public Speaking Competition	The largest schools' public speaking competition in England and Wales.	225 entries 1,300 young people
Performing Shakespeare Competition	Unique oracy/performance competition.-	137 entries 1,000 young people
International Public Speaking Competition	The world's largest public speaking competition for 16–20-year-olds.	45 countries Over 100,000 young people
Teacher CPD	Workshops designed to support teachers to develop their confidence and ability to deliver high quality oracy opportunities in the classroom and beyond.	22 units sold 400 teachers engaged
Secondary Schools' Exchange	Exchange scheme through which school-leavers can spend their gap year studying at an American high school during their gap year.	Five scholars to USA Four scholars to UK
Walter Hines Page Scholarship	Teachers travel to the USA to undertake an oracy-related research project.	Two teachers awarded scholarships to travel to the USA in 2025/2026
Action Research	State-school teachers undertake practical oracy-related research projects in their schools to produce high quality academic papers.	13 teachers participating
Debate Tours	'Tourists' travel around high schools and college campuses in America, delivering debate training.	Two ESU 'Tourists' travelled to the USA
ESU-Rutland Teacher/School Culture Awards	Award that celebrates excellence of individual teachers and whole schools who are delivering outstanding oracy education and opportunities.	45 entries from across England & Wales, with two winners and two runners-up for each Award

8. Online and in-person oracy competitions achieved significant impact, with over 2,000 young participants in the UK, and over 100,000 worldwide.

9. Our competitions in England and Wales saw an 16% increase in the number of school's participating in 2024/2025, with around 56% of entries from the state school sector. We provided free Discover Your Voice workshops to 60 state schools who were participating in the competitions for the first time.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

10. We worked in partnership with The Sutton Trust to deliver Discover Your Voice workshops to young people engaged in their skills and work experience programmes, to support the oracy schools of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

11. We launched our Teacher CPD offer, providing training to around 400 teachers, most of whom work in the state school sector. We delivered longer-term CPD programmes with The Summit Learning Trust.

12. We Delivered Discover Your Voice and Teacher CPD workshops to primary state schools in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea thanks to funding from ESU London Branch with plans for a 'Debate Day' at Dartmouth House in June 2025.

13. The ESU delivered public speaking and leadership training to delegates at the Commonwealth Youth Forum as part of Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting in Samoa in October 2024. We also delivered similar workshops to the Commonwealth Youth Task Force in March 2025.

14. Dartmouth House, the international headquarters of the ESU, has been a hub for bringing people together to socialise, debate and share ideas.

Future Plans

15. Over the past year we have undertaken a comprehensive strategic review using the Royal Charter as our foundation. We have looked at what we do well, our unique strengths, what others in the sector are doing and the national and international context of our work. This work has informed our thinking on the long-term direction of the organisation.

16. Over the next five years we will build on our unique strengths, improving the quality of our education products and re-enforcing our position as setting the highest standards and providing the most respected oracy competitions. Recognising the financial and capacity constraints we will match ambition with resources to drive relatively modest growth. We will continue to focus on our existing oracy products and develop those to provide an offer for primary and international schools.

17. Our international perspective and reach are core to our purpose. Within the oracy sector we are unique in having a vibrant international community who support our competitions and promote our mission. Through strategic and sustained engagement, we will support and grow our international network. We will increase the reach of International Public Speaking Competition and support improved standards of delivery. We are keen to pilot international versions of our Schools Mace Debate and Performing Shakespeare. In particular we will focus on working with other Commonwealth related organisations and reach more Commonwealth countries. We will develop our cultural exchange programmes such as the Secondary Schools Exchange, recognising the current challenges.

18. We must build a financially sustainable operating model. The largest and most reliable income stream is from our properties, and we must maximise the value they generate in terms of income and direct support for our mission. To be sustainable and to drive growth we must develop other income streams. We will develop education products that generate net income, such as CPD or DYV for international schools. We will also build on the start made in the last 12 months to develop our fundraising capability.

19. The ESU has extraordinary reach, and our work can change lives. We give young people the communication skills, the confidence and cross-cultural understanding they need to thrive and which they will need as our leaders of tomorrow. This strategy recognises the context, the challenges, the opportunities and the unique strengths we can bring and sets a clear direction through which we can deliver on our important mission.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Safeguarding

20. There is no higher priority for the ESU than the safeguarding of all those interacting with the Charity, and particularly children and young people participating in its programmes. Rigorous protocols are also applied to online events. The Board has a strong emphasis on the protection of vulnerable individuals, and it reviews process and procedures on a regular basis as part of the risk management process. The Safeguarding Policy is reviewed biannually and available on the ESU website: <https://www.esu.org/safeguarding-policy/>.

Communication

21. We actively advocate for oracy education, internationalism and volunteering, spreading the message that speaking and listening skills and cross-cultural understanding are vital for young people to reach their full potential. More details can be found on our website: <https://www.esu.org/>

22. We have worked to streamline our messaging and to share more examples of our impact with our supporter base. We have worked to redefine and redesign our impact report for key stakeholders.

23. We continue to focus on building and maintaining our social media presence. Social media provides a growing platform for networking into education, business, and wider society to promote the charity's work.

24. Events form an important part of our communications approach, and we have been focused on streamlining our offering this year so that it aligns with the ESU's founding purpose.

25. In October 2024, the ESU hosted its annual Evelyn Wrench Lecture at Dartmouth House. We were delighted to host Lord Patten of Barnes who delivered the lecture on 'Free Speech'. In December we hosted our AGM and Christmas Drinks reception which was a useful opportunity to share impact stories from our alumni with our stakeholders and to remind our audience why the ESU matters. In February 2025 we hosted a well-attended debate featuring ESU alumni on the topic "This house believe dating was better before apps". In March we hosted our Spring Lunch with the author Robert Hardman who delivered a talk based on his new book "Charles III: New King. New Court. The Inside Story".

26. In addition to central ESU events our branches have held their own programmes for local members. These have ranged from a monthly lunch and lecture series in Salisbury to formal dinners in Lincolnshire and lots more in between.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

27. The executive pay policy is set by the Board using benchmarked and sector data.

Governance and Management

28. We are governed by a Board of 14 elected Trustees of which two are co-opted. Trustees are elected by members of the ESU for a period of three years. Trustees are eligible to stand for re-election for a second term of three years. The Board may appoint up to six co-opted Trustees to fill a skills or knowledge gap. The Board delegates some of its responsibilities to Committees. In this reporting period the Board have five established Committees:

- a. Engagement Committee
- b. Education Committee
- c. Finance Committee
- d. Audit & Risk Committee
- e. International Committee

29. There are separate Boards for the two trading subsidiaries: ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial Review

30. The results of the ESU Group are set out in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) on page 16. The figures consolidate the results of the Charity and its two wholly owned subsidiaries, ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd.

31. Our charitable activities have been funded through four main income streams:
- Donations and legacies
 - Charitable activity income (registration fees, membership subscriptions and events).
 - Trading income
 - Investment income (including rent from the Chesterfield hotel).

32. The consolidated statement of financial activities shows net expenditure of £570k (2024: net expenditure £590k) excluding investment gains.

33. Net incoming resources in 2024/25 were £2,590k (2023/24: £2,754k). Total income by source for the ESU Group, including comparison with the previous year, as set out below:

	2024/2025		2023/2024	
	£'000	%	£'000	%
Donations and legacies	44	1.7%	106	3.8%
Charitable activities	280	10.8%	421	15.3%
Trading activities	584	22.6%	503	18.3%
Investments	1,682	64.9%	1,724	62.6%
Total	2,590	100.0%	2,754	100.0%

34. Donations comprised legacy income, individual giving from ESU supporters, and income from fundraising events held in Dartmouth House and branch events. The aim of each event is to engage existing supporters as well as showcasing our work to new supporters. Events included the Evelyn Wrench lecture, and the 4th of July summer party. Total donations for the year were £44k (2023/24: £106k).

35. Charitable activity income consisted of income from registration fees for educational programmes, membership subscriptions and branch events. Income fell by £141k from the prior year due to a decline in the number of member subscriptions, fewer branch events and the cancellation of the Debate Academy summer school.

36. Trading activities income resulted principally from commission charged under a licence with Graysons Hospitality Limited to run weddings, private events, and corporate activities and service members at Dartmouth House. Total trading activity income grew to £584k for the year (2023/24: £503k) The profits from these activities directly benefit the Charity.

37. Investment income of £1,682k (2023/24: £1,724k) included rents from the Chesterfield Hotel and dividends paid from our investment portfolio which is managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP. This stream made up 64.9% (2023/24: 62.6%) of the total income and ensures stability of funding.

38. The ESU consolidated Charity and subsidiaries report expenditure of £3,160k this year, a five per-cent decrease on the prior year (2023/24: £3,344k).

- The two main sources of expenditure were staff costs at £1,544k (49% of total expenditure) and property costs of £380k (12%). These costs increased by £262k from the prior year mainly because of an increase in the average number of people employed from 22 in 2023/24 to 27 in 2024/25 and rises in energy tariffs which affected utility expenditure on Dartmouth House
- The cost rises were offset by a significant reduction in the use of consultancies for marketing (£169k) and general consultancy and professional charges (£43k), along with a combined decrease in HR, and IT expenditure of £156k.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

39. Notes seven and eight to the accounts provides a breakdown of expenditure.

40. Total ESU funds at 31st March 2025 were £56,046k (31/03/2024: £55,801k); the increase of £245k is attributable to net expenditure of £570k adjusted for net investment gains of £53k and revaluation of fixed assets of £763k.

41. The ESU own a property portfolio: the Chesterfield Hotel and Dartmouth House. Both are subject to open-market valuation fluctuations. The properties' values are recorded as designated funds and are not relied upon for the day-to-day running of the Charity. These long-term assets generate the rental income and commercial profits upon which we rely to deliver our charitable work.

42. Unrestricted reserves are required to provide for short-term fluctuations in income and expenditure. The Board's Reserves Policy is to maintain net free reserves (currently held as cash and near cash investments) sufficient to cover overheads for at least six months. The ESU is operating in accordance with this policy.

43. Consolidated cash and cash-equivalent balances held in 2024/25 rose by £267k to £785k (2023/24: £1,797k fall in cash balances).

44. The value of free reserves held by the Group at 31/03/25 was £2,555k which was sufficient to meet the Board's requirement to cover six months forward operating expenditure.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted funds	55,133,373	54,889,240
Less		
Tangible Fixed Assets	-23,118,162	-22,425,536
Intangible Fixed Assets	-141,955	-71,291
Investment Property	-28,400,000	-28,500,000
Heritage Assets	-793,200	-793,200
Designated Funds	-125,000	-125,000
Free Reserves	2,555,056	2,974,213

Risk Management

45. The Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. A key component of our risk management strategy is our risk management framework which enables the Board, its Committees and the Senior Leadership Team to consider, discuss and act on all of the organisation's major risks.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Trustees of the Charity are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements, being the consolidated accounts of the ESU and its subsidiary companies ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd (together, the 'Group'), in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

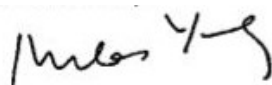
2. Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP) and applicable law.

3. Under Charity law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Charity and the Group, and of the net outgoing resources of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- a. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- b. Observe the methods and principles in the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
- c. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- d. State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- e. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue to operate.

4. The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions; to 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Miles Young

Chair

Date: 11th September 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Group's or the parent 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.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' 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. 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

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

- the parent charity has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charity 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.

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 Group's and the parent 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 Group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH (CONTINUED)

Auditors' 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 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The audit team obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Charity and determined that the most significant are those that relate to the reporting framework (FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011), the relevant tax compliance regulations, employment law, Health and Safety Regulations and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We understood how the Charity is complying with these frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We also reviewed board minutes to identify any recorded instances of irregularity or non compliance that might have a material impact on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by meeting with key management to understand where they are considered there was susceptibility to fraud. Based on our understanding our procedures involved enquiries of management and those charged with governance, manual journal testing, cashbook reviews for large and unusual items and the challenge of significant estimates used in preparing financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE
COMMONWEALTH (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 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 Charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



WR Partners

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

Date:

8th October 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	Endowment funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds Restated 2024 £</i>
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3	-	536	64,792	65,328	127,003
Charitable activities	4	832	124,942	131,887	257,661	400,300
Other trading activities	5	-	-	584,761	584,761	502,772
Investments	6	12,326	-	1,669,425	1,681,751	1,723,867
Total income and endowments		13,158	125,478	2,450,865	2,589,501	2,753,942
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	-	-	741,706	741,706	621,053
Charitable activities	8	-	135,743	2,282,166	2,417,909	2,722,775
Total expenditure		-	135,743	3,023,872	3,159,615	3,343,828
Net income/(expenditure) before net (losses)/gains on investments						
		13,158	(10,265)	(573,007)	(570,114)	(589,886)
Net (losses)/gains on investments		-	(1,915)	54,640	52,725	190,643
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		13,158	(12,180)	(518,367)	(517,389)	(399,243)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	762,500	762,500	67,000
Net movement in funds		13,158	(12,180)	244,133	245,111	(332,243)

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Endowment funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Note					
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	322,505	588,935	54,889,239	55,800,678	<i>56,132,921</i>
Net movement in funds	13,158	(12,180)	244,133	245,111	<i>(332,243)</i>
Total funds carried forward	335,663	576,755	55,133,372	56,045,790	<i>55,800,678</i>

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 23 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
REGISTERED NUMBER: RC000177

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	<i>Restated</i> 2024 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	12	141,955	71,291
Tangible assets	13	23,118,162	22,425,536
Heritage assets	15	793,200	793,200
Investments	16	-	2,826,613
Investment property	14	28,400,000	28,500,000
		<u>52,453,317</u>	<u>54,616,640</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	17	312,595	384,339
Investments	18	3,081,271	1,000,000
Cash at bank and in hand		784,871	518,224
		<u>4,178,737</u>	<u>1,902,563</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(586,263)	(718,523)
Net current assets		<u>3,592,474</u>	<u>1,184,040</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>56,045,791</u>	<u>55,800,680</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>56,045,791</u></u>	<u><u>55,800,680</u></u>

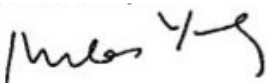
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
REGISTERED NUMBER: RC000177

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Charity funds			
Endowment funds	21	335,663	322,505
Restricted funds	21	576,755	588,935
Unrestricted funds	21	55,133,373	54,889,240
Total funds		56,045,791	55,800,680

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Miles Young

Chair

Date: 11th September 2025

The notes on pages 23 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
REGISTERED NUMBER: RC000177

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	<i>Restated</i> 2024 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	12	141,955	71,291
Tangible assets	13	23,118,162	22,425,536
Heritage assets	15	793,200	793,200
Investments	16	-	2,826,613
Investment property	14	28,400,000	28,500,000
		<u>52,453,317</u>	<u>54,616,640</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	17	343,026	333,858
Investments	18	3,081,271	1,000,000
Cash at bank and in hand		635,405	439,539
		<u>4,059,702</u>	<u>1,773,397</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(485,748)	(607,879)
Net current assets		<u>3,573,954</u>	<u>1,165,518</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>56,027,271</u>	<u>55,782,158</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>56,027,271</u></u>	<u><u>55,782,158</u></u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
REGISTERED NUMBER: RC000177

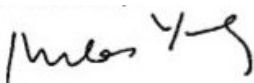
CHARITY BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Charity funds			
Endowment funds	21	335,663	322,505
Restricted funds	21	576,754	588,935
Unrestricted funds	21	55,114,854	54,870,718
Total funds		56,027,271	55,782,158

The Charity's net movement in funds for the year was £245,113 (2024 - £(332,243)).

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Miles Young

Chair

Date: 11th September 2025

The notes on pages 23 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	23	(452,474)	(583,167)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		42,553	81,408
Purchase of intangible assets		(95,715)	(71,290)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(34,802)	(74,374)
Proceeds from sale of investments		2,888,356	(150,000)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		2,800,392	(214,256)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Current asset investment additions		(2,081,271)	(1,000,000)
Net cash used in financing activities		(2,081,271)	(1,000,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		266,647	(1,797,423)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		518,224	2,315,647
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	24	784,871	518,224

The notes on pages 23 to 45 form part of these financial statements

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. General information

The English-Speaking Union is a company limited by guarantee and without share capital. The ESU was incorporated in England by Royal Charter and the address of its registered office is Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London, W1J 5ED.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its two subsidiary undertakings. The results of the subsidiaries are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Intangible assets and amortisation

Intangible assets costing £NIL or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable, and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, intangible assets are measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life.

Amortisation is provided on the following basis:

Computer software	- 20 % straight line
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Property is initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the revaluation model, a property whose fair value can be measured reliably shall be carried at a revalued amount, being their fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Revaluations are made with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the end of the reporting date.

Fair values are determined from market-based evidence by appraisal that is normally undertaken by professionally qualified valuers. If there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialised nature of the tangible fixed asset and it is rarely sold, except as part of a contributing business, a Charity may need to estimate fair value using an income or depreciated replacement cost approach.

Gains and losses on revaluation are recognised in the Consolidated statement of financial activities, with a separate revaluation reserve being shown in the Statement of funds note.

Other tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- Not depreciated
Plant and machinery	- 15 years straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 5 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 3 years straight line

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Heritage assets

Where heritage assets have been purchased, they are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the revaluation model, heritage assets are measured at fair value. Any reliable valuation technique to estimate the fair value of a heritage asset may be used; however, it must reflect any particular historic or heritage qualities inherent in the asset being valued, meaning that depreciated replacement cost may not be an applicable technique in all circumstances.

Where heritage assets have been donated, they should initially be recognised then subsequently measured at fair value. Any reliable valuation technique to estimate the fair value of a heritage asset may be used; however, it must reflect any particular historic or heritage qualities inherent in the asset being valued, meaning that depreciated replacement cost may not be an applicable technique in all circumstances.

At each reporting date the Charity assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Heritage assets are not depreciated.

2.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated statement of financial activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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 acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

2.12 Financial instruments

The Group only has financial assets and financial 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.13 Pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Group to the fund in respect of the year.

2.14 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Donations	-	17,319	17,319	20,701
Legacies	-	6,300	6,300	50,000
Fundraising events	536	41,173	41,709	56,302
Total 2025	<u>536</u>	<u>64,792</u>	<u>65,328</u>	<u>127,003</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,003</u>	<u>127,003</u>	

4. Income from charitable activities

	Endowment funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Income from programmes and events	832	124,942	62,144	187,918	259,239
Income from branches	-	-	26,033	26,033	51,908
Membership subscriptions	-	-	43,710	43,710	89,153
Total 2025	<u>832</u>	<u>124,942</u>	<u>131,887</u>	<u>257,661</u>	<u>400,300</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>300</u>	<u>106,280</u>	<u>293,720</u>	<u>400,300</u>	

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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

5. Income from other trading activities

Income from non charitable trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Sales	50,881	50,881	-
Catering commission	533,880	533,880	502,772
Total 2025	<u>584,761</u>	<u>584,761</u>	<u>502,772</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>502,772</u>	<u>502,772</u>	

6. Investment income

	Endowment funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Rental income	-	-	1,504,000	1,504,000	1,504,001
Investment income	12,326	-	30,227	42,553	81,408
Recharges	-	-	122,115	122,115	102,724
Investment income - local cash	-	-	13,083	13,083	35,734
Total 2025	<u>12,326</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,669,425</u>	<u>1,681,751</u>	<u>1,723,867</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>2,080</u>	<u>12,803</u>	<u>1,708,984</u>	<u>1,723,867</u>	

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Fundraising trading expenses

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Fundraising - Direct Costs	48,918	48,918	20,143
Fundraising - Support Costs	139,521	139,521	64,238
Total 2025	<u>188,439</u>	<u>188,439</u>	<u>84,381</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>84,381</u>	<u>84,381</u>	

Other trading expenses

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Trading - Direct Costs	351,054	351,054	319,249
Trading - Support Costs	202,213	202,213	217,423
Total 2025	<u>553,267</u>	<u>553,267</u>	<u>536,672</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>536,672</u>	<u>536,672</u>	

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Education programme and scholarships	587,026	368,163	955,189	1,072,272
International development	189,537	143,209	332,746	357,311
Membership and branches	409,815	187,462	597,277	872,415
Governance	393,176	139,521	532,697	420,777
Total 2025	<u>1,579,554</u>	<u>838,355</u>	<u>2,417,909</u>	<u>2,722,775</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>1,655,428</u>	<u>1,067,347</u>	<u>2,722,775</u>	

9. Auditors' remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	22,000	18,750
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	3,500	5,250
	<u>25,500</u>	<u>24,000</u>

10. Staff costs

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
Wages and salaries	1,374,654	1,148,266	1,374,654	1,148,266
Social security costs	140,959	122,032	140,959	122,032
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	65,828	68,375	65,828	68,375
	<u>1,581,441</u>	<u>1,338,673</u>	<u>1,581,441</u>	<u>1,338,673</u>

Included in the above, are redundancy payments of £4,583 (2024: £5,559) and severance payments of £Nil (2024: £8,978) paid out to nil (2023: 1) members of staff.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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

10. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	Group 2025 No.	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>
Charitable activities	14	13
Support staff	13	9
	<hr/> 27 <hr/>	<hr/> 22 <hr/>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2025 No.	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	2
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	1
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	-	1
In the band £130,001 - £140,000	1	-

Included within staff costs, total staff benefits paid to key management personnel in the year were £564,109 (2024: £597,077).

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, expenses totalling £4,017 were reimbursed or paid directly to 5 Trustees (2024 - £4,982 to 6 Trustees). The expenses in the year were for reimbursement of travel expenses.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12. Intangible assets

Group and Charity

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	285,947
Additions	95,715
At 31 March 2025	<u>381,662</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 April 2024	214,656
Charge for the year	25,051
At 31 March 2025	<u>239,707</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2025	<u>141,955</u>
<i>At 31 March 2024</i>	<u>71,291</u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13. Tangible fixed assets

Group and Charity

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Artwork & Maces £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2024	21,887,500	1,162,871	72,810	41,148	23,164,329
Additions	-	-	26,924	7,878	34,802
Revaluations	762,500	-	-	-	762,500
At 31 March 2025	<u>22,650,000</u>	<u>1,162,871</u>	<u>99,734</u>	<u>49,026</u>	<u>23,961,631</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	-	713,313	6,687	18,793	738,793
Charge for the year	-	75,938	19,368	9,370	104,676
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>789,251</u>	<u>26,055</u>	<u>28,163</u>	<u>843,469</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	<u>22,650,000</u>	<u>373,620</u>	<u>73,679</u>	<u>20,863</u>	<u>23,118,162</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>21,887,500</u>	<u>449,558</u>	<u>66,123</u>	<u>22,355</u>	<u>22,425,536</u>

The freehold property was formally valued by Cushman & Wakefield as at 31 March 2025.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14. Investment property

Group and Charity

	Freehold investment property £
Valuation	
At 1 April 2024	28,500,000
Deficit on revaluation	(100,000)
At 31 March 2025	<u>28,400,000</u>

The investment property was formally valued by Cushman & Wakefield as at 31 March 2025.

15. Heritage assets

Group and Charity

Assets recognised at cost

	Artwork & Maces 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Carrying value at 1 April 2024	793,200	793,200
	<u>793,200</u>	<u>793,200</u>

During 2024/25, there were no changes in the values of heritage assets as existing valuations were considered reasonable.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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

16. Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
At 1 April 2024	2,826,613
Disposals	(2,888,356)
Revaluations	61,743
At 31 March 2025	-
<i>At 31 March 2024</i>	<i>2,826,613</i>

In July 2024, the portfolio of fixed asset investments held in the Sarasin Endowments funds was disposed of and the sale proceeds valued at £2,888k were transferred to the Blackrock Institutional Cash Series sterling liquidity fund. This transfer was to ensure that the ESU funds were held in a relatively low risk holding which is easily convertible to cash and consistent with the charity's strategy and anticipated cash flow requirements over the medium term.

17. Debtors

	Group 2025 £	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	Charity 2025 £	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	115,814	183,940	5,920	5,920
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	155,350	135,345
Other debtors	9,461	30,744	9,461	30,744
Prepayments and accrued income	187,320	169,655	172,295	161,849
	312,595	<i>384,339</i>	343,026	<i>333,858</i>

18. Current asset investments

	Group 2025 £	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	Charity 2025 £	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Unlisted investments	3,081,271	1,000,000	3,081,271	1,000,000
	3,081,271	<i>1,000,000</i>	3,081,271	<i>1,000,000</i>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

18. Current asset investments (continued)

Current asset investments consist of investments in an Institutional Cash Series Sterling liquidity fund with the intention that these funds be used by the charity within one year either via disposal or transfer to a longer term investment fund.

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2025 £	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	Charity 2025 £	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Bank overdrafts	-	118	-	118
Payments received on account	14,828	12,956	14,828	12,956
Trade creditors	105,712	167,116	105,712	167,118
Other taxation and social security	34,152	30,537	62	63
Other creditors	17,633	25,218	17,633	25,218
Accruals and deferred income	413,938	482,578	347,513	402,406
	586,263	718,523	485,748	607,879

20. Prior year adjustments

During the revaluation process of the freehold property in the current year, it was identified that the Mews office space was not revalued for year ended 31 March 2023. As a result, the comparatives have been restated, so that the revaluations measured in the current year are comparable. The result of the adjustment is an increase in the freehold property of £4,987,500 and an increase in unrestricted funds of the same amount.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Designated Funds	37,500,177	-	-	-	-	37,500,177
Repairs Fund	125,000	-	-	-	-	125,000
	<u>37,625,177</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,625,177</u>
General funds						
General Funds - all funds	-	-	-	-	54,640	54,640
General Funds	4,358,043	1,489,069	(2,558,751)	496,675	-	3,785,036
Trading funds	18,520	961,796	(465,121)	(496,675)	-	18,520
Revaluation reserve	12,887,500	-	-	-	762,500	13,650,000
	<u>17,264,063</u>	<u>2,450,865</u>	<u>(3,023,872)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>817,140</u>	<u>17,508,196</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>54,889,240</u>	<u>2,450,865</u>	<u>(3,023,872)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>817,140</u>	<u>55,133,373</u>
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	103,406	12,326	-	-	-	115,732
Permanent endowment	219,099	832	-	-	-	219,931
	<u>322,505</u>	<u>13,158</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>335,663</u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Restricted funds						
Branch funds	52,863	536	-	-	-	53,399
Exchange programmes	33,368	-	-	-	-	33,368
Fellowship funds	134,402	117,777	11,500	-	(1,915)	261,764
Education funds	58,506	5,792	-	-	-	64,298
Music funds	20,477	-	-	-	-	20,477
Scholarship funds	289,319	1,373	(145,523)	-	-	145,169
Meeting expenses	-	-	(343)	-	-	(343)
Bank charges	-	-	(1,377)	-	-	(1,377)
	<u>588,935</u>	<u>125,478</u>	<u>(135,743)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,915)</u>	<u>576,755</u>
Total of funds	<u>55,800,680</u>	<u>2,589,501</u>	<u>(3,159,615)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>815,225</u>	<u>56,045,791</u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated Funds

These are funds designated for practical purposes. The use of designated funds remains at the discretion of the Trustees.

Endowment Funds

Expendable endowments

American Memorial Chapel Travel Fund - Travel scholarships for clergy between the UK and the USA

Westbury Preston Memorial Education Fund - Used to provide exchange visits by students or teachers within the Commonwealth or between the Commonwealth and the USA.

Mallinson Memorial Fund - Woodworking and bookbinding scholarships.

Permanent endowment

P W Minet American Education Scholarship Fund - Teaching scholarships for lecturers or teachers to travel to the USA to study a specific aspect of education.

P W Minet Community Benefit Fund - Travel awards to enable individuals with professional qualifications aged 25 to 45 to travel outside the UK for the benefit of their own communities and those they visit.

Education Endowment Fund-Teachers - Travel scholarships for teachers between the UK and the USA.

Charlotte Bonham-Carter Music Scholarship Fund - For the provision of music scholarships to Yale University.

Restricted Funds

Branch funds

Nurses Work Shadow Fund - Used to fund education at branch level.

Carlbon-Lincolnshire branch funds - Used to fund education at branch level.

1066-Hastings Branch Funds - Used to fund education at branch level.

Exchange funds

C E Eckersley Educational Fund - Used to provide grants to foreign students studying English.

Walter Annenburg Fund - Donated for the purpose of Anglo-American exchanges.

Fellowship funds

The Lindemann Fellowship Fund - Provides fellowship awards to enable UK scientists to undertake research programmes in the USA.

Education funds

P W Minet American Education Scholarship Income Fund - Teaching scholarships for lecturers or teachers to travel to the USA to study a specific aspect of education.

P W Minet Community Benefit Income Fund - Travel awards to enable individuals with professional qualifications aged 25 to 45 to travel outside the UK for the benefit of their own communities and those they visit.

C Bonham-Carter Scholarship Fund - For the provision of scholarships.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Education Endowment income Fund - Travel scholarships for teachers between the UK and the USA.

Music funds

The Ravinia Scholarship Fund - Awards to enable talented musicians to attend the Ravinia Festival.

Music Fund - For music scholarships in the UK.

Belinda Norman-Butler Music Fund - For music scholarships in the UK.

Scholarship funds

Branches-Scholarships - For branch level scholarships.

John Roberts Travel Scholarship Fund - Fund is in respect of travel scholarships for Lincolnshire students.

Michael Graydon Scholarship Fund - Award to aid earmarked ESU educational work for the Lincolnshire branch.

Charlotte Bonham-Carter Music Scholarship Income Fund - For the provision of music scholarships.

Chester Scholarship fund - Award for scholarships & other charitable activities in Chester.

Chilton Art History Scholarship Fund - Supports an annual art history scholarship placement at Christies.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2023</i> £	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Transfers in/out</i> £	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i> £	<i>Balance at 31 March 2024</i> £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Designated Funds	37,500,177	-	-	-	-	37,500,177
Repairs Fund	-	-	-	125,000	-	125,000
	<u>37,500,177</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,625,177</u>
General funds						
General Funds	4,637,601	1,762,174	(2,527,326)	228,365	257,229	4,358,043
Trading funds	18,520	870,305	(516,940)	(353,365)	-	18,520
Revaluation reserve	12,887,500	-	-	-	-	12,887,500
	<u>17,543,621</u>	<u>2,632,479</u>	<u>(3,044,266)</u>	<u>(125,000)</u>	<u>257,229</u>	<u>17,264,063</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>55,043,798</u>	<u>2,632,479</u>	<u>(3,044,266)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>257,229</u>	<u>54,889,240</u>
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	218,731	304	(115,629)	-	-	103,406
Permanent endowment	219,523	2,076	(2,500)	-	-	219,099
	<u>438,254</u>	<u>2,380</u>	<u>(118,129)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>322,505</u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2024</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Branch funds	51,576	1,338	(51)	-	-	52,863
Exchange programmes	33,368	-	-	-	-	33,368
Fellowship funds	176,081	110,084	(152,177)	-	414	134,402
Education funds	58,507	-	-	-	-	58,507
Music funds	23,487	395	(3,405)	-	-	20,477
Scholarship funds	307,852	7,266	(25,800)	-	-	289,318
	<u>650,871</u>	<u>119,083</u>	<u>(181,433)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>588,935</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>56,132,923</u></u>	<u><u>2,753,942</u></u>	<u><u>(3,343,828)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>257,643</u></u>	<u><u>55,800,680</u></u>

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Endowment funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	23,118,162	23,118,162
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	141,955	141,955
Investment property	-	-	28,400,000	28,400,000
Heritage assets	-	-	793,200	793,200
Current assets	335,663	576,755	3,266,319	4,178,737
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(586,263)	(586,263)
Total	<u><u>335,663</u></u>	<u><u>576,755</u></u>	<u><u>55,133,373</u></u>	<u><u>56,045,791</u></u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

23. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2025 £	<i>Group 2024 £</i>
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(517,389)	<i>(399,243)</i>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	104,676	<i>91,056</i>
Amortisation charges	25,051	<i>42,932</i>
Losses on investments	(61,743)	<i>(205,178)</i>
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(42,553)	<i>(81,408)</i>
Fair value adjustments on investment property	100,000	<i>-</i>
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	71,744	<i>(197,032)</i>
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(132,260)	<i>165,706</i>
Net cash used in operating activities	(452,474)	<i>(583,167)</i>

24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2025 £	<i>Group 2024 £</i>
Cash in hand	784,871	<i>518,224</i>
Total cash and cash equivalents	784,871	<i>518,224</i>

25. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	518,224	266,647	784,871
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	(118)	118	-
Liquid investments	1,000,000	2,081,271	3,081,271
	1,518,106	2,348,036	3,866,142

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

26. Related party transactions

The Charity has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Charity at 31 March 2025.

27. Principal subsidiaries

The following were subsidiary undertakings of the Charity:

ESU Trading Ltd
ESU Dartmouth Ltd

The registered office or principal place of business for both of these subsidiary is Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London, W1J 5ED. Both subsidiaries are included in the consolidation.

The financial results of the subsidiaries for the year were:

Names	Income		Expenditure		Surplus/(Deficit)	Net assets
	£		£		for the Year	£
ESU Trading Ltd	648,740	-	342,919		305,821	18,519
ESU Dartmouth House Ltd	313,055	-	122,202		190,853	1

ENGLISH- SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

England & Wales - Charity number 273136

Accounts



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The English-Speaking Union was founded in 1918 as an unincorporated association. The association was incorporated in 1922 under the Companies Act as a company limited by guarantee and without share capital. The ESU was incorporated by the Royal Charter in 1957.

Board of Trustees	Miles Young, Chair (appointed 1 June 2023) Rebecca Preen, Deputy Chair (appointed 6 December 2023) Richard Humphreys, Deputy Chair Nick Archer (appointed 6 December 2023) Rebecca Darko (appointed 6 December 2023, resigned 28 June 2024) David Hatchett (appointed 6 December 2023) Ed Humbert (appointed 6 December 2023) Simon Kearey (appointed 6 December 2023) Francesca King (appointed 6 December 2023) Laurence Mutkin Simon Orme, Treasurer (appointed 6 December 2023) Stephen Purcell Jane Setter (appointed 6 December 2023) Sophia Taylor (appointed 6 December 2023) Barbara Firth (to 6 December 2023) Sarah Hawkins (to 6 December 2023) Philip Maunder (to 6 December 2023) Danny Preiskel (to 6 December 2023) Professor James Raven (to 6 December 2023) Sarah Harding (to 6 December 2023) Madeleine Milne (to 12 September 2023) David Shaw OBE (to 6 December 2023)
Royal Charter registered number	RC000177
Charity registered number	273136
Patron	Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
President	HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO
Vice-Presidents	The Lord Watson of Richmond CBE Mr Guy Weston
Senior Leadership Team	
Director-General	Charles Byrne CBE (appointed on 18 March 2024) Jane Easton (to 31/03/2024)
Directors	Nathan Strong - Director of Strategy & Governance Annabel McGregor - Director of Education (until 23 January 2024) Gabiella Tamas - Director of Finance & Corporate Services Consola Evans - Director of Global Engagement Neeta Patel - Head of Human Resources
Board Secretary	Nathan Strong

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Bankers	Coutts & Co 440 The Strand London WC2 0QS
	Citibank N.Y Citibank PO Box 6201 Sioux Falls SD 57117-6201 USA
Legal advisors	Russell Cooke LLP 2 Putney Hill London SW15 6AB
	Hogan Lovells International LLP Atlantic House Holborn Viaduct London EC1A 2FG
Investment Manager	Sarasin & Partners LLP 100 St Paul's Churchyard London WC4M 8BU
Auditor	WR Partners Belmont House Shrewsbury Business Park Shrewsbury SY2 6LG

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Welcome to the Annual Report & Accounts for the English-Speaking Union (ESU) for 2023/24.

Over the last year, we have focused on growing our national and international education programmes, simplifying our membership model and setting the foundation for a new 5-year strategy.

We have seen continued success in our competitions with over 4,000 young participants. Our flagship International Public Speaking Competition saw 37 young people from 35 countries and regions take part in our finals week at Dartmouth House in London. Out of our 37 national and regional winners, 6 made it through to the Grand Final at The Royal Institution. We delivered Discover Your Voice workshops to over 1,600 young people, and our Action Research programme saw participation double.

We introduced a new membership model in July and launched a Dartmouth House membership with the aim of bringing together our international network of members and alumni.

In December, our members elected a new Board of Trustees who are working closely with the new Director-General to set our new strategy for the next 5 years. There are many opportunities to expand our reach and have greater impact on young people across the globe.

Much of our strategic thinking will be discussed at the next International Council meeting in Cleveland, USA when delegates from across the world will come together to discuss ways in which the ESU can deliver oracy and promote cultural understanding across the globe.

Beneficiaries are at the heart of everything we do, and we continue to champion the right of all to develop a confident voice, good listening skills, critical-thinking and the ability to debate, enabling everyone to play a full part in society and to become advocates for themselves and others.

Thank you to all our supporters for their ongoing support and to the team for their dedication. We look forward to working with you all on the exciting challenges ahead.

I am delighted that Charles Byrne joined the ESU in March 2024 as our new Director-General.



Miles Young
Chair

Date: 11/09/2024

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Board of Trustees present their annual report incorporating the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024, together with an update on current plans and achievements.

Our Mission

The ESU believes every child should be able to make their voice heard. We believe that the ability to progress and to thrive in life relies on oracy – speaking and listening – skills, which are not currently a prominent part of the school curriculum. Our debate, public speaking and cultural exchange programmes help young people to engage with the world, to speak more confidently and to listen to and understand different points of view. These skills improve young people's attainment, emotional intelligence and social skills, helping them to live their lives to the fullest.

About Us

We work with young people and their teachers to improve oracy skills and cross-cultural understanding, including in areas of disadvantage. We run fun, games-led debate and public speaking curricula and workshops which encourage students to discuss a wide range of topical issues with an open mind. We guide schools on using oracy in the classroom and on setting up and maintaining their own debate clubs; and we provide teachers with a range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities in the fields of speech and debate. Nationally and internationally, we run public speaking and debating competitions to hone the skills we provide, and offer a variety of cultural exchanges for students, teachers, branches, members and professionals alike to build relationships and share ideas across communities and countries.

Why we do it

The ESU was formed on the belief that more effective communication between nations would lead to improved global understanding. This belief still stands strong today. As communities become ever-more multicultural, and society more polarised, there has never been a greater need to understand different perspectives and opinions. Children need to learn how to listen and evaluate other points of view; how to distinguish fake news from real. They need to learn to disagree without being disagreeable, and they need to learn that what they think and what they have to say matters.

Our speech and debate programmes and cultural exchanges help with all these things. They improve oracy ability and academic attainment as well as a whole range of social, emotional and interpersonal skills now seen as increasingly important by both industry and educationalists. These include self-confidence, self-awareness, resilience and empathy. Read more about oracy and why it matters : <http://www.esu.org/oracy/>.

Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Objectives

1. The full name of the Charity is The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, referred to as the ESU. The registered office and principal operating address is Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London, W1J 5ED. The Charity is registered in England and Wales under registration number 273136.

2. In 1957 the ESU was granted a Royal Charter in which its charitable objectives are to promote within our United Kingdom and other countries of the Commonwealth, the United States of America, Europe and elsewhere the mutual advancement of education of the English-speaking peoples of the world, in particular (but without in any way limiting the generality of the foregoing) respecting their heritage, traditions and aspirations, the events and issues of the day affecting them, their inter-relationships and the use of English as a shared language and means of international communication of knowledge and understanding: provided always that the foregoing aims and objects shall at all times be pursued in a non-political and non-sectarian manner.

Activities

3. The ESU achieves its objectives through three core activities:

a) **Education.** We work with teachers and young people to improve oracy skills and cross-cultural understanding. We run debate, performance and public speaking competitions and workshops which encourage learners to explore and engage with a wide range of topical issues with an open mind. We guide schools on using oracy in the classroom, support the development of academic and practical research in the field of oracy; and we provide teachers with a range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities in the fields of speech and debate. Nationally and internationally, we offer a variety of programmes and cultural exchanges for students, teachers and professionals alike to build relationships and share ideas across communities and countries.

b) **Membership.** Our membership plays an important role in supporting the organisation through volunteering, advocacy and local engagement.

In March 2024, we had around 1,400 ESU members spread across 17 branches in England and Wales. We have a growing number of Dartmouth House members who meet to socialise, gain new perspectives on the world and to help organise and raise funds for our educational work.

In July 2023, a simplified membership and pricing structure was introduced. This created an ESU membership and a separate Dartmouth House membership. Young ESU members who previously had free memberships, were encouraged to move to fee paying memberships.

c) **International.** We engage a network of 54 ESUs across the world, each being independent and operating according to their own jurisdiction. This important network meet every year at the International Council Meeting to share ideas and promote English as a means of communication at a global level. The international ESUs are responsible for running their own national Public Speaking Competitions which culminate in the International Public Speaking Competition finals week in London.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Need

4. The need to support children and young people to develop vital oracy skills has never been greater. Too many young people are joining and leaving education without the oracy skills required to thrive in education or the workplace. This is a particular challenge for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, who are more likely to start school with lower language skills, and they rarely catch up to their more advantaged peers at any point in education, limiting their life chances. Equally, there is a greater need now more than ever, for better international relations in our rapidly evolving, turbulent world.

5. Research (1) shows that having language-rich classrooms and opportunities benefits all children, developing deeper knowledge of subjects, as well as supporting metacognitive skills development, positive social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) and employability skills. The skills required for future employment (2) are all developed by oracy, and there is recognition that a skills-based economy is needed in light of advances in AI and wider workforce challenges.

Achievements

6. Online and in-person oracy competitions achieved significant impact, with over 4000 young participants in the UK, and over one million worldwide. The **International Public Speaking Competition** returned to London for the first time since the pandemic, drawing participants from national finals in 31 countries taking place between October 2023 and April 2024.

7. We are pleased to report that participation in our oracy competitions have returned to pre-pandemic levels. Our **Discover Your Voice** workshops were delivered to 1,620 young people this year and we received strong interest from a range of schools.

8. **Debate Academy** took place in August 2023, with 50% of attendees in receipt of some form of bursary or financial aid. The majority of students who spent a year at a US school as part of our **Secondary School Exchange** programme are from state schools, with one scholar in receipt of full financial aid from the ESU to allow participation.

9. 23 schools participated on our **Action Research** programme, doubling the numbers from last year, helping to develop the practical 'what works' evidence base for oracy, supported by the University of Sussex's Speaking Citizens programme.

(1) See for example: Oral Language Interventions – Education Endowment Foundation Toolkit: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/oral-language-interventions>

(2) NFER study: <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/the-skills-imperative-2035-an-analysis-of-the-demand-for-skills-in-the-labour-market-in-2035/>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Programme	Impact	Remarks
International Public Speaking Competition	1 million+ participants 31 countries	We continue to work with our International ESUs and partners to reach significant numbers of young people. We also introduced grants, enabling our International ESUs to widen participation in their feeder competitions
Discover Your Voice workshops	15 schools engaged 1691 students	Our DYV workshops were improved this year. Delivered by expert practitioners, we provided value-add for all schools.
Performing Shakespeare competition	150 schools 1530+ students	The grand final took place at Shakespeare's Globe where we celebrated excellent performances from state, independent and home-schooled students, showcasing the breadth of interest there is in one of the UK's most famous cultural exports.
ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition	381 teams 1334 students	This unique format encouraged teamwork, pairing schools with local peers to develop active listening skills and spoken language.
Schools' Mace Debating Competition	340 schools 1190 students	This is the oldest and largest schools debating competition, with more participants from state schools than previous years.
Debate Academy (a week-long residential summer camp)	118 young people 50% in receipt of bursary	A highly successful week of debate coaching and the building of friendships.
Secondary School Exchange (SSE)	6 scholars hosted in US 10 scholars hosted in UK	Of the 6 scholars who were sent to attend schools in the US, most were from non-fee paying schools. One scholar received financial aid to support them to access the opportunity

10. Dartmouth House, the international headquarters of the ESU, has been a hub for bringing people together to socialise, debate and share ideas. Over the next 12 months, the Board will consider short-term and long-term viable options to maximise value for Dartmouth House.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Future Plans

11. Over the next 12 months, we will be undertaking a strategic review to define our vision for the next 5 years. This review will touch all parts of the organisation as we seize the opportunity to take a fundamental look at the ESU's purpose and consider how best we deliver in line with the Royal Charter.

12. Meanwhile, we plan to launch a new fundraising strategy which will help create the financial stability needed to deliver on its refined vision. We will also review our property portfolio to ensure that we are maximising value and income from our assets.

Safeguarding

13. There is no higher priority for the ESU than the safeguarding of all those interacting with the Charity, and particularly children and young people participating in its programmes. Rigorous protocols are also applied to online events. The Board has a strong emphasis on the protection of vulnerable individuals, and it reviews process and procedures on a regular basis as part of the risk management process. The Safeguarding Policy, is reviewed biannually and available on the ESU website : <https://www.esu.org/safeguarding-policy/>.

Communication

14. We actively advocate for oracy education, internationalism and volunteering, spreading the message that speaking and listening skills and cross-cultural understanding are vital for young people to reach their full potential. More details can be found on our website : <https://www.esu.org>.

15. We continue to focus on building and maintaining our social media presence. Social media provides a growing platform for networking into education, business, and wider society to promote the charity's work.

16. In June 2023, we commissioned a survey (<https://www.esu.org/news-and-views/children-and-young-people-struggle-to-make-friends-survey-results-show/>) by Censuswide, which found that a lack of speaking and listening skills was holding children and young people back in myriad ways, including making it more difficult for them to make friends. This demonstrates the need for supporting children and young people to develop their oracy skills.

17. In July 2023, Sir Keir Starmer pledged to put oracy at the forefront of education. Following this, the ESU were interviewed and referenced by a range of news outlets including iNews, LBC, New Statesman, as well as the Daily Telegraph. In addition, we were also quoted in a YouGov article titled 'Oracy: The Answer to a Pupil's Prayers?' by John Humphrys : <https://yougov.co.uk/society/articles/45887-john-humphrys-oracy-answer-pupils-prayers>.

18. In October 2023, the ESU hosted its annual Evelyn Wrench Lecture at Dartmouth House. We were honoured to have our president HRH The Princess Royal, deliver the lecture on 'The Power of Conversation.'

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

19. The executive pay policy is set by the Nominations and Remuneration Committee (NRC) and approved by the Board. The NRC sets the remuneration for senior management roles using benchmarked data.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Governance and Management

20. We are governed by a Board of 14 elected Trustees of which 2 are co-opted. Trustees are elected by members of the ESU for a period of three years. Trustees are eligible to stand for re-election for a second term of three years. The Board may appoint up to six co-opted Trustees to fill a skills or knowledge gap. The Board delegates some of its responsibilities to Committees. In this reporting period the Board have four established Committees:

- a. Nominations and Remuneration Committee.
- b. Engagement Committee
- c. Education Committee.
- d. Finance & Audit Committee.

21. There are separate Boards for the two trading subsidiaries: ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd. There is also a Property Advisory Group where all property-related matters are discussed and escalated to the Board where required.

Financial Review

22. The results of the ESU Group are set out in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) on page 16. The figures consolidate the results of the Charity and its two wholly owned subsidiaries, ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd.

23. Our charitable activities have been funded through four main income streams:

- a) Donations and legacies
- b) Charitable activity income (registration fees, membership subscriptions and events).
- c) Trading income
- d) Investment income (including rent from the Chesterfield hotel).

24. The consolidated statement of financial activities shows net expenditure of £590k (2023: net income £489k) excluding investment gains.

25. Net incoming resources in 2023/24 were £2,754k (2022/23: £2,535k). Total income by source for the ESU Group, including comparison with the previous year, as set out below:

	2023/2024		2022/2023	
	£'000	%	£'000	%
Donations and legacies	106	3.8%	45	1.8%
Charitable activities	421	15.3%	373	14.7%
Trading activities	503	18.3%	485	19.1%
Investments	1,724	62.6%	1,632	64.4%
Total	2,754	100.0%	2,535	100.0%

26. Charitable activity income was £48k higher than the prior year at £421k (2022/23: £373k) due to the success of education programmes including Debate Academy, the Public Speaking and Schools Mace competitions.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

27. Investment income of £1,724k (2022/23: £1,632k) included rents from the Chesterfield Hotel and dividends paid from our investment portfolio which is managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP. This stream made up 62.6% (2022/23: 64.4%) of the total income and ensures stability of funding.

28. Trading activities income resulted from commission charged under a licence with Graysons Restaurants Limited to run weddings, private events, and corporate activities and service members at Dartmouth House. The profits from these activities directly benefit the Charity. The value of the commission was £503k (2022/23: £485k)

29. Donations comprised legacy income, individual and corporate giving from ESU supporters, income from fundraising events held in Dartmouth House and branch events. The aim of each event is to engage existing supporters as well as showcasing our work to new supporters. Events included the Evelyn Wrench lecture, and the 4th of July and Coronation tea parties. Total donations for the year were £106k (2022/23: £45k)

30. The ESU consolidated Charity and subsidiaries report expenditure of £3,344k this year, a 63% increase on the prior year (2022/23: £2,046k). The main elements of the increased costs resulted from:

- a. an increase in staff numbers.
- b. growth in our educational activity.
- c. a renewed emphasis on digital and marketing activity to raise the profile of the charity, promote the use of Dartmouth House and attract more members.
- d. Increased investment in our digital infrastructure including the development of a new CRM system designed to ensure operational efficiencies.

Notes 7 and 8 to the accounts provides a breakdown of expenditure.

31. Total ESU funds at 31st March 2024 were £50,813k (31/03/2023: £51,146k); the decrease of £333k is attributable to net expenditure of £590k adjusted for net investment gains of £190k, and a gain on the value of heritage assets of £67k.

32. The ESU own a property portfolio: the Chesterfield Hotel and Dartmouth House. Both are subject to open-market valuation fluctuations. The properties' values are recorded as designated funds and are not relied upon for the day-to-day running of the Charity. These long-term assets generate the rental income and commercial profits upon which we rely to deliver our charitable work.

33. Unrestricted reserves are required to provide for short-term fluctuations in income and expenditure. The Board's Reserves Policy is to maintain net free reserves (currently held as cash and near cash investments) sufficient to cover overheads for at least 6 months. The ESU is operating in accordance with this policy.

34. Consolidated cash and cash equivalent balances held fell by £1,797k in 2023/24 to £518k (2022/23: £997k increase in cash balances). The fall in balances relate to net cash out flows from operating activities of £1,583k for which contributing factors included increases in staff numbers, and targeted investment in IT and digital infrastructure across the year.

35. The value of free reserves held by the Group at 31/03/24 was £2,974k which was sufficient to meet the Board's requirement to cover six months forward operating expenditure.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Unrestricted funds	49,901,737	50,813,177
Less:		
TFA	(17,438,036)	(17,454,718)
IFA	(71,291)	(42,933)
Investment property	(28,500,000)	(28,500,000)
Heritage assets	- 793,200	- 726,200
Investments		
Designated funds	- 125,000	
FREE RESERVES	<u>2,974,210</u>	<u>4,089,326</u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Risk Management

36. The Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and satisfied themselves that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. This year we introduced a new risk management framework which enables the Board, its Committees and the Senior Leadership Team to consider, discuss and act on all of the organisation's major risks.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Trustees of the Charity are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements, being the consolidated accounts of the ESU and its subsidiary company ESU Trading Ltd (together, the 'Group'), in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

2. Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP) and applicable law.

3. Under Charity law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Charity and the Group, and of the net outgoing resources of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- a. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- b. Observe the methods and principles in the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
- c. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- d. State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- e. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue to operate.

4. The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions; to 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Miles Young
Chair

Date: 11/09/2024

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Group's and of the parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 Group's or the parent 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.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' 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. 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

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

- the parent charity has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charity 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.

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 Group's and the parent 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 Group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH (CONTINUED)

Auditors' 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 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The audit team obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Charity and determined that the most significant are those that relate to the reporting framework (FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011), the relevant tax compliance regulations, employment law, Health and Safety Regulations and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We understood how the Charity is complying with these frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We also reviewed board minutes to identify any recorded instances of irregularity or non compliance that might have a material impact on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by meeting with key management to understand where they are considered there was susceptibility to fraud. Based on our understanding our procedures involved enquiries of management and those charged with governance, manual journal testing, cashbook reviews for large and unusual items and the challenge of significant estimates used in preparing financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE
COMMONWEALTH (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 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 Charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



WR Partners
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

Date:

8th October 2024

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Endowment funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	105,904	105,904	44,797
Charitable activities	4	300	106,280	314,819	421,399	372,918
Other trading activities	5	-	-	502,772	502,772	484,667
Investments	6	2,080	12,803	1,708,984	1,723,867	1,632,941
Total income and endowments		2,380	119,083	2,632,479	2,753,942	2,535,323
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	-	-	621,053	621,053	560,000
Charitable activities	8	118,129	181,433	2,423,213	2,722,775	1,486,214
Total expenditure		118,129	181,433	3,044,266	3,343,828	2,046,214
Net (expenditure)/income before net gains/(losses) on investments						
		(115,749)	(62,350)	(411,787)	(589,886)	489,109
Net gains/(losses) on investments						
		-	414	190,229	190,643	(76,243)
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)						
		(115,749)	(61,936)	(221,558)	(399,243)	412,866
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets						
		-	-	67,000	67,000	7,900,000
Net movement in funds						
		(115,749)	(61,936)	(154,558)	(332,243)	8,312,866

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Note	Endowment funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	438,254	650,871	50,056,295	51,145,420	42,832,554
Net movement in funds	(115,749)	(61,936)	(154,558)	(332,243)	8,312,866
Total funds carried forward	322,505	588,935	49,901,737	50,813,177	51,145,420

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 23 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

**THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
REGISTERED NUMBER: RC000177**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	12	71,291	42,933
Tangible assets	13	17,438,036	17,454,718
Heritage assets	15	793,200	726,200
Investments	16	2,826,613	2,471,435
Investment property	14	28,500,000	28,500,000
		49,629,140	49,195,286
Current assets			
Debtors	17	384,339	187,307
Investments	18	1,000,000	-
Cash at bank and in hand		518,224	2,315,647
		1,902,563	2,502,954
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(718,525)	(552,819)
Net current assets		1,184,038	1,950,135
Total assets less current liabilities		50,813,178	51,145,421
Net assets excluding pension asset		50,813,178	51,145,421
Total net assets		50,813,178	51,145,421

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
REGISTERED NUMBER: RC000177

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Charity funds			
Endowment funds	20	322,505	438,254
Restricted funds	20	588,935	650,871
Unrestricted funds	20	49,901,738	50,056,296
Total funds		<u>50,813,178</u>	<u>51,145,421</u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Miles Young

Chair

Date: 11/09/2024

The notes on pages 23 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
REGISTERED NUMBER: RC000177

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	12	71,291	42,933
Tangible assets	13	17,438,036	17,454,718
Heritage assets	15	793,200	726,200
Investments	16	2,826,613	2,471,435
Investment property	14	28,500,000	28,500,000
		<u>49,629,140</u>	<u>49,195,286</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	17	333,858	189,232
Investments	18	1,000,000	-
Cash at bank and in hand		439,539	2,310,647
		<u>1,773,397</u>	<u>2,499,879</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(607,879)	(568,264)
Net current assets		1,165,518	1,931,615
Total assets less current liabilities		50,794,658	51,126,901
Net assets excluding pension asset		50,794,658	51,126,901
Total net assets		50,794,658	51,126,901

**THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
REGISTERED NUMBER: RC000177**

**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Charity funds			
Endowment funds	20	322,505	438,254
Restricted funds	20	588,935	650,871
Unrestricted funds	20	49,883,218	50,037,776
Total funds		<u>50,794,658</u>	<u>51,126,901</u>

The Charity's net movement in funds for the year was £(332,243) (2023 - £8,361,266).

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Miles Young
Chair

Date: 11/09/2024

The notes on pages 23 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	22	(583,167)	1,476,332
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		81,408	56,418
Purchase of intangible assets		(71,290)	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(74,374)	(31,000)
Proceeds from sale/(purchase) of investments		(150,000)	(505,103)
Net cash used in investing activities		(214,256)	(479,685)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Current asset investment additions		(1,000,000)	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		(1,000,000)	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(1,797,423)	996,647
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		2,315,647	1,319,000
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	23	518,224	2,315,647

The notes on pages 23 to 45 form part of these financial statements

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. General information

The English-Speaking Union is a company limited by guarantee and without share capital. The ESU was incorporated in England by Royal Charter and the address of its registered office is Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London, W1J 5ED.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its two subsidiary undertakings. The results of the subsidiaries are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.5 Intangible assets and amortisation

Intangible assets costing £NIL or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable, and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, intangible assets are measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is provided on intangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life.

Amortisation is provided on the following basis:

Computer software	- 20 % straight line
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Property is initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the revaluation model, a property whose fair value can be measured reliably shall be carried at a revalued amount, being their fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Revaluations are made with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the end of the reporting date.

Fair values are determined from market-based evidence by appraisal that is normally undertaken by professionally qualified valuers. If there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialised nature of the tangible fixed asset and it is rarely sold, except as part of a contributing business, a Charity may need to estimate fair value using an income or depreciated replacement cost approach.

Gains and losses on revaluation are recognised in the Consolidated statement of financial activities, with a separate revaluation reserve being shown in the Statement of funds note.

Other tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- Not depreciated
Plant and machinery	- 15 years straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 5 years straight line
Computer equipment	- 3 years straight line

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Heritage assets

Where heritage assets have been purchased, they are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the revaluation model, heritage assets are measured at fair value. Any reliable valuation technique to estimate the fair value of a heritage asset may be used; however, it must reflect any particular historic or heritage qualities inherent in the asset being valued, meaning that depreciated replacement cost may not be an applicable technique in all circumstances.

Where heritage assets have been donated, they should initially be recognised then subsequently measured at fair value. Any reliable valuation technique to estimate the fair value of a heritage asset may be used; however, it must reflect any particular historic or heritage qualities inherent in the asset being valued, meaning that depreciated replacement cost may not be an applicable technique in all circumstances.

At each reporting date the Charity assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Heritage assets are not depreciated.

2.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated statement of financial activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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 acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

2.12 Financial instruments

The Group only has financial assets and financial 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.13 Pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Group to the fund in respect of the year.

2.14 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	-	20,701	20,701	20,350
Legacies	-	50,000	50,000	-
Fundraising events	-	35,203	35,203	24,447
Total 2024	-	105,904	105,904	44,797
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>3,025</i>	<i>41,772</i>	<i>44,797</i>	

4. Income from charitable activities

	Endowment funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from programmes and events	300	106,280	152,659	259,239	155,609
Income from branches	-	-	51,908	51,908	57,332
Membership subscriptions	-	-	110,252	110,252	159,977
Total 2024	300	106,280	314,819	421,399	372,918
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>2,433</i>	<i>72,082</i>	<i>298,403</i>	<i>372,918</i>	

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5. Income from other trading activities

Income from non charitable trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Catering commission	502,772	502,772	484,667
Total 2024	502,772	502,772	484,667
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>484,667</i>	<i>484,667</i>	

6. Investment income

	Endowment funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Rental income	-	-	1,504,001	1,504,001	1,503,999
Investment income	2,080	12,803	66,525	81,408	56,418
Recharges	-	-	102,724	102,724	72,524
Investment income - local cash	-	-	35,734	35,734	-
Total 2024	2,080	12,803	1,708,984	1,723,867	1,632,941
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>8,138</i>	<i>1,624,803</i>	<i>1,632,941</i>	

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Fundraising trading expenses

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fundraising - Direct Costs	20,143	20,143	22,000
Fundraising - Support Costs	64,238	64,238	28,000
Total 2024	84,381	84,381	50,000
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>50,000</i>	<i>50,000</i>	

Other trading expenses

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Trading - Direct Costs	319,249	319,249	399,000
Trading - Support Costs	217,423	217,423	111,000
Total 2024	536,672	536,672	510,000
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>510,000</i>	<i>510,000</i>	

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Education programme and scholarships	588,013	484,259	1,072,272	778,214
International development	204,127	153,184	357,311	277,000
Membership and branches	566,047	306,368	872,415	302,000
Governance	297,241	123,536	420,777	129,000
Total 2024	<u>1,655,428</u>	<u>1,067,347</u>	<u>2,722,775</u>	<u>1,486,214</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>851,214</u>	<u>635,000</u>	<u>1,486,214</u>	

9. Auditors' remuneration

	2024 £	<i>2023 £</i>
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	18,750	25,305
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	<u>5,250</u>	<u>9,638</u>

10. Staff costs

	Group 2024 £	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	Charity 2024 £	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Wages and salaries	1,148,266	623,477	1,148,266	623,477
Social security costs	122,032	62,400	122,032	62,400
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	68,375	36,883	68,375	36,883
	<u>1,338,673</u>	<u>722,760</u>	<u>1,338,673</u>	<u>722,760</u>

Included in the above, are redundancy payments of £5,559 (2023: £Nil) and severance payments of £8,978 (2023: £Nil) paid out to 1 member of staff.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	Group 2024 No.	<i>Group 2023 No.</i>
Charitable activities	13	10
Support staff	9	8
	<u>22</u>	<u>18</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2024 No.	<i>Group 2023 No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	2	-
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	-	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	-
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	-
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	1

Included within staff costs, total staff benefits paid to key management personnel in the year were £597,077 (2023: £212,000).

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, expenses totalling £4,982 were reimbursed or paid directly to 6 Trustees (2023 - £10,495 to 5 Trustees). The expenses in the year were for reimbursement of travel expenses.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

12. Intangible assets

Group and Charity

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	214,657
Additions	71,290
At 31 March 2024	<u>285,947</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 April 2023	171,724
Charge for the year	42,932
At 31 March 2024	<u>214,656</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	<u>71,291</u>
<i>At 31 March 2023</i>	<u>42,933</u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13. Tangible fixed assets

Group and Charity

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2023	16,900,000	1,162,871	5,595	33,989	18,102,455
Additions	-	-	67,215	7,159	74,374
At 31 March 2024	<u>16,900,000</u>	<u>1,162,871</u>	<u>72,810</u>	<u>41,148</u>	<u>18,176,829</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	-	637,375	186	10,176	647,737
Charge for the year	-	75,938	6,501	8,617	91,056
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>713,313</u>	<u>6,687</u>	<u>18,793</u>	<u>738,793</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2024	<u>16,900,000</u>	<u>449,558</u>	<u>66,123</u>	<u>22,355</u>	<u>17,438,036</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>16,900,000</u>	<u>525,496</u>	<u>5,409</u>	<u>23,813</u>	<u>17,454,718</u>

The freehold property was last formally valued by Cushman & Wakefield as at 31 March 2023. The Trustees consider the property value to have remained consistent as at 31 March 2024.

14. Investment property

Group and Charity

	Freehold investment property £
Valuation	
At 1 April 2023	28,500,000
At 31 March 2024	<u>28,500,000</u>

The investment property was last formally valued by Cushman & Wakefield as at 31 March 2023. The Trustees consider the property value to have remained consistent as at 31 March 2024.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15. Heritage assets

Group and Charity

Assets recognised at cost

	Artwork & Maces 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Carrying value at 1 April 2023	726,200	726,200
Revaluations	67,000	67,000
	<u>793,200</u>	<u>793,200</u>

16. Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Group and Charity	
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2023	2,471,435
Additions	150,000
Revaluations	205,178
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,826,613</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,826,613</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>2,471,435</u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

17. Debtors

	Group 2024 £	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	Charity 2024 £	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	183,940	<i>115,855</i>	5,920	<i>9,102</i>
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	135,345	-
Other debtors	30,744	-	30,744	<i>108,678</i>
Prepayments and accrued income	169,655	<i>71,452</i>	161,849	<i>71,452</i>
	384,339	<i>187,307</i>	333,858	<i>189,232</i>

18. Current asset investments

	Group 2024 £	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	Charity 2024 £	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Additions	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-
	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2024 £	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	Charity 2024 £	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Bank overdrafts	118	<i>219</i>	118	<i>99</i>
Payments received on account	12,956	<i>35,047</i>	12,956	<i>35,047</i>
Trade creditors	167,118	<i>46,985</i>	167,118	<i>46,985</i>
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	-	<i>102,346</i>
Other taxation and social security	30,537	<i>20,417</i>	63	<i>63</i>
Other creditors	25,218	-	25,218	-
Accruals and deferred income	482,578	<i>450,151</i>	402,406	<i>383,724</i>
	718,525	<i>552,819</i>	607,879	<i>568,264</i>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Designated Funds	37,500,177	-	-	-	-	37,500,177
Repairs Fund	-	-	-	125,000	-	125,000
	<u>37,500,177</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,625,177</u>
General funds						
General Funds	4,637,599	1,762,174	(2,527,326)	228,365	257,229	4,358,041
Trading funds	18,520	870,305	(516,940)	(353,365)	-	18,520
Revaluation reserve	7,900,000	-	-	-	-	7,900,000
	<u>12,556,119</u>	<u>2,632,479</u>	<u>(3,044,266)</u>	<u>(125,000)</u>	<u>257,229</u>	<u>12,276,561</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>50,056,296</u>	<u>2,632,479</u>	<u>(3,044,266)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>257,229</u>	<u>49,901,738</u>
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	218,731	304	(115,629)	-	-	103,406
Permanent endowment	219,523	2,076	(2,500)	-	-	219,099
	<u>438,254</u>	<u>2,380</u>	<u>(118,129)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>322,505</u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds						
Branch funds	51,576	1,338	(51)	-	-	52,863
Exchange programmes	33,368	-	-	-	-	33,368
Fellowship funds	176,081	110,084	(152,177)	-	414	134,402
Education funds	58,507	-	-	-	-	58,507
Music funds	23,487	395	(3,405)	-	-	20,477
Scholarship funds	307,852	7,266	(25,800)	-	-	289,318
	<u>650,871</u>	<u>119,083</u>	<u>(181,433)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>588,935</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>51,145,421</u></u>	<u><u>2,753,942</u></u>	<u><u>(3,343,828)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>257,643</u></u>	<u><u>50,813,178</u></u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20. **Statement of funds (continued)**

Designated Funds

These are funds designated for practical purposes. The use of designated funds remains at the discretion of the Trustees.

Endowment Funds

Expendable endowments

American Memorial Chapel Travel Fund - Travel scholarships for clergy between the UK and the USA

Westbury Preston Memorial Education Fund - Used to provide exchange visits by students or teachers within the Commonwealth or between the Commonwealth and the USA.

Mallinson Memorial Fund - Woodworking and bookbinding scholarships.

Permanent endowment

P W Minet American Education Scholarship Fund - Teaching scholarships for lecturers or teachers to travel to the USA to study a specific aspect of education.

P W Minet Community Benefit Fund - Travel awards to enable individuals with professional qualifications aged 25 to 45 to travel outside the UK for the benefit of their own communities and those they visit.

Education Endowment Fund-Teachers - Travel scholarships for teachers between the UK and the USA.

Charlotte Bonham-Carter Music Scholarship Fund - For the provision of music scholarships to Yale University.

Restricted Funds

Branch funds

Nurses Work Shadow Fund - Used to fund education at branch level.

Carlborn-Lincolnshire branch funds - Used to fund education at branch level.

1066-Hastings Branch Funds - Used to fund education at branch level.

Exchange funds

C E Eckersley Educational Fund - Used to provide grants to foreign students studying English.

Walter Annenburg Fund - Donated for the purpose of Anglo-American exchanges.

Fellowship funds

The Lindemann Fellowship Fund - Provides fellowship awards to enable UK scientists to undertake research programmes in the USA.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20. Statement of funds (continued)

Education funds

P W Minet American Education Scholarship Income Fund - Teaching scholarships for lecturers or teachers to travel to the USA to study a specific aspect of education.

P W Minet Community Benefit Income Fund - Travel awards to enable individuals with professional qualifications aged 25 to 45 to travel outside the UK for the benefit of their own communities and those they visit.

C Bonham-Carter Scholarship Fund - For the provision of scholarships.

Education Endowment income Fund - Travel scholarships for teachers between the UK and the USA.

Music funds

The Ravinia Scholarship Fund - Awards to enable talented musicians to attend the Ravinia Festival.

Music Fund - For music scholarships in the UK.

Belinda Norman-Butler Music Fund - For music scholarships in the UK.

Scholarship funds

Branches-Scholarships - For branch level scholarships.

John Roberts Travel Scholarship Fund - Fund is in respect of travel scholarships for Lincolnshire students.

Michael Graydon Scholarship Fund - Award to aid earmarked ESU educational work for the Lincolnshire branch.

Charlotte Bonham-Carter Music Scholarship Income Fund - For the provision of music scholarships.

Chester Scholarship fund - Award for scholarships & other charitable activities in Chester.

Chilton Art History Scholarship Fund - Supports an annual art history scholarship placement at Christies.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i> £	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Transfers in/out</i> £	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i> £	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i> £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Designated Funds	37,996,427	800	-	(497,050)	-	37,500,177
General funds						
General Funds	3,554,416	1,649,131	(1,368,741)	895,997	(93,204)	4,637,599
Trading funds	18,520	797,570	(398,623)	(398,947)	-	18,520
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	7,900,000	7,900,000
	3,572,936	2,446,701	(1,767,364)	497,050	7,806,796	12,556,119
Total Unrestricted funds	41,569,363	2,447,501	(1,767,364)	-	7,806,796	50,056,296
Endowment funds						
Expendable endowment	283,255	2,433	(66,957)	-	-	218,731
Permanent endowment	219,523	-	-	-	-	219,523
	502,778	2,433	(66,957)	-	-	438,254

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

20. Statement of funds (continued)

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Branch funds	52,780	577	(1,000)	-	(781)	51,576
Exchange programmes	33,504	386	-	-	(522)	33,368
Fellowship funds	257,853	74,552	(183,065)	-	26,741	176,081
Education funds	58,745	678	-	-	(916)	58,507
Music funds	26,388	288	(2,800)	-	(390)	23,486
Scholarship funds	331,141	6,762	(25,051)	-	(4,999)	307,853
	<u>760,411</u>	<u>83,243</u>	<u>(211,916)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,133</u>	<u>650,871</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>42,832,552</u></u>	<u><u>2,533,177</u></u>	<u><u>(2,046,237)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>7,825,929</u></u>	<u><u>51,145,421</u></u>

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Endowment funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,438,036	17,438,036
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	71,291	71,291
Fixed asset investments	322,505	588,935	1,915,173	2,826,613
Investment property	-	-	28,500,000	28,500,000
Heritage assets	-	-	793,200	793,200
Current assets	-	-	1,902,563	1,902,563
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(718,525)	(718,525)
Total	<u><u>322,505</u></u>	<u><u>588,935</u></u>	<u><u>49,901,738</u></u>	<u><u>50,813,178</u></u>

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

21. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Endowment funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,454,718	17,454,718
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	42,933	42,933
Fixed asset investments	438,254	650,871	1,382,310	2,471,435
Investment property	-	-	28,500,000	28,500,000
Heritage assets	-	-	726,200	726,200
Current assets	-	-	2,502,954	2,502,954
Creditors due within one year	-	-	(552,819)	(552,819)
Total	<u>438,254</u>	<u>650,871</u>	<u>50,056,296</u>	<u>51,145,421</u>

22. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £
Net income/expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<u>(399,243)</u>	<u>412,866</u>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	91,056	82,232
Amortisation charges	42,932	42,931
Gains/(losses) on investments	(205,178)	76,243
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(81,408)	(56,418)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(197,032)	900,294
Increase in creditors	165,706	18,184
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(583,167)</u>	<u>1,476,332</u>

Total debtor values have fluctuated significantly over the current and prior year from an opening position of £1,087k in April 2022 to £384k in March 2024. The significant fall of £900k in debtors in 2022/23 relates to the collection of trade debts over extended periods of time following the Coronavirus pandemic. Debtors increased in 2023/24 by £197k as a result of rises in trade debtors, prepayments and accrued income.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2024 £	<i>Group 2023 £</i>
Cash in hand	518,224	2,315,647
Total cash and cash equivalents	518,224	2,315,647

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	2,315,647	(1,797,423)	518,224
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	(219)	101	(118)
Liquid investments	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
	2,315,428	(797,322)	1,518,106

25. Related party transactions

The Charity has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Charity at 31 March 2024.

26. Post balance sheet events

In July 2024, the portfolio of fixed asset investments held in the Sarasin Endowments fund was disposed of and the sale proceeds valued at £2,888k were transferred to the Blackrock Institutional Cash Series sterling liquidity fund. This transfer was to ensure that the ESU funds were held in a relatively low risk holding which is easily convertible to cash and consistent with the charity's strategy and anticipated cash flow requirements over the medium term.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

27. Principal subsidiaries

The following were subsidiary undertakings of the Charity:

Names	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Included in consolidation
ESU Trading Ltd	01313561	Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London, W1J 5ED.	Yes
ESU Dartmouth House Ltd	13074285	Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London, W1J 5ED.	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiaries for the year were:

Names	Income £	Expenditure £	Profit/(Loss) / Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year £	Net assets £
ESU Trading Ltd	566,871	(406,264)	160,607	18,519
ESU Dartmouth House Ltd	303,434	(110,676)	192,758	1

ENGLISH- SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

England & Wales - Charity number 273136

Accounts



**THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Charity Number: 273136

Royal Charter Registration Number: RC000177

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CHAIR AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT

Welcome to the Annual Report and Accounts for the English-Speaking Union (ESU) for 2022/23.

Over the last two years the pandemic has disrupted the lives of people across the world and like many organisations, the ESU worked hard to overcome the financial and operational challenges that this brought. Throughout the period the ESU delivered as many services as possible, making use of technology to bring people together from across the world through competitions, debates and other events.

By the start of the 2022/23 period, most of the coronavirus restrictions had been lifted and we were able to resume our in-person activities, while continuing to embrace the opportunities to reach more people online.

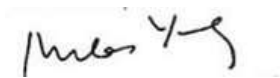
Over the last year we have been focussed on delivering educational, international and membership activities. We launched Oracy in Action, a new primary school programme, which equips teachers with the resources they require to teach speaking and listening skills to children and young people. Our unique summer school programme, Debate Academy, has doubled in capacity and we have been able to provide the much-needed financial support to open up opportunities for the disadvantaged.

The Charity has developed and launched a new Membership Modernisation Strategy, which includes ambitious plans to grow our membership over the next year, deliver an enriched events programme and build on our digital presence so that we can reach members across the country and internationally.

We were delighted to hold our 2022 International Council Meeting in Karachi, Pakistan, where 42 delegates from 24 countries came together to discuss ways in which the ESU can deliver oracy and promote cultural understanding across the globe.

Our members and beneficiaries are at the heart of everything we do. We continue to champion the right of all to develop a confident voice, good listening skills, critical-thinking and the ability to debate, enabling everyone to play a full part in society and to become advocates for themselves and others.

We are grateful to our partners, donors, members, alumni and volunteers for continuing to support the ESU and our vision to enable learning and the worldwide exchange of ideas through the English language, so encouraging cultural understanding, friendship and dialogue.



Miles Young
Chair



Jane Easton
Director-General

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Structure and Objectives

1. The full name of the Charity is The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth. The registered office and principal operating address is Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London, W1J 5ED. The Charity is registered in England and Wales under registration number 273136.
2. The ESU was founded in 1918 as an unincorporated association. The association was incorporated in 1922 under the Companies Act as a company limited by guarantee and without share capital.
3. In 1957 the ESU was granted a Royal Charter in which its charitable objectives are "... to promote within our United Kingdom and other countries of the Commonwealth, the United States of America, Europe and elsewhere the mutual advancement of education of the English-speaking peoples of the world, in particular (but without in any way limiting the generality of the foregoing) respecting their heritage, traditions and aspirations, the events and issues of the day affecting them, their inter-relationships and the use of English as a shared language and means of international communication of knowledge and understanding: provided always that the foregoing aims and objects shall at all times be pursued in a non-political and non-sectarian manner."

Mission

4. The ESU believes that everyone should be able to make their voice heard. We believe that the ability to progress and to thrive in life relies on oracy skills, which are not currently a central part of the school curriculum or universally adopted pedagogical approaches. Our oracy, debate, public speaking and cultural exchange programmes help young people to engage with the world, to speak more confidently and to listen to and understand different points of view. These skills improve young people's attainment, emotional intelligence and social skills, helping them to live their lives to the full.

Activities

5. The ESU achieves its objectives through three core activities:
 - a. **Education.** We work with teachers and young people to improve oracy skills and cross-cultural understanding. We run debate, performance and public speaking competitions and workshops which encourage learners to explore a wide range of topical issues with an open mind. We guide schools on using oracy in the classroom, and support the development of academic and practical research in the field of oracy. We provide teachers with a range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities in the areas of speech and debate. Nationally and internationally, we offer a variety of programmes and cultural exchanges for students, teachers and professionals to build relationships and share ideas across communities and countries.
 - b. **Membership.** The ESU was founded as a membership organisation, bringing together those who share a belief that better communication makes for better global understanding. We have over 4,000 paying and non-paying members and 15 regional branches across England and Wales, who meet to socialise, gain new perspectives on the world and to help organise and raise funds for our educational work.
 - c. **International.** We enjoy a network of 54 national English-Speaking Unions, each being independent from the ESU and operating according to their own jurisdiction. International activity is administered by the ESU through the International Council, for which the ESU provides secretariat, a development framework and core funding.

Public Benefit

6. During 2022/23 our educational work focussed on our public speaking, speech and debate competitions, educational research, practical oracy workshops, international scholarship programmes and cultural exchanges. We continued to concentrate our charitable resources on speaking and listening in state schools, with a focus on, but not limited to, schools in areas of disadvantage. This year we renewed our focus on the primary school sector, where the need is now greatest following the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. We achieved this by piloting and launching our new primary programme 'Oracy in Action' which has been developed for schools in highly disadvantaged areas.

7. We taught confident communication and critical-thinking skills to help empower young citizens to engage with the wider world and key topical issues, helping them to develop cultural capital and to feel confident in expressing their opinions. We showed them the benefits of listening to the opinions of others, even when those views were at odds with their own. We taught young people how to make up their own minds based on reasoning, evidence and critical analysis, thereby giving them the power to formulate and express their opinions and to combat new and deep-seated divisiveness worldwide. On the international stage, the online Friendly International Forum (FIF) has continued to promote international friendship, debate and dialogue.

8. The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and are exercising any powers or duties to which the guidelines are relevant.

Need

9. The need to support children and young people to develop vital oracy skills has never been greater. Too many young people are joining and leaving education without the oracy skills required to thrive in education or the workplace. This is a particular challenge for those from disadvantaged backgrounds, who are more likely to start school with lower language skills. They rarely catch up with their more advantaged peers at any point in education, limiting their life chances.

10. Research¹ shows that having language-rich classrooms and opportunities benefits all children, developing deeper knowledge of subjects, as well as supporting metacognitive skills development, positive social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) and employability skills. The skills required for future employment² are all developed by oracy, and there is recognition that a skills-based economy is needed in light of advances in AI and wider workforce challenges.

11. Beyond this, schools and education providers require flexible partners to help improve social mobility and life chances for all. The ESU's programmes remain unique in that we provide curriculum resources and programmes (learning through talk – such as Oracy in Action) as well as meaningful opportunities to put formal oracy skills into practice, for example through our competitions. We continue to meet schools where they are, providing authentic, flexible and adaptable opportunities for all schools and educational settings to benefit from the expertise and approach of the ESU.

Achievements and Performance

12. We are pleased to report that our oracy competitions proved popular, with overall participation figures returning to pre-pandemic levels. Our Discover Your Voice workshops were relaunched this year and we received strong interest from a range of schools and informal education

¹ See for example: Oral Language Interventions – Education Endowment Foundation Toolkit:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/oral-language-interventions>

² NFER study: <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/the-skills-imperative-2035-an-analysis-of-the-demand-for-skills-in-the-labour-market-in-2035/>

settings. We saw an increase in whole-year group bookings by state schools, which received a discounted price on workshops to support participation. The interest in our core programme activity remains strong, indicating a continuing demand for this work to be provided.

13. We launched Oracy in Action, our new primary school programme which provides schools with a fully sequenced, evidence-based oracy curriculum suitable for delivery across the school. This is supported by CPD and comes complete with all teaching materials and resources that schools require.

14. Debate Academy returned in August 2022, following the pandemic, with 50% of attendees in receipt of some form of bursary or financial aid. Many students who spent a year at a US school as part of our Secondary School Exchange programme are from state schools, with three scholars in receipt of additional financial aid from the ESU to support with travel and subsistence costs. Schools in the UK and US generously donate a place to SSE scholars, with benefit in kind being £35,000-£70,000 depending on the school attended.

15. 11 state schools embarked on our inaugural Action Research programme, helping to develop the practical ‘what works’ evidence base for oracy, supported by the University of Sussex’s Speaking Citizens programme.

16. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) continued online with the launch of a new webinar series. This supported the strategic aim of equipping teachers for sustainable oracy provision in schools.

17. Online and in-person oracy competitions achieved significant impact, with over 4000 young participants in the UK, and over one million worldwide. The International Public Speaking Competition returned to London for the first time since the pandemic, drawing participants from national finals in 40 countries which had taken place between October 2022 and April 2023. The figures below are for Financial Year activity. Our Impact Report will reflect academic year performance.

Programme	Impact	Remarks
Oracy in Action	Soft-launched March 2023	Oracy in Action is a grab-and-go scaffolded programme giving teachers and schools what they need to support all pupils to develop their oracy skills.
Discover Your Voice workshops	34 workshops 1991 students	Our Discover Your Voice workshops were redeveloped this year to enable us better to meet the needs of schools and learners post-pandemic. Delivered by expert practitioners, we provided added value for all schools.
Schools’ Mace Debating Competition	340 schools 1190 students	This is the oldest and largest national schools debating competition, with more participants from state schools than in previous years. This was the first year we expanded the competition to Wales.
ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition	381 teams 1334 students	This unique format encourages teamwork and cultural exchange, pairing schools locally to develop active listening skills as well as spoken language skills. Generously

		sponsored by the International Churchill Society.
Performing Shakespeare Competition	150 schools 1530+ students	The Grand Final took place at Shakespeare's Globe, where we celebrated excellent performances from state, independent and home-schooled students, showcasing the breadth of interest there is in Shakespeare as one of the UK's most famous cultural exports.
Branch-led competitions and workshops	42 schools 200+ students	Our branches continued to support oracy development with locally targeted educational activity.
Debate Academy (a week-long residential summer camp)	67 young people 50% in receipt of a bursary	Debate Academy returned in August 2022 for the first time since the pandemic, with many attendees having never taken part in debating previously.
International Public Speaking Competition	1 million+ participants 42 countries	We continue to work with our International ESUs and partners to reach significant numbers of young people. We also introduced grants, enabling our International ESUs to reach marginalised communities, such as nomadic peoples in Mongolia.
International Debate Tours	300+ students in Denmark and Japan	ESU-trained Oracy Mentors deliver oracy workshops and support competition facilitation with our International ESUs. The Denmark tour lasted one week, while the Japan tour lasted two weeks, with two mentors leading the programme.
Secondary School Exchange (SSE)	10 UK scholars were hosted in the USA 4 US scholars were hosted in the UK	A year-long cultural exchange scholarship, allowing students aged 18 (after A-Levels) to experience a year in an American school, and vice versa. Delivered in partnership with the ESU USA.
CPD online	80+ teachers	Pilot and test phase.
Lindemann Trust Fellowships	2 scholars	Up to three 2-year fellowships are awarded annually, each worth \$65,000 a year, for postdoctoral scientists to carry out research at a host institution in the USA.
Walter Hines Page Scholarships	In obedience since the pandemic, with plans to re-launch in 2024/25.	Research scholarships for teachers to investigate oracy practice in the USA.

18. Much of the year has been spent planning to increase our membership following the pandemic, and we now have over 2,000 paying members and 15 active local branches supporting

charitable activities across England and Wales. We deliver face-to-face and online events programmes, including talks and debates, and this has had a positive impact on local engagement.

19. Dartmouth House, the international headquarters of the ESU, has been a hub for bringing people together to socialise, debate and share ideas. Dartmouth House was closed to members for much of the year due to the pandemic, but reopened its doors on 1st January 2023.

Future Plans

20. Over the course of 23/24 we will undertake a strategic review to consider the long-term direction of the Charity, leading to a new five-year Strategic Plan which will be launched in 2024. With the continued widening of the educational learning gap, we must tackle the inequalities of access to education and skills development. At the heart of the ESU is a determination to continue to broaden geographical impact and accessibility to all its programmes, especially for young and disadvantaged people. We will achieve this through a new Education Strategy which will set out our plans to grow our existing programmes, especially in state schools, and introduce new activities to expand our reach and engagement.

21. Over the next year we will be implementing the 5-year Membership Modernisation Strategy with a primary goal of expanding and diversifying our membership nationally and internationally. We aspire to increase our membership by almost 50% by the end of the year, and overhaul our membership offer to meet the needs of current and future members. We will introduce a new digital offer which will provide members with access to our many events, wherever they may be. We will continue to be a membership organisation with charitable purpose and produce a clarified Vision, Mission and Values statement to reflect this and to drive growth and success.

Safeguarding

22. There is no higher priority for the ESU than the safeguarding of all those interacting with the Charity, and particularly children participating in its programmes. Strict policies and protocols are applied to face-to-face and online events. The Board has a strong emphasis on the protection of vulnerable individuals, and it reviews processes and procedures on a regular basis as part of the risk management process. The safeguarding policy, reviewed biannually, is available on the [ESU website](#).

Communication

23. We advocate actively for oracy education, internationalism and member-based learning and volunteering, and provide content for teachers, young people, members and supporters through our website (<http://www.esu.org>). We will be developing our digital strategy in the coming year to ensure that our members and beneficiaries have access to the information they need, wherever they live.

24. In the Spring of 2022, the ESU's 'Dialogue' magazine celebrated Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and her remarkable 70-year patronage of the English-Speaking Union. It was then with great sadness that we observed the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on 8th September 2022. ESU members around the world joined together to acknowledge the extraordinary lifetime of service Her Majesty gave to the nation, and Her Majesty's active support for the English-Speaking Union.

25. HRH The Princess Royal, President of the English-Speaking Union, made a significant speech to members of the ESU of the United States of America in 2022, which was broadcast online to over 50 countries, further projecting the ESU's mission onto the international stage.

26. We have focussed on building our social media presence and now have 23,939 followers on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, an increase of almost 4,000 in the year. Social media provides a growing platform for networking into education, business and wider society to promote the Charity's work.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

27. The executive pay policy is set by the Nominations and Remuneration Committee (NRC) and approved by the Board. The NRC sets the remuneration for senior management roles using benchmarked data. Further details are contained in Note 6 to the accounts.

Governance and Management

28. We are governed by a Board of Trustees, who are elected by members of the ESU, or are otherwise co-opted by the Board, for a period of up to three years. Up to six co-opted Trustees may be appointed by the Board. Trustees elected by members of the ESU are eligible to stand for re-election for a second term of three years. The Board may delegate the exercise of any of its powers and discretions to Committees. In this reporting period the Board have established four Committees:

- a. Nominations and Remuneration Committee
- b. Audit and Risk Committee
- c. Education Committee
- d. Finance & Operations Committee

29. There are separate Boards for the two trading subsidiaries: ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd.

Patron and Presidents

Patron

Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

President

HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO

Vice-Presidents

The Lord Watson of Richmond CBE

Mr Guy Weston

Board and Committees

Board Chair

Philip Maunder (interim)

Deputy Board Chairs

Professor James Raven

David Shaw OBE

Honorary Treasurer

James Scruby (to 6th December 2022)

Sarah Harding (from 15th March 2023)

Trustees

Barbara Firth

Sarah Hawkins

Richard Humphreys KC

Philip Maunder

Laurence Mutkin

Danny Preiskel

Stephen Purcell

Professor James Raven

James Scruby (to 6th December 2022)

David Shaw OBE

Co-options

Sarah Harding (from 1st August 2022)

Madeleine Milne (from 1st August 2022)

Senior Executives

Director-General

Jane Easton

Directors

Annabel Thomas MacGregor

Board Secretary

Nathan Strong (from 25th January 2023)

Professional Auditors

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

9 Appold Street

London

EC2A 2AP

Bankers

Coutts & Co

440 The Strand

London

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Solicitors

Russell-Cooke LLP

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SW15 6AB

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EC1A 2FG

Investment Managers

Sarasin & Partners LLP

100 St Paul's Churchyard

London

WC4M 8BU

Property Advisors

CBRE

Henrietta House

Henrietta Place

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W1G 0NB

Financial Review

30. The results of the ESU Group are set out in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) on page 20. The figures consolidate the results of the Charity and its two wholly owned subsidiaries, ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd.

31. Our charitable activities have been funded through four main income streams:

- a. Donations
- b. Charitable income (registration fees, membership subscriptions and events)
- c. Trading income
- d. Investment income (including rent from the Chesterfield Hotel)

32. The SoFA shows an overall surplus on net income of £488k (2022: £906k) excluding investment gains.

33. Net incoming resources in 2022/23 were £2,535k (2021/22: £2,297k). Total income by source for the ESU Group, comparable to the previous year, is set out below:

	2022/2023		2021/2022	
	£'000	%	£'000	%
Donations and legacies	45	1.8%	75	3.2%
Charitable activities	373	14.7%	386	16.8%
Trading activities	485	19.1%	176	7.7%
Investments	1,632	64.4%	1,660	72.3%
Total	2,535	100.0%	2,297	100.0%

34. Charitable income was comparable to prior year at £373k (2021/22: £386k) due the success of education programmes including Debate Academy, Discover Your Voice and competitions.

35. Investment income of £1,632k included rent from the Chesterfield Hotel and the dividend paid from the investment portfolio managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP. This stream made up 64.4% of the total income.

36. Trading activities included a catering commission of £485k. We changed catering arrangements, as the outgoing company's contract ended in December 2022. A new contract was signed with Graysons Restaurants in January 2023. Graysons Restaurants operate under licence in Dartmouth House to run weddings, private events, corporate activities and to service Dartmouth House members. The revenue from these activities directly benefits the Charity.

37. Donations comprised individual and corporate giving from ESU supporters, income from fundraising events held in Dartmouth House and branch events. The aim of events was to engage existing supporters as well as showcasing our work to those new to the ESU. Events included the Evelyn Wrench lecture, the House of Lords Afternoon Tea and the House of Commons Alumni Dinner.

38. The ESU consolidated Charity and subsidiaries report expenditure of £2,046k this year, a 47% increase on the prior year (2021/22: £1,391k). This reflects an increase in staff, growth in our educational activity and the reopening Dartmouth House to members.

39. Total ESU funds at 31st March 2023 were £51,146k (31/03/2022: £42,833k); the increase of £8,313k is attributable to the sum of a £7,900k property portfolio revaluation gain and £489k Net Income less investment loss of £76k.

40. The ESU owns a property portfolio: the Chesterfield Hotel and Dartmouth House. Both are subject to open-market valuation fluctuations. The properties' values are recorded as designated funds and are not relied upon for the day-to-day running of the Charity. These long-term assets generate the rental income and commercial profits upon which we rely to deliver our charitable work.

41. Unrestricted reserves are required to provide for short-term fluctuations in income and expenditure. The Board's policy is to maintain net free reserves (currently held as cash and near cash investments) sufficient to cover all expenses for at least 6 months. The ESU is operating in accordance with this policy.

42. Cash flows were positive (+£2,316k), with cash flows from operating activities of £1,522k. Unrestricted reserves grew by £587k in the year. Contributing factors to this positive outcome are the low overhead cost base in the first nine months of the year and re-opening of Dartmouth House in January, in conjunction with a new catering contract.

	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2022 £'000
The total value of funds held	51,146	42,833
Less:		
Restricted funds (purpose of use defined by the donor)	1,087	1,262
Designated funds for freehold and investment property	37,996	37,996
Revaluation gains	7,990	-
Total free reserves	4,163	3,575

43. We strive to use income from our historical asset base (funds) to cover core costs, so that donations raised can be used wherever possible for front-line charitable activities.

Risk Management

44. The Board has introduced a new risk management framework which includes a Board-level register underpinned by an executive-level risk register. The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) oversees the process for identifying, reviewing and mitigating all categories of risk, ensuring that appropriate controls are in place, and monitoring the effectiveness of these controls. The Board maintains ownership and regularly reviews its risk register. The key organisational risks are:

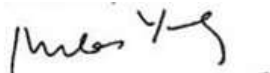
- a. **Safeguarding.** Safeguarding remains our highest priority and a robust policy and controls are in place. The Safeguarding policy was updated this year to include in-person and virtual events, and updates to reflect changes in safeguarding legislation. Members of staff attended annual safeguarding training in March 2023. The ARC oversees effective management of safeguarding and ensures that nominated members of the executive team operate in line with statutory requirements and ESU Policy. One incident was reported to the Board in February 2023. A full investigation was carried out and there was no reportable behaviour identified. A satisfactory resolution was reached between all parties.

- b. **Customer Relationship Management (CRM).** Our current CRM system is limited in its capability, creating challenges for effective member and schools' management. Plans are underway to deliver a new CRM solution in 2023/24.
- c. **Finance.** The most significant areas of financial risk are:
- (1) The loss of rental income from the Chesterfield Hotel tenant. The organisation remains in regular contact with the tenant, and reviews of the covenant are undertaken routinely.
 - (2) Income from investments is necessarily subject to market risks. The investment mandate is to protect the capital and provide an annual income. The portfolio is managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP, whose performance is scrutinised closely.
 - (3) Voluntary income arising from donations, grants and legacies varies from year-to-year. Voluntary income is used to fund our charitable activities, which we seek to fund in advance where possible. When this is not practical, or when an activity makes a loss, any shortfall is made up from our unrestricted reserves. We plan to develop and launch a new fundraising strategy in 2023/24 which will guide our plans for income generation and help stabilise existing voluntary income streams.
 - (4) There is risk that commercial income from events and catering at Dartmouth House fluctuates annually, leading to potential loss of income. This has been mitigated by securing a minimum annual commission from our catering partner, Graysons Restaurants.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Trustees of the Charity are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements, being the consolidated accounts of the English-Speaking Union and its subsidiary companies ESU Dartmouth House Ltd and ESU Trading Ltd (together, the 'Group'), in accordance with applicable law and regulations.
2. Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP) and applicable law.
3. Under charity law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Charity and the Group, and of the net outgoing resources of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:
 - a. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
 - b. observe the methods and principles in the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
 - c. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
 - d. state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
 - e. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue to operate.
4. The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions; to 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 8th November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Miles Young
Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The English-Speaking Union for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets, the Consolidated 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 Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the of the Charity and the group's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of the incoming resources of the group and application of resources, for the year then ended.
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.
- 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 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 Financial Reporting Council'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.

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.
- The Charity has not kept adequate accounting records.
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have not received all the information and explanations we required for our audit.

Responsibilities of the 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.

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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.

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 and those charged with governance.

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 and those charged with governance.

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 those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. 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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Trustees, 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 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 the Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

19 December 2023

Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Statutory Auditor
9 Appold St
London EC2A 2AP

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

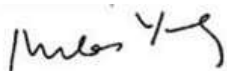
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SoFA)

£'000's	Note	2023 Unrestricted funds	2023 Restricted & endowment funds	2023	2022
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2.1	43	2	45	75
Charitable activities	2.2	298	75	373	386
Trading income	2.3	485		485	176
Investment income	2.4	1,624	8	1,632	1,660
Total income		2,450	85	2,535	2,297
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4.1	1,207	279	1,486	857
Raising funds	4.2	560		560	534
					-
Total expenditure		1,767	279	2,046	1,391
Bad debt provision reversal		-	-	-	(694)
Net income before gains on investments	683		(194)	489	1,600
Property revaluation gain	14	1,300	-	1,300	230
Fixed assets revaluation gain	14	6,600	-	6,600	
Total gain on revaluation		7,900		7,900	230
Net unrealised loss on investment 8.2		(95)	- 19	(76)	52
Total net gain/(loss) on investments & revaluation		7,805	19	7,824	282
Net movement in funds		8,488	(175)	8,313	1,882
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward	14	41,571	1,262	42,833	40,951
Total funds carried forward		50,059	1,087	51,146	42,833

ESU GROUP BALANCE SHEET

	Note	Consolidated		ESU Charity	
		2023	2022	2023	2022
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	8	43	86	43	86
Tangible assets	8	18,181	11,632	18,181	11,632
Investments	8.2	30,971	29,242	30,971	29,242
Total fixed assets		49,195	40,960	49,195	40,960
Current assets					
Debtors	9	188	1,088	237	1,142
Cash at bank and in hand		2,316	1,319	2,311	1,104
Total current assets		2,504	2,407	2,548	2,246
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	553	534	616	440
Net current assets/(liabilities)		1,951	1,873	1,932	1,806
Net assets		51,146	42,833	51,127	42,766
Funds	14				
Restricted funds					
Endowments		438	503	438	503
Restricted funds		649	759	649	759
Total		1,087	1,262	1,087	1,262
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds		37,501	37,996	37,501	37,996
General funds		12,558	3,575	12,539	3,508
Total		50,059	41,571	50,040	41,504
Net funds		51,146	42,833	51,127	42,766

These Financial Statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 8th November 2023 and signed on their behalf by Miles Young, Chair.



ESU CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2023 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2022 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:		1,522	776
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	2.4	56	47
Purchase of property, plant, and equipment	8	(31)	(23)
Proceeds from sale/(purchase) of investments		(550)	(300)
Net cash provided by investing activities		(525)	(276)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		997	500
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,319	819
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		2,316	1,319

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flows from operating activities

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2023 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2022 (£'000)
Net (deficit)/surplus for the reporting period		489	1,600
Depreciation and amortisation charges	8	125	145
Loss on forex revaluation		30	-
Management fees on portfolio		15	13
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		901	(81)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		18	(854)
Decrease/(increase) in stock		-	-
Investment income		(56)	(47)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		1,522	776

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £'000	Movement £'000	2022 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	2,316	997	1,319

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (1)

1. The principal accounting policies, the judgements and the key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of preparation

2. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include the revaluation of investments at market value, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015) and applicable accounting standards (FRS 102).

3. The ESU meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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

5. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates

6. In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Charity's accounting policies and the reported assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and the disclosures made in the financial statements.

7. As stated in note 8 to the financial statements, the fair values of the functional and investment properties are based on an external valuation commissioned by the Trustees as at 31st March 2023. The valuation was based on an independent assessment by a professional external firm of property specialists.

8. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

9. Specific estimates in the financial planning of the Charity include:

a. The Charity will maintain the ability to respond to the need to amend its cost base in an agile and timely manner.

b. The Board will continue to seek to maintain the long-term value of Dartmouth House and unlock its potential for charitable purposes. It will continue to consider the optimal asset allocation for the Charity across different asset classes.

c. The Board will ensure, as far as it is able, that it secures the full rental income from the Hotel tenants. The Board will continue to ensure it receives independent professional property and legal advice on all matters across its estate.

d. The financial modelling of the Charity's income and expenditure and cash flow will continue to use prudent revenue estimates in voluntary income classes, especially for

membership, legacy and voluntary donations. The Charity ensures that financial and legal commitments made are fully funded ahead of any such commitment being finalised.

Going concern basis

10. Following the economic recovery post-pandemic, the Board is confident that the Charity remains a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Group financial statements

11. The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiaries on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) and Income and Expenditure Account for the Charity has not been presented because the Charity has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

ESU Trading Ltd & ESU Dartmouth House Ltd

12. ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd are incorporated as companies limited by guarantee and do not have share capital. Both are wholly owned subsidiaries. A Gift Aid payment is made to the ESU each year equivalent to the taxable profit of each. ESU Trading Ltd provides catering and events services at Dartmouth House. ESU Dartmouth House Ltd holds the lease for the bedrooms above Dartmouth House at 37 Charles Street.

Branches

13. The income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the branches of the ESU in England and Wales, have been combined within these accounts. Separate ESUs in Scotland and overseas are autonomous organisations and are not consolidated.

Income resources

14. All incoming resources are included in the SoFA when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to categories of income:

- a. Subscriptions are credited to the income and expenditure account when received, less the proportion which relates to the next financial year.
- b. Donations and legacies are included in full in the SoFA when there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

15. All other income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Resources expended

16. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of resources. The majority of overheads have been apportioned on the basis of headcount, the main cost-driver of the Charity.

- a. Scholarships are accounted for in full upon the creation of a constructive obligation.
- b. Support costs including finance, IT, governance and facilities, are allocated using a relevant and reasonable apportionment based on time, occupancy and usage across categories of the charitable expenditure, governance and the costs of generating funds.
- c. Governance costs are separately identified and relate to the general running of the Charity as opposed to the costs of fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic, as opposed to the day- to-day management of the Charity's activities and audit fees.
- d. Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.
- e. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost in the SoFA.
- f. Investment properties are included at market value and are not depreciated.

Fixed assets

17. Freehold properties are stated at an open-market valuation. Other fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Assets with a cost in excess of £1000 intended to be of ongoing use are deemed to be fixed assets. Freehold property for the Charity's use is included at market value.

- a. **Property Valuation.** The Board has used a leading independent chartered surveyor to provide an external professional valuation to 31st March 2023.
- b. **Works of art.** Various works of art are held by the Charity at market value. No depreciation is charged.

Depreciation and amortisation

18. Depreciation and amortisation are calculated to write-off the costs of the fixed asset by equal instalments as follows, all straight line:

- a. Plant and machinery - 15 years
- b. Furniture, fittings and equipment - 5 years
- c. Computers - 3 years
- d. Software - 5 years.

Investments

19. Investments are initially shown in the financial statements at market value. Movements in the market values of investments are shown as unrealised gains and losses in the SoFA.

Profits and losses on the realisation of investments

20. These are shown as realised gains and losses in the SoFA. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated between sales proceeds and their opening carrying values or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year.

21. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year-end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the SoFA.

Cash at bank and in hand

22. Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity of less than three months, excluding the share portfolio.

Financial instruments

23. The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. These include trade and other debtors and creditors and are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Creditors and provisions

24. Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting 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 after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Operating leases

25. Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

Debtors and prepayments

26. Debtors include amounts owed to the Charity for the provision of goods and services or amounts the Charity has paid in advance for the goods and services it will receive. Any debtors recoverable more than 12 months after the year-end are discounted to present value.

Employee benefits

27. Short-term benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

28. Employee termination benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis and in line with FRS 102.

29. The ESU operates a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the ESU in an independently administered fund. The pensions costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable during the year.

Taxation

30. The ESU has charitable status and is thus exempt from taxation of its income and capital gains falling within sections 521 to 536 of the Income Tax Act 2007 to the extent that they applied to its charitable objectives. No material tax charge has arisen in its subsidiary and no provision is required for deferred taxation.

Foreign currency translation

31. The Charity's functional and presentation currency is pounds sterling. Any monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are recognised in the SoFA.

Benefits in kind

32. Benefits in kind are included at a reasonable estimate of their gross value to the Charity. The Charity does not place a monetary value on volunteers' time.

Funds

33. **Permanent endowments funds.** These occur where a donor specifies only income arising from a donation can be used, and the income may also be restricted towards a particular purpose.

34. **Expendable endowment funds.** An expendable endowment fund is a fund that must be invested to produce income. Depending on the conditions attached to the endowment, the Trustees will have a legal power to convert all or part of it into an income fund which can then be spent.

35. **Restricted income funds.** These are subject to specific restrictions imposed by the donor or by the nature of the appeal.

36. **General unrestricted income funds.** These are available to the ESU for its general purposes and include funds designated for practical purposes. The use of designated funds remains at the discretion of Trustees.

INCOME NOTE (2)

2.1 Donations and legacies

	<i>Unrestricted</i> funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2023 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2022 £'000
Donations & legacies	19	1	20	22	-	22
Fundraising events	24	1	25	29		29
Government Grants	-		-	24		24
Total	43	2	45	75	-	75

2.2 Charitable activities

	<i>Unrestricted</i> funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2023 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2022 £'000
Income from programmes & events	80	75	155	42	167	209
Income from branches	57	-	57	30	-	30
Membership subscriptions	161	-	161	147	-	147
Total	298	75	373	219	167	386

2.3 Trading activities

	<i>Unrestricted</i> funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2023 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2022 £'000
Catering commission	485	-	485	128	-	128
Other trading activities	-		-	48		48
Total	485	-	485	176	-	176

2.4 Investments

	<i>Unrestricted</i> funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2023 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2022 £'000
Rental income	1,504	-	1,504	1,504	-	1,504
Investments income	48	8	56	32	15	47
Recharges	72	-	72	109	-	109
Total	1,624	8	1,632	1,645	15	1,660
Total income	2,450	85	2,535	2,115	182	2,297

TRADING SUBSIDIARIES (3)

3.1 ESU Trading Ltd

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Turnover	500	177
Cost of sales	-	-
Gross profit	500	177
Administrative expenses	278	174
Profit before taxation	222	3
Summary of assets and liabilities are as follows:		
Assets	143	44
Liabilities	(125)	(26)
Net asset	18	18
Distributions to parent Charity under gift aid	222	3

ESU Trading Ltd outsourced the catering and room hire of Dartmouth House under contract to CH&Co (until 20 December 2022) and to Graysons Restaurants (from 21 December 2022). Operating costs include an allocation of management costs and shared premises costs.

3.2 ESU Dartmouth House Ltd

ESU Dartmouth House Ltd is responsible for the 'bedroom lease' the lease of floors 2, 3 and 4 above Dartmouth House. The company was formed on 9th December 2020 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity to be the "Competent Landlord". Income is earned on rents received from the tenant, and costs are due to the parent in proportion to such receipts. ESU Dartmouth House Ltd covenants any profits to the Charity.

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Turnover	297	317
Cost of sales	-	-
Gross profit	297	317
Administrative expenses	120	269
Profit before taxation	177-	48
Summary of assets and liabilities are as follows:		
Assets	101	117
Liabilities	53	69
Net asset	48	48
Distributions to parent Charity under gift aid	177	48

EXPENDITURE (4)

4.1 Charitable activities

	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Education programme and scholarships	391	387	778	425
International development	222	55	277	141
Membership and branches	192	110	302	250
Governance (note 7)	46	83	129	41
Total	851	635	1,486	857

4.2 Raising funds

	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	Year ended 31 March 2023 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2022 £'000
Fundraising costs	22	28	50	27
Trading	399	111	510	509
Total	421	139	560	534
Reversal of bad debt provision	-	-	-	(694)
Total expenditure	1,272	774	2,046	699

SUPPORT COSTS (5)

Support costs are allocated on the basis of full-time equivalent headcount across the programmes.

Overhead allocation	Finance, HR & digital £'000	Communications & publicity £'000	Facilities & management £'000	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Education programme and scholarships	213	39	135	387	221
International development	30	6	19	55	21
Membership and branches	61	10	38	110	159
Governance	46	8	29	83	11
Sub-total charitable to activities	350	63	221	635	412
Fundraising	15	3	10	28	-
Trading	61	11	39	111	65
Sub-total to fundraising & trading	76	14	49	139	65
Total support costs	426	78	271	774	477

DETAILS OF STAFF COSTS (6)

6.1 Number of employees

	Year ended 31 March 2023	Year ended 31 March 2022
Charitable activities	10	4
Support	8	6
Total permanent full-time staff	18	10

6.2 Analysis of staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2022 £'000
Salaries	626	482
Redundancy costs	-	-
Employers' National insurance	59	48
Employers' pension contributions	38	33
Total	723	563

6.3 Senior employees

	Year ended 31 March 2023 Number	Year ended 31 March 2022 Number
£70,001–£80,000	1	-
£80,001–£90,000	-	-
£90,001–£100,000	-	-
£110,001–£120,000	1	1
Total	2	1

The total pension costs for the above employees were £11k for the year.

6.4 Key management personnel

Key management personnel emoluments, comprising wages and salaries, pension contributions and other benefits:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Total	212	194

Key management personnel comprise the Director-General and Director of Education and Head of Governance.

6.5 Trustee remuneration

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or benefits in kind from the Charity or its subsidiaries during the current or previous financial year.

GOVERNANCE COSTS (7)

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Trustees' expenses	10	6
Legal and professional	22	-
Audit fees	25	24
Other payments to auditors (VAT advisory costs)	10	13
Total	67	43

In addition to the direct costs shown above, Governance costs shown on note 5 to the accounts also include directors' and executive time concerned with the strategic planning processes that contribute to the development of the Charity. Three Trustees received reimbursements for their travel and accommodation to meetings.

FIXED ASSETS (8)

Group and Charity (£'000s)

	Freehold property	Plant & machinery	Computer equipment	Artwork & Maces	Fixtures & fittings	Total tangible assets	Intangible assets	Total fixed assets
Cost or valuation								
At 31 March 2022	10,300	1,163	8	726	180	12,377	215	12,592
Additions	-	-	26	-	6	31	-	31
Disposals/written off	-	-	-	-	(180)	(180)	-	(180)
Revaluations	6,600	-	-	-	-	6,600	-	6,600
At 31 March 2023	16,900	1,163	34	726	6	18,828	215	19,043
Depreciation/ amortisation								
At 31 March 2022	-	561	5	-	179	745	129	874
Charged in the year	-	76	6	-	-	82	43	125
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(179)	(179)	-	(179)
At 31 March 2023	-	637	11	-	-	648	172	820
Net book value	16,900	526	23	726	6	18,181	43	18,224
At 31 March 2022	10,300	602	3	726	1	11,632	86	11,718

ANALYSIS OF FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

8.1 Property investments (£'000s)

	2023	2022
Market value at 1 April	27,200	27,200
Unrealised gains on revaluation	1,300	-
Market value at 31 March	28,500	27,200

The investment property was valued by Cushman & Wakefield on 31 March 2023.

8.2 Share portfolio (£'000s)

	2023	2022
Market value at 1 April	2,043	1,704
Net additions and receipts on disposal	550	250
Investment managers' (fees)-netted off unrealised gains	(46)	(13)
Investment held in cash	-	50
Realised profit on investments	-	-
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	(76)	52
Market value at 31 March	2,471	2,043
Market value of all investments at 31 March	29,671	29,242
Historical cost (share portfolio) at 31 March	1,246	1,246

8.3 Material investments

There were no material investments.

DEBTORS (9) (£'000s)

	Consolidated		ESU Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Trade debtors	116	1,062	9	879
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	-	-	-	236
Prepayments and accrued income	72	26	71	26
VAT reclaimable	-	-	109	-
Total	188	1,088	189	1,141

CREDITORS (10) (amounts falling due within one year) (£'000s)

	Consolidated		ESU Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Trade creditors	47	68	47	68
Sundry creditors	72	5	89	5
Subscriptions in advance	35	57	35	57
Amounts owed to trading subsidiaries	-	-	134	-
Deferred income	379	400	312	334
VAT payable/(reclaimable)	20	4	-	(24)
Total	553	534	617	440

OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS (11)

At 31st March 2023, the Charity had no annual commitments in respect of operating leases.

£'000s	2023	2022
Within one year	-	3
Two to five years	-	-
Total	-	3

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (12)

Current year (£'000s)	Unrestricted funds	Restricted & endowment funds	Total 2023
Fixed assets	18,224	-	18,224
Investment property	28,500	-	28,500
Other investments	1,384	1,087	2,471
Net current assets/(liabilities)	1,951	-	1,951
Total net assets	50,059	1,087	51,146

12.1 Prior year (£'000s)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted & endowment funds	Total 2022
Fixed assets	11,718	-	11,718
Investment property	27,200	-	27,200
Other investments	781	1,262	2,043
Net current assets/(liabilities)	1,872	-	1,872
Total net assets	41,571	1,262	42,833

FUNDS (13) (£'000s)

13.1 Current year funds (£'000)

Current Year	Opening balance 31 March 2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Unrealised loss on investments	Revaluation of fixed assets	Transfer between funds	Balance at 31 March 2023
Endowment funds							
Expendable	281	2	(67)	-			216
Permanent endowment	222	-	-	-			222
Total	503	2	(67)	-			438
Restricted funds							
Branch funds	51	1	2	(1)			49
Exchange programmes	34	1	-	(1)			34
Fellowship funds	260	75	(183)	27			179
Education funds	58	1	-	(1)			58
Music funds	25	1	(3)	-			23
Scholarship funds	331	4	(24)	(5)	-		306
Total	759	83	(212)	19			649
Unrestricted funds							
Designated funds	37,996	1	-	-		(496)	37,501
General funds	3,423	1,651	(970)	(95)	7,900	496	12,405
Trading funds	152	798	(798)	-			152
Total	41,571	2,450	(1,767)	(95)	7,900	-	50,059
Total funds	42,833	2,535	(2,046)	(76)	7,900		51,146

13.2 Prior year funds (£'000s)

	Opening balance 31 March 2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Unrealised loss on investments & revaluation of fixed assets	Transfer between funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
Endowment funds						
Expendable	408	-	(127)	-		408
Permanent endowment	222	-	-	-		222
Total	630	-	(127)	-	-	630
Restricted funds						
Branch funds	49	1	-	1		51
Exchange programmes	32	1	-	1		34
Fellowship funds	146	172	(63)	5		260
Education funds	58	1	(2)	1		58
Music funds	33	1	(9)	-		25
Scholarship funds	352	6	(34)	7	-	331
Total	670	182	(108)	15	-	759
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds	38,035	-	(39)	-		37,996
General funds	1,516	1,621	19	37	230	3,423
Trading funds	100	494	(442)	-		152
Total	39,651	2,115	(462)	37	230	41,571
Total funds	40,951	2,297	(697)	52	231	42,833

FUND DETAILS (14)

Grouping	Category	Fund name	Purpose
Endowment funds	Expendable endowment funds	EEF000 – American Memorial Chapel Travel Fund (Clergy)-£85k	Travel scholarships for clergy between the UK and the USA
		EEF001 – Westbury Preston Memorial Education Fund-£115k	Used to provide exchange visits by students or teachers within the British Commonwealth or between the British Commonwealth and the USA
		EEF002 – Mallinson Memorial Fund – Bookbinding & Woodworking-£19k	Woodworking and bookbinding scholarships
	Permanent endowment funds	PEF000 – P W Minet American Education Scholarship Fund-£75k	Teaching scholarships for lecturers or teachers to travel to the USA to study a specific aspect of education
		PEF001 – P W Minet Community Benefit Fund-£75k	Travel awards to enable individuals between 25 and 45 with professional qualifications to travel outside the UK, for the benefit of both their own communities and those they visit
		PEF002 – Education Endowment Fund – Teachers-£48k	Travel scholarships for teachers between the UK and the USA
		PEF003 – Charlotte Bonham-Carter Music Scholarship Fund-£22k	For the provision of music scholarships to Yale
Restricted funds	Branch funds	RB0003 – Carlbom-Lincolnshire-£46k RB0001-Nurses Work Shadow Fund(£3k) RB0004-Branches scholarship RB0004 - Branches-Scholarships (28k)	Used to fund education at branch level
	Exchange funds	RE0003 – C E Eckersley Educational Fund-£17k	Used to provide grants to foreign students studying English.
		RE0004 – Walter Annenburg Fund-£17k	Donated for the purpose of Anglo-American exchanges
	Fellowship funds	RS0000 – The Lindemann Fellowship Fund-£176k	Provides fellowship awards to enable UK scientists to undertake research programmes in the USA
	Music funds	RM0000 – The Ravinia Scholarship Fund-£6k	Awards to enable talented musicians to attend the Ravinia Festival
		RM0003 – Belinda Norman-Butler Music Fund-£15k	Donations raised by the ESU Cultural Affairs Committee to support music scholarships
		RN0000 – John Roberts Travel Scholarship Fund-£45k	Fund is in respect of travel Scholarships for Lincolnshire students
	Scholarship funds	RN0001 – Michael Graydon Scholarship Fund-£13k RFI003 - Charlotte Bonham-Carter Music	Award to aid earmarked ESU educational work for the Lincolnshire branch
		Scholarship Income Fund (3k) RB0002 Chester Scholarship Fund-£110k	Award for scholarships & other charitable activities in Chester

ENGLISH- SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

England & Wales - Charity number 273136

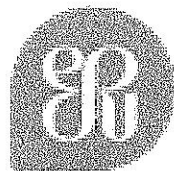
Accounts

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

CHARITY NUMBER: 273136

ROYAL CHARTER REGISTRATION NUMBER: RC000177

**THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
OF THE COMMONWEALTH
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
TO 31 MARCH 2022**



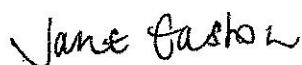
ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

discovering voices

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Annual Report and Accounts for the English-Speaking Union for 2021/22. The second year of COVID restrictions gave the ESU further evidence of the detrimental impact of lockdown on the educational development of young people in socially disadvantaged communities. The 'learning gap' has been widely reported in the press, and it was clear that the English-Speaking Union had an even greater role to play in supporting schools, teachers, parents and pupils with training and resources for spoken language and communication skills.

In response to the demand from teachers for online training in oracy education, the ESU has made significant developments to its educational strategy. These are set out on page 10. Throughout the year, the ESU's highly-valued members, alumni and volunteers have provided invaluable support to the ESU Board and staff to ensure the growth of the charity's reach and impact. Always putting our beneficiaries to the fore, we continue to champion the right of every child to develop a confident voice, good listening skills, critical thinking and the ability to debate, enabling them to play a full part in society and to become advocates for themselves and others.



Jane Easton, Director-General

GOVERNANCE

Name and Registered Office of the Charity

The full name of the Charity is The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth.

The registered office and principal operating address is Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London W1J 5ED.

The Charity is registered in England and Wales under registration number 273136.

Structure and Objectives

The English-Speaking Union (ESU) was founded in 1918 as an unincorporated association. In 1922, the association was incorporated under the Companies Act as a company limited by guarantee and without share capital. In 1957, the ESU was granted a Royal Charter in which its charitable objectives are set out, and this remains its governing document. Those objectives are:

... to promote within the United Kingdom and other countries of the Commonwealth, the United States of America, Europe and elsewhere the mutual advancement of education of the English-speaking peoples of the world, in particular (but without in any way limiting the generality of the foregoing) respecting their heritage, traditions and aspirations, the events and issues of the day affecting them, their inter-relationships and the use of English as a shared language and means of international communication of knowledge and understanding: provided always that the foregoing aims and objects shall at all times be pursued in a non-political and non-sectarian manner.

We outline below the approaches we use to meet these aims.

There is a worldwide network of 54 national English-Speaking Unions, each of which is independent from the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth (England and Wales) and operates according to its own jurisdiction. Coordination of international activity is spearheaded from the headquarters in Dartmouth House through the International Council, for which the ESU provides the secretariat, a development framework and core funding.

In addition, the ESU has 20 local branches across England and Wales, which host and coordinate a range of activities, enabling the charity to reach more young people regionally.

Public Benefit

Our educational work in schools with teachers, children and young people focuses on teacher training, speech and debate programmes, competitions and cultural exchanges. We continue to focus our charitable resources on oracy (speaking and listening) in state schools in disadvantaged areas, introducing a wide range of young people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to public speaking and debate.

We teach confident communication and critical thinking skills to help empower young citizens to engage with the world and key issues, and to feel confident in expressing their opinions. We show them the benefits of listening to the opinions of others, even when those views are at odds with their own. We teach young people how to make up their own minds, thereby giving them the power to formulate and express their opinions and avoid being ignored.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The ESU's charitable purpose is enshrined in its object 'to advance education'.

Summary of Achievements and Performance

The ESU was formed in the belief that more effective communication between nations would lead to improved global understanding and lasting peace - a movement so inspirational that a transatlantic fundraising campaign back in the 1920s enabled the purchase of the ESU International Headquarters at Dartmouth House in Mayfair. In a normal year, the property assets of the Charity produce income to cover administrative costs, so that all fundraising goes directly to the educational outreach of the Charity. During 2021/22, central staffing and administrative costs were reduced in response to exceptionally low levels of traded income from events and hospitality. This allowed the charity to continue to support its beneficiaries through targeted oracy resources for schools, with a marked shift towards online engagement.

Sir Evelyn Wrench set up the English-Speaking Union in 1918 to promote better communication between peoples of all cultures and countries. The ESU celebrated its Centenary year in 2018 with events to reconnect ESU members and alumni, and so many of these supporters and volunteers continue to work with the charity nationally and internationally to help change lives and communities for the better. Today, in our diverse communities and with significant societal challenges, there has never been a greater need to understand different perspectives and opinions both within the UK and internationally. We all need to listen to and consider other points of view; to evaluate false arguments and distinguish fake news from real. We need to be able to disagree without being disagreeable. The ESU teaches these skills. The need to develop confident communicators, critical thinkers and empowered citizens able to thrive in our ever-changing world has never been more important. The ESU continues to deliver its programmes, training and competitions through a strong and diverse branch network with a committed group of members, mentors, judges and volunteers, and drawing on an extensive alumni network.

Making a Difference: The English-Speaking Union's Impact

The trustees draw regularly on independent national research to address areas of educational need and have invested in programmes to meet those requirements.

Disadvantaged children are 2.3 times more likely to be identified as having speech, language and communication needs than those in more affluent areas.
(The Communication Trust)



ESU Oracy in Action programmes are aimed at schools with over 20% of students with free school meals or English as an additional language.

High quality spoken dialogue in primary classrooms can significantly improve children's educational attainment from improving SATs results in maths and science to improving reading writing and reasoning skills
(The Communication Trust)



The ESU worked with over 4,000 primary school children to improve their speaking and listening skills.

97% of teachers 94% of employers and 88% of young people believe that **life skills such as confidence, motivation, resilience and communication** are as important, or more important than, academic qualifications
(The Sutton Trust)



ESU programmes and competitions build teamwork, leadership, resilience, and cognitive and communication skills.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Oracy has provided further evidence that oracy education improves academic outcomes, underpins literacy and vocabulary acquisition, supports wellbeing and confidence, enables young people to have access to employment and thrive in life beyond school, and develops citizenship and agency.

81% of headteachers and 60% of classroom teachers said oracy should be essential or high priority as schools re-open. 78% of pupils said their schools should prioritise oracy (APPG Speak for Change Report 2021)



ESU programmes provide teacher CPD and classroom resources to support schools during the post-COVID 'catch-up' agenda and beyond

Teaching Programmes

Due to COVID-19, the ESU was forced to suspend most face-to-face programme delivery during 2021-22, but the popular Discover Your Voice (DYV) workshops which over the years have introduced many young people to the art of debating and public speaking resumed early in 2022. Continuing Professional Development (CPD), supporting the strategic aim of equipping teachers for sustainable oracy provision in schools, continued online, and the ESU took the opportunity to trial a number of new approaches which will be launched in the 2022/23 academic year. Debate Academy, the ESU's residential summer debate training programme for 14- to 18-year-olds, which was postponed in 2020 and 2021 is set to resume in August 2022 with additional subsidised places to ensure accessibility for all applicants.

Online speech and debate programmes and the live finals of the ESU's oracy competitions again made a positive impact, with 2,400 young participants in the UK, and over one million worldwide.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

With business and social communication continuing online post-pandemic, admissions tutors and employers welcome the experience students have gained with the ESU, learning to adapt persuasive speech and debate for online presentation.

Key Statistics

In this Annual Report 2021-22, the financial data is for the year to 31st March 2022, whilst the 2021-22 impact figures include activities held in the full academic year to 31st August 2022.

	2021-22	2020-21
Oracy in Action (serving disadvantaged communities) Direct delivery to Key Stage 2 pupils aged 9-11 CPD training for teachers	Research and test phase, due to launch September 2022	-
Discover Your Voice workshops	850 students from 20 workshops and the 2021 London Careers Festival	Cancelled due to COVID
Schools' Mace Debating Competition	820 students from 271 schools	606 students from 202 schools
ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition	576 students from 192 schools	447 Students from 149 schools
Performing Shakespeare competition	2,900 students from 141 schools	1,239 students from 60 schools
Branch-led competitions and workshops ESU activities in Colchester, Ouse Valley and South Wales for primary and secondary school students	200 students from 40 schools	Cancelled due to COVID
House of Lords 'talking days' & Lords Chamber Debate	Cancelled due to COVID	Cancelled due to COVID
Debate Academy (a week-long residential summer camp)	Cancelled in 2021, but 100+ places available in 2022, with extensive bursary support	Cancelled due to COVID
International Public Speaking Competition (London-hosted) National competitions across the globe, with the final normally in London, but online in 2021	1 million+ participants from 35 countries (a number of qualifying competitions were disrupted by COVID)	1 million+ participants from 42 countries
International Debate Tours young people trained by ESU debate coaches	300 students in Denmark and Japan	Cancelled due to COVID

Competitions

In 2021-22, the three national schools' competitions - ESU-Churchill Public Speaking competition, Schools' Mace debating competition and Performing Shakespeare competition - reached an impressive number of participants. The charity was able to run the competitions in a hybrid form, with the early rounds on electronic platforms, allowing greater participation from new and returning schools, and with the finals in person. 150 trained volunteer judges supported local and regional heats, culminating in national finals, with 4,290 participants from across England and Wales.

The Performing Shakespeare competition (Years 7-9; ages 11-14) supports the English Key Stage 3 curriculum, and develops confidence, creativity and self-expression.

Competition remains a key element of many ESU activities, enabling students to work together with others from different backgrounds and providing the prestige to heighten interest in speech and debate and the subjects tackled. Our national competitions continue to be significant. ESU branch members provide volunteer support at a regional level by organising and judging the local heats of the UK Public Speaking competition and the regional finals of the Performing Shakespeare competition, and we celebrate the way in which they have responded so effectively to the huge increase in participant numbers this year.

International

The International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) offers participants a chance to experience a true meeting of minds and the opportunity to take part in valuable cultural exchange. The 2022 competition and international final ran successfully online, across multiple time zones and with the high quality of engagement, public speaking and shared experience which characterises this significant event. Volunteers in nearly 60 countries have taken part in regular online International Forum meetings, hosted in turn by member countries, to expand debate and dialogue. This in turn supports the educational and cultural developments promoted globally under the ESU banner.

The Secondary School Exchange programme has been in existence since 1928 enabling young people to spend a transformational gap year in a private high school in the USA or in the UK. It provides a rich cultural experience, where scholars benefit from a new appreciation of different perspectives and increase their confidence. The 2021/22 scholars have benefitted particularly from the opportunity to travel and study abroad after the confines of their A-level years.

Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards

The diverse portfolio of scholarships, enabled by historic restricted funds, continue to support the work of researchers and scholars from the domains of teaching, librarianship, the clergy, music, art history and the physical sciences.

The provision of bursaries across all programmes ensures access based on merit. The US-based Lindemann scholarships for UK post-doctoral students have been extended from 12 to 24 months to maximise research impact, and the returning scholars run science engagement seminars for schools benefitting up to 300 students annually.

Strategic Partnerships

Cooperation and collaboration are two of the ESU's founding principles and we continue to build on partnerships with like-minded organisations and educational bodies to reach a more diverse audience and to advocate for the benefits oracy interventions in schools.

New in 2021/22 have been a number of research partnerships, aimed at strengthening further the evidence base and practitioner focus of the ESU's educational programmes,

including collaborations with the University of Cardiff and the University of Sussex.

The ESU works in partnership with *The Week Junior*, the award-winning current affairs magazine for children aged 8-14, to create 'The Big Debate' page, looking at topical and controversial issues. All topics are designed to develop informed views about civil society, and remain an accessible resource while schools are closed.

Valued partnerships include The Oracy Network, The Communication Trust, the Fair Education Alliance, Voice 21, the House of Lords, the International Churchill Society, the John Smith Trust, the Queen's Foundation, the Chartered College of Teaching, Mighty Oak Public Speaking, Sotheby's Institute of Art, NACE and the ARK Schools network.

A funding partnership with the International Churchill Society supports the ESU-Churchill Public Speaking competition.

The Oracy Network

Established in November 2016 by the ESU and Voice 21, the Oracy Network brings together charities, schools and agencies dedicated to promoting oracy education. The Network has high-profile supporters in education and academia and established the Oracy All-Party Parliamentary Group in 2018.

In 2020-21 the Oracy APPG committed to 'helping every child to be a confident communicator and find their voice in order to succeed in school and life beyond'. The ESU was a major contributor to the 'Speak for Change' Inquiry and May 2021 Report. The ESU continues to advocate for oracy to be the third pillar of the school curriculum alongside literacy and numeracy.

Membership and Branches

The ESU's c. 4,000 members and 20 branches support charitable activities across the country through educational work and through their support of school and community engagement, and fundraising. Face to face member events were suspended during the pandemic, but they resumed in late 2021 alongside online talks and debates. We acknowledge with gratitude their continuing commitment to oracy development and speaking and listening skills. The Board would like to put on record its enormous appreciation of the contributions of all ESU volunteers, branches and supporters.

Communications

The ESU advocates for oracy education, internationalism and member-based volunteering, and provides accessible content for teachers, young people, members and supporters through a content-rich website (www.esu.org). In 2022 the magazine 'Dialogue' celebrated Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and her remarkable 70-year patronage of the English-Speaking Union

There are over 20,000 ESU followers on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Previous investment in cloud-based systems has proved invaluable for hybrid working and events,

business continuity and for enhanced access to online teaching materials during and post-lockdown. Social media provides a growing platform for networking into education, business and wider society to promote the charity's work.

Management and Governance

The ESU is governed by a Board, comprising the individual trustees of the Charity. Each Governor is required to be a member of the ESU. Honorary officers and elected governors are elected by members of the Union for a period of three years, when they are eligible for re-election for a further term of three years. Up to six co-opted trustees may be appointed by the Board. On 1st June 2022 there are 10 Trustees serving on the Board.

The Board is assisted in its work by four committees:

- Audit & Risk (ARC)
- Education
- Finance & Operations (FOC),
- Nominations & Remuneration (NRC)

When necessary, an Ethics subcommittee can be convened. The committees generally have a mix of trustees and experienced independent advisers. There are separate boards for the two trading subsidiaries, ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd.

Safeguarding

There is no higher priority for the ESU than the safeguarding of all children participating in its programmes, in the classroom and outside it. Strict protocols are also applied to on-line events. The Board has a strong emphasis on protection of vulnerable individuals, and reviews process and procedures consistently. The safeguarding policy is available on the ESU website.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

The executive pay policy is set by the Nominations & Remuneration Committee (NRC) and approved by the full Board. The NRC sets the remuneration for senior management personnel referencing benchmarked data for similar roles in similarly sized international charities in the sector. Further details are given in note 5 to the accounts.

Future Plans

With the widening of the educational learning gap, there is renewed resolve to tackle the inequalities of access to education and skills development. At the heart the ESU education strategy is a determination that the ESU continues to broaden the geographical impact and accessibility of all its programmes, especially for young people in low-income communities. The 2022 Education strategy is entitled: Putting Oracy at the Heart of the post-Covid Classroom. It commits to equipping teachers in schools through Continuing Professional Development in Oracy, to delivering oracy programmes and competitions for pupils and young people, to contributing to oracy research, and to advocating for oracy as a central provision in the national curriculum.

The ESU will continue to build public profile and outreach, supported by alumni, key individuals, trusts and corporate partners who share our vision.

Dartmouth House

Dartmouth House, the international headquarters of the English-Speaking Union has been in the ESU's occupation since 1922, when debentures were raised by the ESU members to help purchase the property. For many years, it has been a venue for bringing people together: a place for charity beneficiaries to debate and share ideas, and where the ESU England and Wales, and International ESU communities can come together to support and fundraise for the charity.

Traditionally, over 90% of the ESU's annual income is derived from hospitality, the commercial sector which arguably has been hardest hit by the pandemic. Dartmouth House has been closed since March 2020, precluding the hire of the house for private events. The largest income in a normal year comes from premises leased to the Chesterfield Hotel, and the hotel too has had significant periods of closure. However, the Trustees are hopeful that the Chesterfield Hotel will pay all the rental income owed on the hotel lease. Whilst recognising the unfortunate impact of the pandemic on the tenant, the charity is nonetheless confident that the tenant will pay the rent due given the relative financial strength of the tenant in comparison to that of the charity. Aware that these revenues are currently at risk, the trustees will do all in their power to ensure that the interests of the charity are protected.

In December 2020, the ESU formed a subsidiary company, ESU Dartmouth House Ltd, to hold the lease on the premises on the upper floors of Dartmouth House.

The ESU continues to develop a long-term property strategy in partnership with professional advisers, to ensure that property assets meet the charity's needs in the long-term.

PATRON AND PRESIDENTS

Patron

Her Majesty The Queen

President

HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO

Vice-Presidents

The Lord Watson of Richmond CBE	Mr Guy Weston
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BOARD OF GOVERNORS (TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY)

Honorary Officers (ex officio Trustees of the Charity)

Board Chair	Miles Young (resigned 14th February 2022) Philip Maunder acting chair (from 14th February 2022)
Deputy Board Chairs	David Shaw MBE (from 22 nd February 2021) Professor James Raven (from 22 nd February 2021)
Honorary Treasurer	James Scruby (from 22 nd February 2021)

Governors

The following served as Governors in the period from 1st April 2021:

Matthew Congreve (29 th April 2020 - 28 th April 2021)	Professor James Raven
Gillian Day (29 th April 2020 - 28 th April 2021)	Sue Riley (from 22 nd February 2021 resigned 16 th June 2021)
Barbara Firth	James Scruby
Emma Gleave (29 th April 2020 - 28 th April 2021)	David Shaw MBE
Sarah Hawkins (from 22 nd February 2021)	Jonathan Sobczyk Boddington resigned 6 th December 2021
Richard Humphreys (from 22 nd February 2021)	
Bilal Mahmood (29 th April 2020 - 28 th April 2021)	
Philip Maunder (from 22 nd February 2021)	
Laurence Mutkin (from 22 nd February 2021)	
Danny Preiskel (from 22 nd February 2021)	
Stephen Purcell (from 22 nd February 2021)	
James Probert (29 th April 2020 - 28 th April 2021)	

The record of attendance at Board and Committee meetings is maintained by the Board Secretary and is available for review on request

SENIOR EXECUTIVES

Director-General

Jane Easton

Directors

Tim Morris, Director of Finance (resigned 31 July 2021)

Sue Riley, Director of Education (1 November 2021)

Board Secretary

Jane Easton

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Auditors

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

9 Appold St

London EC2A 2AP

Bankers

Coutts & Co

440 The Strand

London WC2R 0QS

Solicitors

Russell-Cooke LLP

2 Putney Hill

London SW15 6AB

Hogan Lovells International LLP

Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct

London EC1A 2FG

Investment Managers

Sarasin & Partners LLP

100 St Paul's Churchyard

London WC4M 8BU

Property Advisers

CBRE

Henrietta House, Henrietta Place

London W1G 0NB

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The results of the ESU Group are set out in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) on page 26. The figures consolidate the results of ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd (16 months period from December 2020 to March 2022).

This was a successful year for the ESU group despite the challenges posed by continued uncertainty brought about by the COVID pandemic. Dartmouth House remained closed to ESU members and a only a small number of ESU events were held in the year.

The consolidated statement of financial activities shows an overall surplus on net income of £906K (2021 - loss £199k) excluding investment gains, release of bad debt provision and fixed assets revaluation (£1,882k including these).

Following a repayment of the outstanding rent from prior year, a provision of £694k was released and the results shown in these accounts.

The positive results were enabled by a combination of additional income in the year following resumption of activities by the catering company which pays a commission to the ESU, and a reduction in overall expenditure through careful management across the organisation, with a total expenditure of £1,391k (2021-£2,348k).

Savings were made from the closure of Dartmouth House, taking schools' oracy events including the competitions online, as well as operating with a reduced staff and a with a temporary freeze on recruitment. We expect some of this expenditure to be incurred again in future as in-person events return.

In the year to 31st March 2022, net incoming resources were £2,297k (2020/21: £2,149k.) Total income by source for the ESU Group, including comparison with the previous year, is set out in note 2 to the accounting statements.

Our work in schools is funded from four main income streams

- Charitable income (registration fees, membership subscription and events)
- Investment income (including rent from the Chesterfield hotel)
- Trading activities
- Donations

The four streams help to ensure diversity of income across a wide supporter base and provide resilience against changing market dynamics.

Charitable income increased by 28% (£386k) from prior year (£301k) a reflection of an increase in the number of schools that registered to take part in one of our three competitions in the year to March 2022. Branch led activities more than doubled from the prior year again reflecting the growing need for oracy programmes post-pandemic.

Investment income (£1.6million) includes rent from the Chesterfield Hotel and the dividend paid from the investment portfolio managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP. This stream makes up 67% of the total income and ensures stability of funding.

Trading activities include catering commission (£128k vs nil in prior year) and other income (£52k vs nil prior year). The ESU receives a commission from the contract with CH&Co which makes use of Dartmouth House to hold events such as weddings and other corporate events. Understandably last year to March 2021 no income was received as the House remained closed due to the pandemic. Included in other income is a receipt from a one-off hire of the courtyard and income received from recharges on cleaning costs to CH&Co.

Donations comprise individual as well as corporate giving from ESU supporters. It also includes an element of fundraising events which are events held in Dartmouth house chiefly to engage with our existing supporters as well as to showcase our work to new supporters. Events in the year included Evelyn Wrench lecture, the House of Lords Afternoon tea, Spring lunch and the Incivility problem event. The government grant was for business interruption due to the pandemic.

Expenditure

The ESU consolidated charity and subsidiaries report expenditure of £1,391k this year a 13% decrease on the prior year (2020-21: £1,598k). This comparison excludes the £750k provision that was set aside in the accounts last year for the sum owed by the hotel. With a wider reach to schools, programme spend more than doubled and so did our regional branch spend.

Expenditure is grouped into three categories:

Charitable expenditure comprises spend on programme delivery (£205k) international outreach (£120k) including Secondary school exchange programme, the International Council meeting and International Public speaking competition both of which are annual events, membership, and branches costs (£90k) and governance (£29k) which includes audit.

The organisation has worked hard to re-position itself through digital transformation, especially cloud-based applications, and some of the benefits of this transition over past years have been critical to our operational and educational activities in recent months.

Funds & Reserves

Total funds for the ESU at 31st March 2022 are £42,833 (31/03/2021: £40,951k).

The ESU owns an investment property (the Chesterfield Hotel) and Dartmouth House, the international headquarters of the ESU. Both are subject to open-market price fluctuations. The properties' values are recorded as designated funds and are not relied upon for the day-to-day running of the Charity. These long-term assets generate much of the income upon which the ESU relies to deliver its charitable work.

Unrestricted reserves are required to provide for short-term fluctuations in income and expenditure. The Board's policy is to maintain net free reserves (currently held as near cash investments) sufficient to cover overheads for at least 6 months. The ESU is operating in accordance with this policy.

Cash flows were positive (+£1,319k), with cashflows from operating activities of £776k. Unrestricted reserves grew by £1,653k in the year. A contributing factor in this positive outcome is the resumption of services in the hotel industry in the year which meant receipt of cash

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payments from the Chesterfield hotel from June 2021 onwards, the release of the bad debt provision of £694k as well as the continued delivery of programmes online.

Reserves at 31 March 2022 (£'000's)

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
The total value of funds held	42,833	40,951
Less:		
Restricted funds (purpose of use defined by the donor)	1,262	1,300
Designated funds for freehold and investment property	37,996	37,996
Designated charitable funds (Joyce Rolf Legacy)	-	39
Total free reserves	3,575	1,616

As far as possible, the Charity strives to use income from our historical asset base to cover core costs so that donations raised can be used wherever possible for front-line charitable activities.

Risk Management

The Board has identified the major risks to which the ESU is exposed and associated mitigations. The Audit and Risk Committee oversees the process for registering, reviewing, and mitigating all categories of risk. A Risk Register is maintained and reviewed regularly.

As with any educational charity, issues of safeguarding have the highest priority. Our controls in this area were reviewed considering the virtual platform on which the events were conducted in the year. Members of staff had their annual safeguarding refresher workshop in March 2022. A dedicated Board post is assigned to oversee this responsibility and ensure that nominated members of the executive team implement. There were no reported incidents in 2021-22.

Financial risk is an important area of concern. The primary sources of funds to manage cash flow, and therefore the most significant areas of financial risk, are:

- The loss of income from the Chesterfield Hotel for any reason would be material. Trustees monitor the relationship with the tenant and require that the property be well maintained. Given the challenges of the pandemic, the Board will work with the tenants to ensure a satisfactory outcome.
- Income from investments is necessarily subject to market risks. The investment mandate is to protect the capital and provide an annual income. The portfolio is managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP, whose performance is scrutinised closely.
- Commission income from catering depends on demand from the membership as

well as externally, and on maintaining Dartmouth House in a good condition. The charity will seek to re-build it in 2021-22 as UK legislation allows.

- Voluntary income arising from donations, grants and legacies varies from year to year and cannot be relied upon. Voluntary income is used to fund our charitable activities, which we seek, wherever possible, to fund in advance. When this is not practical, or when an activity makes a loss, any shortfall is made up from our unrestricted reserves. We continue to monitor the cost and benefit of each activity.

The charity maintains a reduced operation until such time as it is possible to re-activate our programmes.

Our investments continue to be subject to markets fluctuations.

We rely on continuing support from our members which is increasingly important in current circumstances. There is no expectation of significant voluntary income in the short term.

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees (Governors) of the Charity are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements, being the consolidated accounts of the English-Speaking Union and its subsidiary company ESU Trading Ltd (together, the 'Group'), in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP) and applicable law.

Under charity law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Charity and the Group, and of the net outgoing resources of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (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; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions; to 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 28/09/2022 and signed on their behalf by

Philip Maunder
Acting Chairman

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The English-Speaking Union for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets, the Consolidated 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 Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the of the Charity and the group's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of the incoming resources of the group 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 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.

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 the 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.

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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.

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 and those charged with governance.
- 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 and those charged with governance.
- 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 those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. 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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Trustees, 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 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 the Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

Statutory Auditor

9 Appold St

London EC2A 2AP

29 September 2022

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

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SoFA)

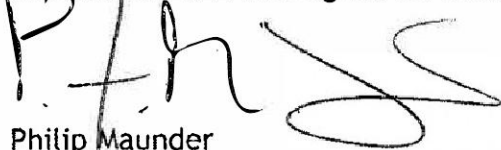
£'000's		2022 Unrestricted funds	2022 Restricted & endowment funds	2022	2021
	Note				
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2.1	75	-	75	227
Charitable activities	2.2	219	167	386	301
Trading income	2.3	176		176	0
Investment income	2.4	1,645	15	1,660	1,621
Total income		2,115	182	2,297	2,149
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4.1	622	235	857	2,343
Raising funds	4.2	534		534	5
Total expenditure		1,156	235	1,391	2,348
Bad debt provision reversal		(694)	-	(694)	-
Net income before gains on investments		1,653	(53)	1,600	(199)
Property revaluation loss	14	-	-	-	(70)
Fixed assets revaluation gain	14	230	-	230	
Realised gain on investment		-	-		195
Net unrealised gain on investment	9.2	37	15	52	178
Total net gain/(loss) on investments & revaluation		267	15	282	303
Net movement in funds		1,920	(38)	1,882	104
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward	14	39,651	1,300	40,951	40,847
Total funds carried forward		41,571	1,262	42,833	40,951

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

ESU GROUP BALANCE SHEET

£'000's	Note	Consolidated		ESU Charity	
		2022	2021	2022	2021
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	8	86	129	86	129
Tangible assets	8	11,632	11,480	11,632	11,480
Investments	9	29,242	28,904	29,242	28,904
Total fixed assets		40,960	40,513	40,960	40,513
Current assets					
Stock		-	-	-	-
Debtors	10	1,088	257	1,142	103
Cash at bank and in hand		1,319	819	1,104	814
Total current assets		2,407	1,076	2,246	917
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	534	638	440	579
Net current assets/(liabilities)		1,873	438	1,806	338
Net assets		42,833	40,951	42,766	40,851
Funds	15				
Restricted funds					
Endowments		503	629	503	629
Restricted funds		759	671	759	671
Total		1,262	1,300	1,262	1,300
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds		37,996	38,034	37,996	38,034
General funds		3,575	1,617	3,508	1,517
Total		41,571	39,651	41,504	39,551
Net funds		42,833	40,951	42,766	40,851

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 28 September 2022 and signed on their behalf by



Philip Maunder
Acting Chairman

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2022 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2021 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:		776	180
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	2.4	47	60
Purchase of property, plant, and equipment	8	(23)	(5)
Proceeds from sale/(purchase) of investments		(300)	250
Net cash provided by investing activities		(276)	305
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		500	485
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		819	334
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		1,319	819

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flows from operating activities

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2022 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2021 (£'000)
Net (deficit)/surplus for the reporting period		1,600	(199)
Depreciation charges	8	145	163
Loss on fixed asset write-off		-	3
Management fees on portfolio		13	15
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(81)	227
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(854)	31
Decrease/(increase) in stock		-	-
Investment income		(47)	(60)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		776	180

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £'000	Movement £'000	2021 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	1,319	500	819

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies, the judgements and the key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include the revaluation of investments at market value, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015) and applicable accounting standards (FRS 102).

The ESU meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Charity's accounting policies and the reported assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and the disclosures made in the financial statements.

As stated in notes 8 and 9 to the financial statements, the fair values of the functional and investment properties are based on an external valuation commissioned by the Trustees as at 31st March 2021. The valuation was based on an independent assessment by a professional external firm of property specialists. Given COVID-19 and its impact on financial and property markets, the Trustees acknowledge that there is a material valuation uncertainty due to the lack of comparable market transactions at the balance sheet date.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Specific estimates in the financial planning of the charity include:

- The charity will maintain the ability to respond to the need to amend its cost base in an agile and timely manner.
- The Board will continue to seek to maintain the long-term value of Dartmouth House

and unlock its potential for charitable purposes. It will continue to consider the optimal asset allocation for the charity across different asset classes.

- The Board will ensure, as far as it is able, that it secures the full rental income from the Hotel tenants. This has not been possible during the current COVID-19 pandemic as the Coronavirus Act prevents landlords taking legal action to collect rents. This restriction is due to expire on September 30th 2021 but may be extended. The Board will continue to ensure it receives independent professional property and legal advice on all matters across its estate.
- The financial modelling of the organisation's income and expenditure and cash flow will continue to use prudent revenue estimates in voluntary income classes, especially for membership, legacy and voluntary donations. The charity ensures that financial and legal commitments made are fully funded ahead of any such commitment being finalised.

Going concern basis

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the charity hard. We estimate that more than 90% of our income will be disrupted or even lost as a result. The board has therefore taken a number of mitigating actions:

First, it has established a detailed and regular cash flow reporting and monitoring basis, so that the true position if the organisation can be seen clearly. Strong financial controls provide a bedrock for the transparent reporting required in difficult times. Detailed cash forecasts are scrutinised regularly by the entire board, and separately by its sub-Committee, the Finance and Operations Committee.

Secondly, detailed forecasts and projections have been prepared and these indicate that the charity continues to be able to operate within the arranged overdraft with its bankers. However, as with all overdraft facilities, it is subject to annual review and can be cancelled at any time. The next annual review is in November 2022 although the Trustees have no reason to believe it will not be renewed.

There is a likelihood that much of the income associated with the catering and hotel businesses on which we indirectly rely will continue to be affected.

The Audit and Risk Committee as well as the Finance and Operations Committee continue to monitor the levels of outgoings, and to consider contingency plans. A number of scenarios continue to be modelled in detail and the inherent assumptions tested robustly.

The issue facing the ESU is primarily one of liquidity. There is a strong property asset base built up over generations, but the value in the properties is relatively illiquid. In the unlikely event that the current financial challenges continue for a further 12 months, the

ESU is confident that, in extremis, it is able to secure financing to meet the needs of the charity.

The Board is therefore able to confirm that in its view and despite the most challenging of environments, the charity remains a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Group financial statements

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiaries on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) and Income and Expenditure Account for the Charity has not been presented because the Charity has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

ESU Trading Ltd & ESU Dartmouth House Ltd

ESU Trading Ltd & ESU Dartmouth House Ltd are incorporated as companies limited by guarantee and do not have share capital. Both are wholly owned subsidiaries. A Gift Aid payment is made to the ESU each year equivalent to the taxable profit of each. ESU Trading Ltd provides catering facilities in Dartmouth House. ESU Dartmouth House Ltd holds the lease for the bedrooms above Dartmouth House.

Branches

The income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the branches of the ESU in England and Wales have been combined within these accounts. Separate ESUs in Scotland and overseas are autonomous organisations and are not consolidated.

Income resources

All incoming resources are included in the SoFA when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to categories of income:

- Subscriptions are credited to the income and expenditure account when received, less the proportion which relates to the next financial year.
- Donations and legacies are included in full in the SoFA when there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

All other income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of resources. The majority of overheads have been apportioned on the basis of headcount, the main cost-driver of the Charity.

- Scholarships are accounted for in full upon the creation of a constructive obligation.
- Support costs, including Finance, IT, Head Office functions and facilities, are allocated using a relevant and reasonable apportionment based on time, occupancy and usage across categories of the charitable expenditure, governance and the costs of generating funds.
- Governance costs are separately identified and relate to the general running of the Charity as opposed to the costs of fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic, as opposed to the day-to-day management of the Charity's activities and audit fees.
- Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.
- Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost in the SoFA.
- Investment properties are included at market value and are not depreciated.

Fixed assets

Freehold properties are stated at an open market valuation. Other fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Assets with a cost in excess of £1,000 intended to be of ongoing use are deemed to be fixed assets. Freehold property for the Charity's use is included at market value.

- Property Valuation

In considering the valuation of its property assets, the Board recognises that at the date of the valuation there was some uncertainty due to market disruption caused by the direct and indirect impacts of the Coronavirus. Under the circumstances, the board has used a leading independent chartered surveyor to provide an external professional valuation to 31st March 2021.

Valuation uncertainty here is defined as "the possibility that the estimated value may differ from the price that could be obtained in a transfer of the subject asset or liability taking place on the valuation date on the same terms and in the same market" (International Valuation Standards Council).

- Works of art

Various works of art are held by the charity at market value. No depreciation is charged.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated to write-off the costs of the fixed asset by equal instalments as follows, all straight line:

Plant and machinery	15 years
Furniture, fittings and equipment	5 years
Computers	3 years
Software	5 years

Investments

Investments are initially shown in the financial statements at market value. Movements in the market values of investments are shown as unrealised gains and losses in the SoFA.

Profits and losses on the realisation of investments

These are shown as realised gains and losses in the SoFA. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated between sales proceeds and their opening carrying values or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year.

Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year-end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the SoFA.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity of less than three months, excluding the share portfolio.

Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. These include trade and other debtors and creditors and are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting 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 after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

Debtors and prepayments

Debtors include amounts owed to the Charity for the provision of goods and services or amounts the Charity has paid in advance for the goods and services it will receive. Any debtors recoverable more than 12 months after the year-end are discounted to present value.

Employee benefits

- **Short-term benefits**, including holiday pay, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.
- **Employee termination benefits** are accounted for on an accruals basis and in line with FRS 102.
- **Pensions**: The ESU operates a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees. The assets of the scheme are held independently from those of the ESU in an independently administered fund. The pensions costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable during the year.

Taxation

The ESU has charitable status and is thus exempt from taxation of its income and capital gains falling within sections 521 to 536 of the Income Tax Act 2007 to the extent that they applied to its charitable objectives. No material tax charge has arisen in its subsidiary and no provision is required for deferred taxation.

Foreign currency translation

The Charity's functional and presentation currency is pounds sterling. Any monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are recognised in the SoFA.

Benefits in kind

Benefits in kind are included at a reasonable estimate of their gross value to the Charity. The Charity does not place a monetary value on volunteers' time.

Funds

- **Permanent endowments funds**: These occur where a donor specifies only income arising from a donation can be used, and the income may also be restricted towards a particular purpose.
- **Expendable endowment funds**: An expendable endowment fund is a fund that must be invested to produce income. Depending on the conditions attached to the endowment, the Trustees will have a legal power to convert all or part of it into an income fund which can then be spent.

- **Restricted income funds:** These are subject to specific restrictions imposed by the donor or by the nature of the appeal.
- **General unrestricted income funds:** These are available to the ESU for its general purposes and include funds designated for practical purposes. The use of designated funds remains at the discretion of Trustees.

2. INCOME NOTE

2.1 Donations and legacies

	<i>Unrestricted</i> funds £'000	Restricted & endowment funds £'000	2022 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted & endowment funds £'000	2021 £'000
Donations & legacies	22	-	22	32	10	42
Fundraising events	29	-	29	-	-	-
Government Grants	24	-	24	185	-	185
Total	75	-	75	217	10	227

2.2 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted & endowment funds £'000	2021 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted & endowment funds £'000	2021 £'000
Income from programmes & events	42	167	209	11	103	114
Income from branches	30	-	30	10	3	13
Membership subscriptions	147	-	147	174	-	174
Total	219	167	386	195	106	301

2.3 Trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted & endowment funds £'000	2022 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted & endowment funds £'000	2021 £'000
Catering commission	128	-	128	-	-	-
Other trading activities	48	-	48	57	-	57
Total	176	-	176	57	-	57

2.4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted & endowment funds £'000	2022 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	Restricted & endowment funds £'000	2021 £'000
Rental income	1,504	-	1,504	1,504	-	1,504
Investments income	32	15	47	19	41	60
Recharges	109	-	109	57	-	57
Total	1,645	15	1,660	1,580	41	1,621
Total income	2,115	182	2,297	1,992	157	2,149

3 TRADING SUBSIDIARIES

3i ESU Trading Ltd

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Turnover	177	-
Cost of sales	-	-
Gross profit	-	-
Administrative expenses	174	-
Profit before taxation	3	-
Summary of assets and liabilities are as follows:		
Assets	44	62
Liabilities	(26)	(43)
Net asset	18	19
Distributions to parent charity under gift aid	3	-

ESU Trading Ltd outsources the catering and room hire of Dartmouth House under contract to CH&Co. Operating costs include an allocation of ESU's employee costs and management expenses.

3ii Dartmouth House Limited

ESU Dartmouth House Ltd is responsible for the "bedroom lease" the lease to floors 2,3 and 4 above Dartmouth House. The company was formed on 9th December 2020 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the charity to be the "Competent Landlord." Income is earned on rents received from the tenant, and costs are due to the parent in proportion to such receipts. ESU DH Ltd covenants any profits to the charity. The results below are for the period April 2021 to March 2022.

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Turnover	317	81
Cost of sales	-	(73)
Gross profit	317	8
Administrative expenses	269	4
Profit before taxation	48	4
Summary of assets and liabilities are as follows:		
Assets	117	147
Liabilities	69	143
Net asset	48	4

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Distributions to parent charity under gift aid	48	4
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4. EXPENDITURE

4.1 Charitable activities

	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Education programme and scholarships	205	220	425	1,271
International development	120	21	141	132
Membership and branches	90	160	250	429
Governance (note 7)	29	12	41	511
Total	444	413	857	2,343

4.2 Raising funds

	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	Year ended 31 March 2022 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2021 £'000
Fundraising costs	27	-	27	5
Trading	444	65	509	-
Total	471	65	536	5
Reversal of bad debt provision	(694)	-	(694)	-
Total expenditure	221	478	699	2,348

5 SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance, HR & digital £'000	Communications & publicity £'000	Facilities & management £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Overhead allocation					
Education programme and scholarships	96	8	117	221	964
International development	9	1	11	21	110
Membership and branches	69	5	85	159	386
Governance	5	-	6	11	436
Sub-total charitable to activities	179	14	219	412	1,896
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	5
Trading	28	2	35	65	-
Sub-total to fundraising & trading	28	2	35	65	5
Total support costs	207	16	254	477	1,901

Support costs are allocated on the basis of full-time equivalent headcount across the programmes.

6 DETAILS OF STAFF COSTS

6.1 Number of employees

The average number of employees is split as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2022	Year ended 31 March 2021
Charitable activities	4	4
Support	6	6
Total permanent full-time staff	10	10

Support staff functions include Finance, IT, Human Resources, Facilities, Legal and Administration, as well as Communications and Operations.

Contractors and temporary staff are excluded.

6.2 Analysis of staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2021 £'000
Salaries	482	501
Redundancy costs	-	42
Employers' National insurance	48	52
Employers' pension contributions	33	42
Total	563	637

Eleven staff members received a redundancy payment as a result of restructuring in the programme department.

6.3 Senior employees

	Year ended 31 March 2022 Number	Year ended 31 March 2021 Number
£70,001-£80,000	1	-
£80,001-£90,000	-	1
£90,001-£100,000	-	1
£110,001-£120,000	1	-
Total	2	2

The above bands reflect the emoluments, excluding pension contributions, of the Director-General and the Director of Finance.

6.4 Key management personnel

Key management personnel emoluments, comprising wages and salaries, pension contributions and other benefits:

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Total	194	188

Key management personnel comprise the Director-General, Director of Education and Director of Finance.

6.5 Trustee remuneration

None of the Trustees received any remuneration from the Charity or its subsidiaries during the current or previous financial year.

7 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Trustees' expenses	6	-
Legal and professional	-	208
Audit fees	24	24
Other payments to auditors (VAT advisory costs)	13	13
Total	43	245

In addition to the direct costs shown above, Governance costs also include directors' and executive time concerned with the strategic planning processes that contribute to the development of the Charity. (See note 5. Support Costs).

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8 FIXED ASSETS

Group and Charity (£'000's)

	Freehold property	Plant & machinery	Computer equipment	Artwork & Maces	Fixtures & fittings	Total tangible assets	Intangible assets	Total fixed assets
Cost or valuation								
At 31 March 2021	10,300	1,140	8	496	180	12,124	215	12,339
Additions	-	23	-	-	-	23	-	23
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	230	-	230	-	230
At 31 March 2022	10,300	1,163	8	726	180	12,377	215	12,592
Depreciation/ amortisation								
At 31 March 2021	-	487	3	-	154	644	86	730
Charged in the year	-	74	2	-	25	101	43	144
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	-	561	5	-	179	745	129	874
Net book value	10,300	602	3	726	1	11,632	86	11,718
At 31 March 2021	10,300	653	5	496	26	11,480	129	11,609

9 ANALYSIS OF FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

9.1 Property investments (£'000's)

	2022	2021
Market value at 1 April	27,200	27,100
Unrealised gains on revaluation	-	100
Market value at 31 March	27,200	27,200

The investment property was valued by the Trustees at 31st March 2021. The valuation was based on a suitable index given the lack of open market evidence. As a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 and its impact on financial and property markets, the Trustees acknowledge that there is a material valuation uncertainty due to the lack of comparable market transactions at the balance sheet date.

9.2 Share portfolio (£'000's)

	2022	2021
Market value at 1 April	1,704	1,597
Disposal proceeds	250	(250)
Investment managers' (fees)-netted off unrealised gains	(13)	(15)
Investment held in cash	50	-
Realised profit on investments	-	194
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	52	178
Market value at 31 March	2,043	1,704
Market value of all investments at 31 March	29,243	28,904

Historical cost at 31 March	1,246	1,302
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9.3 Material investments

There were no material investments in the year.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10 **DEBTORS** (£'000's)

	Consolidated		ESU Charity	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Trade debtors	1,062	975	879	821
Bad debt provision	-	(750)		(750)
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	-	-	236	
Prepayments and accrued income	26	32	26	32
Total	1,088	257	1,141	103

11 **CREDITORS (amounts falling due within one year)** (£'000's)

	Consolidated		ESU Charity	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Trade creditors	68	65	68	65
Sundry creditors	5	120	5	120
Subscriptions in advance	57	60	57	60
Amounts owed to trading subsidiaries	-	-	-	50
Deferred income	400	399	334	290
VAT payable/(reclaimable)	4	(6)	(24)	(6)
Total	534	638	440	579

12 **OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

At 31st March 2022, the Charity had annual commitments in respect of operating leases of office equipment which expire in the period shown, as follows.

£'000's	2022	2021
Within one year	3	3
Two to five years	-	-
Total	3	3

The lease relates to a photocopier.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

13 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Current year (£'000's)	Unrestricted funds	Restricted & endowment funds	Total 2022
Fixed assets	11,718	-	11,718
Investment property	27,200	-	27,200
Other investments	781	1,262	2,043
Net current assets/(liabilities)	1,872	-	1,872
Total net assets	41,571	1,262	42,833

13.1 Prior year (£'000's)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted & endowment funds	Total 2021
Fixed assets	11,609	-	11,609
Investment property	27,200	-	27,200
Other investments	404	1,300	1,704
Net current assets/(liabilities)	438	-	438
Total net assets	39,651	1,300	40,951

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

14. FUNDS (£'000's)

Current Year	Opening balance 31 March 2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Unrealised loss on investments	Revaluation of fixed assets	Balance at 31 March 2022
Endowment funds						
Expendable	408	-	(127)	-		281
Permanent endowment	222	-	-	-		222
Total	630	-	(127)	-		503
Restricted funds						
Branch funds	49	1	-	1		51
Exchange programmes	32	1	-	1		34
Fellowship funds	146	172	(63)	5		260
Education funds	58	1	(2)	1		58
Music funds	33	1	(9)	-		25
Scholarship funds	352	6	(34)	7	-	331
Total	670	182	(108)	15		759
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds	38,035	-	(39)	-		37,996
General funds	1,516	1,621	19	37	230	3,423
Trading funds	100	494	(442)	-		152
Total	39,651	2,115	(462)	37	230	41,571
Total funds	40,951	2,297	(697)	52	230	42,833

A professional valuation was undertaken on 17th May 2022 that resulted in an upwards revaluation of school maces of £230k. This valuation was undertaken by Hawksworth Valuations Limited.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

14.1 Prior year funds (£'000's)

	Opening balance 31 March 2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Unrealised loss on investments & revaluation of fixed assets	Transfer between funds	Balance at 31 March 2021
Endowment funds						
Expendable	342	13	(27)	80		408
Permanent endowment	199	-	-	23		222
Total	541	13	(27)	103		630
Restricted funds						
Branch funds	39	2	(3)	11		49
Exchange programmes	25	1	-	6		32
Fellowship funds	126	104	(109)	25		146
Education funds	13	21	(5)	29		58
Music funds	25	3	(2)	7		33
Scholarship funds	281	13	(2)	70	(10)	352
Total	509	144	(121)	138		670
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds	38,276	-	(171)	(70)		38,035
General funds	1,349	1,912	(2,029)	122	10	1,364
Trading funds	172	80	-	-		252
Total	39,797	1,992	(2,200)	62		39,651
Total funds	40,847	2,149	(2,348)	303		40,951

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

15. FUND DETAILS

Grouping	Category	Fund name	Purpose
Endowment funds	Expendable endowment funds	EEF000 - American Memorial Chapel Travel Fund (Clergy)-£87k	Travel scholarships for clergy between the UK and the USA
		EEF001 - Westbury Preston Memorial Education Fund-£177k	Used to provide exchange visits by students or teachers within the British Commonwealth or between the British Commonwealth and the USA
		EEF002 - Mallinson Memorial Fund - Bookbinding & Woodworking-£19k	Woodworking and bookbinding scholarships
	Permanent endowment funds	PEF000 - P W Minet American Education Scholarship Fund-£75k	Teaching scholarships for lecturers or teachers to travel to the USA to study a specific aspect of education
		PEF001 - P W Minet Community Benefit Fund-£75k	Travel awards to enable individuals between 25 and 45 with professional qualifications to travel outside the UK, for the benefit of both their own communities and those they visit
		PEF002 - Education Endowment Fund - Teachers-£48k	Travel scholarships for teachers between the UK and the USA
		PEF003 - Charlotte Bonham-Carter Music Scholarship Fund-£22k	For the provision of music scholarships to Yale
Restricted funds	Branch funds	RB0003 - Carlbom-Lincolnshire-£48k RB0005-Hastings branch-£2k RB0001-Nurses Work Shadow Fund(£3k)	Used to fund education at branch level
	Exchange funds	RE0003 - C E Eckersley Educational Fund-£17k	Used to provide grants to foreign students studying the English language in the UK
		RE0004 - Walter Annenburg Fund-£17k	Donated for the purpose of Anglo-American exchanges
	Fellowship funds	RS0000 - The Lindemann Fellowship Fund-£258k	Provides fellowship awards to enable UK scientists to undertake research programmes in the USA
	Music funds	RM0000 - The Ravinia Scholarship Fund-£6k	Awards to enable talented musicians to attend the Ravinia Festival
		RM0003 - Belinda Norman-Butler Music Fund-£15k	Donations raised by the ESU Cultural Affairs Committee to support music scholarships
	Scholarship funds	RA0000 - Chilton Art History Scholarship Fund-£130k	Supports an annual art history scholarship placement at Christies
		RN0000 - John Roberts Travel Scholarship Fund-£45k	Fund is in respect of travel scholarships
		RN0001 - Michael Graydon Scholarship Fund-£13k	Award to aid earmarked ESU educational work for the Lincolnshire branch
		RB0002 Chester Scholarship Fund-£111k	Award for scholarships & other charitable activities in Chester

ENGLISH- SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

England & Wales - Charity number 273136

Accounts

CHARITY NUMBER: 273136

ROYAL CHARTER REGISTRATION NUMBER: RC000177

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH REPORT AND ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2021



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
discovering voices

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Annual Report and Accounts for the English-Speaking Union for 2020/21. I am pleased to report that despite a significant fall in charitable income due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ESU has successfully focussed time and resources on the young people whose opportunities for dialogue and debate have been so restricted during lockdown. This period has seen a marked widening of the learning gap, with those from socially disadvantaged communities faring worst. Thanks to the efforts of ESU members, alumni, volunteers, governors and staff the English-Speaking Union has made a contribution to the national and international effort to support online educational resources for our young people.

The recently published ‘Speak for Change’ report from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Oracy, to which the ESU contributed, concludes that a greater focus on oral language improves outcomes for the most disadvantaged students, and that the ability to communicate effectively is an essential ingredient to both success in school and beyond. The call to action is clear. Until such time as oracy is integrated into the National Curriculum, the ESU in partnership with schools and partner organisations, must continue to provide skills training and support for those in the most challenging circumstances. Every child has a right to develop a confident voice, good listening skills, critical thinking and the ability to debate, enabling them to play a full part in society and to become advocates for themselves and others.



Jane Easton, Director-General

GOVERNANCE

Name and Registered Office of the Charity

The full name of the Charity is The English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth.

The registered office and principal operating address is Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London W1J 5ED.

The Charity is registered in England and Wales under registration number 273136.

Structure and Objectives

The English-Speaking Union (ESU) was founded in 1918 as an unincorporated association. In 1922, the association was incorporated under the Companies Act as a company limited by guarantee and without share capital. In 1957, the ESU was granted a Royal Charter in which its charitable objectives are set out, and this remains its governing document. Those objectives are:

... to promote within the United Kingdom and other countries of the Commonwealth, the United States of America, Europe and elsewhere the mutual advancement of education of the English-speaking peoples of the world, in particular (but without in any way limiting the generality of the foregoing) respecting their heritage, traditions and aspirations, the events and issues of the day affecting them, their inter-relationships and the use of English as a shared language and means of international communication of knowledge and understanding: provided always that the foregoing aims and objects shall at all times be pursued in a non-political and non-sectarian manner.

We outline below the approaches we use to meet these aims.

There is a worldwide network of 54 national English-Speaking Unions, each of which is independent from the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth (England and Wales) and operates according to its own jurisdiction. Coordination of international activity is spearheaded from the headquarters in Dartmouth House through the International Council, for which the ESU provides the secretariat, a development framework and core funding.

In addition, the ESU has 24 local branches across England and Wales, which host and coordinate a range of activities, enabling the charity to reach more young people regionally.

Public Benefit

Our educational work in schools with teachers, children and young people focuses on speech and debate programmes, competitions and cultural exchanges. We continue to focus our charitable resources on oracy (speaking and listening) in state schools in disadvantaged areas, introducing a wide range of young people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to public speaking and debate.

We teach confident communication and critical thinking skills to help empower young citizens to engage with the world and key issues, and to feel confident in expressing their opinions. We show them the benefits of listening to the opinions of others, even when those views are at odds with their own. We teach young people how to make up their own minds, thereby giving them the power to formulate and express their opinions and avoid being ignored.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The ESU's charitable purpose is enshrined in its object 'to advance education'.

HRH Prince Philip - Statement of appreciation

We are deeply saddened by the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth from 1952 to 2011, when he was succeeded by HRH The Princess Royal.

Prince Philip was a staunch supporter of the charity's work, writing frequently and attending events at both Dartmouth House and venues across the world on our behalf. Our Public Speaking Competition, now the largest such competition for schools in England and Wales, came about as a direct result of a speech he made in 1960.

In 1991, at the World Schools Debating Championships, with which the ESU was involved, he said 'There are bound to be winners and losers in any contest, but I hope that all the competitors will go home with respect for their opponents and with the realisation that different opinions are no bar to lasting friendships.' With this sentence he encapsulated the whole purpose of the ESU, and we consider ourselves deeply honoured to have enjoyed his lifelong support.

Summary of Achievements and Performance

The ESU was formed in the belief that more effective communication between nations would lead to improved global understanding and lasting peace - a movement so inspirational that a transatlantic fundraising campaign back in the 1920s enabled the purchase of the ESU International Headquarters at Dartmouth House in Mayfair. In a normal year, the property assets of the Charity produce income to cover administrative costs, so that all fundraising goes directly to the educational outreach of the Charity.

Sir Evelyn Wrench set up the English-Speaking Union in 1918 to promote better communication between people of all cultures and countries. We celebrated our centenary year in 2018, and look forward to the next 100 years, working with those who need our help the most to change their lives and communities for the better.

Today, communities are increasingly multicultural, and society is more polarised. There has never been a greater need to understand different perspectives and opinions both within the UK and across the world. We all need to listen to and evaluate other points of view; to evaluate false arguments and distinguish fake news from real. We need to disagree without being disagreeable. The ESU teaches these skills. The need to develop confident communicators, critical thinkers and empowered citizens able to thrive in our ever-changing world has never been more important.

The ESU continues to deliver its programmes and competitions through a strong and diverse branch network with a committed group of mentors, judges and volunteers, and drawing on an extensive alumni network.

Making a Difference: The English-Speaking Union's Impact

The trustees draw regularly on independent national research to address four specific areas of educational need and have invested in programmes to meet those requirements.

Disadvantaged children are 2.3 times more likely to be identified as having speech, language and communication needs than those in more affluent areas.
(The Communication Trust)



Discover Debating programmes aimed at schools with over 20% of students with free school meals or English as an additional language (page 6).

Young people who cannot express themselves verbally may suffer from behavioural problems, emotional and psychological difficulties and, in some cases, may descend into criminality.
(Owen)



The ESU directly improved the oracy skills of over 10,000 children in England and Wales (page 5).

High quality spoken dialogue in primary classrooms can significantly improve children's educational attainment from improving SATs results in maths and science to improving reading writing and reasoning skills
(The Communication Trust)



The ESU worked with over 4,000 primary school children to improve their speaking and listening skills.

97% of teachers 94% of employers and 88% of young people believe that **life skills such as confidence, motivation, resilience and communication** are as important, or more important than, academic qualifications
(The Sutton Trust)



ESU programmes and competitions build teamwork, leadership, resilience, and cognitive and communication skills.

In 2021 the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Oracy has provided further evidence that oracy education improves academic outcomes, underpins literacy and vocabulary acquisition, supports wellbeing and confidence, enables young people to have access to employment and thrive in life beyond school, and develops citizenship and agency.

81% of headteachers and 60% of classroom teachers said oracy should be essential or high priority as schools re-open. 78% of pupils said their schools should prioritise oracy
(APPG Speak for Change Report 2021)



ESU programmes provide teacher CPD and classroom resources to support schools during the post-COVID 'catch-up' agenda and beyond

Teaching Programmes

Due to COVID-19, the ESU was forced to suspend all face-to-face programme delivery between March 2020 and August 2021.

Over the last year, the ESU has had to suspend the popular Discover Your Voice (DYV) workshops which over the years have introduced many young people to the art of debating and public speaking. Similarly, our work on Continuing Professional Development (CPD), supporting the strategic aim of equipping teachers for sustainable oracy provision in schools, was also postponed. Debate Academy, the ESU’s residential summer debate training programme for 14- to 18-year-olds, was postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, online delivery of speech and debate programmes and the Festival of Speaking made a positive impact with over 2,500 young participants in the UK, and over one million worldwide.

Key Statistics

In this Annual Report 2020-21, the financial data is for the year to 31st March 2021, whilst the 2019-20 impact figures include activities held in the full academic year to 31st August 2021. Sadly, all programmes were affected or halted by the COVID-19 restrictions from mid-March 2020.

	2020-21	2019-20
Discover Debating programme (serving disadvantaged communities) Direct delivery to Key Stage 2 pupils aged 9-11 CPD training for teachers	Cancelled due to COVID	1,050 children in 31 schools + 57 in 11 regional sessions
Discover Your Voice workshops	Cancelled due to COVID	839 students and 101 teachers in 35 schools
Schools’ Mace Debating Competition	606 students from 202 schools	903 students from 301 schools
ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition	447 Students from 149 schools	1,242 students from 272 schools
Performing Shakespeare competition	1,239 students from 60 schools	2,149 students from 108 schools
Branch-led competitions and workshops ESU activities in Colchester, Ouse Valley and South Wales for primary and secondary school students	Cancelled due to COVID	2,493 primary and secondary school students took part
House of Lords ‘talking days’ & Lords Chamber Debate	Cancelled due to COVID	10 regional sessions, 107 student beneficiaries
Debate Academy (a week-long residential summer camp)	Cancelled due to COVID	Cancelled due to COVID-19
International Public Speaking Competition (London-hosted) National competitions across the globe, with the final normally in London, but online in 2021	1 million+ participants from 42 countries	1 million+ participants, from 52 countries. Final cancelled due to COVID-19.
International Debate Tours young people trained by ESU debate coaches	Cancelled due to COVID	c. 800 young people in the USA. Tours post-March 2021 delayed by COVID-19

Competitions

In 2020-21, the three national schools' competitions - ESU-Churchill Public Speaking competition, Schools' Mace debating competition and Performing Shakespeare competition - reached an impressive number of participants. The charity was able to move quickly to put the competitions on to an electronic platform. 150 trained volunteer judges supported local and regional heats, culminating in national finals, with 2,300 participants from across England and Wales.

The Performing Shakespeare competition (Years 7-9; ages 11-14) supports the English Key Stage 3 curriculum, and develops confidence, creativity and self-expression.

Competition remains a key element of many ESU activities, enabling students to work together with others from different backgrounds and providing the prestige to heighten interest in speech and debate and the subjects tackled. Our national competitions continue to be significant. ESU branch members provide volunteer support at a regional level by organising the local heats of our UK Public Speaking competition and the regional finals of our Performing Shakespeare competition.

International

The International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) offers participants a chance to experience a true meeting of minds and the opportunity to take part in valuable cultural exchange. Although the final event in London in 2020 had to be cancelled, the 2021 competition ran successfully online, across multiple time zones and with the high quality of engagement, public speaking and shared experience which characterises this significant event.

The Secondary School Exchange programme has been in existence since 1928 enabling young people to spend a transformational gap year in a private high school in the USA or in the UK. It provides a rich cultural experience, where scholars benefit from a new appreciation of different perspectives and increase their confidence. All 2020 SSE placements this year were cancelled through COVID-19, but scholars have been selected for the 2021/22 academic year.

Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards

The diverse portfolio of scholarships, enabled by historic restricted funds, continued to support the work of researchers and scholars from the domains of teaching, librarianship, the clergy, music, art history and the physical sciences.

The provision of bursaries across all programmes ensures access based on merit. The US-based Lindemann scholarships for UK post-doctoral students have been extended from 12 to 24 months to maximise research impact, and the returning scholars run science

engagement seminars for schools benefitting up to 300 students annually.

Strategic Partnerships

Cooperation and collaboration are two of the ESU's founding principles and we continue to build on existing partnerships with like-minded organisations and educational bodies to reach a more diverse audience and to advocate for the benefits oracy interventions in schools.

The ESU works in partnership with *The Week Junior*, the award-winning current affairs magazine for children aged 8-14, to create 'The Big Debate' page, looking at topical and controversial issues. All topics are designed to develop informed views about civil society, and remain an accessible resource while schools are closed.

Valued partnerships include The Oracy Network, The Communication Trust, the Fair Education Alliance, Voice 21, the House of Lords, the International Churchill Society, the John Smith Trust, the Queen's Foundation, the Chartered College of Teaching, NASUWT, Mighty Oak Public Speaking, Sotheby's Institute of Art, NACE and the ARK Schools network.

A funding partnership with the International Churchill Society supports the ESU-Churchill Public Speaking competition.

The Oracy Network

Established in November 2016, the Oracy Network brings together charities, schools and agencies dedicated to promoting oracy education. The Network is overseen by the English-Speaking Union and Voice 21. The Network has high-profile supporters in education and academia and established the Oracy All-Party Parliamentary Group in 2018.

In 2020-21 the Oracy APPG committed to 'helping every child to be a confident communicator and find their voice in order to succeed in school and life beyond'. The ESU was a major contributor to the 'Speak for Change' Inquiry and May 2021 Report. The ESU continues to advocate for oracy to be the third pillar of the school curriculum alongside literacy and numeracy.

Membership and Branches

The ESU's c. 4,000 members and 24 branches support charitable activities across the country through educational work and through their support of school and community engagement, and fundraising. Face to face member events were suspended during the pandemic, but online talks and debates focussing on civil society have continued to engage supporters. We acknowledge with gratitude their continuing commitment to oracy development and speaking and listening skills.

The Board would like to put on record its enormous appreciation to all ESU volunteers, branches and supporters.

Communications

The ESU advocates for oracy education, internationalism, and member-based volunteering, and provides accessible content for teachers, young people, members and supporters through a content-rich website (www.esu.org) and the 'Dialogue' publication.

We currently have approximately 20,000 followers on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Previous investment in cloud-based systems has proved invaluable for homeworking, business continuity and for enhanced access to online teaching materials during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Management and Governance

The ESU is governed by a Board, comprising the individual trustees of the Charity. Each Governor is required to be a member of the ESU. Honorary officers and elected governors are elected by members of the Union for a period of three years, when they are eligible for re-election for a further term of three years. Up to six co-opted trustees may be appointed by the Board. On 1st June 2021 there are 13 Trustees serving on the Board.

The Board is assisted in its work by four committees:

- Audit & Risk (ARC)
- Education
- Finance & Operations (FOC), which includes a Property Group
- Nominations & Remuneration (NRC)

When necessary, an Ethics subcommittee can be convened. The committees generally have a mix of trustees and experienced independent advisers.

There are separate boards for the two trading subsidiaries, ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd.

Safeguarding

There is no higher priority for the ESU than the safeguarding of all children participating in its programmes, in the classroom and outside it. Strict protocols are also applied to on-line events. The Board has a strong emphasis on protection of vulnerable individuals, and reviews process and procedures consistently. The safeguarding policy is available on the ESU website.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

The executive pay policy is set by the Nominations & Remuneration Committee (NRC) and approved by the full Board. The NRC sets the remuneration for senior management personnel referencing benchmarked data for similar roles in similarly sized international charities in the sector. Further details are given in note 5 to the accounts.

Future Plans

The pandemic has sadly delayed some of the milestones in ESU 2018-22 strategic plan, but with the widening of the educational learning gap, there is renewed resolve to tackle the inequalities of access to education and skills development. Under the guidance of the newly elected Chair, Miles Young, the strategic planning process will be revisited in earnest once normal operations are once again possible. At the heart of this will be a determination that the ESU continues to broaden the geographical impact and accessibility of all its programmes, especially for young people in low-income communities.

Subject to the ESU's funding base, investment in digital education resources will remain a priority. We would like to further develop our web-based teaching capability. COVID-19 has forced a greater reliance on remote delivery, and there remains an opportunity to further expand the remote teaching, which may offer greater accessibility and value for money. The ESU will continue to build public profile and outreach, supported by alumni, key individuals, trusts and corporate partners who share our vision.

Plans for Dartmouth House

Dartmouth House, the international headquarters of the English-Speaking Union has been in the ESU's occupation since 1922, when debentures were raised by the ESU members to help purchase the property. For many years, it has been a venue for bringing people together: a place for charity beneficiaries to debate and share ideas, and where the ESU England and Wales, and International ESU communities can come together to support and fundraise for the charity.

Traditionally, over 90% of the ESU's annual income is derived from hospitality, the commercial sector which arguably has been hardest hit by the pandemic. Dartmouth House has been closed since March 2020, precluding the hire of the house for private events. The largest income in a normal year comes from premises leased to the Chesterfield Hotel, and the hotel too has had significant periods of closure. However, the Trustees are hopeful that the Chesterfield Hotel will pay all the rental income owed on the hotel lease. Whilst recognising the unfortunate impact of the pandemic on the tenant, the charity is nonetheless confident that the tenant will pay the rent due given the relative financial strength of the tenant in comparison to that of the charity. Aware that these revenues are currently at risk, the trustees will do all in their power to ensure that the interests of the charity are protected.

In December 2020, the ESU formed a subsidiary company, ESU Dartmouth House Ltd, to maintain the lease on the premises on the upper floors of Dartmouth House.

The ESU continues to develop a long-term property strategy in partnership with professional advisers, to ensure that property assets meet the charity's needs in the long-term.

PATRON AND PRESIDENTS

Patron

Her Majesty The Queen

President

HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO

Vice-Presidents

The Lord Watson of Richmond CBE	Mr Guy Weston
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BOARD OF GOVERNORS (TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY)

Honorary Officers (ex officio Trustees of the Charity)

Board Chair	Professor James Raven (resigned 22 nd February 2021) Miles Young (from 22 nd February 2021)
Deputy Board Chairs	Derek Morgan (resigned 22 nd February 2021) Dr Tony Wood (resigned 29 th April 2020) David Shaw (from 22 nd February 2021) Professor James Raven (from 22 nd February 2021)
Honorary Treasurer	James Scruby (from 22 nd February 2021)

Governors

The following served as Governors in the period from 1st April 2020:

Matthew Congreve (29 th April 2020 - 28 th April 2021)	Laurence Mutkin (from 22 nd February 2021)
Gillian Day (29 th April 2020 - 28 th April 2021)	Danny Preiskel (from 22 nd February 2021)
Barbara Firth	Ellen Punter (resigned 10 th December 2020)
Emma Gleave (29 th April 2020 - 28 th April 2021)	Stephen Purcell (from 22 nd February 2021)
Sarah Hawkins (from 22 nd February 2021)	James Probert (29 th April 2020 - 28 th April 2021)
Andrew Hay (resigned 10 th December 2020)	Professor James Raven
Alice Heard (resigned 10 th December 2020)	Sue Riley (from 22 nd February 2021)
Richard Humphreys (from 22 nd February 2021)	James Scruby
Bilal Mahmood (29 th April 2020 - 28 th April 2021)	David Shaw
Philip Maunder (from 22 nd February 2021)	Jonathan Sobczyk Boddington
Lady Susan Inkin (resigned 22 nd February 2021)	Anikka Weerasinghe (resigned 22 nd February 2020)
Alex Just (resigned 22 nd February 2021)	

The record of attendance at Board and Committee meetings is maintained by the Board Secretary and is available for review on request

SENIOR EXECUTIVES

Director-General

Jane Easton

Directors

Tim Morris, Director of Finance

Board Secretary

Stephen Corri, from 28th September 2020

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Auditors

Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Devonshire House
60 Goswell Road
London EC1M 7AD

Bankers

Coutts & Co
440 The Strand
London WC2R 0QS

Solicitors

Russell-Cooke LLP 2 Putney Hill London SW15 6AB	Hogan Lovells International LLP Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct London EC1A 2FG
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Investment Managers

Sarasin & Partners LLP
100 St Paul's Churchyard
London WC4M 8BU

Property Advisers

CBRE
Henrietta House, Henrietta Place
London W1G 0NB

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The results of the ESU Group are set out in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) on page 26.

The figures consolidate the results of ESU Trading Ltd and ESU Dartmouth House Ltd.

Income and Expenditure

In financial terms, for the year ending 31st March 2021, the charity has been significantly affected by Covid-19.

Financial performance was closely tracked throughout the year. The auditors have confirmed that strong financial controls have been evident across all aspects of the charity throughout the year.

The financial statements are dominated by the impact of COVID-19 and need to be carefully understood in light thereof. The full rental income due is included in the income line, even though at the year-end £965k from the tenant was due. Similarly, on expenditure in accordance with the accounting rules, a provision for possible non-payment by the tenant is shown as cost, so we have a £750k provision for non-payment of rent as an “expenditure” item. This does not mean that the money, which is legally receivable will be written off. It does mean that the charity is obliged to report the position where we assume that the tenant defaults.

Excluding the £750k provision for bad debt, total expenditure fell by £1,460k, notably through a significantly reduced cost base.

The charity ended the year with unrestricted reserves, including designated reserves, of £1,655k (2019/20: £1,732k). Strong reserves have enabled us to withstand some of the challenges resulting from COVID-19 and will continue to be important in the coming months.

In the year to 31st March 2021, net incoming resources were £2,150k (2019/20: £3,059k), a decrease of -29% or -£909k. Total income by source for the ESU Group, including comparisons with the previous year, is set out in note 2 to the accounting statements.

We rely heavily on rental income from the Chesterfield Hotel, the investment property we own, next door to Dartmouth House. This is money to which the charity is contractually entitled and the Trustees will do all in their power to ensure that the charity receives these funds. The Chesterfield Hotel closed its doors to guests in March 2020, awaiting the passing of the pandemic and this has had knock-on effects on our cash flow. At the year-end, negotiations with the tenant had begun and the Trustees are hopeful that a settlement can be reached later in 2021.

ESU Dartmouth House Ltd was established in 2020 as a 100% subsidiary company to contain the lease asset for the bedrooms immediately above Dartmouth House.

As in-person events were not possible through the year, catering income earned through ESU Trading Ltd, our trading subsidiary, all but disappeared (2019/20: £384k).

Rental income is classified as investment income.

Voluntary fundraising continues to be challenging. Oracy offers a significant life change for young people, yet we struggle to attract support for our important programmes in disadvantaged areas. We believe that oracy is fundamental to equipping young people to make the most of their talents and opportunities. This is particularly important for those in disadvantaged areas. We continue to highlight this as an important and impactful area of educational philanthropy, although we recognise that this message is a “slow burn”.

Our share portfolio is managed on a discretionary basis by Sarasin & Partners LLP, whose performance is scrutinised quarterly by the Finance & Operations Committee. At the year-end, this portfolio was valued at £1,704k (31/03/2020: £1,679k). There were net £250k of disposals during the year to support cash flow.

The ESU consolidated charity and subsidiary reports expenditure of £2,348k this year a significant decrease on the prior year (2019-20: £3,059k). The reduction of overall spending (net of provisions) of £1,461k by the charity is a combination of several factors. A significant cost reduction programme was undertaken at the beginning of the year. We reduced headcount by c. 10 FTE’s at the start of the year. Consequently, the charity was able to do less direct educational work than before.

The organisation has worked hard to re-position itself through digital transformation, especially cloud-based applications, and some of the benefits of this transition over past years have been critical to our operational and educational activities in recent months.

Funds & Reserves

Cash flows were positive (+£819k), due to the drawdown of funds held with Sarasin & Partners. However, the non-payment of rent legally due by from the tenant at 31/03/2021 is a concern. Unrestricted reserves have decreased by £206k.

Total funds for the ESU at 31st March 2021 are £40,951 (31/03/2020: £40,847k).

The ESU owns an investment property (the Chesterfield Hotel) and Dartmouth House, the international headquarters of the ESU. Both are subject to open-market price fluctuations. The properties’ values are recorded as designated funds and are not relied upon for the day-to-day running of the Charity. These long-term assets generate much of the income upon which the ESU relies to deliver its charitable work. Both properties were independently re-valued at the year-end by a reputable independent professional surveyor.

Unrestricted reserves are required to provide for short-term fluctuations in income and expenditure. The Board’s policy is to maintain net free reserves (currently held as near cash investments) sufficient to cover overheads for at least 6 months. The ESU is operating in accordance with this policy.

Reserves at 31 March 2021 (£'000's)

	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
The total value of funds held	40,951	40,847
Less:		
Restricted funds (purpose of use defined by the donor)	1,300	1,050
Designated funds for freehold and investment property	37,996	38,065
Designated charitable funds (Joyce Rolf Legacy)	39	211
Total free reserves	1,616	1,521

The Board has designated the Joyce Rolf Legacy fund for scholarships and educational programmes.

As far as possible, the Charity strives to use income from our historical asset base to cover core costs so that donations raised can be used wherever possible for front-line charitable activities.

Risk Management

The Board has identified the major risks to which the ESU is exposed and associated mitigations. The Audit and Risk Committee oversees the process for registering, reviewing and mitigating all categories of risk. A Risk Register is maintained and reviewed regularly.

As with any educational charity, issues of safeguarding have the highest priority. Our controls in this area were reviewed in light of the virtual platform on which the events were conducted in the year. A dedicated Board post is assigned to oversee this responsibility and ensure that nominated members of the executive team implement. There were no reported incidents in 2020-21.

Financial risk is an important area of concern. The primary sources of funds to manage cash flow, and therefore the most significant areas of financial risk, are:

- The loss of income from the Chesterfield Hotel for any reason would be material. Trustees monitor the relationship with the tenant and require that the property be well maintained. Given the challenges of the pandemic, the Board will work with the tenants to ensure a satisfactory outcome.
- Income from investments is necessarily subject to market risks. The investment mandate is to protect the capital and provide an annual income. The portfolio is managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP, whose performance is scrutinised closely.
- Commission income from catering depends on demand from the membership as well as externally, and on maintaining Dartmouth House in a good condition. This income stream was wiped out by the pandemic. The charity will seek to re-build it in 2021-22 as UK legislation allows.

- Voluntary income arising from donations, grants and legacies varies from year to year and cannot be relied upon. Voluntary income is used to fund our charitable activities, which we seek, wherever possible, to fund in advance. When this is not practical, or when an activity makes a loss, any shortfall is made up from our unrestricted reserves. We continue to monitor the cost and benefit of each activity.

COVID-19 has seriously impacted the ESU and made relevant all the above, with immediate threat to income from both the Chesterfield Hotel and Dartmouth House. Cash flow has been materially affected. We have cut our costs to a minimum to counter against lost revenue. All staff except 3.0 FTE's were furloughed from 1st April 2020. Sadly redundancies were necessary in July 2020, and remaining staff returned from flexible furlough by November 2020. The charity maintains a reduced operation until such time as it is possible to re-activate our programmes.

Our investments continue to be subject to markets fluctuations.

We rely on continuing support from our members which is increasingly important in current circumstances. There is no expectation of significant voluntary income in the short term.

Fundraising and other events remain cancelled until government regulations on lockdown permit otherwise. We have suspended all child face to face programmatic work.

We have reserves to protect against some of the worst of this situation.

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees (Governors) of the Charity are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements, being the consolidated accounts of the English-Speaking Union and its subsidiary company ESU Trading Ltd (together, the 'Group'), in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP) and applicable law.

Under charity law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Charity and the Group, and of the net outgoing resources of the Group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities' Statement of Recommended Practice (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; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions; to 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 5 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by



Miles Young
Chairman

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The English Speaking Union for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets, the Consolidated 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 Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the of the Charity and the group's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of the incoming resources of the group 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 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.

Emphasis of matter

We draw attention to notes 1(b) and 1(c) of the financial statements which describe the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on the activities of the group and on the valuation of the group's function and investment properties. In particular there is a material uncertainty over the property valuations at the balance sheet date. Our opinion is not modified in this respect.

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 the 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.

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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.

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 and those charged with governance.
- 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 and those charged with governance.
- 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 those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. 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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Trustees, 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 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 the Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

11 November 2021

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

Devonshire House

Statutory Auditor

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.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SoFA)

£'000's		2021 Unrestricted funds	2021 Restricted & endowment funds	2021	2020
	Note				
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2.1	217	10	227	113
Charitable activities	2.2	195	106	301	956
Trading income	2.3	0		0	384
Investment income	2.4	1,580	41	1,621	1,606
Total income		1,992	157	2,149	3,059
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4.1	2,194	149	2,343	2,337
Raising funds	4.2	5		5	722
Total expenditure		2,199	149	2,348	3,059
Net expenditure before gains on investments					
		(207)	8	(199)	-
Property revaluation loss	14	(70)		(70)	(100)
Realised gain on investment		63	132	195	
Net unrealised gain on investment	9.2	58	120	178	(69)
Total net gain/(loss) on investments & revaluation		51	252	303	(169)
Net income/(expenditure)		(156)	260	104	-
Transfer between funds		10	(10)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(146)	250	104	(169)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward	14	39,797	1,050	40,847	41,016
Total funds carried forward		39,651	1,300	40,951	40,847

ESU GROUP BALANCE SHEET

£'000's	Note	Consolidated		ESU Charity	
		2021	2020	2021	2020 (restated)
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	8	129	172	129	172
Tangible assets	8	11,480	11,768	11,480	11,768
Investments	9	28,904	28,696	28,904	28,696
Total fixed assets		40,513	40,636	40,513	40,636
Current assets					
Stock		-	-	-	-
Debtors	10	257	485	103	475
Cash at bank and in hand		819	334	814	329
Total current assets		1,076	819	917	804
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	638	608	579	770
Net current assets/(liabilities)		438	211	338	34
Net assets		40,951	40,847	40,851	40,670
Funds	15				
Restricted funds					
Endowments		629	541	629	541
Restricted funds		671	509	671	509
Total		1,300	1,050	1,300	1,050
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds		38,034	38,276	38,034	38,276
General funds		1,617	1,521	1,517	1,344
Total		39,651	39,797	39,551	39,620
Net funds		40,951	40,847	40,851	40,670

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 5 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by



Miles Young
Chairman

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2021 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2020 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:		180	85
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income	2.4	60	58
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	8	(5)	(32)
Proceeds from sale of investments		250	-
Net cash provided by investing activities		305	26
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		485	111
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		334	223
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		819	334

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flows from operating activities

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2021 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2020 (£'000)
Net deficit for the reporting period		(199)	-
Depreciation charges	8	163	171
Loss on fixed asset write-off		3	6
Management fees on portfolio		15	13
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		227	127
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		31	(177)
Decrease/(increase) in stock		-	3
Investment income		(60)	(58)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		180	85

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £'000	Movement £'000	2020 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	819	485	334

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies, the judgements and the key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include the revaluation of investments at market value, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015) and applicable accounting standards (FRS 102).

The ESU meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Charity's accounting policies and the reported assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and the disclosures made in the financial statements.

As stated in notes 8 and 9 to the financial statements, the fair values of the functional and investment properties are based on an external valuation commissioned by the Trustees as at 31st March 2021. The valuation was based on an independent assessment by a professional external firm of property specialists. Given COVID-19 and its impact on financial and property markets, the Trustees acknowledge that there is a material valuation uncertainty due to the lack of comparable market transactions at the balance sheet date.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Specific estimates in the financial planning of the charity include:

- The charity will maintain the ability to respond to the need to amend its cost base in an agile and timely manner.
- The Board will continue to seek to maintain the long-term value of Dartmouth House

and unlock its potential for charitable purposes. It will continue to consider the optimal asset allocation for the charity across different asset classes.

- The Board will ensure, as far as it is able, that it secures the full rental income from the Hotel tenants. This has not been possible during the current COVID-19 pandemic as the Coronavirus Act prevents landlords taking legal action to collect rents. This restriction is due to expire on September 30th 2021 but may be extended. The Board will continue to ensure it receives independent professional property and legal advice on all matters across its estate.
- The financial modelling of the organisation's income and expenditure and cash flow will continue to use prudent revenue estimates in voluntary income classes, especially for membership, legacy and voluntary donations. The charity ensures that financial and legal commitments made are fully funded ahead of any such commitment being finalised.

Going concern basis

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the charity hard. We estimate that more than 90% of our income will be disrupted or even lost as a result. The board has therefore taken a number of mitigating actions:

First, it has established a detailed and regular cash flow reporting and monitoring basis, so that the true position if the organisation can be seen clearly. Strong financial controls provide a bedrock for the transparent reporting required in difficult times. Detailed cash forecasts are scrutinised regularly by the entire board, and separately by its sub-Committee, the Finance and Operations Committee.

Secondly, detailed forecasts and projections have been prepared and these indicate that the charity continues to be able to operate within the arranged overdraft with its bankers. However, as with all overdraft facilities, it is subject to annual review and can be cancelled at any time. The next annual review is in November 2022 although the Trustees have no reason to believe it will not be renewed.

There is a likelihood that much of the income associated with the catering and hotel businesses on which we indirectly rely will continue to be affected.

The Audit and Risk Committee as well as the Finance and Operations Committee continue to monitor the levels of outgoings, and to consider contingency plans. A number of scenarios continue to be modelled in detail and the inherent assumptions tested robustly.

The issue facing the ESU is primarily one of liquidity. There is a strong property asset base built up over generations, but the value in the properties is relatively illiquid. In the unlikely event that the current financial challenges continue for a further 12 months, the

ESU is confident that, in extremis, it is able to secure financing to meet the needs of the charity.

The Board is therefore able to confirm that in its view and despite the most challenging of environments, the charity remains a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Group financial statements

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiaries on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) and Income and Expenditure Account for the Charity has not been presented because the Charity has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

ESU Trading Ltd & ESU Dartmouth House Ltd

ESU Trading Ltd & ESU Dartmouth House Ltd are incorporated as companies limited by guarantee and do not have share capital. Both are wholly owned subsidiaries. A Gift Aid payment is made to the ESU each year equivalent to the taxable profit of each. ESU Trading Ltd provides catering facilities in Dartmouth House. ESU Dartmouth House Ltd holds the lease for the bedrooms above Dartmouth House.

Branches

The income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the branches of the ESU in England and Wales have been combined within these accounts. Separate ESUs in Scotland and overseas are autonomous organisations and are not consolidated.

Income resources

All incoming resources are included in the SoFA when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to categories of income:

- Subscriptions are credited to the income and expenditure account when received, less the proportion which relates to the next financial year.
- Donations and legacies are included in full in the SoFA when there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

All other income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of resources. The majority of overheads have been apportioned on the basis of headcount, the main cost-driver of the Charity.

- Scholarships are accounted for in full upon the creation of a constructive obligation.
- Support costs, including Finance, IT, Head Office functions and facilities, are allocated using a relevant and reasonable apportionment based on time, occupancy and usage across categories of the charitable expenditure, governance and the costs of generating funds.
- Governance costs are separately identified and relate to the general running of the Charity as opposed to the costs of fundraising or charitable activity. Included within this category are costs associated with the strategic, as opposed to the day-to-day management of the Charity's activities and audit fees.
- Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.
- Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost in the SoFA.
- Investment properties are included at market value and are not depreciated.

Fixed assets

Freehold properties are stated at an open market valuation. Other fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Assets with a cost in excess of £1,000 intended to be of ongoing use are deemed to be fixed assets. Freehold property for the Charity's use is included at market value.

- Property Valuation

In considering the valuation of its property assets, the Board recognises that at the date of the valuation there was some uncertainty due to market disruption caused by the direct and indirect impacts of the Coronavirus. Under the circumstances, the board has used a leading independent chartered surveyor to provide an external professional valuation to 31st March 2021.

Valuation uncertainty here is defined as "the possibility that the estimated value may differ from the price that could be obtained in a transfer of the subject asset or liability taking place on the valuation date on the same terms and in the same market" (International Valuation Standards Council).

- Works of art

Various works of art are held by the charity at market value. No depreciation is charged.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated to write-off the costs of the fixed asset by equal instalments as follows, all straight line:

Plant and machinery	15 years
Furniture, fittings and equipment	5 years
Computers	4 years
Software	5 years

Investments

Investments are initially shown in the financial statements at market value. Movements in the market values of investments are shown as unrealised gains and losses in the SoFA.

Profits and losses on the realisation of investments

These are shown as realised gains and losses in the SoFA. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated between sales proceeds and their opening carrying values or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year.

Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year-end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the SoFA.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity of less than three months, excluding the share portfolio.

Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. These include trade and other debtors and creditors and are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting 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 after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease.

Debtors and prepayments

Debtors include amounts owed to the Charity for the provision of goods and services or amounts the Charity has paid in advance for the goods and services it will receive. Any debtors recoverable more than 12 months after the year-end are discounted to present value.

Employee benefits

- **Short-term benefits**, including holiday pay, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.
- **Employee termination benefits** are accounted for on an accruals basis and in line with FRS 102.
- **Pensions:** The ESU operates a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of its employees. The assets of the scheme are held independently from those of the ESU in an independently administered fund. The pensions costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable during the year.

Taxation

The ESU has charitable status and is thus exempt from taxation of its income and capital gains falling within sections 521 to 536 of the Income Tax Act 2007 to the extent that they applied to its charitable objectives. No material tax charge has arisen in its subsidiary and no provision is required for deferred taxation.

Foreign currency translation

The Charity's functional and presentation currency is pounds sterling. Any monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are recognised in the SoFA.

Benefits in kind

Benefits in kind are included at a reasonable estimate of their gross value to the Charity. The Charity does not place a monetary value on volunteers' time.

Funds

- **Permanent endowments funds:** These occur where a donor specifies only income arising from a donation can be used, and the income may also be restricted towards a particular purpose.
- **Expendable endowment funds:** An expendable endowment fund is a fund that must be invested to produce income. Depending on the conditions attached to the endowment, the Trustees will have a legal power to convert all or part of it into an income fund which can then be spent.
- **Restricted income funds:** These are subject to specific restrictions imposed by the donor or by the nature of the appeal.
- **General unrestricted income funds:** These are available to the ESU for its general purposes and include funds designated for practical purposes. The use of designated funds remains at the discretion of Trustees.

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. INCOME NOTE

2.1 Donations and legacies

	<i>Unrestricted</i> funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2021 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2020 £'000
Donations	32	10	42	113	-	113
Government Grants	185		185	-		-
Total	217	10	227	113	-	113

2.2 Charitable activities

	<i>Unrestricted</i> funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2021 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2020 £'000
Income from programmes & events	11	103	114	134	118	252
Income from branches	10	3	13	92	5	97
Educational facilities & placements (gifts in kind)		-	-		394	394
Membership subscriptions	174	-	174	213	-	213
Total	195	106	301	439	517	956

2.3 Trading activities

	<i>Unrestricted</i> funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2021 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2020 £'000
Catering commission	-	-	-	384	-	384
Total	-	-	-	384	-	384

2.4 Investments

	<i>Unrestricted</i> funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2021 £'000	Unrestricted funds £'000	<i>Restricted & endowment</i> funds £'000	2020 £'000
Rental income	1,504	-	1,504	1,504	-	1,504
Investments income	19	41	60	21	37	58
Recharges	57	-	57	44	-	44
Total	1,580	41	1,621	1,569	37	1,606
Total income	1,992	157	2,149	2,505	554	3,059

3 TRADING SUBSIDIARIES

3i ESU Trading Ltd

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Turnover	-	384
Cost of sales	-	(4)
Gross profit	-	380
Administrative expenses	-	(208)
Profit before taxation	-	172
 Summary of assets and liabilities are as follows:		
Assets	62	187
Liabilities	(43)	(15)
Net assets	19	172
Distributions to parent charity under gift aid	-	158

ESU Trading Ltd outsources the catering and room hire of Dartmouth House under contract to CH&Co. Operating costs include an allocation of ESU's employee costs and management expenses.

3ii Dartmouth House Limited

ESU Dartmouth House Ltd is responsible for the "bedroom lease" the lease to floors 2,3 and 4 above Dartmouth House. The company was formed on 21st December 2020 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the charity to be the "Competent Landlord." Income is earned on rents received from the tenant, and costs are due to the parent in proportion to such receipts. ESU DH Ltd covenants any profits to the charity.

	2021 £'000
Turnover	81
Cost of sales	(73)
Gross profit	8
Administrative expenses	4
Profit before taxation	4
 Summary of assets and liabilities are as follows:	
Assets	147
Liabilities	143
Net assets	4
Distributions to be paid to parent charity under gift aid	4

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4. EXPENDITURE

4.1 Charitable activities

	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Education programme and scholarships	307	964	1,271	1,317
Educational facilities and placements	-	-	-	395
International development	22	110	132	108
Membership and branches	43	386	429	340
Governance (note 7)	75	436	511	177
Total	447	1,896	2,343	2,337

4.2 Raising funds

	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	Year ended 31 March 2021 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2020 £'000
Fundraising costs	-	5	5	298
Trading	-	-	-	424
Total	-	5	5	722

Total expenditure	447	1,901	2,348	3,059
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5 SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance, HR & digital £'000	Communications & publicity £'000	Facilities & management £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Overhead allocation					
Education programme and scholarships	219	27	718	964	543
Educational facilities and placements	-	-	-	-	9
International development	25	3	82	110	9
Membership and branches	88	11	287	386	165
Governance	100	8	328	436	130
Sub-total charitable to activities	432	49	1,415	1,896	856
Fundraising	-	5	-	5	195
Trading	-	-	-	-	208
Sub-total to fundraising & trading	-	5	-	5	403
Total support costs	432	54	1,415	1,901	1,259

Support costs are allocated on the basis of full-time equivalent headcount across the programmes.

6 DETAILS OF STAFF COSTS

6.1 Number of employees

The average number of employees is split as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2021	Year ended 31 March 2020
Charitable activities	4	6
Income generation	-	3
Support	6	8
Total permanent full-time staff	10	17

Mentors * - 23

Support staff functions include Finance, IT, Human Resources, Facilities, Legal and Administration, as well as Communications and Operations.

Contractors and temporary staff are excluded.

* Mentors are paid on a call-off basis and do not form part of the charity's permanent establishment.

6.2 Analysis of staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2020 £'000
Salaries	501	852
Redundancy costs	42	7
Employers' National insurance	52	79
Employers' pension contributions	42	59
Total	637	997

Eleven staff members received a redundancy payment as a result of restructuring in the programme department.

6.3 Senior employees

	Year ended 31 March 2021 Number	Year ended 31 March 2020 Number
£80,001-£90,000	-	1
£90,001-£100,000	1	-
£100,001-£110,000	-	1
Total	1	2

The above bands reflect the emoluments, excluding pension contributions, of the Director-General and the Director of Finance.

6.4 Key management personnel

Key management personnel emoluments, comprising wages and salaries, pension contributions and other benefits:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Total	188	233

Key management personnel comprise the Director-General and Director of Finance (both staff).

6.5 Trustee remuneration

None of the Trustees received any remuneration from the Charity or its subsidiaries during the current or previous financial year.

7 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Trustees' expenses	-	2
Legal and professional	208	23
Audit fees	24	22
Other payments to auditors (VAT advisory costs)	13	-
Total	245	47

In addition to the direct costs shown above, Governance costs also include directors' and executive time concerned with the strategic planning processes that contribute to the development of the Charity. (See note 5. Support Costs).

During the year, reimbursement of travelling and general expenses of £134 (2019/20: £1,514) were directly incurred and reimbursed to 1 Trustee (2019-20: 6).

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

8 FIXED ASSETS

Group and Charity (£'000's)

	Freehold property	Plant & machinery	Computer equipment	Artwork & Maces	Fixtures & fittings	Total tangible assets	Intangible assets	Total fixed assets
Cost or valuation								
At 31 March 2020	10,470	1,201	348	496	325	12,840	215	13,055
Additions	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	5
Disposals	-	(67)	(308)	-	(143)	(518)	-	(518)
Revaluations	(170)	-	-	-	-	(170)	-	(170)
At 31 March 2021	10,300	1,139	40	496	182	12,157	215	12,372
Depreciation/ amortisation								
At 31 March 2020	-	479	330	-	263	1,072	43	1,115
Charged in the year	-	74	10	-	36	120	43	163
Disposals	-	(67)	(305)	-	(143)	(515)	-	(515)
At 31 March 2021	-	486	35	-	156	677	86	763
Net book value	10,300	653	5	496	26	11,480	129	11,609
At 31 March 2020	10,470	722	18	496	61	11,768	172	11,940

The functional property was revalued by the Trustees at 31st March 2021 by an independent expert. As a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 and its impact on financial and property markets, the Trustees acknowledge that there is a material valuation uncertainty due to the lack of comparable market transactions at the balance sheet date.

9 ANALYSIS OF FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

9.1 Property investments (£'000's)

	2021	2020
Market value at 1 April	27,100	27,100
Unrealised gains on revaluation	100	-
Market value at 31 March	27,200	27,100

The investment property was valued by the Trustees at 31st March 2021. The valuation was based on a suitable index given the lack of open market evidence. As a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 and its impact on financial and property markets, the Trustees acknowledge that there is a material valuation uncertainty due to the lack of comparable market transactions at the balance sheet date.

9.2 Share portfolio (£'000's)

	2021	2020
Market value at 1 April	1,597	1,679
Disposal proceeds	(250)	-
Investment managers' (fees)-netted off unrealised gains	(15)	(13)
Investment held in cash	-	-
Realised profit on investments	194	-
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	178	(69)
Market value at 31 March	1,704	1,597
Market value of all investments at 31 March	28,904	28,697
Historical cost at 31 March	1,246	1,302

9.3 Material investments

There were no material investments in the year.

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10 **DEBTORS** (£'000's)

	Consolidated		ESU Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Trade debtors	975	380	821	380
Bad debt provision	(750)	-	(750)	-
Sundry debtors	-	21	-	21
Amounts owed by trading subsidiary	-	-	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	32	84	32	74
Total	257	485	103	475

11 **CREDITORS (amounts falling due within one year)** (£'000's)

	Consolidated		ESU Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Trade creditors	65	51	65	51
Sundry creditors	120	62	120	62
Subscriptions in advance	60	80	60	80
Amounts owed to trading subsidiaries	-	-	50	15
Tax and Social Security	-	19	-	19
Deferred income	399	389	290	389
VAT payable/(reclaimable)	(6)	7	(6)	(4)
Total	638	608	579	612

12 **OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

At 31st March 2021, the Charity had annual commitments in respect of operating leases of office equipment which expire in the period shown, as follows.

£'000's	2021	2020
Within one year	3	4
Two to five years	-	-
Total	3	4

The lease relates to a photocopier. The term was extended for another year in 2021.

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13 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Current year (£'000's)	Unrestricted funds	Restricted & endowment funds	Total 2021
Fixed assets	11,609	-	11,609
Investment property	27,200	-	27,200
Other investments	404	1,300	1,704
Net current assets/(liabilities)	438	-	438
Total net assets	39,651	1,300	40,951

13.1 Prior year (£'000's)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted & endowment funds	Total 2020
Fixed assets	11,940	-	11,940
Investment property	27,100	-	27,100
Other investments	547	1,050	1,597
Net current assets/(liabilities)	210	-	210
Total net assets	39,797	1,050	40,847

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14. FUNDS (£'000's)

Current Year	Opening balance 31 March 2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Unrealised loss on investments & revaluation of fixed assets	Transfer between funds	Balance at 31 March 2021
Endowment funds						
Expendable	342	13	(27)	80		408
Permanent endowment	199	-	-	23		222
Total	541	13	(27)	103		630
Restricted funds						
Branch funds	39	2	(3)	11		49
Exchange programmes	25	1	-	6		32
Fellowship funds	126	104	(109)	25		146
Education funds	13	21	(5)	29		58
Music funds	25	3	(2)	7		33
Scholarship funds	281	13	(2)	70	(10)	352
Total	509	144	(121)	138		670
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds	38,276	-	(171)	(70)		38,035
General funds	1,349	1,912	(2,029)	122	10	1,364
Trading funds	172	80	-	-		252
Total	39,797	1,992	(2,200)	62		39,651
Total funds	40,847	2,149	(2,348)	303		40,951

In the year, the branch chair of Chester branch authorised a transfer of £10k from the ESU Chester Scholarship Fund to ESU General Funds to be spent on educational speech and debate activities for young people .

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14.1 Prior year funds (£'000's)

Current Year	Opening balance as restated 2019	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Unrealised loss on investments & revaluation of fixed assets	Balance at 31 March 2020
Endowment funds					
Expendable	452	13	(123)	-	342
Permanent endowment	193	6	-	-	199
Total	645	19	(123)	-	541
Restricted funds					
Branch funds	35	5	(1)	-	39
Exchange programmes	33	-	(8)	-	25
Fellowship funds	206	123	(203)	-	126
Education funds	12	395	(394)	-	13
Music funds	36	3	(14)	-	25
Scholarship funds	285	9	(13)	-	281
Total	607	535	(633)	-	509
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	38,756	-	(380)	(100)	38,276
General funds	844	2,122	(1,548)	(69)	1,349
Trading funds	164	383	(375)	-	172
Total	39,764	2,505	(2,303)	(169)	39,797
Total funds	41,016	3,059	(3,059)	(169)	40,847

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15. FUND DETAILS

Grouping	Category	Fund name	Purpose
Endowment funds	Expendable endowment funds	EEF000 - American Memorial Chapel Travel Fund (Clergy)-£74k	Travel scholarships for clergy between the UK and the USA
		EEF001 - Westbury Preston Memorial Education Fund-£253k	Used to provide exchange visits by students or teachers within the British Commonwealth or between the British Commonwealth and the USA
		EEF002 - Mallinson Memorial Fund - Bookbinding & Woodworking-£15k	Woodworking and bookbinding scholarships
	Permanent endowment funds	PEF000 - P W Minet American Education Scholarship Fund-£68k	Teaching scholarships for lecturers or teachers to travel to the USA to study a specific aspect of education
		PEF001 - P W Minet Community Benefit Fund-£68k	Travel awards to enable individuals between 25 and 45 with professional qualifications to travel outside the UK, for the benefit of both their own communities and those they visit
		PEF002 - Education Endowment Fund - Teachers-£43k	Travel scholarships for teachers between the UK and the USA
		PEF003 - Charlotte Bonham-Carter Music Scholarship Fund-£20k	For the provision of music scholarships to Yale
Restricted funds	Branch funds	RB0003 - Carlbom-Lincolnshire-£35k RB0005-Hastings branch-£2k RB0001-Nurses Work Shadow Fund(£2k)	Used to fund education at branch level
	Exchange funds	RE0003 - C E Eckersley Educational Fund-£13k	Used to provide grants to foreign students studying the English language in the UK
		RE0004 - Walter Annenburg Fund-£13k	Donated for the purpose of Anglo-American exchanges
	Fellowship funds	RS0000 - The Lindemann Fellowship Fund-£126k	Provides fellowship awards to enable UK scientists to undertake research programmes in the USA
	Music funds	RM0000 - The Ravinia Scholarship Fund-£5k	Awards to enable talented musicians to attend the Ravinia Festival
		RM0003 - Belinda Norman-Butler Music Fund-£12k	Donations raised by the ESU Cultural Affairs Committee to support music scholarships
	Scholarship funds	RA0000 - Chilton Art History Scholarship Fund-£126k	Supports an annual art history scholarship placement at Christies
		RN0000 - John Roberts Travel Scholarship Fund-£34k	Fund is in respect of travel scholarships
		RN0001 - Michael Graydon Scholarship Fund-£8k	Award to aid earmarked ESU educational work for the Lincolnshire branch
		Chester Scholarship Fund-£92k	Award for scholarships & other charitable activities in Chester