

# THE BRONTE SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 529952

## Details

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**Other names** THE INCORPORATED BRONTE SOCIETY

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [00073855](#)

**Registered** 1964-08-21

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

## Contact

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**Address** Bronte Parsonage Museum  
Church Street  
Haworth  
Keighley  
BD22 8DR

**Phone** 01535 642323

**Email** [bronte@bronte.org.uk](mailto:bronte@bronte.org.uk)

**Website** [www.bronte.org.uk](http://www.bronte.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY ARE;TO PROMOTE INTEREST IN THE LIFE AND WORKS OF THE BRONTE FAMILY IN PARTICULAR, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND LIBRARIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT;TO ACQUIRE BY DONATION, PURCHASE, OR OTHERWISE, AND TO RENOVATE AND PRESERVE ARTEFACTS, BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, MANUSCRIPTS, ENGRAVINGS, PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, CLOTHING, FURNITURE AND OTHER OBJECTS OF OR RELATING TO THE BRONTE FAMILY, AND IF THOUGHT FIT, OF OTHER AUTHORS, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT;TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXAMINATION OF THE LITERARY REMAINS FOR FURTHER SCHOLARSHIP AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIVES AND WORKS OF THE BRONTES AND THEIR WRITING AND IF THOUGHT FIT, OF OTHER AUTHORS, AND PUBLICATION OF THE MEMOIRS OF THE BRONTE FAMILY AND OTHER AUTHORS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT;TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS AND TO INITIATE PROJECTS THAT DEEPEN LITERARY ENGAGEMENT LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND WHICH ARE RENDERED INTERESTING BY THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THE BRONTE FAMILY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT;TO DO ALL SUCH THINGS AS ARE INCIDENTAL OR CONDUCTIVE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE ABOVE OBJECTS

**Activities:** One of the oldest literary societies in the English speaking world, with an international membership, the Bronte Society owns and runs the iconic Grade I Parsonage Museum celebrating the lives of the Brontes. Our accredited world class collections are displayed throughout the museum and library. We run education and learning activities, artistic events, residencies and exhibitions.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,773,122	£1,355,324	£8,301,603	40
2024-03-31	£1,646,356	£1,243,372	£7,886,736	33
2023-03-31	£5,929,430	£1,365,378	£7,475,945	33
2021-12-31	£990,173	£876,806	£2,924,611	18
2020-12-31	£1,070,942	£1,043,446	£2,796,196	39

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW MIDGLEY		2021-06-23
Ciara Martina Gallagher		2021-09-05
Eleanor Clare Keel		2024-10-05
Helen Clare Meller		2018-06-09
Laura Joanne Beare		2021-09-05
Lauren Margaret Watson		2024-10-05
Lucy Georgina Powrie		2023-05-18
Penelope Anna Jenkins		2021-09-05
Thomas James Hendry		2024-10-05

**THE BRONTE SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 529952

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# Accounts

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Registered number: 00073855 (England and Wales)  
Charity number: 529952

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**



The Brontë Society

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**Trustees**

L G Powrie, Chair of The Board of Trustees  
S K Bari  
L J Beare  
C M Gallagher  
J R Gration (resigned 5 October 2024)  
T Hendry (appointed 5 October 2024)  
P A Jenkins  
E Keel (appointed 5 October 2024)  
H C Meller  
A J Midgley  
V R Sanders (resigned 5 October 2024)  
J M Sladdin  
L Watson (appointed 5 October 2024)

**Company registered number**

00073855 (England and Wales)

**Charity registered number**

529952

**Registered office**

Brontë Parsonage Museum  
Haworth  
KEIGHLEY  
West Yorkshire  
BD22 8DR

**President**

Dame Judi Dench CH DBE FRSA

**Senior Leadership Team**

R J Yorke - Director  
A Dinsdale  
G Price  
M Tomlinson  
C Dewhirst (resigned January 2025)

**Independent auditors**

Clive Owen LLP  
Chartered Accountants &  
Statutory Auditors  
140 Coniscliffe Road  
DARLINGTON  
County Durham  
DL3 7RT

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

**Solicitors**

Wrigleys  
3 Wellington Place  
LEEDS  
LS1 4AP

**Investment Advisers**

Charles Stanley & Co. Limited  
7 Park Row  
LEEDS  
LS1 5HD

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**CHAIR'S STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The chair presents her statement for the year.

The report that follows details all that The Brontë Society achieved in the financial year ending 31 March 2025.

Our 2024-2025 financial year was defined by the completion of key capital infrastructure projects. In December 2024, we launched our new website, supported, too, by investment in our technological and operational infrastructure, including a new CRM system and improved WiFi coverage. Our fully accessible toilets and Changing Places facility, much needed for many years, opened in February 2025 and were made possible with funding from Bradford 2025's Cultural Capital Fund and Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme. It's our hope that both projects will significantly improve our visitor offer, increase accessibility, and ensure our relevance in a modern, digital age, and indeed, this is already reflected positively in visitor feedback.

As a National Portfolio Organisation, we continue to be grateful for the support of Arts Council England. Across all areas of the organisation, we embed our vision of creating an inclusive Brontë Society that remains relevant to our audience, is ambitious in scope, and committed to environmental responsibility. Through the shaping of our strategic aims, we aspire to deliver a quality programme that demonstrates our value to the communities we serve, both locally, nationally and digitally, while also fostering talent and ambition in our creative partners. The extension of the current NPO cycle to 2027, and potentially 2028, is welcome, and will allow us to plan and manage our budgets in a global climate of economic uncertainty.

Building on our status as a Designated collection, awarded in 2023, significant and meaningful additions to the collection were made during the 2024-25 financial year. In particular, the bequest we received during the last financial year of £325k has allowed us to designate further funds to collections acquisition, and as such, we were successful in our bid at auction for Emily Brontë's painting 'The North Wind', and also bought from a private collection a pencil drawing of Anne Brontë's. Among other donations, loans, and acquisitions, it remains a privilege to welcome back to the Museum items that belonged to, and were produced at the hands of, the Brontë family. In doing so, we cement not only their legacies, but ours as a Society, too.

In a year in which we celebrated the Brontës' childhood through our exhibition, 'The Brontës' Web of Childhood', receiving the Sandford Award from the Heritage Education Trust in 2024 was testament to the strength of our learning programme, encouraging the next generation to engage with the Brontës' lives and works. Our overall programme has continued to have a multi-generational focus, from the Brontë Babies sensory sessions to our 18-25-aimed 'Behind the Glass' podcast, and in the spirit of the Brontës, we have emphasised the development of up-and-coming talent through the Brontë Women's Writing Festival and the contemporary arts programme. So, too, has our outreach programme connected with local communities unfamiliar with the Museum, culminating in projects like the Brontë Stitching Group. All represent ongoing achievements, with the breadth of our offering over the past year an unwavering dedication to making the Brontës accessible to all.

We remain conscious of the cost of living crisis and its possible effect on visitor numbers, as well as the impact on visitors' secondary spend, and are focused on ensuring resilience across the organisation. As well as careful monitoring, we assess according to sector-wide trends and respond proactively to the need for budgetary adjustment. During 2024-25, we offered a six-day opening for a longer period of time than previously, and are working to diversify our income streams wherever possible. As we embark upon the next financial year, we take particular note of the opportunities that arise from Bradford UK City of Culture 2025 in raising our profile and fostering relationships with the local community, as well as the national cultural sector. We also look to establish a vision for the next stage of capital development, applying the lessons we have learned over the past year to look ahead in shaping the Society's future.

L G Powrie, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Date: July 2025

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives and Aims**

The Brontë Society is an outward-looking, multi-faceted organisation with literature at its heart. It was founded in 1893 to establish and maintain a museum and to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family. Haworth Parsonage, now the world-famous and accredited Brontë Parsonage Museum, opened to the public in 1928 and has since welcomed over a million visitors. We're a global organisation rooted in Yorkshire identity and landscape. Our collection of Brontë manuscripts and personal possessions, displayed in the rooms where the Brontës lived and wrote some of the greatest novels in the English language, is Designated as Outstanding and the largest in the world.

**The charitable objectives of the Society are:**

1. To promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family in particular, but not exclusively, by establishing and maintaining permanent museums, galleries and libraries for the public benefit;
2. To acquire by donation, purchase, or otherwise, and to renovate and preserve artefacts, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, engravings, paintings, drawings, photographs, clothing, furniture and other objects of or relating to the Brontë family, and if thought fit, of other authors, for the public benefit;
3. To provide for the examination of the literary remains for further scholarship and better understanding of the lives and works of the Brontës and their writing, and if thought fit, of other authors, and publication of the memoirs of the Brontë family and other authors for the public benefit;
4. To promote the advancement of literature and the arts and to initiate projects that deepen literary engagement locally, nationally and throughout the world and which are rendered interesting by their association with the Brontë family for the public benefit;
5. To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

**The Brontë Society's vision is:**

'To bring the Brontës to the world and the world to Yorkshire'.

We do this, not only by being an internationally-renowned visitor attraction, but through our creative programmes, expanding digital offer and working in partnership with other museums and literary houses.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**Our mission statement is:**

To celebrate the lives and works of the Brontës, widening access to their legacy and sharing their contemporary significance with a global audience. We conserve, interpret, display and build creative engagement through our world-class collection and the landscape that inspired the Brontës. We champion new writing today, particularly by women, and promote better understanding of the Brontës lives and works.

The Brontë Society has a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and to promoting a positive culture which celebrates difference, ensures fairness and challenges prejudice. In accordance with this commitment, and our of Excellence, Inspiration and Creativity, the Brontë Society will foster a positive working environment and wider membership community where trustees, staff, volunteers and members treat each other with dignity and respect at all times, and where bullying, harassment and discrimination are known to be unacceptable.

We will invest in our trustees, staff and volunteers, providing training, support, opportunity and encouragement, and restructuring appropriately. We will commit to governance and staff reviews to ensure we have the right people with the right skills in the appropriate positions, to help us achieve our objectives.

**The strategic aims of the Society during 2024-25 were:**

1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants.
2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience.
3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do.
4. To manage and share our Museum and collections in line with our accredited status.
5. To increase resilience through dynamism, data and digital.
6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation.

**Main activities undertaken to further the Charitable Group's purposes for the public benefit**

The Charity's activities and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further the Charity's charitable purposes for the public benefit. The trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to pay due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Charity considers that it satisfies the public benefit requirement as the Brontë Parsonage Museum is open to all members of the United Kingdom and worldwide, and makes its collections accessible for scholars and general visitors via its public programmes and the use of digital.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable objectives**

Our museum is a home for the imagination, a place of solace and stimulation. Our displays promote creative engagement and our artistic programme interrogates and makes connections with our collections in innovative ways. Literature is at the heart of our work, but taking our cue from the Brontës' own multidisciplinary talents, we explore Brontë links with other artforms, finding new ways to see and engage with our collection and test new ways of reaching and inspiring future generations. Our learning and outreach programmes educate, inspire and demonstrate the relevance of the Brontës' lives and work to contemporary society.

Brontë Genius, a wholly-owned trading company, runs the Brontë Parsonage Museum shop, commissioning and selling items that reflect the lives and stories of the Brontës and the museum collection, to help further the Society's charitable objectives and support its activities. These are consistent with the objectives set out in the Articles of Association.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Strategic objectives**

During the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025, the following achievements were recorded against our strategic objectives:

**1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants**

Throughout 2024, the Parsonage held a new exhibition, 'The Brontës' Web of Childhood', which explored how the childhood of Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë shaped them as writers. Also on display was Charlotte Brontë's christening bonnet, on loan from a private collection for the period.

A new audio installation by writer and storyteller Sophia Hatfield, 'How to Build a Storyteller', was presented in the Servants' Room, and visitors were also treated with live performances of 'This House is Full of Stories' on a number of occasions during the year.

Our annual Brontë Festival of Women's Writing was held in September 2024. Programmed on the theme of writing for children and young adults, the event was headlined by Dame Jacqueline Wilson, who attracted an audience of almost 200 people. In line with our commitment to widening access, the festival was delivered in hybrid format, with events taking place in Haworth also available online, either via live-stream or by sharing recorded sessions.

**2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience**

Reviews collected via Google and TripAdvisor and comments in our visitor books indicate that the visitor experience at the Brontë Parsonage Museum is overwhelmingly positive. Investment in staff training and development has been a major factor in generating repeat visits and complimentary feedback, as has our expanded programme of free talks and holiday activities.

We continue to share our collections digitally via the Bloomberg Connects app, and thanks to significant investment in our IT infrastructure, including a new website and the implementation of Spektrix CRM and ticketing software, the online user experience has been much improved.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do**

During the year, we welcomed groups from the wider Bradford area and continued to work closely with Holycroft Primary School in Keighley, facilitating visits for families who would not ordinarily visit the Museum. This initiative, supported by funding from Bradford Council has been incredibly successful: between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, we welcomed fifty-two Holycroft families to the Parsonage, offering an introductory talk and walk as part of their free visit.

Our organisational-wide EDIB (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging) group met throughout the year and increasing access is considered in all areas of our work.

A significant barrier to access has been the lack of visitor toilet facilities at the Brontë Parsonage Museum. During 2024, thanks to Bradford Council's Cultural Capital Fund, administered by Bradford2025, and Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme, construction of accessible and inclusive facilities took place, and opened to the public in February 2025.

**4. To manage and share our Museum and collections in line with our accredited status**

The Brontë Parsonage Museum houses the world's largest collection of Brontë material which is shared with our visitors, live and online audiences, and researchers. Arts Council England have awarded 'Designated as Outstanding' status to the Brontë Parsonage Museum collection. The Designation Scheme identifies and celebrates outstanding collections, which 'deepen our understanding of the world and what it means to be human.'

The Museum's displays are refreshed each year and presented alongside a special exhibition. 'The Brontës' Web of Childhood' ran throughout 2024.

**Acquisitions**

Every year the collection grows through purchases and donations. The following items came as donations to the Museum collection between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025:

- An oil portrait of an unknown young woman, unsigned but believed to be by Branwell Brontë.
- An art work, 'Thornfield Hall', by Franklin. The work featured in the Imaginary Worlds exhibition, displayed in the Museum foyer from 1 February - 30 June 2025.
- A small green knitted purse with gold beads, believed to be the one mentioned in Charlotte's letter to Ellen Nussey, dated 22 August 1844: "Thank you for the very pretty little purse you have sent me." The donation also included a carte de visite of a portrait believed to be of Ellen Nussey as a young woman.
- John Walker's A Critical Pronouncing Dictionary (1832), inscribed by William Wood.

The Society purchased a small pencil drawing of a castle by Anne Brontë, dated 16 June 1836, from a private collector and Emily Brontë's watercolour painting, known as 'The North Wind' [1842], from the Forum Auctions sale held on Thursday 27 March 2025.

**Loans**

We were loaned a violin in a case, said to have belonged to Branwell Brontë; Anne Brontë's pencil drawing, 'Geneva', dated 15 June 1837, and Charlotte Brontë's christening bonnet.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***Conservation***

The movements for the two longcase clocks at the Parsonage underwent cleaning and conservation treatment during the January conservation period.

***5. To increase resilience through dynamism, data and digital***

***Finance***

The museum opened to visitors for six days each week for a longer period during 2024-2025 and this contributed to an increase in the admissions income for the year.

We were in receipt of NPO funding throughout the year and in addition, we received both regular funding from Bradford Council and funding for specific projects. The Brontë Society is very grateful to these organisations for their ongoing support.

***Digital***

Our developing online programme of talks and 'Brontë Lounge' events continued to attract audiences from all over the world and receive positive feedback. Notable successes include an online event hosted in partnership with Elizabeth Gaskell's House, Jane Austen's House and Chawton to celebrate International Women's Day. During the autumn of 2024, we ran a six-week online course, 'The Brontës and the Gothic', led by Dr Sam Hirst, which was attended by Brontë enthusiasts from America to Japan. A major addition to our digital programme has been 'Behind the Glass: A Parsonage Podcast.' A second series of episodes with special guests was recorded during 2024 and broadcast commenced in spring 2025.

***Marketing***

During the period, the majority of marketing activity was digital. The development and launch of a new website, created by Supercool Ltd, was a focus for much of 2024. The design of a new museum logo and photography were commissioned as part of the website project.

Our social media platforms continued to grow, and engagement with our online community flourished throughout the period, with our reach on Facebook, Twitter and particularly Instagram increasing significantly on March 2024 numbers.

***PR and media***

The Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum attracted high-profile media coverage throughout the year, especially in relation to the correction of the Brontë memorial at Westminster Abbey and the acquisition of Emily Brontë's painting 'The North Wind.' We continued to allocate budget to working with a PR agency, Anita Morris Associates, to support our media activity and this relationship offers a substantial return on investment.

During 2024-25, we also hosted several production crews including Wise Owl Films who made a Brontë documentary presented by Anita Rani for Sky Arts.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation***

The landscape and natural world are fundamental to the Brontës' work and an important part of what visitors to the Brontë Parsonage Museum, situated on the edge of Yorkshire moorland, experience. The Brontë Society has strong commitment to environmental responsibility and this continued to be a consideration in every aspect of our work during the financial period. Our organisation-wide Green Group continued to meet quarterly to discuss ecological initiatives and different ways to further reduce our carbon footprint, and our programme of Carbon Literacy training is ongoing.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**Learning and engagement**

Young people and children are a key focus. Our formal learning programme is praised by teachers and we experienced an increase in school groups during the period. While many of our school workshops are curriculum-linked, creativity is embedded throughout. We offer free workshops for local schools, forging stronger links and a sense of ownership of the Museum. The Museum was proud to receive the Sandford Award for Heritage Learning in December 2024.

**Publications**

The Brontë Society's journal, 'Brontë Studies' edited by Dr Claire O'Callaghan, was published three times during the period. During 2024 - 2025, the number of downloads was in the region of 50k. The journal has a global reach, with the UK, North America and China seeing the highest number of full text downloads.

**Building partnerships**

During 2024-2025, we collaborated with a number of other cultural organisations, including Elizabeth Gaskell's House, Bradford Museums and Galleries, and Ilkley Literature Festival (now Word Up North.) In addition, our position as a Bradford2025 cultural partner has enabled us to strengthen our relationships with the Local Authority and arts and heritage organisations across the wider district.

We are represented on the Bradford Place Marketing Board and our Director is a member of the West Yorkshire Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) Board.

**Growing and widening the membership of the Brontë Society**

The digital membership packages are now our most popular membership categories, with more than 50% of members (who are not Life Members) opting for this type of membership. This has led to a reduction in costs associated with printing and postage and also contributes to a reduction in our carbon footprint. The Young Brontë Friend (16 – 25) category continues to prove popular with over 250 members in this category by 31 March 2025.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**Developing a positive culture that supports staff and volunteers**

The organisation continues to foster a learning culture, embedding evaluation and review at the heart of its activities. All staff are encouraged to seek out, and take advantage of, opportunities for Continued Professional Development, including free membership of the Museums Association.

All staff are paid at least the Real Living Wage and in August 2024 the Brontë Society achieved Mindful Employer status. Ideas from all parts of the organisation are shared via our regular staff forum, and employees and volunteers are kept up to date with news and developments via a fortnightly e-bulletin and a more detailed 'Brontë Business', which is produced monthly. The mental health of our workforce is considered as important as its physical health and all staff are entitled to a monthly 'Wellbeing Hour' to pursue leisure or wellbeing activities.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Income and expenditure**

Total income for the year ended 31 March 2025 was £1,773,122 compared to £1,646,356 in the 12 months to 31 March 2024. Income in 2024-25 included 12 months' worth of National Portfolio Organisation grant from Arts Council England and other grants, including grants of £315k and £100k from Bradford Council's Cultural Capital Fund and Arts Council England respectively to help fund the construction of our new visitor facilities, a grant of £5k from Bradford Council to support our outreach programme and an additional £5k to support the free street element of our Brontë Women's Writing Festival. Income from museum admissions for the year to 31 March 2025 totalled £608,204 compared to £585,854 for the period to 31 March 2024. Retail sales in the museum shop for the year ended 31 March 2025 totalled £296,212 compared with £314,674 for the 12 month period to 31 March 2024.

Total expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 was £1,355,324 compared with £1,243,372 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Overall, the net movement in funds for the year was £414,867 compared with £410,791 for the 12 months to 31 March 2024.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)**

**Financial sustainability**

The Brontë Society welcomed 60,482 visitors in the 12 months from 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, compared with 64,069 for the 12 months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

During 2024 - 2025, the Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum continued to benefit financially as one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations, with grant funding received for the year of £236,778. The Society is very grateful to Arts Council England for this ongoing support, which is now expected to continue until April 2028.

Being an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation yields benefits other than the immediately financial. It enables us to access networking opportunities, training and professional development, and encourages confidence in other potential funders.

**Investment policy and objectives**

The objectives of the investment policy are as follows:

- To provide for on-going cash needs to support the operation of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum on a day-to-day basis;
- To ensure the continued protection of the fabric of the Parsonage building;
- To provide for, or contribute towards, the purchase of new acquisitions for the Museum and its collections;
- To provide a basis for future financial planning that will carry forward the Charity's objectives.

**Investment review**

During the reporting period, the Finance & Audit Committee met with Charles Stanley, the Bronte Society's Investment Managers, to review the management of the charity's investments and its goals. As the Society does not currently take regular income from the portfolio, the decision was taken to move from a balanced to a growth approach from January 2022 onwards. The existing overall risk level will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

During the year, net realised and unrealised losses on investments totalled £3,776 and the cost of managing the investments was £279.

**Reserves policy**

At 31 March 2025 the group held unrestricted reserves of £8,112,557, of which £6,950,582 were Heritage Assets, £411,629 were other tangible assets, £39,387 were intangible assets, and £160,829 were investments. Restricted reserves at the period-end amounted to £189,046. The trustees have agreed, in line with many other National Portfolio Organisations, that the organisation should aim to hold three months' worth of operating costs in reserve. Three months' worth of operating costs, being total unrestricted expenditure less depreciation and irrecoverable VAT, at the year-end amounted to £330,294. After allowing for this, at 31 March 2025, total readily available unrestricted reserves amounted to £556,964. These are funds in cash and investments that the Board of Trustees is able to designate for specific purposes.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

- Continued and increased analysis of data to set targets, monitor progress and support a culture of data driven decision making.
- Increased diversity in the workforce and our audiences.
- A review of our IT infrastructure and support to futureproof the organisation and ensure our data is stored securely and efficiently.
- Continued development of digital to a) widen access to our collection and our work and b) to diversify our income.
- Development of our retail and commercial offer.
- Producing a masterplan for future capital development, including the scoping of funding possibilities.

Recent achievements have provided the foundations for realising our ambitions for 2025 – 2028: growing our visitor offer, expanding our office space and increasing our collection storage as befits a museum marking its centenary in 2028.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The Society is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society was established in 1893 and opened its first museum in 1895. It is a company limited by guarantee (number 00073855), having been incorporated in 1902, and is registered as a charity (number 529952). The business of the Brontë Society is governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of the Members in the event of the Society being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1 each. The number of Members at 31 March 2025 was 1607 of whom 492 were Life Members.

**Appointment, induction of training of new Trustees**

At the first meeting of the Board following the Annual General Meeting the trustees elect one of their number to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees. All trustees are supported with relevant induction information on appointment and undertake appropriate training during their period of office.

**Organisational structure**

The Brontë Society is governed by a board of up to twelve trustees who are appointed at the AGM. We are proactive in developing the Board through succession planning, supported by appropriate training and induction. We want our Board to be representative of society and take care to set out the commitment, responsibilities and expertise involved to ensure we attract candidates with the appropriate skills and experience. The Board currently has two sub-committees, Finance, Risk and Audit, (which meets regularly ahead of all full Board meetings) and the Nominations Committee, responsible for board succession planning.

The leadership and day-to-day running of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum is delegated to the Director, a pr and communications professional with extensive experience in the arts and heritage sector. The Director works collaboratively with the Senior Leadership Team which comprises a qualified museum professional with over thirty years' curatorial experience, an experienced HR and project manager, and a Head of Finance who is a chartered accountant with over twenty-five years' experience.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)**

**Key management remuneration**

The trustees consider the members of the Senior Leadership Team to form the key management personnel of the Society, in charge of directing, running and operating the Society on a day-to-day basis. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and in view of the nature of the organisation, the trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities across the sector.

**Related parties**

The charity operates a wholly owned trading subsidiary, The Brontë Genius Company Limited. This company operates the gift shop of the Brontë Society. During the year ended 31 March 2025, the company made a loss of £23,605 compared with £26,518 profit in 2024.

**Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In order to monitor those risks and respond to any changes, the organisation maintains a risk register, which is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and members of the Finance, Risk & Audit committee and scrutinised by the Board of Trustees.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Annual General Meeting. (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Annual General Meeting. to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Annual General Meeting. must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Charity and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Annual General Meeting. are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

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

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the persons who are Annual General Meeting. at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

**Auditors**

The auditors, Clive Owen & Co LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting..

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Annual General Meeting. on  
.....18 Feb 2025..... and signed on their behalf by:



**A J Midgley**  
(Trustee)

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Brontë Society (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') 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 charitable company'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 Companies Act 2006

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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 charitable company'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 BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (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.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

- the parent charitable company 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 charitable company 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 (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (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.

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Our audit must be alert to the risk of manipulation of the financial statements and seek to understand the incentives and opportunities for management to achieve this.

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Group. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be around employment law, charity law, company law, health and safety law, taxation law and GDPR
- Enquiry of directors and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of Board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of directors and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies.
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. 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 concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**



**Christopher Beaumont BA (Hons) BFP FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**Clive Owen LLP**

Chartered Accountants &  
Statutory Auditors

140 Coniscliffe Road

DARLINGTON

County Durham

DL3 7RT

Date: 23 July 2025

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Fixed assets funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	4	41,270	5,714	13,150	60,134	366,692
Charitable activities	5	1,277,464	100,000	-	1,377,464	931,564
Other trading activities	6	316,889	-	-	316,889	333,057
Investments	7	18,635	-	-	18,635	15,043
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>1,654,258</b>	<b>105,714</b>	<b>13,150</b>	<b>1,773,122</b>	<b>1,646,356</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	8,9	249,928	-	-	249,928	244,140
Charitable activities	10	1,098,267	7,129	-	1,105,396	999,232
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,348,195</b>	<b>7,129</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,355,324</b>	<b>1,243,372</b>
<b>Net income before net (losses)/gains on investments</b>		<b>306,063</b>	<b>98,585</b>	<b>13,150</b>	<b>417,798</b>	<b>402,984</b>
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments		(2,931)	-	-	(2,931)	7,807
<b>Net income</b>		<b>303,132</b>	<b>98,585</b>	<b>13,150</b>	<b>414,867</b>	<b>410,791</b>
Transfers between funds	22	(79,660)	-	79,660	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>223,472</b>	<b>98,585</b>	<b>92,810</b>	<b>414,867</b>	<b>410,791</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		938,503	90,461	6,857,772	7,886,736	7,475,945
Net movement in funds		223,472	98,585	92,810	414,867	410,791
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,161,975</b>	<b>189,046</b>	<b>6,950,582</b>	<b>8,301,603</b>	<b>7,886,736</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Intangible assets	15	39,387	-
Tangible assets	16	511,629	38,144
Heritage assets	17	6,950,582	6,857,772
Investments	18	160,829	162,822
		7,662,427	7,058,738
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	44,666	51,364
Debtors	20	244,557	71,256
Cash at bank and in hand		502,212	802,187
		791,435	924,807
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(152,259)	(96,809)
		639,176	827,998
<b>Net current assets</b>		639,176	827,998
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		8,301,603	7,886,736
<b>Net assets</b>		8,301,603	7,886,736
<b>Total net assets</b>		8,301,603	7,886,736
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Heritage fixed assets funds	22	6,950,582	6,857,772
Restricted funds	22	189,046	90,461
Unrestricted funds	22	1,161,975	938,503
		8,301,603	7,886,736
<b>Total funds</b>		8,301,603	7,886,736

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 on 18 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



**A J Midgley**  
(Trustee)

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)**

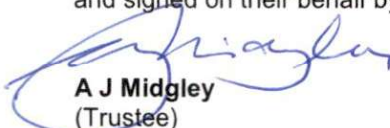
**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Intangible assets	15	39,387	-
Tangible assets	16	511,629	38,144
Heritage assets	17	6,950,582	6,857,772
Investments	18	185,929	187,922
		7,687,527	7,083,838
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	2,180	2,179
Debtors	20	289,497	134,305
Cash at bank and in hand		458,461	719,322
		750,138	855,806
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(149,879)	(90,330)
		600,259	765,476
<b>Net current assets</b>		600,259	765,476
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		8,287,786	7,849,314
<b>Net assets</b>		8,287,786	7,849,314
<b>Total net assets</b>		8,287,786	7,849,314
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Heritage fixed assets funds	22	6,950,582	6,857,772
Restricted funds	22	189,046	90,461
Unrestricted funds	22	1,148,158	901,081
<b>Total funds</b>		8,287,786	7,849,314

The Charity's net movement in funds for the year was £438,472 (2024 - £384,273).

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 on 18 JULY 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

  
**A J Midgley**  
 (Trustee)

The notes on pages 25 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>204,288</b>	365,574
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>18,635</b>	15,043
Purchase of intangible assets	<b>(39,387)</b>	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(478,704)</b>	(1,761)
Proceeds from sale of investments	<b>76,195</b>	73,205
Purchase of investments	<b>(81,002)</b>	(72,706)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>	<b>(504,263)</b>	<b>13,781</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>(299,975)</b>	<b>379,355</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>802,187</b>	422,832
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>502,212</b>	<b>802,187</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 25 to 52 form part of these financial statements

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**1. General information**

The Brontë Society is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered details can be found on page 1. In the event of the Brontë Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Brontë Society.

**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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society meets the definition of a public interest 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 Group and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Group has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

**2.2 Going concern**

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the company will continue to trade for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The Trustees have prepared forecasts that demonstrate that the company will be able to continue to trade within existing bank facilities for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

**2.3 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.

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.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.4 Income**

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

Grants are included in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Charity's accounting policies.

Donated facilities and services are recognised in the financial statements when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Income from sales of goods is recognised at point of sale, at which the risks and rewards of the goods are transferred to the customer.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.5 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.

Support costs directly attributed to an activity have been allocated to the activity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to any activity they have been allocated in proportion to direct expenditure.

Costs of generating funds (direct costs) are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

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.

**2.6 Government grants**

Government grants are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on receipt.

**2.7 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.

**2.8 Taxation**

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

**2.9 Intangible assets and amortisation**

Intangible 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.

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.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.9 Intangible assets and amortisation (continued)**

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. No amortisation is charged on the asset in the year of purchase.

Amortisation is provided on the following basis:

Website development	- 20 % on cost
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**2.10 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.

No depreciation is charged on the asset in the year of purchase.

No depreciation is charged on freehold property as the Trustees consider its value to be not less than original cost.

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:

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% - 15% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

**2.11 Heritage assets**

The Charity's collection comprises assets of historical importance recognised as heritage assets previously under FRS 30 (Heritage Assets) and now under the provision of the current SORP and FRS102 which require such assets to be reported in the balance sheet where information is available regarding cost or value. Items purchased for the collection are capitalised as heritage assets and included at cost or value at acquisition in the balance sheet. Items purchased prior to the implementation of Current SORP are not capitalised. Items donated to the collection are capitalised as heritage assets at market value at the point of donation where material. Depreciation has not been provided on heritage assets on the basis that their residual value is such that any depreciation charge would be immaterial. A description of the collection, its management and developments during the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.12 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.

Investments held as fixed assets are shown at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities.

**2.13 Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Benefits received and receivable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term, unless another systematic basis is representative of the time pattern of the lessee's benefit from the use of the leased asset.

**2.14 Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell. Stock is measured on a first in first out basis.

**2.15 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.

**2.16 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.

**2.17 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.

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

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.18 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.

**2.19 Irrecoverable VAT**

The charity was partially exempt for VAT purposes for the year ended 31 March 2025. Irrecoverable VAT has been included in the Statement of Financial Activities during the year within support costs.

**2.20 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.

**3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

Estimates and judgments 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.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgement:

Stock provision - the stock listing is reviewed by management on a quarterly basis to consider if there are any obsolete or slow-moving stock. A provision is then made within the financial statements.

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

**4. Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted fixed assets funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Donations</b>					
Bequests and donations	10,569	-	-	<b>10,569</b>	353,384
Contemporary arts donations	-	186	-	<b>186</b>	198
Collection care donations	-	110	-	<b>110</b>	48
Purchase fund donations	-	2,117	-	<b>2,117</b>	2,699
Museum redecoration scheme	-	62	-	<b>62</b>	82
New Building Fund donations	30,701	-	-	<b>30,701</b>	-
Education donations	-	2,139	-	<b>2,139</b>	2,931
Piano maintenance fund	-	100	-	<b>100</b>	-
Taylor & Francis Prize fund	-	1,000	-	<b>1,000</b>	4,000
Heritage assets donations	-	-	13,150	<b>13,150</b>	3,350
<b>Total 2025</b>	<u>41,270</u>	<u>5,714</u>	<u>13,150</u>	<u><b>60,134</b></u>	<u>366,692</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>353,384</u>	<u>9,958</u>	<u>3,350</u>	<u>366,692</u>	

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

**5. Analysis of income from charitable activities by type of income**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Museum admission donations	554,808	-	<b>554,808</b>	541,784
Museum admission gift aid tax	53,396	-	<b>53,396</b>	44,070
Grants receivable	236,778	-	<b>236,778</b>	238,038
Contemporary arts income	2,664	-	<b>2,664</b>	2,825
Education group admission	48,676	-	<b>48,676</b>	40,444
Events	16,669	-	<b>16,669</b>	13,607
Subscription from members	31,459	-	<b>31,459</b>	33,259
Conference	-	-	-	4,050
Exhibition tax refund	8,014	-	<b>8,014</b>	1,837
Bradford Council grant	325,000	-	<b>325,000</b>	11,650
Arts Council Capital Grant	-	100,000	<b>100,000</b>	-
<b>Total 2025</b>	<u>1,277,464</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u><b>1,377,464</b></u>	<u>931,564</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>931,564</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>931,564</u>	

**6. Income from other trading activities**

**Income from non charitable trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Royalties, licensing and repo fees	20,677	<b>20,677</b>	18,383
Income from sales	296,212	<b>296,212</b>	314,674
	<u>316,889</u>	<u><b>316,889</b></u>	<u>333,057</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>333,057</u>	<u>333,057</u>	

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

**7. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Dividends receivable	3,956	<b>3,956</b>	3,875
Bank interest	14,679	<b>14,679</b>	11,168
	18,635	<b>18,635</b>	15,043
	15,043	<b>15,043</b>	
<i>Total 2024</i>			

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

**8. Expenditure on raising funds**

**Expenditure on raising funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Purchases and direct costs	150,490	<b>150,490</b>	160,429
Wages and salaries	98,211	<b>98,211</b>	81,039
Pension costs	948	<b>948</b>	644
	249,649	<b>249,649</b>	242,112
	242,112	242,112	
<i>Total 2024</i>			

**9. Investment management costs**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Investment management fees	279	<b>279</b>	2,028
	279	<b>279</b>	
	2,028	2,028	
<i>Total 2024</i>			

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

**10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>	<i>Total 2024 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	1,098,267	7,129	<b>1,105,396</b>	999,232
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>988,104</u>	<u>11,128</u>	<u>999,232</u>	

**11. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2025 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	668,553	436,843	<b>1,105,396</b>	999,232
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>570,417</u>	<u>428,815</u>	<u>999,232</u>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**11. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	533,919	<b>533,919</b>	424,039
Curatorial	28,346	<b>28,346</b>	35,991
Advertising and marketing	29,714	<b>29,714</b>	29,187
Exhibition and display	7,028	<b>7,028</b>	4,066
Education	11,083	<b>11,083</b>	4,802
Creative Programme costs	37,648	<b>37,648</b>	49,051
Travel and training	7,319	<b>7,319</b>	8,674
Events	9,566	<b>9,566</b>	7,602
Membership	3,430	<b>3,430</b>	2,025
Conference costs	-	-	4,480
Taylor & Francis awards	500	<b>500</b>	500
	<u>668,553</u>	<u><b>668,553</b></u>	<u>570,417</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>570,417</u>	<u>570,417</u>	

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**11. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Staff costs	172,637	<b>172,637</b>	200,115
Depreciation	5,219	<b>5,219</b>	10,468
Curatorial	268	<b>268</b>	-
Travel and training	4,153	<b>4,153</b>	4,234
Rates and water	2,119	<b>2,119</b>	2,011
Insurance	16,838	<b>16,838</b>	14,783
Light and heat	13,911	<b>13,911</b>	19,783
Recruitment	415	<b>415</b>	250
Communications and technology	44,923	<b>44,923</b>	29,793
Security and fire safety	20,873	<b>20,873</b>	16,437
Cleaning	7,144	<b>7,144</b>	4,654
Garden	7,601	<b>7,601</b>	4,268
Property repairs	26,669	<b>26,669</b>	11,080
Input VAT not recoverable	21,801	<b>21,801</b>	19,172
Miscellaneous	858	<b>858</b>	1,298
Administration costs	22,333	<b>22,333</b>	18,696
Bank charges	17,454	<b>17,454</b>	17,849
Loss on disposal of investments	846	<b>846</b>	743
Governance costs	50,781	<b>50,781</b>	53,181
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	436,843	<b>436,843</b>	428,815
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	428,815	<b>428,815</b>	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	

**12. Auditors' remuneration**

	<b>2025 £</b>	<i>2024 £</i>
Fees payable to the Charitable Group's auditor for the audit of the Charitable Group's annual accounts	<b>13,200</b>	19,325
Fees payable to the Charitable Group's auditor in respect of:		
All taxation advisory services not included above	<b>250</b>	725
All assurance services not included above	-	470
All non-audit services not included above	<b>2,200</b>	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

**13. Staff costs**

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	<b>Charity 2025 £</b>	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Wages and salaries	741,317	649,770	643,106	568,731
Social security costs	44,456	37,166	44,456	37,166
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	19,942	18,901	18,994	18,257
	<u>805,715</u>	<u>705,837</u>	<u>706,556</u>	<u>624,154</u>

Included within staff costs are redundancy payments totalling £nil (2024: £nil).

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

	<b>Group 2025 No.</b>	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2025 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2024 No.</i>
	40	33	34	28
	<u>40</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>28</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>Group 2025 No.</b>	<i>Group 2024 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2025 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2024 No.</i>
	25	23	22	20
	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

There are no employees that exceed £60,000 employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance) on an annual basis. The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the charity was £183,547 (2024: £175,375).

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**14. 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 £502 were reimbursed or paid directly to 4 Trustees (2024 - £653 to Trustees). Expenses reimbursements related to travel and subsistence and were repaid directly to Trustees.

**15. Intangible assets**

**Group and Charity**

	<b>Website £</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
Additions	<b>39,387</b>
At 31 March 2025	<b>39,387</b>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 March 2025	<b>39,387</b>
At 31 March 2024	-

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**16. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group and Charity**

	Freehold property £	Visitor facilities £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 April 2024	18,640	-	240,504	59,556	318,700
Additions	-	414,798	61,714	2,192	478,704
At 31 March 2025	<u>18,640</u>	<u>414,798</u>	<u>302,218</u>	<u>61,748</u>	<u>797,404</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 April 2024	-	-	223,341	57,215	280,556
Charge for the year	-	-	4,056	1,163	5,219
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>227,397</u>	<u>58,378</u>	<u>285,775</u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 March 2025	<u>18,640</u>	<u>414,798</u>	<u>74,821</u>	<u>3,370</u>	<u>511,629</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,163</u>	<u>2,341</u>	<u>38,144</u>

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**17. Heritage assets**

**Group and Charity**

**Assets recognised at cost**

	<b>Heritage assets 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>
Carrying value at 1 April 2024	6,857,772	<b>6,857,772</b>
Additions	92,810	<b>92,810</b>
	6,950,582	<b>6,950,582</b>
	6,950,582	<b>6,950,582</b>

The Society owns the Parsonage at Haworth which was the home of the Brontë family from 1820 to 1861 and which was gifted to the Society in 1928. The Parsonage houses a world class collection of artefacts and documents associated with the Brontë Family and their literary works. The collection is maintained in order to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family and consists of material which belonged to the Brontë family, their friends and associates. It includes books, manuscripts, letters, paintings, drawings, furniture, household items and personal possessions. The Research Library Collection, also housed within the Parsonage building, contains secondary source material and a wide range of biographical, critical, topographical and related works on the Brontë family. Today the Brontë Society continues to carry out its founding aim; collecting and exhibiting material relating to the Brontës' lives and works and making them known to the widest audience through display, online access, appointments to view and a lifelong learning programme.

Under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 and FRS30 Heritage Assets items purchased for the collection were capitalised and included at cost in the balance sheet and this has continued under the current SORP.

The Society maintains its collection for its historical and literary value. Any valuation is completed within the confines of the requirements of the management and preservation of the collection and for no other purpose. In accordance with the provisions of the SORP, no value has been attributed to items acquired prior to the implementation of the SORP 2005 due to the lack of reliable information regarding cost or valuation. Heritage asset acquisitions reported in the balance sheet totalled £92,810 in 2025, £5,411 in 2024, £4,559,934 in 2022/23, £19,500 in 2021, £2,050 in 2020, £676,239 in 2019, £10,800 in 2018, £32,852 in 2017, £60,137 in 2016, £857,146 in 2015, £28,770 in 2014, £89,366 in 2013, £245,665 in 2012, £43,900 in 2011 and £226,002 prior to this date. Additions in 2016 included the kind donation by the BBC of items used in the production of To Walk Invisible.

Access to the collection is promoted through educational workshops and tours as well as through general admissions to the Museum. The collection is detailed in the Society's online catalogue which can be accessed via the website at [www.bronte.org.uk](http://www.bronte.org.uk).

Included within the heritage assets value is £1.5m relating to some of the items donated from the Honresfield Library collection. The total value of these assets is £4.5m and is jointly owned between The Brontë Society, The British Library Board and The University of Leeds, and these assets cannot be sold unless all three parties agree.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**18. Fixed asset investments**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Listed investments £</b>	<b>Cash and settlements pending £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	152,964	9,857	162,821
Additions	81,002	(81,002)	-
Disposals	(76,195)	76,195	-
Revaluations	(3,776)	1,784	(1,992)
At 31 March 2025	<u>153,995</u>	<u>6,834</u>	<u>160,829</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2025	<u>153,995</u>	<u>6,834</u>	<u>160,829</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,857</u>	<u>162,821</u>

The historical cost of listed investments at 31 March 2025 was £148,055 (2024: £140,750).

<b>Charity</b>	<b>Investments in subsidiary companies £</b>	<b>Listed investments £</b>	<b>Cash and settlements pending £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 April 2024	25,100	152,964	9,857	187,921
Additions	-	81,002	(81,002)	-
Disposals	-	(76,195)	76,195	-
Revaluations	-	(3,776)	1,784	(1,992)
At 31 March 2025	<u>25,100</u>	<u>153,995</u>	<u>6,834</u>	<u>185,929</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2025	<u>25,100</u>	<u>153,995</u>	<u>6,834</u>	<u>185,929</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>25,100</u>	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,857</u>	<u>187,921</u>

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**18. Fixed asset investments (continued)**

**Principal subsidiaries**

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Principal activity
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	06504497	Brontë Parsonage Museum, Church Street, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8DR	The gift shop in the Brontë Parsonage Museum

Class of shares	Holding
Ordinary	100%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Profit/(Loss) for the period £	Net assets £
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	(23,605)	38,917

The profit for the period is after taking account of an interim donation to the parent company of £37,422 (2024: £10,904).

**19. Stocks**

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2025 £	Charity 2024 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>44,666</u>	<u>51,364</u>	<u>2,180</u>	<u>2,179</u>

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**20. Debtors**

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	<b>Charity 2025 £</b>	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
<b>Due within one year</b>				
Trade debtors	<b>34,968</b>	7,803	<b>34,968</b>	7,803
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	<b>45,734</b>	64,032
Other debtors	<b>9,617</b>	-	<b>9,617</b>	-
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>199,972</b>	63,453	<b>199,178</b>	62,470
	<b>244,557</b>	71,256	<b>289,497</b>	134,305

**21. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	<b>Charity 2025 £</b>	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Trade creditors	<b>93,103</b>	31,027	<b>92,188</b>	30,473
Other taxation and social security	<b>13,269</b>	13,140	<b>13,269</b>	13,140
Other creditors	<b>2,580</b>	3,920	<b>2,580</b>	3,920
Accruals and deferred income	<b>43,307</b>	48,722	<b>41,842</b>	42,797
	<b>152,259</b>	96,809	<b>149,879</b>	90,330
	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	<b>Charity 2025 £</b>	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	<b>17,648</b>	17,069	<b>17,648</b>	17,069
Resources deferred during the year	<b>17,416</b>	17,648	<b>17,416</b>	17,648
Amounts released from previous periods	<b>(17,648)</b>	(17,069)	<b>(17,648)</b>	(17,069)
	<b>17,416</b>	17,648	<b>17,416</b>	17,648

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**22. 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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	548,427	1,308,557	(934,737)	(32,400)	(2,931)	886,916
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fundraising development	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
New Building Fund	35,950	345,701	(365,678)	-	-	15,973
Quinquennial Fund	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Conservation Fund	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
Museum Acquisition Fund	100,000	-	-	(45,040)	-	54,960
Digital Development Fund	50,000	-	(47,780)	(2,220)	-	-
Capital Projects Fund	124,000	-	-	-	-	124,000
	<u>938,503</u>	<u>1,654,258</u>	<u>(1,348,195)</u>	<u>(79,660)</u>	<u>(2,931)</u>	<u>1,161,975</u>
<b>Heritage fixed assets funds</b>						
Heritage assets	<u>6,857,772</u>	<u>13,150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,660</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,950,582</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,620	110	-	-	-	3,730
Contemporary Arts	2,386	186	-	-	-	2,572
Education	17,113	2,139	-	-	-	19,252
Purchases	25,430	2,117	(117)	-	-	27,430
British Library Museum	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Redecoration	517	62	-	-	-	579
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	10,306	100	-	-	-	10,406
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	7,415	1,000	(500)	-	-	7,915
Garfield Weston	1,574	-	(1,574)	-	-	-
Foyle Foundation	4,938	-	(4,938)	-	-	-
Restricted asset: Arts Council Capital Grant	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
	<u>90,461</u>	<u>105,714</u>	<u>(7,129)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>189,046</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>7,886,736</u></u>	<u><u>1,773,122</u></u>	<u><u>(1,355,324)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(2,931)</u></u>	<u><u>8,301,603</u></u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

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

Unrestricted Funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated Funds are those funds designated by the Trustees for specific purposes. The allocations are reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. The designated funds are shown as unrestricted funds. Designated Funds set up during the year are as follows:

Conservation Fund – to earmark funds to provide for future maintenance and conservation of the museum's collection;

Museum Acquisition Fund – to ensure the Society is able to respond to acquire additions to the collection when they become available;

Digital Development Fund – to provide funds to continue to update the museum's systems to futureproof them and facilitate wider access to the Parsonage and its collection;

Capital Projects Fund – to provide funding to support current and future capital outlay to further the fulfilment of the Society's charitable objectives

Restricted Funds are those funds where monies have been received for a specific purpose. The restrictions placed on the funds as shown above are as follows;

Sir Tresham Lever - monies are only to be used to purchase flowers for the local parish Church;

Top Withens fund - expenditure for the maintenance of the Top Withens site;

Collections Care - expenditure is restricted to cleaning, repairing and conserving the Collection;

Contemporary Arts - Donations are restricted to supporting the Contemporary Arts programme;

Education - expenditure is restricted to supporting the education programme;

Purchases - expenditure is restricted to funding acquisitions for the Collection;

British Library - expenditure is restricted to a "literature in context" project;

Museum Redecoration - donations received towards maintaining the decoration of the Parsonage;

Reception Furniture Fund - donations received for the refurbishment of the admissions area of the Museum;

Piano Maintenance Fund - donation from Society member John Hennessy for the future costs of maintaining the Brontë piano;

Taylor & Francis Prize Fund – consists of an annual donation from Taylor & Francis to fund the cost of a Brontë Society competition;

Garfield Weston - grant funding for outreach projects;

Foyle Foundation - monies received to cover core costs;

Arts Council Capital Grant - grant funding towards the construction of visitor facilities.

Transfers between funds:

Transfers between funds are discussed and approved by Trustees at Council Meetings. The principal transfers during the year concern the use of unrestricted funds.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**22. 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> £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	462,708	1,633,048	(1,229,075)	(326,061)	7,807	548,427
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fundraising development	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
New Building Fund	39,119	-	(3,169)	-	-	35,950
Quinquennial Fund	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Conservation Fund	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Museum Acquisition Fund	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Digital Development Fund	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Capital Projects Fund	-	-	-	124,000	-	124,000
	<u>531,953</u>	<u>1,633,048</u>	<u>(1,232,244)</u>	<u>(2,061)</u>	<u>7,807</u>	<u>938,503</u>
<b>Heritage fixed assets funds</b>						
Heritage assets	<u>6,852,361</u>	<u>3,350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,061</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,857,772</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**22. 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>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,572	48	-	-	-	3,620
Contemporary Arts	2,188	198	-	-	-	2,386
Education	14,182	2,931	-	-	-	17,113
Purchases	22,731	2,699	-	-	-	25,430
British Library	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Museum Redecoration	435	82	-	-	-	517
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	10,306	-	-	-	-	10,306
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	3,915	4,000	(500)	-	-	7,415
Garfield Weston	4,382	-	(2,808)	-	-	1,574
Foyle Foundation	12,758	-	(7,820)	-	-	4,938
	<u>91,631</u>	<u>9,958</u>	<u>(11,128)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,461</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>7,475,945</u></u>	<u><u>1,646,356</u></u>	<u><u>(1,243,372)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>7,807</u></u>	<u><u>7,886,736</u></u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**23. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Heritage assets funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	411,629	100,000	-	<b>511,629</b>
Intangible fixed assets	39,387	-	-	<b>39,387</b>
Fixed asset investments	153,995	6,834	-	<b>160,829</b>
Heritage assets	-	-	6,950,582	<b>6,950,582</b>
Current assets	709,223	82,212	-	<b>791,435</b>
Creditors due within one year	(152,259)	-	-	<b>(152,259)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,161,975</b>	<b>189,046</b>	<b>6,950,582</b>	<b>8,301,603</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Heritage assets funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	38,144	-	-	38,144
Fixed asset investments	152,964	9,858	-	162,822
Heritage assets	-	-	6,857,772	6,857,772
Current assets	844,204	80,603	-	924,807
Creditors due within one year	(96,809)	-	-	(96,809)
<b>Total</b>	<b>938,503</b>	<b>90,461</b>	<b>6,857,772</b>	<b>7,886,736</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>414,867</b>	410,791
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>5,219</b>	10,466
Loss/(gain) on investments	<b>3,961</b>	(1,242)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>(18,635)</b>	(15,043)
Loss on the sale of investments	<b>846</b>	743
Decrease in stocks	<b>6,698</b>	10,642
Increase in debtors	<b>(173,301)</b>	(23,425)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<b>55,451</b>	(13,035)
Donated heritage assets	<b>(92,810)</b>	(5,411)
Revaluation of investments	<b>1,992</b>	(8,912)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>204,288</b>	365,574

**25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>
Cash in hand	<b>502,212</b>	802,187
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>502,212</b>	802,187

**26. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 April 2024 £</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2025 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>802,187</b>	<b>(299,975)</b>	<b>502,212</b>
	<b>802,187</b>	<b>(299,975)</b>	<b>502,212</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**27. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 March 2025 the Group and the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	<b>Charity 2025 £</b>	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Not later than 1 year	<b>7,736</b>	7,736	<b>7,736</b>	7,736
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<b>21,618</b>	29,354	<b>21,618</b>	29,354
	<u><b>29,354</b></u>	<u>37,090</u>	<u><b>29,354</b></u>	<u>37,090</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	<b>Group 2025 £</b>	<i>Group 2024 £</i>	<b>Charity 2025 £</b>	<i>Charity 2024 £</i>
Operating lease rentals	<b>7,265</b>	5,676	<b>7,265</b>	5,676

**28. Related party transactions**

The Charitable Group has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.

**THE BRONTE SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 529952

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# Accounts

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Registered number: 00073855 (England and Wales)  
Charity number: 529952

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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



The Brontë Society

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**Trustees**

J M Sladdin, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
S K Bari  
L J Beare  
R L Dunbar (appointed 12 July 2023, resigned 22 February 2024)  
C M Gallagher  
J R Gration  
P A Jenkins  
H C Meller  
A J Midgley  
L G Powrie (appointed 18 May 2023)  
V R Sanders

**Company registered number**

00073855 (England and Wales)

**Charity registered number**

529952

**Registered office**

Brontë Parsonage Museum  
Haworth  
KEIGHLEY  
West Yorkshire  
BD22 8DR

**President**

Dame Judi Dench CH DBE FRSA

**Senior Leadership Team**

R J Yorke - Director  
C Dewhirst  
A Dinsdale  
G Price  
M Tomlinson

**Independent auditors**

Clive Owen LLP  
Chartered Accountants &  
Statutory Auditors  
140 Coniscliffe Road  
DARLINGTON  
County Durham  
DL3 7RT

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**Solicitors**

Wrigleys  
3 Wellington Place  
LEEDS  
LS1 4AP

**Investment Advisers**

Charles Stanley & Co. Limited  
7 Park Row  
LEEDS  
LS1 5HD

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**CHAIR'S STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The chair presents his statement for the year.

The report that follows details all that The Brontë Society achieved in the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

The 2023 - 2024 financial year has been a very positive year for the Brontë Society and has enabled us to take concrete steps towards making important capital investments in relation to the infrastructure of the Society and its Museum which we expect to provide much needed and significant future benefit to us in terms of business resilience and visitor accessibility.

We are proud to be a National Portfolio Organisation for literature and continue to be extremely grateful for the support of Arts Council England. The Senior Leadership Team and Board of Trustees have worked to embed the Arts Council's Investment Principles (ambition & quality; dynamism; inclusivity & relevance and environmental responsibility) across the organisation, aware that they are vital tools which will help us fulfil our vision and mission and contribute to a fairer, greener, culturally-rich society.

In May 2023, Arts Council England designated the collections at the Brontë Parsonage Museum as 'Outstanding' - an accolade shared with only 154 other museums and galleries in England. We have seen increases in the number of general visitors and school groups and our team has undertaken further training in access and diversity awareness to ensure everyone has a welcoming and unforgettable experience. We worked in partnership with the British Library and the University of Leeds Libraries and Galleries to present the successful 'Becoming the Brontës' exhibition which welcomed over 7,000 visitors between June and October. The Society also launched a digital guide to the museum on the Bloomberg Connects app in December 2023 and released the first series of our podcast, 'Behind the Glass' in March 2024. These innovative, digital assets enhance people's experience of, and sense of connection to, the Brontë Parsonage Museum and make it more accessible, fresh and relevant.

The financial results for the 2023-2024 year are also extremely positive. Income from admissions grew as we welcomed more visitors to the Parsonage and extended the number of days we opened during the summer months. Towards the end of 2023-2024 the Society was fortunate to receive a significant bequest of almost £325k and the Society intends to use this to fund future projects which will ensure the continuing resilience of the organisation.

All of these achievements over the last twelve months give us cause to feel proud and optimistic as we enter a new financial year. We recognise that there are likely to be significant challenges ahead as we continue to operate in uncertain times and that ensuring our future resilience is key. We are confident that we can achieve this by continuing to invest in much needed improvements to the infrastructure of our Society and the Parsonage Museum. Our two major projects for 2024 – the construction of fully accessible visitor facilities and a new website with updated, integrated systems - will both make a significant contribution to our efforts to remain relevant, sustainable and accessible. This capital investment will be supported by continuing to build closer connections with our local communities and our digital global audience. By collaborative working with local and national partners we will seize the opportunities created by Bradford's year as UK City of Culture in 2025 and the Brontë Parsonage Museum's centenary in 2028 to secure the future of our Society.

J M Sladdin, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Date: 23 July 2024

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report together with the audited consolidated financial statements of the Charitable Group for 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Objectives and Aims**

The Brontë Society is an outward-looking, multi-faceted organisation with literature at its heart. It was founded in 1893 to establish and maintain a museum and to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family. Haworth Parsonage, now the world-famous and accredited Brontë Parsonage Museum, opened to the public in 1928 and has since welcomed over a million visitors. We are a global organisation rooted in Yorkshire identity and landscape. Our collection of Brontë manuscripts and personal possessions, displayed in the rooms where the Brontës lived and wrote some of the greatest novels in the English language, is the largest in the world.

### **The charitable objectives of the Society are:**

1. To promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family in particular, but not exclusively, by establishing and maintaining permanent museums, galleries and libraries for the public benefit;
2. To acquire by donation, purchase, or otherwise, and to renovate and preserve artefacts, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, engravings, paintings, drawings, photographs, clothing, furniture and other objects of or relating to the Brontë family, and if thought fit, of other authors, for the public benefit;
3. To provide for the examination of the literary remains for further scholarship and better understanding of the lives and works of the Brontës and their writing, and if thought fit, of other authors, and publication of the memoirs of the Brontë family and other authors for the public benefit;
4. To promote the advancement of literature and the arts and to initiate projects that deepen literary engagement locally, nationally and throughout the world and which are rendered interesting by their association with the Brontë family for the public benefit;
5. To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

### **The Brontë Society's vision is:**

'To bring the Brontës to the world and the world to Yorkshire'.

We do this, not only by being an internationally-renowned visitor attraction, but through our creative programmes, expanding digital offer and working in partnership with other museums and literary houses.

### **Our mission statement is:**

To celebrate the lives and works of the Brontës, widening access to their legacy and sharing their contemporary significance with a global audience. We conserve, interpret, display and build creative engagement through our world-class collection and the landscape that inspired the Brontës. We champion new writing today, particularly by women, and promote better understanding of the Brontës' lives and works.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**The Brontë Society seeks to promote the following values:**

**Excellence:** This will underpin all our endeavours. We will be informed, authoritative, consistent and constantly benchmarking to ensure we raise standards to foster our status as the world's leading authority on Brontë literature and history, dedicated to maintaining their legacy and consistently operating with financial and organisational efficiency. We aim to have the highest professional standards in all that we do.

**Inspiration:** We will ensure that all our activities have the maximum impact on our audiences, welcoming them physically as well as digitally, stimulating and engaging them at all levels with memorable experiences and enriching their lives through the Brontë experience.

**Creativity:** We will be imaginative, responsive, progressive and original in the way we approach our activities and operations bringing the widest audiences to the Brontës' story and their works through creative displays, exhibitions and programming.

The Brontë Society has a commitment to **equality, diversity and inclusion** and to promoting a positive culture which celebrates difference, ensures fairness and challenges prejudice. In accordance with this commitment, and the values of Excellence, Inspiration and Creativity listed above, the Brontë Society will foster a positive working environment and wider membership community where Trustees, staff, volunteers and members treat each other with dignity and respect at all times, and where bullying, harassment and discrimination are known to be unacceptable.

We will invest in our Trustees, staff and volunteers, providing training, support, opportunity and encouragement, and restructuring appropriately. We will commit to governance and staff reviews to ensure we have the right people with the right skills in the appropriate positions, to help us achieve our objectives.

**The strategic aims of the Society during 2023-24 were:**

1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants.
2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience.
3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do.
4. To manage and share our Museum and collections in line with our accredited status.
5. To increase resilience through dynamism, data and digital.
6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation.

**Main activities undertaken to further the Charitable Group's purposes for the public benefit**

The Charitable Group's aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further the Charitable Group's charitable purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Charitable Group considers that it satisfies the public benefit requirement as the Brontë Parsonage Museum is open to all members of the United Kingdom and worldwide, making its collections accessible for scholars and general visitors, via its public programmes and use of digital technologies.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable objectives**

Our museum is a home for the imagination, a place of solace and stimulation. Our displays promote creative engagement and our artistic programme interrogates and makes connections with our collections in innovative ways. Literature is at the heart of our work, but taking our cue from the Brontës' own multidisciplinary talents, we explore Brontë links with other artforms, finding new ways to see and engage with our collection and test new ways of reaching and inspiring future generations. Our learning and outreach programmes educate, inspire and demonstrate the relevance of the Brontës' lives and work to contemporary society.

Brontë Genius, a wholly-owned trading company, runs the Brontë Parsonage Museum shop, commissioning and selling items that reflect the lives and stories of the Brontës and the museum collection, to help further the Society's charitable objectives and support its activities. These are consistent with the objectives set out in the Articles of Association.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Strategic objectives**

During the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024, the following achievements were recorded against our strategic objectives:

***1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants***

In February 2023, the Parsonage opened with a new exhibition, 'The Brontës and the Wild', which considered how landscape, weather and the natural world play an important role in the lives and work of the Brontës. A central element of the exhibition was the Brontë family's annotated copy of Thomas Bewick's A History of British Birds, displayed alongside copies of Bewick's woodcut illustrations made by Emily and Charlotte. 'Secret Lives of the South Pennines', a display of woodcuts by Angie Rogers, opened in the Museum foyer at the same time for a period of three months.

The museum exhibition set the theme for our accompanying contemporary arts and events programme. 'Hardy and Free', an immersive audio-visual commission by Carolyn Mendelsohn told the unique stories of twelve extraordinary women whose lives are intrinsically linked with Yorkshire and the natural world.

In April 2023, poet Ian Humphreys was appointed as our Writer in Residence. Over the following 12 months, Ian led walks and workshops resulting in a Haiku First Aid Kit and a new series of stirring poems which are currently available to listen to via QR codes displayed in the field behind the Parsonage.

The 12th annual Brontë Festival of Women's Writing was held 22 – 24 September 2023. Programmed on the theme of 'Women of the Wild', the weekend included readings, performances, workshops and other opportunities for participation and talent development. In line with our commitment to widening access, the festival was delivered in hybrid format, with events taking place in Haworth also available online, either via live-stream or by sharing recorded sessions.

Our current exhibition, 'The Brontës' Web of Childhood' opened in February 2024, telling a story of childhood resilience through imagination, and exploring how their early experiences shaped the Brontës as writers.

***2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience***

Reviews collected via Google and TripAdvisor and comments in our visitor books indicate that the visitor experience at the Brontë Parsonage Museum is overwhelmingly positive. Investment in staff training and development has been a major factor in generating repeat visits and complimentary feedback, as has our expanded programme of free talks and holiday activities.

The addition of a Digital Project Assistant post to support the Marketing and Digital Officer has added capacity to the staff team and helped accelerate our digital development. An agency has been commissioned to build a new website over summer 2024 and we continue to share our collections digitally via the Bloomberg Connects app.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do***

During the year, we welcomed groups from the wider Bradford area and continued to work closely with Holycroft Primary School in Keighley, facilitating visits for families who would not ordinarily visit the Museum. This initiative, supported by funding from Bradford Council has been incredibly successful: between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, we welcomed 70 Holycroft families to the Parsonage, offering an introductory talk and walk as part of their free visit.

Our organisational-wide EDIB (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging) group met throughout the year and the Museum took part in EDI and Access training offered by Museums Development Yorkshire. Our staff and volunteers have also undertaken training in Autism Awareness and Trans and Non-binary Inclusion. We have updated our large print guide, introduced 'calm' bags for neurodivergent visitors and provided Pride lanyards / badges for staff to show that everyone is welcome.

A significant barrier to access has been the lack of visitor toilet facilities at the Brontë Parsonage Museum. During 2023, we successfully applied for funding from Bradford 2025 Cultural Capital Fund and Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme and work on this important project will commence in summer 2024.

***4. To manage and share our Museum and collections in line with our accredited status***

The Brontë Parsonage Museum houses the world's largest collection of Brontë material which is shared with our visitors, live and online audiences and researchers. In May 2023, Arts Council England awarded the Brontë Parsonage Museum 'Designation' status. The Designation Scheme identifies and celebrates outstanding collections, which "deepen our understanding of the world and what it means to be human."

The Museum's displays are refreshed each year and presented alongside a special exhibition. 'The Brontës and the Wild' ran throughout 2023 and included two woodblocks engraved by Thomas Bewick on loan from the Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere.

***Acquisitions***

Every year the collection grows through purchases and donations. The following items came as donations to the Museum collection between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024:

- A notebook compiled by Jonas Bradley of Stanbury, containing black and white photographs of the Haworth area.
- A watercolour painting by Peter Brears, showing the Parsonage kitchen with Charlotte cutting up the hash, watched by Emily, Keeper and Tiger.
- A first edition copy of *The Professor*, inscribed by Joseph Green, son-in-law of Emily Wheelwright.

The Society also purchased Patrick Brontë's letter to Mr Hartley, dated 27 May 1858, and a miniature portrait of Reverend Thomas Tighe.

***Loans***

In January 2024 we were loaned Charlotte Brontë's christening bonnet and a penwork box, believed to have belonged to Charlotte. Both items are on display at the Parsonage throughout 2024. The diary of John Kitson of Haworth came as a loan from Keighley Local Studies Library and is displayed as part of 'The Brontës' Web of Childhood' exhibition.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***Conservation and maintenance***

David Everingham completed work on the cleaning and conservation of the Apostles cupboard shortly before Christmas 2023. The project attracted media attention, appearing in the Guardian and the Yorkshire Post. An image of David and his colleague working on the cupboard was also included amongst the 'most striking photos from the UK in 2023' on the BBC News website. David returned to the Parsonage in early 2024 to carry out a survey of the twenty oil paintings in the collection by Branwell Brontë.

***5. To increase resilience through dynamism, data and digital***

***Finance***

We achieved an operating surplus in excess of our budget for the year ended 31 March 2024, which will enable us to continue to increase our level of reserves. The Society is very grateful for bequests received during the year totalling £340k and the Trustees have allocated these to designated Conservation, Museum Acquisition, Digital Development and Capital Projects Funds to ensure the continuing resilience of the organisation. Full details of these allocations are included in Note 22 to the financial statements on page 46. When the value of the bequests is excluded from the net operating result for the year, we still achieved a surplus ahead of the original budget.

The museum opened to visitors for six days each week for a longer period during 2023-2024 and this contributed to an increase in the number of visitors welcomed to the museum and in the admissions income for the year.

We were in receipt of NPO funding throughout the year and in addition, we received both regular funding from Bradford Council and funding for specific projects. The Brontë Society is very grateful to these organisations for their ongoing support.

***Digital***

Our developing online programme of talks and 'Brontë Lounge' events continued to attract audiences from all over the world and receive positive feedback. Notable successes include an online event hosted in partnership with Elizabeth Gaskell's House, Jane Austen's House and Chawton to celebrate International Women's Day 2023. During the autumn of 2023, we ran a six-week online course, 'The Brontës and the Gothic, led by Dr Sam Hirst, which was attended by Brontë enthusiasts from America to Japan. A major addition to our digital programme was 'Behind the Glass: A Parsonage Podcast.' Eight episodes with special guests were recorded during 2023 and broadcast commenced in spring 2024.

***Marketing***

Due to environmental concerns and reduced budgets, our marketing for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 focused on digital methods.

Our social media platforms continued to grow, and engagement with our online community flourished throughout the period, with our reach on Facebook, Twitter and particularly Instagram increasing significantly on 2022-2023 numbers.

***PR and media***

The Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum attracted high-profile media coverage throughout the year, especially in relation to the Designation Award and the 'Becoming the Brontës' exhibition. We continued to allocate budget to working with a PR agency to support our media activity and this relationship offers a substantial return on investment.

During 2023-2024, we hosted several production crews including ITV News, who broadcast the weather forecast live from the Parsonage in March 2024.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation***

The landscape and natural world are fundamental to the Brontës' work and an important part of what visitors to the Brontë Parsonage Museum, situated on the edge of Yorkshire moorland, experience. The Brontë Society has strong commitment to environmental responsibility and this continued to be a consideration in every aspect of our work during the year. Our organisation-wide Green Group continued to meet quarterly to discuss ecological initiatives and different ways to further reduce our carbon footprint. Six further members of staff have been certified as 'Carbon Literate' and training in this area continues to be rolled out across the workforce.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**Learning and engagement**

Young people and children are a key focus. The Parsonage was a family home and the Brontës wrote from a young age. Our formal learning programme is praised by teachers and during the period ending 31 March 2024, we saw the numbers of school groups increase. While many of our school workshops are curriculum-linked, creativity is embedded throughout. We position the visit as connected to the creative process, enabling students to take advantage of the immersive nature of the Museum, the imaginative potential of our collection, and the sensory connection with the outdoors. We offer free workshops for local schools, forging stronger links and a sense of ownership of the Museum.

The Brontë Society is extremely proud to have been involved in the Bradford Young Poets programme during spring 2023. Working in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, the Brontë Parsonage Museum hosted free visits by a number of schools in Bradford that were identified as being in areas of low cultural engagement. The Brontë story, our collection and surrounding landscape were used as inspiration for creative writing sessions led by a poet and facilitated by our staff, volunteers and teachers from the individual schools.

**Publications**

The Brontë Society's journal, 'Brontë Studies' edited by Dr Claire O'Callaghan, was published three times during the period. During 2023 - 2024, over 2,800 institutions had access to 'Brontë Studies', and the number of article downloads was over 55,500. The journal has a global reach, with the regions of Europe and North America seeing the highest number of full text downloads.

'Gazette', the magazine of the Brontë Society, was produced three times between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. Editor Sharon Wright works closely with the Brontë Society Director and Principal Curator to develop the content and readership of the magazine.

**Building partnerships**

During 2023-2024, we collaborated with a number of other cultural organisations, including Obscura Theatre and South Square Centre (Thornton) as well as with the British Library and University of Leeds Libraries and Galleries.

The Society also continued to develop effective partnerships with other Bradford NPOs, namely Bradford Museums and Galleries, Bradford Literature Festival and Ilkley Literature Festival (now Word Up North). These relationships are set to strengthen as we approach Bradford's year as UK City of Culture in 2025.

Our outreach programme is an important aspect of building new partnerships in order to reach people and communities who are not familiar with the Museum. Many of these people are local to us, in the Bradford district and our work with them is ongoing.

**Growing and widening the membership of the Brontë Society**

The digital membership packages are now our most popular membership categories, with more than 50% of members (who are not Life Members) opting for this type of membership. This has led to a reduction in costs associated with printing and postage and also contributes to a reduction in our carbon footprint. The Young Brontë Friend (16 – 25) category continues to prove popular with over 150 members in this category by 31 March 2024.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**Developing a positive culture that supports staff and volunteers**

The organisation continues to foster a learning culture, embedding evaluation and review at the heart of its activities. All staff and volunteers are encouraged to seek out, and take advantage of, opportunities for Continued Professional Development, including regular 'learning time' to pursue their studies of all things Brontë.

All staff are paid at least the Real Living Wage and in November 2023, the Brontë Society was one of the first businesses to sign up to the West Yorkshire Fair Work Charter. Ideas from all parts of the organisation are shared via our regular staff forum, and employees and volunteers are kept up to date with news and developments via a fortnightly e-bulletin and a more detailed 'Brontë Business', which is produced monthly. The mental health of our workforce is considered as important as its physical health and all staff are entitled to a monthly 'Wellbeing Hour' to pursue leisure or wellbeing activities.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Income and expenditure**

Total income for the year ended 31 March 2024 was £1,646,356 compared to £5,929,430 in the 15 months to 31 March 2023 (including £4,559,934 relating to Heritage Assets donated during the period). Income in 2024 included 12 months' worth of National Portfolio Organisation grant from Arts Council England and other grants, including a grant of £5k from Bradford Council to support our outreach programme. Income from museum admissions for the year to 31 March 2024 totalled £585,854 compared to £556,223 for the 15 month period to 31 March 2023. Retail sales in the museum shop for the year ended 31 March 2024 totalled £314,674 compared with £306,671 for the 15 month period to 31 March 2023. A contributing factor to these increases was the decision to open 6 days a week for a longer period over the summer months.

Total expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 was £1,243,372 compared with £1,365,378 for the 15 months to 31 March 2023. This decrease reflects the shorter accounting period.

Overall, the net movement in funds for the year was a surplus of £410,791 (£57,407 surplus when the bequests are excluded) compared with £4,551,334 (or a net deficit of £8,600 excluding the donated Heritage Assets) for the 15 months to 31 March 2023.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)**

**Financial sustainability**

The Brontë Society welcomed 64,069 visitors in the 12 months from 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, compared with 67,694 for the 15 months from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2023.

During 2023 - 2024, the Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum continued to benefit financially as one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations, with grant funding received for the year of £236,778. The Society is very grateful to Arts Council England for this ongoing support, which will now continue until April 2026.

Being an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation yields benefits other than the immediately financial. It opens doors to networking opportunities, training and professional development, being part of 'something bigger', and encourages confidence in other potential funders.

**Investment policy and objectives**

The objectives of the investment policy are as follows:

- To provide for on-going cash needs to support the operation of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum on a day-to-day basis;
- To ensure the continued protection of the fabric of the Parsonage building;
- To provide for, or contribute towards, the purchase of new acquisitions for the Museum and its collections;
- To provide a basis for future financial planning that will carry forward the Charity's objectives.

**Investment review**

During the reporting period, the Finance & Audit Committee met with Charles Stanley, the Brontë Society's Investment Managers, to review the management of the charity's investments and its goals. As the Society does not currently take regular income from the portfolio, the decision was taken to move from a balanced to a growth approach during 2024. The existing overall risk level will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

During the year net realised and unrealised gains on investments totalled £7,064 and the cost of managing the investments was £2,028.

**Reserves policy**

At 31 March 2024 the group held unrestricted reserves of £938,503, of which £38,144 were other tangible assets and £152,964 were investments. Restricted reserves at the year-end amounted to £90,461. The trustees have agreed, in line with many other National Portfolio Organisations, that the organisation should aim to hold three months' worth of operating costs in reserve. Three months' worth of operating costs, being total unrestricted expenditure less depreciation and irrecoverable VAT, at the year-end amounted to £300,651. At 31 March 2024, total readily available unrestricted reserves amounted to £747,397, of which the Board of Trustees has designated £324,000 for specific purposes, as set out in Note 22 to the financial statements.

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

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

During 2024 we will consolidate the achievements of the last few years, and invest in and improve our physical and digital assets in order to 'bring the Brontes to the world and the world to Yorkshire' during 2025 and beyond.

We have identified the following as key areas of development:

- More efficient and integrated collection of data and use of analytics so that we can set targets and monitor progress efficiently and strategically;
- Increased diversity in the workforce and our audiences;
- An upgrade of our IT systems and their integration eg website, CRM and an HR platform, to facilitate analytics, reporting and more efficient working;
- Increased use of digital to widen access to our collection (including our displays through audio and large print transcripts / interpretation) and share our work.

This work will provide the foundations for realising our ambitions for 2025 – 2027: growing our visitor offer, expanding our office space and increasing our collection storage in readiness for our centenary celebrations in 2028.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The Society is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society was established in 1893 and opened its first museum in 1895. It is a company limited by guarantee (number 00073855), having been incorporated in 1902, and is registered as a charity (number 529952). The business of the Brontë Society is governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of the Members in the event of the Society being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1 each. The number of Members at 31 March 2024 was 1,576 of whom 503 were Life Members.

**Organisational structure and decision-making policies**

The Brontë Society is governed by a board of up to twelve trustees who are appointed at the AGM. We are proactive in developing the Board through succession planning, supported by appropriate training and induction. We want our Board to be representative of society and take care to set out the commitment, responsibilities and expertise involved to ensure we attract candidates with the appropriate skills and experience. The Board currently has two sub-committees, Finance, Risk and Audit, which meets regularly ahead of all full Board meetings and the Nominations Committee, which meets as and when required.

The leadership and day-to-day running of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum is delegated to the Director, a marketing and communications professional with extensive experience in the arts and heritage sector. The Director works collaboratively with the Senior Leadership Team which comprises a qualified museum professional with over 30 years' curatorial experience, an experienced HR and project manager, and two Heads of Finance (job share) who are both chartered accountants with more than fifty years' experience between them.

**Appointment, induction and training of new Trustees**

At the first meeting of the Board following the Annual General Meeting the Trustees elect one of their number to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees. All new Trustees are expected to attend an induction training session and to undertake appropriate training during their period of office.

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

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)**

**Key management remuneration**

The Trustees consider the members of the Senior Leadership Team to form the key management personnel of the Society, in charge of directing, running and operating the Society on a day-to-day basis. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and in view of the nature of the organisation, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities.

**Related parties**

The charity operates a wholly owned trading subsidiary, The Brontë Genius Company Limited. This company operates the gift shop of the Brontë Society. During the year ended 31 March 2024, the company made a profit of £26,518 compared with £12,192 profit for the 15 months to 31 March 2023.

**Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charitable Group is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In order to monitor those risks and respond to any changes, the organisation maintains a risk register, which is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and members of the Finance, Risk & Audit committee and scrutinised by the Board of Trustees.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Charity and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

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

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

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

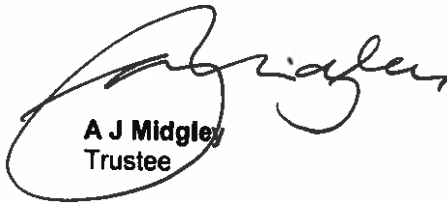
Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

**Auditors**

The auditors, Clive Owen LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on ..... 23 July 2024 ..... and signed on their behalf by:

  
**A J Midgley**  
Trustee

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Brontë Society (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') 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 charitable company'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 Companies Act 2006

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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 charitable company'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 BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (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.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

- the parent charitable company 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 charitable company 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 (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (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, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Our audit must be alert to the risk of manipulation of the financial statements and seek to understand the incentives and opportunities for management to achieve this.

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Group. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be around employment law, charity law, company law, health and safety law, taxation law and GDPR
- Enquiry of directors and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of Board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of directors and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies.
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. 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 concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**



**Christopher Beaumont BA (Hons) BFP FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**Clive Owen LLP**

Chartered Accountants &  
Statutory Auditors

140 Coniscliffe Road

DARLINGTON

County Durham

DL3 7RT

Date: 25 July 2024

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Fixed assets funds 2024 £	Total funds Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Total funds 15 months to 31 March 2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	4	353,384	9,958	3,350	366,692	4,622,482
Charitable activities	5	931,564	-	-	931,564	974,209
Other trading activities	6	333,057	-	-	333,057	327,221
Investments	7	15,043	-	-	15,043	5,018
Other income	8	-	-	-	-	500
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>1,633,048</b>	<b>9,958</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>1,646,356</b>	<b>5,929,430</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	9,10	244,140	-	-	244,140	237,223
Charitable activities	11	988,104	11,128	-	999,232	1,128,155
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,232,244</b>	<b>11,128</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,243,372</b>	<b>1,365,378</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments</b>		<b>400,804</b>	<b>(1,170)</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>402,984</b>	<b>4,564,052</b>
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments		7,807	-	-	7,807	(12,718)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>408,611</b>	<b>(1,170)</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>410,791</b>	<b>4,551,334</b>
Transfers between funds	22	(2,061)	-	2,061	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>406,550</b>	<b>(1,170)</b>	<b>5,411</b>	<b>410,791</b>	<b>4,551,334</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		531,953	91,631	6,852,361	7,475,945	2,924,611
Net movement in funds		406,550	(1,170)	5,411	410,791	4,551,334
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>938,503</b>	<b>90,461</b>	<b>6,857,772</b>	<b>7,886,736</b>	<b>7,475,945</b>


**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)**

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

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	16	38,144	46,849
Heritage assets	17	6,857,772	6,852,361
Investments	18	162,822	153,910
		7,058,738	7,053,120
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	51,364	62,006
Debtors	20	71,256	47,831
Cash at bank and in hand		802,187	422,832
		924,807	532,669
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(96,809)	(109,844)
<b>Net current assets</b>		827,998	422,825
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		7,886,736	7,475,945
<b>Net assets</b>		7,886,736	7,475,945
<b>Total net assets</b>		7,886,736	7,475,945
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Heritage fixed assets funds	22	6,857,772	6,852,361
Restricted funds	22	90,461	91,631
Unrestricted funds	22	938,503	531,953
<b>Total funds</b>		7,886,736	7,475,945

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 on 23 JULY 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

  
**A J Midgley**  
Trustee

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)**

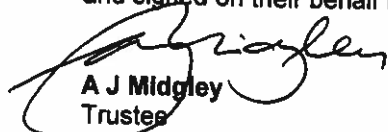
**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	16	38,144	46,849
Heritage assets	17	6,857,772	6,852,361
Investments	18	187,922	179,010
		7,083,838	7,078,220
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	2,179	2,415
Debtors	20	134,305	110,033
Cash at bank and in hand		719,322	376,878
		855,806	489,326
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(90,330)	(102,505)
<b>Net current assets</b>		765,476	386,821
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		7,849,314	7,465,041
<b>Net assets</b>		7,849,314	7,465,041
<b>Total net assets</b>		7,849,314	7,465,041
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Heritage fixed assets funds	22	6,857,772	6,852,361
Restricted funds	22	90,461	91,631
Unrestricted funds	22	901,081	521,049
<b>Total funds</b>		7,849,314	7,465,041

The Charity's net movement in funds for the year was £384,273 (2023 - £4,539,142).

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 on 23 JULY 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

  
**A J Midgley**  
 Trustee

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash generated from operating activities	<b>365,574</b>	<b>121,725</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>15,043</b>	<b>5,018</b>
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(1,761)</b>	<b>(3,502)</b>
Proceeds from sale of investments	<b>73,205</b>	<b>64,592</b>
Purchase of investments	<b>(72,706)</b>	<b>(60,424)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>13,781</b>	<b>5,684</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>379,355</b>	<b>127,409</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>422,832</b>	<b>295,423</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>802,187</b>	<b>422,832</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**1. General information**

The Brontë Society is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered details can be found on page 1. In the event of the Brontë Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Brontë Society.

The prior reporting period spans 15 months and therefore comparatives are not entirely comparable.

**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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society meets the definition of a public interest 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 Group and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Group has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

**2.2 Going concern**

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the company will continue to trade for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The Trustees have prepared forecasts that demonstrate that the company will be able to continue to trade within existing bank facilities for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

**2.3 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.

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.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.4 Income**

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

Grants are included in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Charity's accounting policies.

Donated facilities and services are recognised in the financial statements when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.5 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.

Support costs directly attributed to an activity have been allocated to the activity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to any activity they have been allocated in proportion to direct expenditure.

Costs of generating funds (direct costs) are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

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.

**2.6 Government grants**

Government grants are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on receipt.

**2.7 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.

**2.8 Taxation**

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.9 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.

No depreciation is charged on the asset in the year of purchase.

No depreciation is charged on freehold property as the Trustees consider its value to be not less than original cost.

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:

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% - 15% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

**2.10 Heritage assets**

The Charity's collection comprises assets of historical importance recognised as heritage assets previously under FRS 30 (Heritage Assets) and now under the provision of the current SORP and FRS102 which require such assets to be reported in the balance sheet where information is available regarding cost or value. Items purchased for the collection are capitalised as heritage assets and included at cost or value at acquisition in the balance sheet. Items purchased prior to the implementation of Current SORP are not capitalised. Items donated to the collection are capitalised as heritage assets at market value at the point of donation where material. Depreciation has not been provided on heritage assets on the basis that their residual value is such that any depreciation charge would be immaterial. A description of the collection, its management and developments during the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

**2.11 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.

Investments held as fixed assets are shown at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.12 Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Benefits received and receivable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term, unless another systematic basis is representative of the time pattern of the lessee's benefit from the use of the leased asset.

**2.13 Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell. Stock is measured on a first in first out basis.

**2.14 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.

**2.15 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.

**2.16 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.

**2.17 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.

**2.18 Irrecoverable VAT**

The charity was partially exempt for VAT purposes for the year ended 31 March 2024. Irrecoverable VAT has been included in the Statement of Financial Activities during the year within support costs.

**2.19 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.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

Estimates and judgments 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.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgement:

Stock provision - a provision is allocated against any identified obsolete or slow-moving stock where appropriate.

**4. Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Restricted fixed assets funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Donations</b>					
Bequests and donations	353,384	-	-	353,384	50,452
Contemporary arts donations	-	198	-	198	335
Collection care donations	-	48	-	48	110
Purchase fund donations	-	2,699	-	2,699	4,333
Museum redecoration scheme	-	82	-	82	99
Education donations	-	2,931	-	2,931	4,014
Piano maintenance fund	-	-	-	-	2,205
Taylor & Francis Prize fund	-	4,000	-	4,000	1,000
Heritage assets donations	-	-	3,350	3,350	4,559,934
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>353,384</b>	<b>9,958</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>366,692</b>	<b>4,622,482</b>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>50,452</i>	<i>12,096</i>	<i>4,559,934</i>	<i>4,622,482</i>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**5. Analysis of income from charitable activities by type of income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Museum admission donations	541,784	<b>541,784</b>	514,174
Museum admission gift aid tax	44,070	<b>44,070</b>	42,049
Grants receivable	238,038	<b>238,038</b>	296,163
Contemporary arts income	2,825	<b>2,825</b>	3,378
Education group admission	40,444	<b>40,444</b>	46,894
Events	13,607	<b>13,607</b>	15,564
Subscription from members	33,259	<b>33,259</b>	39,443
Conference	4,050	<b>4,050</b>	-
Exhibition tax refund	1,837	<b>1,837</b>	1,344
Bradford Council grant	11,650	<b>11,650</b>	15,200
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>931,564</b>	<b>931,564</b>	<b>974,209</b>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>974,209</i>	<i>974,209</i>	

**6. Income from other trading activities**

**Income from non charitable trading activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Royalties, licensing and repo fees	18,383	<b>18,383</b>	20,550
Income from sales	314,674	<b>314,674</b>	306,671
	<b>333,057</b>	<b>333,057</b>	<b>327,221</b>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>327,221</i>	<i>327,221</i>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**7. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Dividends receivable	3,875	3,875	2,406
Bank interest	11,168	11,168	2,612
	15,043	15,043	5,018
<i>Total 2023</i>	5,018	5,018	

**8. Other incoming resources**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Insurance	-	-	500
	500	500	
<i>Total 2023</i>	500	500	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**9. Expenditure on raising funds**

**Expenditure on raising funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Purchases and direct costs	160,429	<b>160,429</b>	159,521
Wages and salaries	81,039	<b>81,039</b>	74,751
Pension costs	644	<b>644</b>	660
	<u>242,112</u>	<u><b>242,112</b></u>	<u>234,932</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>234,932</u>	<u><b>234,932</b></u>	

**10. Investment management costs**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Investment management fees	2,028	<b>2,028</b>	2,291
	<u>2,291</u>	<u><b>2,291</b></u>	
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>2,291</u>	<u><b>2,291</b></u>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**11. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	988,104	11,128	<b>999,232</b>	1,128,155
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>1,106,959</u>	<u>21,196</u>	<u>1,128,155</u>	

**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2024 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	570,417	428,815	<b>999,232</b>	1,128,155
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>581,482</u>	<u>546,673</u>	<u>1,128,155</u>	

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**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Staff costs	424,039	<b>424,039</b>	425,589
Curatorial	35,991	<b>35,991</b>	32,733
Advertising and marketing	29,187	<b>29,187</b>	35,567
Exhibition and display	4,066	<b>4,066</b>	23,476
Education	4,802	<b>4,802</b>	4,360
Creative Programme costs	49,051	<b>49,051</b>	35,153
Travel and training	8,674	<b>8,674</b>	6,891
Events	7,602	<b>7,602</b>	15,358
Membership	2,025	<b>2,025</b>	2,355
Conference costs	4,480	<b>4,480</b>	-
Taylor & Francis awards	500	<b>500</b>	-
	<u>570,417</u>	<u><b>570,417</b></u>	<u>581,482</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>581,482</u>	<u>581,482</u>	

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**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Staff costs	200,115	<b>200,115</b>	216,848
Depreciation	10,468	<b>10,468</b>	19,913
Travel and training	4,234	<b>4,234</b>	5,145
Rates and water	2,011	<b>2,011</b>	3,782
Insurance	14,783	<b>14,783</b>	17,308
Light and heat	19,783	<b>19,783</b>	15,507
Recruitment	250	<b>250</b>	325
Communications and technology	29,793	<b>29,793</b>	26,663
Security and fire safety	16,437	<b>16,437</b>	29,003
Cleaning	4,654	<b>4,654</b>	6,477
Garden	4,268	<b>4,268</b>	2,392
Property repairs	11,080	<b>11,080</b>	27,750
Input VAT not recoverable	19,172	<b>19,172</b>	25,400
Miscellaneous	1,298	<b>1,298</b>	1,001
Administration costs	18,696	<b>18,696</b>	67,742
Bank charges	17,849	<b>17,849</b>	17,515
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of investments	743	<b>743</b>	6,708
Governance costs	53,181	<b>53,181</b>	57,194
	<u>428,815</u>	<u><b>428,815</b></u>	<u>546,673</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>546,673</u>	<u>546,673</u>	

**13. Auditors' remuneration**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<i>2023 £</i>
Fees payable to the Charitable Group's auditor for the audit of the Charitable Group's annual accounts	<b>19,325</b>	18,000
Fees payable to the Charitable Group's auditor in respect of:		
All taxation advisory services not included above	<b>725</b>	-
All assurance services not included above	<b>470</b>	-
	<u><b>725</b></u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><b>470</b></u>	<u>-</u>

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**14. Staff costs**

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	<b>Charity 2024 £</b>	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Wages and salaries	649,770	661,394	568,731	586,643
Social security costs	37,166	36,956	37,166	36,956
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	18,901	19,498	18,257	18,838
	<u>705,837</u>	<u>717,848</u>	<u>624,154</u>	<u>642,437</u>

Included within staff costs are redundancy payments totalling £nil (2023: £nil).

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

	<b>Group 2024 No.</b>	<i>Group 2023 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2024 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2023 No.</i>
	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>Group 2024 No.</b>	<i>Group 2023 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2024 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2023 No.</i>
	<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>

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

	<b>Group 2024 No.</b>	<i>Group 2023 No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	-	1

Disclosure for 2023 relates to the 15 month period. There are no employees that exceed £60,000 employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance) on an annual basis. The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the charity was £175,375 (2023 - £212,657).

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**15. 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 £653 were reimbursed or paid directly to 6 Trustees (2023 - £NIL to Trustees). Expenses reimbursements related to travel and subsistence and were repaid directly to Trustees.

**16. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	18,640	612,200	114,213	745,053
Additions	-	1,761	-	1,761
Disposals	-	(373,457)	(54,657)	(428,114)
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,640</u>	<u>240,504</u>	<u>59,556</u>	<u>318,700</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	-	589,055	109,149	698,204
Charge for the year	-	7,743	2,723	10,466
On disposals	-	(373,457)	(54,657)	(428,114)
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>223,341</u>	<u>57,215</u>	<u>280,556</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,640</u>	<u>17,163</u>	<u>2,341</u>	<u>38,144</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,640</u>	<u>23,145</u>	<u>5,064</u>	<u>46,849</u>

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**16. Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

**Charity**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	18,640	612,200	114,213	745,053
Additions	-	1,761	-	1,761
Disposals	-	(373,457)	(54,657)	(428,114)
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,640</u>	<u>240,504</u>	<u>59,556</u>	<u>318,700</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	-	589,055	109,149	698,204
Charge for the year	-	7,743	2,723	10,466
On disposals	-	(373,457)	(54,657)	(428,114)
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>223,341</u>	<u>57,215</u>	<u>280,556</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,640</u>	<u>17,163</u>	<u>2,341</u>	<u>38,144</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,640</u>	<u>23,145</u>	<u>5,064</u>	<u>46,849</u>

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**17. Heritage assets**

**Group and Charity**

**Assets recognised at cost**

	<b>Heritage assets 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
Carrying value at 1 April 2023	6,852,361	<b>6,852,361</b>
Additions	5,411	<b>5,411</b>
	6,857,772	<b>6,857,772</b>

The Society owns the Parsonage at Haworth which was the home of the Brontë family from 1820 to 1861 and which was gifted to the Society in 1928. The Parsonage houses a world class collection of artefacts and documents associated with the Brontë Family and their literary works. The collection is maintained in order to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family and consists of material which belonged to the Brontë family, their friends and associates. It includes books, manuscripts, letters, paintings, drawings, furniture, household items and personal possessions. The Research Library Collection, also housed within the Parsonage building, contains secondary source material and a wide range of biographical, critical, topographical and related works on the Brontë family. Today the Brontë Society continues to carry out its founding aim; collecting and exhibiting material relating to the Brontës' lives and works and making them known to the widest audience through display, online access, appointments to view and a lifelong learning programme.

Under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 and FRS30 Heritage Assets items purchased for the collection were capitalised and included at cost in the balance sheet and this has continued under the current SORP.

The Society maintains its collection for its historical and literary value. Any valuation is completed within the confines of the requirements of the management and preservation of the collection and for no other purpose. In accordance with the provisions of the SORP, no value has been attributed to items acquired prior to the implementation of the SORP 2005 due to the lack of reliable information regarding cost or valuation. Heritage asset acquisitions reported in the balance sheet totalled £5,411 in 2024, £4,559,934 in 2022/23, £19,500 in 2021, £2,050 in 2020, £676,239 in 2019, £10,800 in 2018, £32,852 in 2017, £60,137 in 2016, £857,146 in 2015, £28,770 in 2014, £89,366 in 2013, £245,665 in 2012, £43,900 in 2011 and £226,002 prior to this date. Additions in 2016 included the kind donation by the BBC of items used in the production of *To Walk Invisible*.

Access to the collection is promoted through educational workshops and tours as well as through general admissions to the Museum. The collection is detailed in the Society's online catalogue which can be accessed via the website at [www.bronte.org.uk](http://www.bronte.org.uk).

Included within the heritage assets value is £1.5m relating to some of the items donated from the Honresfield Library collection. The total value of these assets is £4.5m and is jointly owned between The Brontë Society, The British Library Board and The University of Leeds, and these assets cannot be sold unless all three parties agree.

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**18. Fixed asset investments**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Listed investments £</b>	<b>Cash and settlements pending £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	146,362	7,548	153,910
Additions	72,706	(72,706)	-
Disposals	(73,205)	73,205	-
Revaluations	7,101	1,811	8,912
At 31 March 2024	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,858</u>	<u>162,822</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2024	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,858</u>	<u>162,822</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>146,362</u>	<u>7,548</u>	<u>153,910</u>

The historical cost of listed investments at 31 March 2024 was £140,750 (2023: £141,608).

<b>Charity</b>	<b>Investments in subsidiary companies £</b>	<b>Listed investments £</b>	<b>Cash and settlements pending £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	25,100	146,362	7,548	179,010
Additions	-	72,706	(72,706)	-
Disposals	-	(73,205)	73,205	-
Revaluations	-	7,101	1,811	8,912
At 31 March 2024	<u>25,100</u>	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,858</u>	<u>187,922</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>25,100</u>	<u>152,964</u>	<u>9,858</u>	<u>187,922</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>25,100</u>	<u>146,362</u>	<u>7,548</u>	<u>179,010</u>

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**18. Fixed asset investments (continued)**

**Principal subsidiaries**

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Principal activity
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	06504497	Brontë Parsonage Museum, Church Street, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8DR	The gift shop in the Brontë Parsonage Museum

Class of shares	Holding
Ordinary	100%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Profit/(Loss) for the period £	Net assets £
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	26,518	62,522

The profit for the period is after taking account of an interim donation to the parent company of £10,904 (2023: £20,777).

**19. Stocks**

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Charity 2024 £	Charity 2023 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>51,364</u>	<u>62,006</u>	<u>2,179</u>	<u>2,415</u>

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**20. Debtors**

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	<b>Charity 2024 £</b>	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
<b>Due within one year</b>				
Trade debtors	7,803	4,727	7,803	4,727
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	64,032	62,677
Prepayments and accrued income	63,453	43,104	62,470	42,629
	<u>71,256</u>	<u>47,831</u>	<u>134,305</u>	<u>110,033</u>

**21. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	<b>Charity 2024 £</b>	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Trade creditors	31,027	50,876	30,473	50,140
Other taxation and social security	13,140	8,651	13,140	8,651
Other creditors	3,920	3,376	3,920	3,376
Accruals and deferred income	48,722	46,941	42,797	40,338
	<u>96,809</u>	<u>109,844</u>	<u>90,330</u>	<u>102,505</u>
	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>	<b>Charity 2024 £</b>	<i>Charity 2023 £</i>
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	17,069	3,104	17,069	3,104
Resources deferred during the year	17,648	17,069	17,648	17,069
Amounts released from previous periods	(17,069)	(3,104)	(17,069)	(3,104)
	<u>17,648</u>	<u>17,069</u>	<u>17,648</u>	<u>17,069</u>

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

**22. 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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	462,708	1,633,048	(1,229,075)	(326,061)	7,807	548,427
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fund-raising development	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
New Building Fund	39,119	-	(3,169)	-	-	35,950
Quinquennial Fund	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Conservation Fund	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Museum Acquisition Fund	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Digital Development Fund	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Capital Projects Fund	-	-	-	124,000	-	124,000
	<u>531,953</u>	<u>1,633,048</u>	<u>(1,232,244)</u>	<u>(2,061)</u>	<u>7,807</u>	<u>938,503</u>
<b>Heritage fixed assets funds</b>						
Heritage assets donations	6,852,361	3,350	-	2,061	-	6,857,772

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

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,572	48	-	-	-	3,620
Contemporary Arts	2,188	198	-	-	-	2,386
Education	14,182	2,931	-	-	-	17,113
Purchases	22,731	2,699	-	-	-	25,430
British Library	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Museum Redecoration	435	82	-	-	-	517
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	10,306	-	-	-	-	10,306
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	3,915	4,000	(500)	-	-	7,415
Garfield Weston	4,382	-	(2,808)	-	-	1,574
Foyle Foundation	12,758	-	(7,820)	-	-	4,938
	<u>91,631</u>	<u>9,958</u>	<u>(11,128)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,461</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>7,475,945</u></u>	<u><u>1,646,356</u></u>	<u><u>(1,243,372)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>7,807</u></u>	<u><u>7,886,736</u></u>

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

Unrestricted Funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated Funds are those funds designated by the Trustees for specific purposes. The allocations are reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. The designated funds are shown as unrestricted funds.

Designated Funds set up during the year are as follows:

Conservation Fund – to earmark funds to provide for future maintenance and conservation of the museum's collection;

Museum Acquisition Fund – to ensure the Society is able to respond to acquire additions to the collection when they become available;

Digital Development Fund – to provide funds to continue to update the museum's systems to futureproof them and facilitate wider access to the Parsonage and its collection;

Capital Projects Fund – to provide funding to support current and future capital outlay to further the fulfilment of the Society's charitable objectives

Restricted Funds are those funds where monies have been received for a specific purpose. The restrictions placed on the funds as shown above are as follows;

Sir Tresham Lever - monies are only to be used to purchase flowers for the local parish Church;

Top Withens fund - expenditure for the maintenance of the Top Withens site;

Collections Care - expenditure is restricted to cleaning, repairing and conserving the Collection;

Contemporary Arts - Donations are restricted to supporting the Contemporary Arts programme;

Education - expenditure is restricted to supporting the education programme;

Purchases - expenditure is restricted to funding acquisitions for the Collection;

British Library - expenditure is restricted to a "literature in context" project;

Museum Redecoration - donations received towards maintaining the decoration of the Parsonage;

Reception Furniture Fund - donations received for the refurbishment of the admissions area of the Museum;

Piano Maintenance Fund - donation from Society member John Hennessy for the future costs of maintaining the Brontë piano;

Taylor & Francis Prize Fund – consists of an annual donation from Taylor & Francis to fund the cost of a Brontë Society competition;

Garfield Weston - grant funding for outreach projects;

Foyle Foundation - monies received to cover core costs;

Transfers between funds:

Transfers between funds are discussed and approved by Trustees at Council Meetings. The principal transfers during the year concern the use of unrestricted funds.

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

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

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	450,640	1,357,400	(1,332,414)	(200)	(12,718)	462,708
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fund-raising development	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
New Building Fund	50,887	-	(11,768)	-	-	39,119
Quinquennial Fund	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
	<u>531,653</u>	<u>1,357,400</u>	<u>(1,344,182)</u>	<u>(200)</u>	<u>(12,718)</u>	<u>531,953</u>
<b>Heritage fixed assets funds</b>						
Heritage assets donations	2,292,427	4,559,934	-	-	-	6,852,361

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

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023 £</i>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,462	110	-	-	-	3,572
Contemporary Arts	1,853	335	-	-	-	2,188
Education	10,168	4,014	-	-	-	14,182
Purchases	18,398	4,333	-	-	-	22,731
British Library	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Museum Redecoration	336	99	-	-	-	435
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	7,901	2,205	-	200	-	10,306
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	2,915	1,000	-	-	-	3,915
Garfield Weston	15,836	-	(11,454)	-	-	4,382
Foyle Foundation	22,500	-	(9,742)	-	-	12,758
	<u>100,531</u>	<u>12,096</u>	<u>(21,196)</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,631</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>2,924,611</u></u>	<u><u>5,929,430</u></u>	<u><u>(1,365,378)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(12,718)</u></u>	<u><u>7,475,945</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**23. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Fixed assets funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	38,144	-	-	38,144
Fixed asset investments	152,964	9,858	-	162,822
Heritage assets	-	-	6,857,772	6,857,772
Current assets	844,204	80,603	-	924,807
Creditors due within one year	(96,809)	-	-	(96,809)
<b>Total</b>	<b>938,503</b>	<b>90,461</b>	<b>6,857,772</b>	<b>7,886,736</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Heritage fixed asset funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	46,849	-	-	46,849
Fixed asset investments	146,362	7,548	-	153,910
Heritage assets	-	-	6,852,361	6,852,361
Current assets	448,586	84,083	-	532,669
Creditors due within one year	(109,844)	-	-	(109,844)
<b>Total</b>	<b>531,953</b>	<b>91,631</b>	<b>6,852,361</b>	<b>7,475,945</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

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

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>410,791</b>	4,551,334
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>10,466</b>	19,913
Gains on investments	<b>244</b>	2,540
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>(15,043)</b>	(5,018)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of investments	<b>(743)</b>	(6,708)
Decrease in stocks	<b>10,642</b>	7,149
Increase in debtors	<b>(23,425)</b>	49,121
Decrease in creditors	<b>(13,035)</b>	43,702
Donated heritage assets	<b>(5,411)</b>	(4,559,934)
Revaluation of investments	<b>(8,912)</b>	19,626
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>365,574</b>	121,725

**25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>Group 2024 £</b>	<i>Group 2023 £</i>
Cash in hand	<b>802,187</b>	422,832
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>802,187</b>	422,832

**26. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 April 2023 £</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>422,832</b>	<b>379,355</b>	<b>802,187</b>
	<b>422,832</b>	<b>379,355</b>	<b>802,187</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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

**27. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 March 2024 the Group and the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Group</b> <b>2024</b> £	<i>Group</i> <i>2023</i> £	<b>Charity</b> <b>2024</b> £	<i>Charity</i> <i>2023</i> £
Not later than 1 year	7,736	636	7,736	636
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	29,354	1,590	29,354	1,590
	<u>37,090</u>	<u>2,226</u>	<u>37,090</u>	<u>2,226</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	<b>Group</b> <b>2024</b> £	<i>Group</i> <i>2023</i> £	<b>Charity</b> <b>2024</b> £	<i>Charity</i> <i>2023</i> £
Operating lease rentals	<u>5,676</u>	<u>7,085</u>	<u>5,676</u>	<u>7,085</u>

**28. Related party transactions**

The Charitable Group has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.

**THE BRONTE SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 529952

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# Accounts

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Registered number: 00073855 (England and Wales)  
Charity number: 529952

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**



The Brontë Society

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**Trustees**

Julian Sladdin, Chair  
Prof. Shahidha Bari  
Laura Beare  
Richard Dunbar (appointed 12 July 2023)  
Elina Eady (resigned 2 April 2022)  
Ciara Gallagher  
Jonathan Gration  
Patricia Gurney (resigned 10 September 2022)  
Penelope Jenkins  
Andrew Midgley  
Helen Meller  
Anne Powell (resigned 10 September 2022)  
Lucy Powrie (appointed 18 May 2023)  
Valerie Sanders

**Company registered number**

00073855 (England and Wales)

**Charity registered number**

529952

**Registered office**

The Brontë Parsonage Museum  
Haworth  
KEIGHLEY  
West Yorkshire  
BD22 8DR

**President**

Dame Judi Dench CH DBE FRSA

**Senior Leadership Team**

Rebecca Yorke - Director  
Clare Dewhirst  
Ann Dinsdale  
Gail Price  
Mhairi Tomlinson

**Independent auditors**

Clive Owen LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors  
140 Coniscliffe Road  
DARLINGTON  
County Durham  
DL3 7RT

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**(CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**Solicitors**

Wrigleys  
19 Cookridge Street  
LEEDS  
LS2 3AG

**Investment Advisers**

Charles Stanley  
7 Park Row  
LEEDS  
LS1 5HD

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**CHAIR'S STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The chair presents his statement for the period.

2022 - 2023 was a period of many positives for The Brontë Society. Following the challenges of the last few years, we have been able to return to providing a world-class visitor experience and programme of events. We have also developed digital strategies and assets to enhance this experience and make it more accessible. We are creating more innovative opportunities to promote wider interest in the Brontës through creating virtual access to our collections and programmes for those who are not able to visit the Museum. We can already see that these changes are beginning to create real benefit through increasing visitor numbers, overwhelmingly positive visitor feedback, and improvements to our finances.

We have also taken concrete, meaningful and forward-looking steps to ensure that, as a Charitable Group, The Brontë Society remains relevant, embraces diversity and is underpinned by strong governance principles. Thanks to a thorough review of our Articles of Association in 2021, the governance of the organisation has strengthened and prepared the ground for further positive change. In September 2022, The Brontë Society held its first online Annual General Meeting and also introduced electronic balloting. This has given greater access than ever before to our membership across the globe. I am also delighted to report that, in November 2022, we appointed Rebecca Yorke to the role of permanent Director. This appointment follows a period of interim leadership and reinforces the Board's wish to invest in and empower our Senior Leadership Team to drive forward further strategic change.

At the end of 2021 we received the exciting news that the Friends of the National Libraries' (FNL) campaign to raise £15m to acquire the Blavatnik Honresfield Library for the nation had been successful. This was a fitting conclusion to The Brontë Society's concerted efforts to seek the postponement of the auction of the Law Collection (now the Blavatnik Honresfield Library) and its work as part of the consortium led by FNL to save this unique collection of literary artefacts. In May 2022, FNL was able to return a significant collection of priceless Brontë material to the Parsonage. Following months of planning, an exhibition of the highlights of this donation, 'Becoming The Brontës', will be displayed in Leeds from July to October 2023 in partnership with the British Library and the University of Leeds.

We are proud to be a National Portfolio Organisation for literature and continue to be extremely grateful for the support of Arts Council England. Our application to remain in the portfolio for the period 2023 – 2026 was submitted in May 2022, and we were informed of its successful outcome in October 2022. The Senior Leadership Team and Board of Trustees have worked hard to embed the Arts Council's Investment Principles (ambition & quality; dynamism; inclusivity & relevance and environmental responsibility) in all that we do, recognising that they are valuable development tools which will help us fulfil our vision and mission and contribute to a fairer, greener, culturally-rich society.

While the Society's achievements from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2023 show that there is much for us to be proud of and celebrate, it is vital that we do not lose sight of the fact that we are still operating in uncertain times and that there will no doubt be further challenges ahead. However, we can approach those challenges with cautious optimism due to the positive and concrete improvements we have made to our finances, our systems and the steps we have taken to 'live' our commitment to become a more modern, resilient and diverse charity. We are embracing a future that will see us connect more closely with our local communities and, through digital, a wider global audience. Through collaborative working, the Brontë Society Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team will continue to lead the strategic direction of the organisation through this period of development, ensuring that we make the most of the strength of our brand nationally and internationally and the opportunities it creates for us to drive further positive change in readiness for the Brontë Parsonage Museum celebrating its centenary in 2028.

Andrew Midgley, Trustee, on behalf of the Chair of The Brontë Society Board of Trustees  
Date: 7 August 2023

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report together with the audited consolidated financial statements of the Charitable Group for 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Objectives and Aims**

The Brontë Society is an outward-looking, multi-faceted organisation with literature at its heart. It was founded in 1893 to establish and maintain a museum and to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family. Haworth Parsonage, now the world-famous and accredited Brontë Parsonage Museum, opened to the public in 1928 and has since welcomed over a million visitors. We are a global organisation rooted in Yorkshire identity and landscape. Our collection of Brontë manuscripts and personal possessions, displayed in the rooms where the Brontës lived and wrote some of the greatest novels in the English language, is the largest in the world.

### **The charitable objectives of the Society are:**

1. To promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family in particular, but not exclusively, by establishing and maintaining permanent museums, galleries and libraries for the public benefit;
2. To acquire by donation, purchase, or otherwise, and to renovate and preserve artefacts, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, engravings, paintings, drawings, photographs, clothing, furniture and other objects of or relating to the Brontë family, and if thought fit, of other authors, for the public benefit;
3. To provide for the examination of the literary remains for further scholarship and better understanding of the lives and works of the Brontës and their writing, and if thought fit, of other authors, and publication of the memoirs of the Brontë family and other authors for the public benefit;
4. To promote the advancement of literature and the arts and to initiate projects that deepen literary engagement locally, nationally and throughout the world and which are rendered interesting by their association with the Brontë family for the public benefit;
5. To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

### **The Brontë Society's vision is:**

'To bring the Brontës to the world and the world to Yorkshire'.

We do this, not only by being an internationally-renowned visitor attraction, but through our creative programmes, expanding digital offer and working in partnership with other museums and literary houses.

### **Our mission statement is:**

To celebrate the lives and works of the Brontës, widening access to their legacy and sharing their contemporary significance with a global audience. We conserve, interpret, display and build creative engagement through our world-class collection and the landscape that inspired the Brontës. We champion new writing today, particularly by women, and promote better understanding of the Brontës' lives and works.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**The Brontë Society seeks to promote the following values:**

**Excellence:** This will underpin all our endeavours. We will be informed, authoritative, consistent and constantly benchmarking to ensure we raise standards to foster our status as the world's leading authority on Brontë literature and history, dedicated to maintaining their legacy and consistently operating with financial and organisational efficiency. We aim to have the highest professional standards in all that we do.

**Inspiration:** We will ensure that all our activities have the maximum impact on our audiences, welcoming them physically as well as digitally, stimulating and engaging them at all levels with memorable experiences and enriching their lives through the Brontë experience.

**Creativity:** We will be imaginative, responsive, progressive and original in the way we approach our activities and operations bringing the widest audiences to the Brontës' story and their works through creative displays, exhibitions and programming.

The Brontë Society has a commitment to **equality, diversity and inclusion** and to promoting a positive culture which celebrates difference, ensures fairness and challenges prejudice. In accordance with this commitment, and the values of Excellence, Inspiration and Creativity listed above, the Brontë Society will foster a positive working environment and wider membership community where Trustees, staff, volunteers and members treat each other with dignity and respect at all times, and where bullying, harassment and discrimination are known to be unacceptable.

We will invest in our Trustees, staff and volunteers, providing training, support, opportunity and encouragement, and restructuring appropriately. We will commit to governance and staff reviews to ensure we have the right people with the right skills in the appropriate positions, to help us achieve our objectives.

**The strategic aims of the Society during 2022-23 were:**

1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants.
2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience.
3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do.
4. To manage and share our Museum and collections in line with our accredited status.
5. To increase resilience through dynamism, data and digital.
6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation.

**Main activities undertaken to further the Charitable Group's purposes for the public benefit**

The Charitable Group's aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further the Charitable Group's charitable purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Charitable Group considers that it satisfies the public benefit requirement as the Brontë Parsonage Museum is open to all members of the United Kingdom and worldwide, making its collections accessible for scholars and general visitors, via its public programmes and use of digital technologies.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable objectives**

Our Museum is a home for the imagination, a place of solace and stimulation. Our displays promote creative engagement and our artistic programme interrogates and makes connections with our collections in innovative ways. Literature is at the heart of what we do, but taking our cue from the Brontës' own multidisciplinary talents, we explore Brontë links with other artforms, finding new ways to see and engage with our collection and test new ways of reaching and inspiring future generations. Our learning and outreach programmes educate, inspire and demonstrate the relevance of the Brontës' lives and work to contemporary society.

The Brontë Genius Company Limited, a wholly-owned trading company, runs the Brontë Parsonage Museum shop, commissioning and selling items that reflect the lives and stories of the Brontës and the museum collection, to help further the Society's charitable objectives and support its activities. These are consistent with the objectives set out in the Articles of Association.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Strategic objectives**

During the period 1 January 2022 – 31 March 2023, the following achievements were recorded against our strategic objectives:

***1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants***

In February 2022, the Parsonage opened with a new exhibition, 'Defying Expectations: Inside Charlotte Brontë's Wardrobe', based on research into the Museum's clothing collections by Dr Eleanor Houghton. The exhibition placed focus on some of the remarkable garments and accessories worn by Charlotte Brontë and challenged the preconception that Brontë and her most famous protagonist, Jane Eyre, were, in clothing terms at least, one and the same. The clothes that were exhibited drew attention to both Charlotte's ordinary and extraordinary lives but also served to remind us that she was an active participant of the fast-changing mid-nineteenth century.

Our 2021 'Contemplating Hope' installation by artist Layla Khoo continued until the end of May 2022. This commission invited visitors to the Museum to record their hopes for the future, just as Anne and Emily Brontë did. These recorded aspirations will be shared with visitors and audiences in 2025.

To complement 'Defying Expectations', we commissioned a contemporary art installation by textile artist Hannah Lamb. 'Fragments of a Dress' invited visitors to the Museum to write down memories related to certain items of clothing. These memories were then hand-stitched onto individual panels which were sewn together in the form of a dress. 'Fragments of a Dress' was displayed in the Servant's Room at the Parsonage from July to December 2022.

In April 2022, artist and writer Nicky Peacock was appointed as our Writer in Residence. Over the following 12 months, Nicky engaged visitors and local residents in a number of participatory projects, including an Alternative Visitors Book, and drop-in writing sessions. Nicky's work was shared as part of the Museum's International Women's Day celebrations in March 2023.

The 11th annual Brontë Festival of Women's Writing was held 23–25 September 2022. Programmed on the theme of 'Defying Expectations', the weekend included readings and performances by Patricia Park, Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar. The festival also offered several workshops and other opportunities for participation and talent development led by writers including Anna Doherty, Nicole Joseph and Julia Armfield. In line with our commitment to widening access, the festival was delivered in hybrid format, with events taking place in Haworth also available online, either via live-stream or by sharing recorded sessions.

Our latest exhibition, 'The Brontës and the Wild', opened in February 2023. This exhibition explores the role weather, landscape and the natural world played in the lives and works of the Brontës. 'Secret Lives of the South Pennines', an exhibition of woodcuts by Angie Rogers, opened in the Museum foyer at the same time.

***2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience***

Reviews collected via Google and TripAdvisor and comments in our visitor books indicate that the visitor experience at the Brontë Parsonage Museum is overwhelmingly positive. Investment in staff training and development (including away days at other museums, such as a trip to Wordsworth Grasmere in January 2023) has been a major factor in generating repeat visits and complimentary feedback, as has our expanded programme of free talks and holiday activities.

The appointment of a Digital Content and Marketing Officer at the end of 2022 has added considerable capacity to the staff team and led to a review of our digital assets and marketing strategies. A new website is planned for later this year and other opportunities to share our collections digitally are underway.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do***

During 2022 – 2023 we strengthened our relationships with groups in Keighley and the wider Bradford area e.g. Keighley Association Women and Children’s Centre (KAWACC), Bevan Healthcare and Wellbeing Centre and Bradford Together Women. In addition, we have worked closely with Holycroft Primary School in Keighley, facilitating visits for families who would not ordinarily visit the Museum. This initiative, supported by funding from Bradford Council has been incredibly successful: between 1 January 2022 and 31 March 2023, we have welcomed 113 Holycroft families to the Parsonage, offering an introductory talk and walk as part of their free visit.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team completed the year-long ‘Breakthrough’ programme offered by the Arts Marketing Association in July 2022. We continue to embed the learning and best practice from this training, and in the autumn of 2022, we established an organisational-wide EDIB (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging) group.

A significant barrier to access is the lack of visitor toilet facilities at the Brontë Parsonage Museum. During 2022, we worked with an architect and surveyor to produce detailed plans for fully accessible facilities. Planning permission was sought and achieved, and a focus of 2023 will be identifying and applying to appropriate sources of funding.

***4. To manage and share our museum and collections in line with our accredited status***

The Brontë Parsonage Museum houses the world’s largest collection of Brontë material which is shared with our visitors, live and online audiences and researchers. In 2022, the Brontë Society applied to Arts Council England for the collections to be awarded ‘Designation’ status. The Designation Scheme identifies and celebrates outstanding collections, which “deepen our understanding of the world and what it means to be human.” In June 2023 we were delighted to hear that Arts Council England has Designated our collections as Outstanding.

The Museum’s displays are refreshed each year and presented alongside a special exhibition. ‘Defying Expectations: Inside Charlotte Brontë’s Wardrobe’ ran throughout 2022. The exhibition featured more than twenty pieces of Charlotte’s clothing and accessories, including a striped evening dress, which had never been exhibited before. The dress was proved to be Charlotte’s during an extensive period of research conducted over the last six years by Dr Eleanor Houghton.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***Acquisitions***

The following items came as donations to the Museum collection between January 2022 and 31 March 2023:

- A small black-bordered envelope containing three carte-de-visite photographs of Mr Brontë, Haworth Church and the Parsonage. The envelope is inscribed: 'Envelope belonging to Mr Brontë given to be at Haworth by Mrs Greenwood Brown 15th of Aug. 1875'.
- Charlotte Brontë letter to W. S. Williams [27 May 1849]
- Brontë material from the Blavatnik Honresfield Library, including diary papers by Emily and Anne Brontë for 1841, manuscript of ten poems by Anne, the Brontë family's two-volume copy of Bewick's 'A History of British Birds', and twenty-two letters by Charlotte. All donated by the Friends of the National Libraries.
- File of material relating to Fennel gravestones; photocopies of the Cooke family; photocopied newspaper account of Charlotte's wedding; tiny commonplace book c. 1839-1843; handwritten copies of letters by Ellen Nussey in hand of John Nussey; postcard portrait of Mrs Bagshaw; further photocopied Bronte-related material.
- Leather-bound notebook containing hand-written 'Notes from Charlotte Brontë's Bible', transcribed by 'William R. Lennard. July 10 1883'. Also letter to Reginald Lennard by BS curator Wyndham T. Vint.
- Little Book by Charlotte Brontë, A Book of Ryhmes, 17 December 1830. Donated by the Friends of the National Libraries.
- Approximately 3000 Brontë and Haworth-related postcards in albums. Also carte-de-visites of Charlotte and Patrick Brontë by Edwin Feather.
- Oak paper knife believed to have been owned by Charlotte Brontë.

The Society also purchased an envelope, possibly addressed by Charlotte Brontë, part of integral letter written by Jasper Leavens White.

***Loans***

In January 2023, we were loaned two woodblocks engraved by Thomas Bewick by the Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere. These are currently on display as part of 'The Brontës and the Wild' exhibition.

***Conservation and maintenance***

In January 2022 and January 2023, the Museum, Library and museum stores had their annual deep clean. All collection items were cleaned and inspected for any signs of deterioration and the two long-case clocks had their annual clean and service.

Conservation work on material from the Blavatnik Honresfield Library was carried out in early February 2023. Three portrait miniatures were removed from acidic mounts and re-mounted in acid-free materials. Eighteen letters set in a leather-bound volume were removed from their binding and along with four individual letters by Charlotte, were cleaned and repaired.

Two rare diary papers by Emily and Anne Brontë, which had been tipped into a leather binding, were removed. The binding's pastedown, endpapers and pages were foxed and acidic, causing staining and discolouration. After removal they were both cleaned and a tear following the central fold in Emily's paper was repaired.

The full cost of this work £2,520 was funded by a grant from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust (NMCT).

Following an asbestos survey of the Parsonage, remedial work was carried in November 2022. In March 2023, the exterior of the Parsonage was decorated, and a pane of glass in one of the windows in Charlotte's Room was replaced, in line with the findings of the 2020 Quinquennial Report.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***5. To increase resilience through dynamism, data and digital***

***Finance***

We achieved an operating surplus in excess of our budget for the 15-month period, which will enable us to continue to increase our level of reserves. At the beginning of 2022 we were still operating timed entry with limits to the number of visitors each day but from early May 2022 these limits were removed and visitor numbers increased, in particular over the summer months.

We were in receipt of NPO funding through out the period. In addition, we received both regular funding from Bradford Council and funding for specific projects.

***Digital***

Our developing online programme of talks and 'Brontë Lounge' events continues to attract audiences from all over the world and receive positive feedback. Notable successes include an online event hosted in partnership with Elizabeth Gaskell's House, Jane Austen's House and Chawton to celebrate International Women's Day 2022. During the summer of 2022, we ran a six-week online course, 'Afterlives of Jane Eyre', led by Dr Amber Pouliot, which was attended by Brontë enthusiasts from America to Japan.

Our Board continues to meet virtually and in September 2022, the Brontë Society AGM was held online and with electronic balloting. This resulted in many members being able to attend for the first time, therefore increasing participation and engagement, as well as being more economically and environmentally sustainable.

The Brontë Society recognises that digital and ecommerce have a significant part to play in building our future resilience. The creation of a new post, that of Digital Content and Marketing Officer, at the end of 2022, was an important step in our digital development and work is already underway to realise our potential growth in this area.

***Marketing***

Due to environmental concerns and reduced budgets, our marketing for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2023 focused on digital methods.

Our social media platforms continued to grow, and engagement with our online community flourished throughout the period, with our reach on Facebook, Twitter and particularly Instagram increasing significantly on 2021 numbers.

***PR and media***

The Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum attracted high-profile media coverage throughout the period, especially in relation to the acquisition of rare and important manuscripts from the Blavatnik Honresfield Library and a Charlotte Brontë 'little book' acquired by the Friends of the National Libraries by auction in the USA and donated to the Society. We continued to allocate budget to working with a PR agency to support our media activity and this relationship offers a substantial return on investment.

During 2022 - 2023, the Parsonage hosted several production crews including Channel 4 ('Jonathan Ross's Myths and Legends') and French literary critic Augustin Trapenard with BBC Studio France.

In October 2022, 'Emily', Frances O'Connor's critically-acclaimed reimagining of Emily Brontë's life, was released in UK cinemas. Museum staff participated in several media interviews related to the film and delivered a number of events to coincide with its release.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation***

The landscape and natural world are fundamental to the Brontës' work and an important part of what visitors to the Brontë Parsonage Museum, situated on the edge of Yorkshire moorland, experience. We have always had a commitment to respecting and protecting the natural world and environmental responsibility continued to be a consideration in every aspect of our work during this financial period. Examples of some changes we introduced include reducing the use of 'foamex' boards to display information and interpretation, printing fewer leaflets and reducing our organisational carbon footprint by working from home and/or holding meetings online.

The Brontë Society has also established an organisation-wide 'green group' which meets quarterly to discuss ecological initiatives and different ways to further reduce our carbon footprint. Three members of staff have been certified as 'Carbon Literate' and there are plans to roll out this training across the workforce.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**Learning and engagement**

Young people and children are a key focus. The Parsonage was a family home and the Brontës wrote from a young age. Our formal learning programme is praised by teachers and during the period ending 31 March 2023, we saw the numbers of school groups increase. While many of our school workshops are curriculum-linked, creativity is embedded throughout. We position the visit as connected to the creative process, enabling students to take advantage of the immersive nature of the Museum, the imaginative potential of our collection, and the sensory connection with the outdoors. We offer free workshops for local schools, forging stronger links and a sense of ownership of the Museum.

The Brontë Society is extremely proud to have been involved in the Bradford Young Poets programme in the springs of 2022 and 2023. Working in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, the Brontë Parsonage Museum hosted free visits by a number of schools in Bradford that were identified as being in areas of low cultural engagement. The Brontë story, our collection and surrounding landscape were used as inspiration for creative writing sessions led by a poet and facilitated by our staff, volunteers and teachers from the individual schools.

**Publications**

Dr Sarah Fanning was joined by Dr Claire O'Callaghan as Co-Editor of the Brontë Society's journal, 'Brontë Studies' in the autumn of 2022. During 2022, over 2,700 institutions had access to 'Brontë Studies', and the number of article downloads was over 46,000. The journal has a global reach, with the regions of Europe and North America seeing the highest number of full text downloads.

'Gazette', the magazine of the Brontë Society, was produced four times between 1 January 2022 and 31 March 2023. In recent years, 'Gazette' has been edited by Brontë Society Director Rebecca Yorke as part of her previous role of Head of Communications and Marketing. In early 2023, author and journalist Sharon Wright was appointed 'Gazette' Editor. Sharon will work closely with the Brontë Society Director and Principal Curator to develop the content and readership of the magazine.

**Building partnerships**

During the reporting period, we continued to work in partnership on a programme of public engagement with members of the Honresfield consortium formed by the Friends of the National Libraries.

The Society also continued to work with Bradford's other cultural organisations during 2022 and into 2023, particularly in relation to Bradford's successful bid to be UK City of Culture 2025. The Director of the Brontë Society is a member of the Bradford 2025 steering committee and also a member of the recently-formed Bradford Place Marketing Board.

We also work in partnership with other literary houses, particularly Gaskell's House, Wordsworth Grasmere and Jane Austen's House. We have close links with national writing charity Arvon and literary festivals in the area eg Ilkley Literature Festival and Bradford Literature Festival.

Our outreach programme is an important aspect of building new partnerships in order to reach people and communities who are not familiar with the Museum. Many of these people are local to us, in the Bradford district and our work with them is ongoing.

**Growing and widening the membership of the Brontë Society**

The digital membership packages are now our most popular membership categories, with more than 50% of members (who are not Life Members) opting for this type of membership. This has led to a reduction in costs associated with printing and postage and also contributes to a reduction in our carbon footprint. The free Young Brontë Friend (16 – 25) category continues to prove popular with over 100 members in this category by 31 March 2023.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**Developing a positive culture that supports staff and volunteers**

The organisation continues to foster a learning culture, embedding evaluation and review at the heart of its activities. All staff and volunteers are encouraged to seek out, and take advantage of, opportunities for Continued Professional Development, including regular 'library time' to pursue their studies of all things Brontë.

Ideas from all parts of the organisation are shared via our monthly staff forum and employees and volunteers are kept up to date with news and developments via our fortnightly e-newsletter. The mental health of our workforce is considered as important as its physical health and all staff are entitled to a monthly 'Wellbeing Hour' to pursue leisure or wellbeing activities.

During 2022 – 2023, the Brontë Society introduced a number of initiatives with the wellbeing of its team in mind. These included the free provision of sanitary items in the staff toilets, the provision of fresh fruit and tinned soup in the staff room, and free BPM fleeces for staff to wear during the cooler months or while working outside.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Income and expenditure**

Total income for the 15 month period was £5,929,430 compared to £990,173 for the 12 months to 31 December 2021. Of this, £4,559,934 relates to Heritage Assets donated to the Charity during the period. Other income included 15 months' worth of National Portfolio Organisation grant from Arts Council England and other grants, including a grant of £5,000 from Bradford Council to support our outreach programme. Income from Museum admissions totalled £556,223 compared to £203,093 in 2021. When 2021 Museum admissions are compared to the comparable 12-month period from January to December 2022, Museum admissions more than doubled to £471,278 but were not quite back at pre-pandemic levels (2019: £492,280). However, the 2022 figures were based on 5 day a week opening as opposed to 7 days a week in 2019, so they are extremely encouraging. Retail sales in the Museum shop totalled £306,671 for the 15 month period compared with £166,510 for the 12 months to 31 December 2021. The comparable retail sales figure for the 12 months to 31 December 2022 was £256,682, based on opening 5 days each week, which indicates a substantial increase but again has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels when the shop was open 7 days a week (£306,761 in 2019).

Total expenditure for the 15 months was £1,365,378 compared with £876,806 for the 12 months to 31 December 2021. This increase reflects the longer accounting period together with the general inflationary increases in costs during the period, in particular higher energy and staffing costs. The increase is also due to the significant increase in activity in the Museum and shop following the lifting of all pandemic restrictions.

Overall net income for the year was £4,551,334, however when the Heritage Assets donations are excluded, this results in a net deficit of £8,600 compared with a net surplus of £128,415 in 2021. Unrealised losses on investments for 2022 – 2023 were £12,718 compared with unrealised gains in 2021 of £15,048, reflecting the fluctuations experienced in the markets during the period.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charitable Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)**

**Financial sustainability**

The Brontë Society welcomed 67,694 visitors between 1 January 2022 and 31 March 2023, compared with 24,827 in 2021, 11,016 in 2020 and 70,405 in 2019.

During 2022 - 2023, the Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum continued to benefit financially as one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations. The total grant funding received for the period was £294,903. Following a successful application submitted in May 2022, the Society has had its NPO status renewed with funding at the same level. The Society is very grateful to Arts Council England for this ongoing support, which will now continue until April 2026.

Being an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation yields benefits other than the immediately financial. It opens doors to networking opportunities, training and professional development, being part of 'something bigger', and encourages confidence in other potential funders.

**Investment policy and objectives**

The objectives of the investment policy are as follows:

- To provide for on-going cash needs to support the operation of The Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum on a day-to-day basis;
- To ensure the continued protection of the fabric of the Parsonage building;
- To provide for, or contribute towards, the purchase of new acquisitions for the Museum and its collections;
- To provide a basis for future financial planning that will carry forward the Charitable Group's objectives.

**Investment review**

During the reporting period, the Finance & Audit Committee met with Charles Stanley, the Brontë Society's Investment Managers, to review the management of the Charitable Group's investments and its goals. As the Society does not currently take regular income from the portfolio, the decision was taken to move from a balanced to a growth approach from January 2022 onwards. The existing overall risk level will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

During the period net realised and unrealised losses on investments totalled £19,426 and the cost of managing the investments was £2,291.

**Reserves policy**

At 31 March 2023 the Charitable Group held unrestricted reserves of £531,953, which includes £46,849 of tangible assets and £146,362 of investments. Restricted reserves at the period-end amounted to £91,631. The Trustees have agreed, in line with many other National Portfolio Organisations, that the organisation should aim to hold three months' worth of operating costs in reserve. Three months' worth of operating costs, being total unrestricted expenditure less depreciation and irrecoverable VAT, at the period-end amounted to £259,744. After allowing for this, at 31 March 2023, total readily available unrestricted reserves amounted to £338,742. These are funds in cash and investments that the Board of Trustees is able to designate for specific purposes.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

In line with the Society's objectives, the following aims for the year ahead have been agreed:

***1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants***

We will continue to develop events and projects, through partnerships and guided by our audience development aims, that will attract those with whom we have had little engagement in the past, as well as expanding our traditional audiences. The successful development of our online programme has helped realise our potential to engage audiences digitally and this will be developed and expanded during the year ahead, both as a way of reaching new audiences, and also for monetising opportunities as we identify content that people will pay for.

***2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience***

We will continue to invest in our staff, identifying training that will enable them to continue to deliver exceptional customer service and enhance the visitor experience. We will continue to source and commission high-quality products for our shop and upgrade our website to improve user experience and maximise income from retail sales and donations. Using digital technology, we will expand access to the Parsonage and its important collection to enable more people to experience and enjoy the historic house and the objects it contains.

***3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do***

The Brontë Society is committed to building on the work of previous years and will continue to commission work from, or programme events featuring, writers, artists and creatives of colour, D/deaf or disabled writers, creatives and artists and those who identify as LGBTQ+. In addition, we will ensure that we work with creatives from across the UK and with different lived experiences.

Through our outreach programme, we will continue to work with groups and communities who live near the Museum, but who are not familiar with it. This work will be partially funded by Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

The Brontë Parsonage Museum has recently been accepted onto two learning cohorts offered by Museums Development Yorkshire: Access for All, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Both these courses comprise a number of online sessions and in-person workshops led by experts in the field.

***4. To manage and share our museum and our collections in line with our accredited status***

Our new exhibition, 'The Brontës and the Wild', will run until 1 January 2024. Planning for our 2024 exhibition will commence in the summer of 2023.

We will seek to expand and appropriately store the Museum's collections and conduct a review and revision of our curatorial and conservation policies.

***5. To increase our resilience through dynamism, data and digital***

Building on the success and learning of recent years, we will continue to diversify our income through our events programme, our retail offer and by identifying other commercial activities through The Brontë Genius Company. We will make it easier for people to donate through our website and will also continue to target applications to trusts and foundations to support specific areas of our activity. 2023 will also see us considering how we can build on the success of recent fundraising campaigns.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (continued)**

***6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation***

We will roll out Carbon Literacy training across the organisation and continue to collate and analyse our environmental data, so that we can set appropriate targets, identify new ways to reduce our carbon footprint and monitor our progress. Our 'Green Group' will ensure that the policy and plan remain relevant and innovative and become embedded in our governance, operations and creative programme. We will share our commitment and the changes we make with our staff and volunteers, members, visitors, audiences and creatives through our communications.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The Society is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society was established in 1893 and opened its first museum in 1895. It is a company limited by guarantee (number 00073855), having been incorporated in 1902, and is registered as a charity (number 529952). The affairs of the Brontë Society are governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of the Members in the event of the Society being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1 each. The number of Members at 31 March 2023 was 1,566 of whom 507 were Life Members.

**Organisational structure and decision-making policies**

The Brontë Society is governed by a Board of up to twelve Trustees who are appointed at the AGM. We are proactive in developing the Board through succession planning, supported by appropriate training and induction. We recruit Trustees with diversity in mind and take care to set out the commitment, responsibilities and expertise involved to ensure we attract candidates with the appropriate skills and experience. The Board currently has two sub-committees, Finance, Risk and Audit, which meets regularly ahead of all full Board meetings and the Nominations Committee, which meets as and when required.

The leadership and day-to-day running of The Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum is delegated to the Director, a marketing and communications professional with extensive experience in the arts and heritage sector. The Director works collaboratively with the Senior Leadership Team which comprises a qualified museum professional with over 30 years' curatorial experience, an experienced HR and project manager, and two Heads of Finance (job share) who are both chartered accountants with more than fifty years' experience between them

**Appointment, induction and training of new Trustees**

At the first meeting of the Board following the Annual General Meeting the Trustees elect one of their number to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees. All new Trustees are expected to attend an induction training session and to undertake appropriate training during their period of office.

**Key management remuneration**

The Trustees consider the members of the Senior Leadership Team to form the key management personnel of the Society, in charge of directing, running and operating the Society on a day-to-day basis. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and in view of the nature of the organisation, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)**

**Related parties**

The Charity operates a wholly owned trading subsidiary, The Brontë Genius Company Limited. This Company operates the gift shop of The Brontë Society. During the period ending 31 March 2023, the Company made a £12,192 profit compared with £7,169 profit in 2021.

**Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charitable Group is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In order to monitor those risks and respond to any changes, the organisation maintains a risk register, which is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and members of the Finance, Risk & Audit committee and scrutinised by the Board of Trustees.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Charity and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

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

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**Auditors**

The auditors, Clive Owen LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

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

**Andrew Midgley**  
Trustee

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Brontë Society (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the period ended 31 March 2023 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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 charitable company'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 BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (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.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

- the parent charitable company 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 charitable company 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 (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (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, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Our audit must be alert to the risk of manipulation of the financial statements and seek to understand the incentives and opportunities for management to achieve this.

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Group. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be around employment law, charity law, company law, health and safety law, taxation law and GDPR
- Enquiry of directors and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of Board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of directors and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies.
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. 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 concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**

**Christopher Beaumont BA (Hons) BFP FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**Clive Owen LLP**

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors

140 Coniscliffe Road

DARLINGTON

County Durham

DL3 7RT

Date:

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Heritage fixed assets funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	4	50,452	12,096	4,559,934	4,622,482	84,984
Charitable activities	5	974,209	-	-	974,209	701,746
Other trading activities	6	327,221	-	-	327,221	201,341
Investments	7	5,018	-	-	5,018	2,102
Other income	8	500	-	-	500	-
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>1,357,400</b>	<b>12,096</b>	<b>4,559,934</b>	<b>5,929,430</b>	<b>990,173</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	9,10	237,223	-	-	237,223	143,921
Charitable activities	11	1,106,959	21,196	-	1,128,155	732,885
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,344,182</b>	<b>21,196</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,365,378</b>	<b>876,806</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before net (losses)/gains on investments</b>						
		13,218	(9,100)	4,559,934	4,564,052	113,367
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments		(12,718)	-	-	(12,718)	15,048
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>(9,100)</b>	<b>4,559,934</b>	<b>4,551,334</b>	<b>128,415</b>
Transfers between funds	22	(200)	200	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>(8,900)</b>	<b>4,559,934</b>	<b>4,551,334</b>	<b>128,415</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		531,653	100,531	2,292,427	2,924,611	2,796,196
Net movement in funds		300	(8,900)	4,559,934	4,551,334	128,415
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>531,953</b>	<b>91,631</b>	<b>6,852,361</b>	<b>7,475,945</b>	<b>2,924,611</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	31 March 2023 £	31 December 2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	16	46,849	63,260
Heritage assets	17	6,852,361	2,292,427
Investments	18	153,910	173,536
		7,053,120	2,529,223
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	62,006	69,155
Debtors	20	47,831	96,952
Cash at bank and in hand		422,832	295,423
		532,669	461,530
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(109,844)	(66,142)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>422,825</b>	<b>395,388</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>7,475,945</b>	<b>2,924,611</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>7,475,945</b>	<b>2,924,611</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>7,475,945</b>	<b>2,924,611</b>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Heritage fixed assets funds	22	6,852,361	2,292,427
Restricted funds	22	91,631	100,531
Unrestricted funds	22	531,953	531,653
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>7,475,945</b>	<b>2,924,611</b>

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 on .....  
and signed on their behalf by:

**Andrew Midgley**  
Trustee

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)**

**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	31 March 2023 £	31 December 2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	16	46,849	63,260
Heritage assets	17	6,852,361	2,292,427
Investments	18	179,010	198,636
		7,078,220	2,554,323
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	2,415	2,800
Debtors	20	110,033	147,889
Cash at bank and in hand		376,878	282,075
		489,326	432,764
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(102,505)	(61,188)
<b>Net current assets</b>		386,821	371,576
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		7,465,041	2,925,899
<b>Net assets</b>		7,465,041	2,925,899
<b>Total net assets</b>		7,465,041	2,925,899
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Heritage fixed assets funds	22	6,852,361	2,292,427
Restricted funds	22	91,631	100,531
Unrestricted funds	22	521,049	532,941
<b>Total funds</b>		7,465,041	2,925,899

The Charity's net movement in funds for the period was £4,539,142 (2021 - £121,246).

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 on .....  
and signed on their behalf by:

**Andrew Midgley**  
Trustee

The notes on pages 27 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>121,725</b>	32,602
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>5,018</b>	2,102
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(3,502)</b>	(14,337)
Proceeds from sale of investments	<b>64,592</b>	36,305
Purchase of investments	<b>(60,424)</b>	(39,278)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>5,684</b>	<b>(15,208)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period</b>	<b>127,409</b>	<b>17,394</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	<b>295,423</b>	278,029
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>	<b>422,832</b>	295,423
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 27 to 54 form part of these financial statements

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**1. General information**

The Brontë Society is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered details can be found on page 1. In the event of the Brontë Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Brontë Society.

**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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society meets the definition of a public interest 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 Group and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Group has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

**2.2 Going concern**

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the company will continue to trade for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The Trustees have prepared forecasts that demonstrate that the company will be able to continue to trade within existing bank facilities for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

**2.3 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.

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.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.4 Income**

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

Grants are included in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Charity's accounting policies.

Donated facilities and services are recognised in the financial statements when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.5 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.

Support costs directly attributed to an activity have been allocated to the activity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to any activity they have been allocated in proportion to direct expenditure.

Costs of generating funds (direct costs) are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

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.

**2.6 Government grants**

Government grants are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on receipt.

**2.7 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.

**2.8 Taxation**

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.9 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.

No depreciation is charged on the asset in the year of purchase.

No depreciation is charged on freehold property as the Trustees consider its value to be not less than original cost.

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:

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% - 15% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

**2.10 Heritage assets**

The Charity's collection comprises assets of historical importance recognised as heritage assets previously under FRS 30 (Heritage Assets) and now under the provision of SORP 2015 and FRS102 which require such assets to be reported in the balance sheet where information is available regarding cost or value. Items purchased for the collection are capitalised as heritage assets and included at cost or value at acquisition in the balance sheet. Items purchased prior to the implementation of SORP 2005 are not capitalised. Items donated to the collection are capitalised as heritage assets at market value at the point of donation where material. Depreciation has not been provided on heritage assets on the basis that their residual value is such that any depreciation charge would be immaterial. A description of the collection, its management and developments during the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

**2.11 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.

Investments held as fixed assets are shown at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.12 Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Benefits received and receivable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term, unless another systematic basis is representative of the time pattern of the lessee's benefit from the use of the leased asset.

**2.13 Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell. Stock is measured on a first in first out basis.

**2.14 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.

**2.15 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.

**2.16 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.

**2.17 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.

**2.18 Irrecoverable VAT**

The charity was partially exempt for VAT purposes for the period ended 31 March 2023. Irrecoverable VAT has been included in the Statement of Financial Activities during the year within support costs.

**2.19 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 period.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

Estimates and judgments 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.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgement:

Stock provision - a provision is allocated against any identified obsolete or slow-moving stock where appropriate.

**4. Income from donations and legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Heritage fixed assets funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
<b>Donations</b>					
Bequests and donations	50,452	-	-	<b>50,452</b>	37,986
Contemporary arts donations	-	335	-	<b>335</b>	272
Collection care donations	-	110	-	<b>110</b>	227
Purchase fund donations	-	4,333	-	<b>4,333</b>	22,288
Museum redecoration scheme	-	99	-	<b>99</b>	68
Honresfield Library donations	-	-	-	-	20,587
Education donations	-	4,014	-	<b>4,014</b>	3,556
Piano maintenance fund	-	2,205	-	<b>2,205</b>	-
Taylor & Francis Prize fund	-	1,000	-	<b>1,000</b>	-
Heritage assets donations	-	-	4,559,934	<b>4,559,934</b>	-
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>50,452</b>	<b>12,096</b>	<b>4,559,934</b>	<b>4,622,482</b>	<b>84,984</b>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>37,986</i>	<i>46,998</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>84,984</i>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**5. Analysis of income from charitable activities by type of income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Museum admission donations	514,174	-	<b>514,174</b>	186,821
Museum admission gift aid tax	42,049	-	<b>42,049</b>	16,272
Grants receivable	296,163	-	<b>296,163</b>	334,870
Contemporary arts income	3,378	-	<b>3,378</b>	1,956
Education group admission	46,894	-	<b>46,894</b>	6,577
Events	15,564	-	<b>15,564</b>	11,477
Subscription from members	39,443	-	<b>39,443</b>	39,073
Conference	-	-	-	3,661
Exhibition tax refund	1,344	-	<b>1,344</b>	6,507
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	-	-	-	62,286
Bradford Council grant	15,200	-	<b>15,200</b>	32,246
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>974,209</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>974,209</b>	<b>701,746</b>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>679,246</i>	<i>22,500</i>	<i>701,746</i>	

**6. Income from other trading activities**

**Income from non charitable trading activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Royalties, licensing and repo fees	20,550	<b>20,550</b>	34,831
Income from sales	306,671	<b>306,671</b>	166,510
	<b>327,221</b>	<b>327,221</b>	<b>201,341</b>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>201,341</i>	<i>201,341</i>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**7. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Dividends receivable	2,406	<b>2,406</b>	1,597
Bank interest	2,612	<b>2,612</b>	505
	5,018	<b>5,018</b>	2,102
	2,102	2,102	
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>2,102</i>	<i>2,102</i>	

**8. Other incoming resources**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Insurance	500	<b>500</b>	-
	500	<b>500</b>	-

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**9. Expenditure on raising funds**

**Expenditure on raising funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Purchases and direct costs	159,521	<b>159,521</b>	92,582
Wages and salaries	74,751	<b>74,751</b>	48,625
Pension costs	660	<b>660</b>	545
	<u>234,932</u>	<u><b>234,932</b></u>	<u>141,752</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>141,752</u>	<u>141,752</u>	

**10. Investment management costs**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Investment management fees	2,291	<b>2,291</b>	2,169
	<u>2,291</u>	<u><b>2,291</b></u>	<u>2,169</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>2,169</u>	<u>2,169</u>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**11. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<i>Total 2021 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	1,106,959	21,196	<b>1,128,155</b>	732,885
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>732,885</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>732,885</u>	

**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2023 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	581,482	546,673	<b>1,128,155</b>	732,885
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>362,721</u>	<u>370,164</u>	<u>732,885</u>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Staff costs	425,589	<b>425,589</b>	278,799
Curatorial	32,733	<b>32,733</b>	21,256
Advertising and marketing	35,567	<b>35,567</b>	22,133
Exhibition and display	23,476	<b>23,476</b>	-
Education	4,360	<b>4,360</b>	-
Contemporary art expense	35,153	<b>35,153</b>	30,312
Travel and training	6,891	<b>6,891</b>	2,936
Events	15,358	<b>15,358</b>	781
Membership	2,355	<b>2,355</b>	3,330
Conference costs	-	-	3,174
	<hr/> 581,482 <hr/>	<hr/> <b>581,482</b> <hr/>	<hr/> 362,721 <hr/>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<hr/> <hr/> 362,721 <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> 362,721 <hr/> <hr/>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Staff costs	216,848	<b>216,848</b>	148,423
Depreciation	19,913	<b>19,913</b>	36,589
Travel and training	5,145	<b>5,145</b>	1,222
Rates and water	3,782	<b>3,782</b>	1,445
Insurance	17,308	<b>17,308</b>	12,202
Light and heat	15,507	<b>15,507</b>	5,647
Recruitment	325	<b>325</b>	-
Communications and technology	26,663	<b>26,663</b>	27,278
Security and fire safety	29,003	<b>29,003</b>	13,456
Cleaning	6,477	<b>6,477</b>	3,363
Garden	2,392	<b>2,392</b>	2,108
Property repairs	27,750	<b>27,750</b>	15,641
Input VAT not recoverable	25,400	<b>25,400</b>	12,787
Miscellaneous	1,001	<b>1,001</b>	4,360
Administration costs	67,742	<b>67,742</b>	14,716
Bank charges	17,515	<b>17,515</b>	8,725
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of investments	6,708	<b>6,708</b>	212
Governance costs	57,194	<b>57,194</b>	61,990
	<u>546,673</u>	<u><b>546,673</b></u>	<u>370,164</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>370,164</u>	<u>370,164</u>	

**13. Auditors' remuneration**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<i>2021 £</i>
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	<b>18,000</b>	13,250

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**14. Staff costs**

	<b>Group 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 2021 £</i>	<b>Charity 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 2021 £</i>
Wages and salaries	661,394	442,060	586,643	393,435
Social security costs	36,956	21,200	36,956	21,200
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	19,498	13,132	18,838	12,587
	<u>717,848</u>	<u>476,392</u>	<u>642,437</u>	<u>427,222</u>

Included within staff costs are redundancy payments totalling £nil (2021: £986).

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

	<b>Group 2023 No.</b>	<i>Group 2021 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2023 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2021 No.</i>
	<u>33</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>26</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>Group 2023 No.</b>	<i>Group 2021 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2023 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2021 No.</i>
	<u>21</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>

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

	<b>Group 2023 No.</b>	<i>Group 2021 No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	-

Disclosures relate to the 15 month period. There are no employees that exceed £60,000 employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance) on an annual basis.

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Group was £212,657 (2021 - £141,644).

**15. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the period, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2021 - £NIL).

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**15. Trustees' remuneration and expenses (continued)**

During the period ended 31 March 2023, expenses totalling £NIL were reimbursed or paid directly to Trustees (*2021 - £NIL to Trustee*). Expenses reimbursements related to travel and subsistence and were repaid directly to Trustees.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**16. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 January 2022	18,640	612,200	110,711	741,551
Additions	-	-	3,502	3,502
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,640</u>	<u>612,200</u>	<u>114,213</u>	<u>745,053</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2022	-	573,067	105,224	678,291
Charge for the period	-	15,988	3,925	19,913
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>589,055</u>	<u>109,149</u>	<u>698,204</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,640</u>	<u>23,145</u>	<u>5,064</u>	<u>46,849</u>
<i>At 31 December 2021</i>	<u>18,640</u>	<u>39,133</u>	<u>5,487</u>	<u>63,260</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**16. Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

**Charity**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 January 2022	18,640	612,200	110,711	741,551
Additions	-	-	3,502	3,502
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,640</u>	<u>612,200</u>	<u>114,213</u>	<u>745,053</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2022	-	573,067	105,224	678,291
Charge for the period	-	15,988	3,925	19,913
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>589,055</u>	<u>109,149</u>	<u>698,204</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,640</u>	<u>23,145</u>	<u>5,064</u>	<u>46,849</u>
<i>At 31 December 2021</i>	<u>18,640</u>	<u>39,133</u>	<u>5,487</u>	<u>63,260</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**17. Heritage assets**

**Group and Charity**

**Assets recognised at cost**

	<b>Heritage assets 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Carrying value at 1 January 2022	2,292,427	<b>2,292,427</b>
Additions	4,559,934	<b>4,559,934</b>
	6,852,361	<b>6,852,361</b>
	6,852,361	<b>6,852,361</b>

The Society owns the Parsonage at Haworth which was the home of the Brontë family from 1820 to 1861 and which was gifted to the Society in 1928. The Parsonage houses a world class collection of artefacts and documents associated with the Brontë Family and their literary works. The collection is maintained in order to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family and consists of material which belonged to the Brontë family, their friends and associates. It includes books, manuscripts, letters, paintings, drawings, furniture, household items and personal possessions. The Research Library Collection, also housed within the Parsonage building, contains secondary source material and a wide range of biographical, critical, topographical and related works on the Brontë family. Today the Brontë Society continues to carry out its founding aim; collecting and exhibiting material relating to the Brontës' lives and works and making them known to the widest audience through display, online access, appointments to view and a lifelong learning programme.

Under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 and FRS30 Heritage Assets items purchased for the collection were capitalised and included at cost in the balance sheet and this has continued under SORP 2015.

The Society maintains its collection for its historical and literary value. Any valuation is completed within the confines of the requirements of the management and preservation of the collection and for no other purpose. In accordance with the provisions of the SORP, no value has been attributed to items acquired prior to the implementation of the SORP 2005 due to the lack of reliable information regarding cost or valuation. Heritage asset acquisitions reported in the balance sheet totalled £4,559,934 in 2022/23, £19,500 in 2021, £2,050 in 2020, £676,239 in 2019, £10,800 in 2018, £32,852 in 2017, £60,137 in 2016, £857,146 in 2015, £28,770 in 2014, £89,366 in 2013, £245,665 in 2012, £43,900 in 2011 and £226,002 prior to this date. Additions in 2016 included the kind donation by the BBC of items used in the production of To Walk Invisible.

Access to the collection is promoted through educational workshops and tours as well as through general admissions to the Museum. The collection is detailed in the Society's online catalogue which can be accessed via the website at [www.bronte.org.uk](http://www.bronte.org.uk).

Included within the heritage asset acquisitions for the period is £3.4m heritage donated assets from the Blavatnik Honresfield Library collection. This includes £1.5m relating to items jointly owned between The Brontë Society, The British Library Board and The University of Leeds (with a total value £4.5m). These assets cannot be sold unless all three parties agree.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**18. Fixed asset investments**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Listed investments £</b>	<b>Cash and settlements pending £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 January 2022	169,956	3,580	173,536
Additions	60,424	(60,424)	-
Disposals	(64,592)	64,592	-
Revaluations	(19,426)	(200)	(19,626)
At 31 March 2023	<u>146,362</u>	<u>7,548</u>	<u>153,910</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2023	<u>146,362</u>	<u>7,548</u>	<u>153,910</u>
<i>At 31 December 2021</i>	<u>169,956</u>	<u>3,580</u>	<u>173,536</u>

The historical cost of listed investments at 31 March 2023 was £141,608 (2021: £141,265).

<b>Charity</b>	<b>Investments in subsidiary companies £</b>	<b>Listed investments £</b>	<b>Cash and settlements pending £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 January 2022	25,100	169,956	3,580	198,636
Additions	-	60,424	(60,424)	-
Disposals	-	(64,592)	64,592	-
Revaluations	-	(19,426)	(200)	(19,626)
At 31 March 2023	<u>25,100</u>	<u>146,362</u>	<u>7,548</u>	<u>179,010</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2023	<u>25,100</u>	<u>146,362</u>	<u>7,548</u>	<u>179,010</u>
<i>At 31 December 2021</i>	<u>25,100</u>	<u>169,956</u>	<u>3,580</u>	<u>198,636</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**18. Fixed asset investments (continued)**

**Principal subsidiaries**

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Company number</b>	<b>Registered office or principal place of business</b>	<b>Principal activity</b>
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	06504497	The Brontë Parsonage Museum, Church Street, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8DR	The gift shop in the Brontë Parsonage Museum

<b>Class of shares</b>	<b>Holding</b>
Ordinary	100%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the period were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Profit/(Loss) for the period £</b>	<b>Net assets £</b>
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	<b>12,192</b>	<b>36,004</b>

The profit for the period is after taking account of an interim donation to the parent company of £20,777 (2021: £nil).

**19. Stocks**

	<b>Group 31 March 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 31 December 2021 £</i>	<b>Charity 31 March 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 31 December 2021 £</i>
Finished goods and goods for resale	<b>62,006</b>	<i>69,155</i>	<b>2,415</b>	<i>2,800</i>



**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**22. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current period**

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	450,640	1,357,400	(1,332,414)	(200)	(12,718)	462,708
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fund-raising development	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000
New Building Fund	50,887	-	(11,768)	-	-	39,119
Quinquennial Fund	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
	<u>531,653</u>	<u>1,357,400</u>	<u>(1,344,182)</u>	<u>(200)</u>	<u>(12,718)</u>	<u>531,953</u>
<b>Heritage fixed assets funds</b>						
Heritage assets donations	<u>2,292,427</u>	<u>4,559,934</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,852,361</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,462	110	-	-	-	3,572
Contemporary Arts	1,853	335	-	-	-	2,188
Education	10,168	4,014	-	-	-	14,182
Purchases	18,398	4,333	-	-	-	22,731
British Library	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Museum						
Redecoration	336	99	-	-	-	435
Reception						
Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano						
Maintenance Fund	7,901	2,205	-	200	-	10,306
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	2,915	1,000	-	-	-	3,915
Garfield Weston	15,836	-	(11,454)	-	-	4,382
Foyle Foundation	22,500	-	(9,742)	-	-	12,758
	<u>100,531</u>	<u>12,096</u>	<u>(21,196)</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,631</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>2,924,611</u></u>	<u><u>5,929,430</u></u>	<u><u>(1,365,378)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(12,718)</u></u>	<u><u>7,475,945</u></u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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

Unrestricted Funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated Funds are those funds designated by the Trustees for specific purposes. The allocations are reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. The designated funds are shown as unrestricted funds.

The Tielman fund is a bequest received from France. The Society was initially advised not to use the funds until any potential tax liability had been resolved. The Society considers that there is no longer a tax issue and has begun to utilise the bequest.

Business Process Review Implementation Fund ('BPRI Fund') is to cover consultancy costs for Phase 1 of the project.

Restricted Funds are those funds where monies have been received for a specific purpose. The restrictions placed on the funds as shown above are as follows;

Sir Tresham Lever - monies are only to be used to purchase flowers for the local parish Church;

Top Withens fund - expenditure for the maintenance of the Top Withens site;

Collections Care - expenditure is restricted to cleaning, repairing and conserving the Collection;

Contemporary Arts - Donations are restricted to supporting the Contemporary Arts programme;

Education - expenditure is restricted to supporting the education programme;

Purchases - expenditure is restricted to funding acquisitions for the Collection;

British Library - expenditure is restricted to a "literature in context" project;

Museum Redecoration - donations received towards maintaining the decoration of the Parsonage;

Reception Furniture Fund - donations received for the refurbishment of the admissions area of the Museum;

Piano Maintenance Fund - donation from Society member John Hennessy for the future costs of maintaining the Brontë piano;

Taylor & Francis Prize Fund – consists of an annual donation from Taylor & Francis to fund the cost of a Brontë Society competition;

Garfield Weston - grant funding for outreach projects;

Honresfield Library Fundraising Campaign - donations received towards purchase of heritage assets from Honresfield Library;

Foyle Foundation - monies received to cover core costs.

Transfers between funds:

Transfers between funds are discussed and approved by Trustees at Council Meetings. The principal transfers during the year concern the use of unrestricted funds.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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

**Statement of funds - prior period**

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2021 £</i>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	109,567	920,675	(858,934)	264,284	15,048	450,640
Collections	139,725	-	(8,500)	(131,225)	-	-
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fund-raising development	6,985	-	-	(3,985)	-	3,000
Other strategic projects	24,194	-	(2,922)	(21,272)	-	-
Tielman Fund	43,534	-	-	(43,534)	-	-
Bicentenaries Fund	23,142	-	-	(23,142)	-	-
New Building Fund	50,887	-	-	-	-	50,887
Quinquennial Fund	7,576	-	(6,450)	8,874	-	10,000
	<u>422,736</u>	<u>920,675</u>	<u>(876,806)</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>15,048</u>	<u>531,653</u>
<b>Heritage fixed assets fund</b>						
Heritage assets donations	<u>2,272,927</u>	<u>19,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,292,427</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2021 £</i>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,235	227	-	-	-	3,462
Contemporary Arts	1,581	272	-	-	-	1,853
Education	6,612	3,556	-	-	-	10,168
Purchases	25,723	22,288	-	(29,613)	-	18,398
British Library Museum	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Redecoration	268	68	-	-	-	336
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	7,701	-	-	200	-	7,901
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	2,915	-	-	-	-	2,915
Garfield Weston	15,836	-	-	-	-	15,836
Honresfield Library Fundraising Campaign	-	20,587	-	(20,587)	-	-
Foyle Foundation	-	22,500	-	-	-	22,500
	<u>81,033</u>	<u>69,498</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,531</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>2,776,696</u></u>	<u><u>1,009,673</u></u>	<u><u>(876,806)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>15,048</u></u>	<u><u>2,924,611</u></u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**23. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 31 March 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 31 March 2023 £</b>	<b>Heritage fixed assets funds 31 March 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 31 March 2023 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	46,849	-	-	<b>46,849</b>
Fixed asset investments	146,362	7,548	-	<b>153,910</b>
Heritage assets	-	-	6,852,361	<b>6,852,361</b>
Current assets	448,586	84,083	-	<b>532,669</b>
Creditors due within one year	(109,844)	-	-	<b>(109,844)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>531,953</b>	<b>91,631</b>	<b>6,852,361</b>	<b>7,475,945</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 31 December 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 31 December 2021 £</i>	<i>Heritage fixed assets funds 31 December 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 31 December 2021 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	63,260	-	-	63,260
Fixed asset investments	169,956	3,580	-	173,536
Heritage assets	2,292,427	-	-	2,292,427
Current assets	364,579	96,951	-	461,530
Creditors due within one year	(66,142)	-	-	(66,142)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,824,080</b>	<b>100,531</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,924,611</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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

	<b>Group 31 March 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 31 December 2021 £</i>
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>4,551,334</b>	<i>128,415</i>
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>19,913</b>	<i>36,589</i>
Loss/(profit) on disposal of fixed assets	-	<i>2,680</i>
Gains on investments	<b>2,540</b>	<i>3,185</i>
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>(5,018)</b>	<i>(2,102)</i>
Loss/(profit) on the sale of investments	<b>(6,708)</b>	<i>(212)</i>
Decrease in stocks	<b>7,149</b>	<i>13,118</i>
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	<b>49,121</b>	<i>(49,013)</i>
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<b>43,702</b>	<i>(67,343)</i>
Donated heritage assets	<b>(4,559,934)</b>	<i>(19,500)</i>
Reclassification of investments	<b>19,626</b>	<i>(13,215)</i>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>121,725</b>	<i>32,602</i>

**25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>Group 31 March 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 31 December 2021 £</i>
Cash in hand	<b>422,832</b>	<i>295,423</i>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>422,832</b>	<i>295,423</i>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**26. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 January 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	295,423	127,409	422,832
	<u>295,423</u>	<u>127,409</u>	<u>422,832</u>

**27. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 March 2023 the Group and the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Group 31 March 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 31 December 2021 £</i>	<b>Charity 31 March 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 31 December 2021 £</i>
Not later than 1 year	636	6,312	636	6,312
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,590	12,902	1,590	12,902
	<u>2,226</u>	<u>19,214</u>	<u>2,226</u>	<u>19,214</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	<b>Group 31 March 2023 £</b>	<i>Group 31 December 2021 £</i>	<b>Charity 31 March 2023 £</b>	<i>Charity 31 December 2021 £</i>
Operating lease rentals	7,085	6,010	7,085	6,010

**28. Related party transactions**

The Charitable Group has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.

**THE BRONTE SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 529952

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# Accounts

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Registered number: 00073855 (England and Wales)  
Charity number: 529952

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**



The Brontë Society

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Trustees**

Patricia Gurney, Chair  
Susan Aykroyd, Vice Chair (resigned 5 September 2021)  
Prof. Shahidha Bari  
Laura Beare (appointed 5 September 2021)  
Elina Eady (resigned 2 April 2022)  
Samantha Ellis (resigned 5 September 2021)  
Ciara Gallagher (appointed 5 September 2021)  
Jonathan Gration (appointed 5 September 2021)  
Penelope Jenkins (appointed 5 September 2021)  
Andrew Midgley (appointed 23 June 2021)  
Helen Meller  
Anne Powell  
Valerie Sanders (appointed 5 September 2021)  
Julian Sladdin (appointed 5 September 2021)  
John Thirlwell (resigned 5 September 2021)

**Company registered number**

00073855 (England and Wales)

**Charity registered number**

529952

**Registered office**

The Brontë Parsonage Museum  
Haworth  
KEIGHLEY  
West Yorkshire  
BD22 8DR

**President**

Dame Judi Dench CH DBE FRSA

**Executive Team**

Rebecca Yorke - Interim Director  
Clare Dewhirst  
Ann Dinsdale  
Gail Price  
Mhairi Tomlinson

**Independent auditors**

Clive Owen LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors  
140 Coniscliffe Road  
DARLINGTON  
County Durham  
DL3 7RT

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**(CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Solicitors**

Wrigleys  
19 Cookridge Street  
LEEDS  
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**Investment Advisers**

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**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report together with the audited consolidated financial statements of the The Brontë Society for 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives and Aims**

The Brontë Society is an outward-looking, multi-faceted organisation with literature at its heart. It was founded in 1893 to establish and maintain a museum and to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family. Haworth Parsonage, now the world-famous and accredited Brontë Parsonage Museum, opened to the public in 1928 and has since welcomed over a million visitors. We are a global organisation rooted in Yorkshire identity and landscape. Our collection of Brontë manuscripts and personal possessions, displayed in the rooms where the Brontës lived and wrote some of the greatest novels in the English language, is the largest in the world.

**The charitable objectives of the Society are:**

1. To promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family in particular, but not exclusively, by establishing and maintaining permanent museums, galleries and libraries for the public benefit;
2. To acquire by donation, purchase, or otherwise, and to renovate and preserve artefacts, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, engravings, paintings, drawings, photographs, clothing, furniture and other objects of or relating to the Brontë family, and if thought fit, of other authors, for the public benefit;
3. To provide for the examination of the literary remains for further scholarship and better understanding of the lives and works of the Brontës and their writing, and if thought fit, of other authors, and publication of the memoirs of the Brontë family and other authors for the public benefit;
4. To promote the advancement of literature and the arts and to initiate projects that deepen literary engagement locally, nationally and throughout the world and which are rendered interesting by their association with the Brontë family for the public benefit;
5. To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

**The Brontë Society's vision is:**

'To bring the Brontës to the world and the world to Yorkshire'.

We do this, not only by being an internationally-renowned visitor attraction, but through our creative programmes, expanding digital offer and working in partnership with other museums and literary houses.

**Its mission statement is:**

To celebrate the lives and works of the Brontës, widening access to their legacy and sharing their contemporary significance with a global audience. We conserve, interpret, display and build creative engagement through our world-class collection and the landscape that inspired the Brontës. We champion new writing today, particularly by women, and promote better understanding of the Brontës' lives and works.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**The Brontë Society seeks to promote the following values:**

**Excellence:** This will underpin all our endeavours. We will be informed, authoritative, consistent and constantly benchmarking to ensure we raise standards to foster our status as the world's leading authority on Brontë literature and history, dedicated to maintaining their legacy and consistently operating with financial and organisational efficiency. We aim to have the highest professional standards in all that we do.

**Inspiration:** We will ensure that all our activities have the maximum impact on our audiences, welcoming them physically as well as digitally, stimulating and engaging them at all levels with memorable experiences and enriching their lives through the Brontë experience.

**Creativity:** We will be imaginative, responsive, progressive and original in the way we approach our activities and operations bringing the widest audiences to the Brontës' story and their works through creative displays, exhibitions and programming.

The Brontë Society has a commitment to **equality, diversity and inclusion** and to promoting a positive culture which celebrates difference, ensures fairness and challenges prejudice. In accordance with this commitment, and the values of Excellence, Inspiration and Creativity listed above, the Brontë Society will foster a positive working environment and wider membership community where Trustees, staff, volunteers and members treat each other with dignity and **respect** at all times, and where bullying, harassment and discrimination are known to be unacceptable.

We will invest in our Trustees, staff and volunteers, providing training, support, opportunity and encouragement, and restructuring appropriately. We will commit to governance and staff reviews to ensure we have the right people with the right skills in the appropriate places, to help us achieve our objectives.

**The strategic objectives of the Society in 2021 were:**

1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants.
2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience.
3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do.
4. To manage and share our Museum and collections in line with our accredited status.
5. To increase resilience through dynamism, data and digital.
6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation.

**Main activities undertaken to further the charitable group's purposes for the public benefit**

The charitable group's aims and achievements are set out within this report and have been undertaken to further the charitable group's charitable purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

The charitable group considers that it satisfies the public benefit requirement as the Brontë Parsonage Museum is open to all members of the United Kingdom and worldwide, making its collections accessible for scholars and general visitors, via its public programmes and use of digital technologies.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRATEGIC REPORT**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Overview by the Chair of Trustees**

The report that follows details all that The Brontë Society achieved in the financial year ended 31 December 2021.

2021 marked the start of a new chapter for the Brontë Society: post bicentenaries, post-pandemic and with future resilience in mind. We recognised that we needed to accelerate our progress and impact around data, digital and diversity in order to remain relevant and viable and be recognised as a modern, resilient, sustainable organisation.

While we made significant inroads in some areas, it is fair to say that many of the challenges of 2020 continued into 2021. As a result of regional lockdowns followed by a second national lockdown, the Museum was closed from November 2020 until the middle of May 2021 and restrictions continued to be in place beyond that date. Due to scenario planning and forecasting, and the extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, we were able to minimise the impact in financial terms, but it did delay progress with some of our plans.

However, whilst the challenges of the pandemic were manifold, we seized the opportunities to strengthen our organisation from within to make us more effective without. The 2021 review of our Articles of Association and development of the Board were significant pieces of work which have strengthened the governance of the organisation and prepared the ground for further positive change.

A highlight of 2021 was the unexpected reappearance of the Law Collection, now known as the Blavatnik Honresfield Library. When Sotheby's announced that it would be auctioning the literary treasures contained in this unique collection, the Brontë Society campaigned for the auction to be postponed and consequently worked as part of a consortium led by the Friends of the National Libraries to acquire the entire library for the nation. At the heart of the collection is a wealth of Brontë material, including Charlotte Brontë letters, seven Charlotte Brontë miniature manuscripts ('little books'), a manuscript of Anne Brontë poetry and a notebook containing handwritten poems by Emily Brontë. A fundraising campaign to raise £15m was successful and as a result, a significant quantity of this Brontë material has returned to the Parsonage, where it was written. To maximise public benefit, the Brontë Society jointly owns the seven Charlotte Brontë miniature manuscripts with the British Library and the Brotherton Library (University of Leeds) and will work in partnership with these institutions to share the material through digitisation and a dedicated engagement programme.

We are proud to be a National Portfolio Organisation and continue to be extremely grateful for the support of Arts Council England. Our successful application to remain in the portfolio until 31 March 2023 was submitted in September 2021 and much of the year was spent refining our plans for the next NPO cycle which will run 2023-26. The Executive Team and Board of Trustees have worked hard to embed the Arts Council's Investment Principles (ambition & quality; dynamism; inclusivity & relevance and environmental responsibility) in all that we do, recognising that they are valuable development tools which will help us fulfil our vision and mission and contribute to a fairer, greener, culturally-rich society.

While there is much to be proud of and celebrate, it is vital that we do not lose sight of the challenges ahead. The world has changed, and we are committed to embracing a future that will see us connecting more closely with both our local communities and, through digital, a wider global audience. Working together, the Brontë Society Board of Trustees and Executive Team will continue to lead the organisation through this period of development and ensure that the Brontë Parsonage Museum will survive and thrive to celebrate its centenary in 2028.

Trish Gurney, Chair of the Brontë Society Board of Trustees, June 2022.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Charitable objectives**

Our Museum is a home for the imagination, a place of solace and stimulation. Our displays promote creative engagement and our artistic programme interrogates and makes connections with our collections in innovative ways. Literature is at the heart of what we do, but taking our cue from the Brontës' own multidisciplinary talents, we explore Brontë links with other artforms, finding new ways to see and engage with our collection and test new ways of reaching and inspiring future generations. Our learning and outreach programmes educate, inspire and demonstrate the relevance of the Brontës' lives and work to contemporary society.

Brontë Genius, a wholly-owned trading company, runs the Brontë Parsonage Museum shop, commissioning and selling items that reflect the lives and stories of the Brontës and the museum collection, to help further the Society's charitable objectives and support its activities. These are consistent with the objectives set out in the Articles of Association.

**Strategic objectives**

2021 offered opportunities to reflect on the life and legacy of Anne Brontë, whose bicentenary celebrations in 2020 were curtailed due to the pandemic. Much of our programme explored the themes of resilience and women's rights in addition to challenging the myths and stereotypes that are often associated with the youngest Brontë sibling.

During 2021 the following achievements were recorded against our strategic objectives:

**1. To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants**

During 2021, writer and broadcaster Samira Ahmed presented two high-profile events focusing on Anne Brontë; one as part of our Brontë Festival of Women's Writing in July, and the other as a keynote speaker at our conference in September. Both events were held online and attracted audiences of 200 people.

The 10th annual Brontë Festival of Women's Writing was held 30 July – 1 August 2021. Programmed on the theme of 'Speaking Out' and hosted entirely online, the weekend included readings and performances by Hollie McNish, Namina Forna, Anita Sethi, Arifa Akbar and other writers and creatives. In line with Arts Council England's 'Let's Create' strategy, the festival also offered several workshops and other opportunities for participation and talent development. The weekend was attended by over 250 people, many of whom were engaging with the Museum for the first time.

The Museum reopened in May 2021 with 'Contemplating Hope', a new commission by artist Layla Khoo. This installation invited visitors to the Museum to record their hopes and aspirations for the future, just as Anne and Emily Brontë did. Many participants commented that this activity felt very poignant against the backdrop of the pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and the climate emergency.

Visitors to the Museum were also able to view 'Gondal Arise!', an exhibition of works by illustrator Isabel Greenberg comprising original pages from her graphic novel 'Glass Town' and new pieces based on Anne and Emily's imagined world of Gondal.

Jasmine Gardosi and Toria Garbutt, who were appointed as our 2020 writers in residence, were able to visit the Museum during 2021 and take inspiration from Anne Brontë and 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' to produce new work in the form of film-poems, which were shared in early 2022.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

***2. To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience***

Reviews collected via Google and TripAdvisor and comments in our visitor books indicate that the visitor experience at the Brontë Parsonage Museum is overwhelmingly positive. Investment in staff training (including away days at other attractions, interpretation training and disability awareness training) has been a major factor in generating repeat visits and complimentary feedback, as has our expanded programme of free talks and holiday activities.

Our developing online programme of talks and events continues to attract audiences from all over the world and receive positive feedback:

"I suffer from lupus which causes me mobility issues, so the switch to online formats has enabled me to join events that I would otherwise find difficult to access"

"Thank you for the recent excellent series of events. They have been fascinating sessions with brilliant speakers. I commend you on their organisation and content."

While we continue to make improvements to our digital marketing tools, work also commenced on the scoping of a new website to facilitate improved integration with our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and allow us to maximise the opportunities offered by ecommerce.

In the summer of 2021, the role of Visitor Experience Administrator was created in order to provide Museum customers with a single point of contact for their enquiry, visit or event booking, leading to improved and more efficient customer service.

***3. To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do***

We have become better acquainted with the communities on our doorstep, building relationships with those local to Haworth and Keighley as well as in the wider Bradford area through partnership working. In recent years, we have built relationships through our outreach programme with a number of groups who serve communities not familiar with the museum and our work. These include Keighley Association Women and Children's Centre (KAWACC), Bevan Healthcare and Wellbeing Centre and Bradford Together Women. Work with these groups was paused during 2020 and the first half of 2021 as a result of the pandemic, but we have since returned to these partnerships and deepened our relationship with them.

During 2021-22, members of the Executive Team participated in 'Breakthrough', a year-long equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging programme for senior managers in the arts sector. The learning from this training is being embedded across all areas of the organisation, from programming and marketing to recruitment and governance.

***4. To manage and share our Museum and collections in line with our accredited status***

Due to the Museum being closed for most of 2020, our Anne Brontë bicentenary exhibition, 'Anne Brontë: Amid the Brave and Strong', continued throughout 2021. Highlights included Anne's poignant last letter; Charlotte's first 'little book', which was written especially for Anne; a copy of 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' given by Anne to a close friend, and on loan to the Museum; and a portrait of Anne by Charlotte, displayed together with the carnelian necklace worn by her in the picture. A sketching block specifically designed for use in the open air and purchased by her in 1843, was also loaned to the Museum and displayed for the first time, alongside some of her original drawings and paintings.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Acquisitions**

The following items came as donations to the Museum collection:

- Oil portraits of John and Ellen Nussey, the parents of Charlotte's friend Ellen Nussey.
- A collection of books owned by Martha Brown, which are believed to have come from the Brontë family: 'Stories of the Irish Peasantry' (in two volumes) and 'Life of Wellington' (in four volumes).
- The wooden template used to create the wrought iron Parsonage sign, designed by Harold Mitchell.
- An 1853 Bible inscribed and presented to John Robinson by A. B. Nicholls.

For most of 2021, the Brontë Parsonage Museum worked as part of a consortium, spear-headed by the Friends of the National Libraries (FNL), set up to save the Honresfield Library (now the Blavatnik Honresfield Library), for the nation. When the sale of the Library in three tranches was announced in May, the consortium successfully persuaded Sotheby's, the agents for the vendors, to postpone the sale in order to give FNL the opportunity to raise the purchase price of £15 million. Many treasures from the Library have been allocated to the Parsonage, and returned to Haworth in July 2022.

**Loans**

We were loaned a sample of Charlotte Brontë's handwriting, authenticated by A. B. Nicholls, dated 21 August 1860.

**Maintenance**

Prior to the Parsonage re-opening in May, the Museum, Library and museum stores had their annual deep clean. All collection items were cleaned and inspected for any signs of deterioration and the two long-case clocks had their annual clean and service. As the Parsonage had been closed for much of the previous year, a decision was taken to retain the 2020 exhibition, *Anne Brontë: 'Amid the brave and strong'*, which subsequently ran until January 2022.

**5. To increase resilience through dynamism, data and digital**

**Finance**

We achieved a surplus for 2021 that exceeded our budget, despite the Museum and shop being closed at the beginning of the year. This enables us to continue the process of rebuilding our reserves.

We secured funding from the Foyle Foundation to further our learning offer and were successful in our application for regular funding from Bradford Council for 2022-25.

During 2021 we reviewed our back-office business systems to ensure they were fit for purpose and identified areas of investment. A focus of 2022 is determining the level of investment required and identifying sources of funding to resource this. To facilitate remote and flexible working, we invested in laptops for all office staff and a remote server.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Digital**

Building on the successful 2020 launch of our online events space, the Brontë Lounge, 2021 saw us expand our digital programme to help us connect with audiences all over the world and grow a new income stream. We ran a well-attended programme of online seminars in partnership with Gaskell's House and the British Association for Victorian Studies.

Our Board continued to meet online and we reviewed our Articles to enable our AGM to be held virtually and with electronic balloting, a move which we hope will increase participation and engagement, as well as being more economically and environmentally sustainable.

The Brontë Society recognises that digital and ecommerce have a significant part to play in our post-Covid recovery and development. During 2021 we continued to seek opportunities to develop skills within our existing workforce and identify innovative and affordable ways of building resource in these areas.

**Marketing**

Due to environmental concerns, the ongoing uncertainty around restrictions and the consequent pressure on budgets, our 2021 marketing focused on digital methods.

Our social media platforms continued to grow, and engagement with our online community flourished throughout 2021, with our followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram increasing by over 10% on 2020 numbers.

**PR and media**

The Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum attracted high-profile media coverage during 2021, especially in relation to the campaign to save and acquire rare and important manuscripts from the Honresfield Library. We continued to allocate budget to working with a PR agency to support our media activity and this partnership offers a substantial Return On Investment.

During 2021, the Parsonage hosted several production crews including a documentary team from ARTE; BBC Northern Ireland ('The Brontës: An Irish Tale', presented by Aoife Hinds); 'Our Great Yorkshire Life' for Channel 5, presented by Christa Ackroyd, Channel 4's 'Britain's Novel Landscapes' with Mariella Frostrup and Channel 5's 'Jane McDonald's Yorkshire.' The Parsonage was also used as a location for 'The Railway Children Return' during May and June 2021. The film, produced by Studio Canal, will be released in July 2022 and is expected to result in increased tourism for Haworth.

**6. To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation**

The landscape and natural world are fundamental to the Brontës' work and an important part of what visitors to the Brontë Parsonage Museum, situated on the edge of Yorkshire moorland, experience. We have always had a commitment to respecting and protecting the natural world but during 2021, environmental responsibility was a consideration in every aspect of our work. Examples of some changes we introduced include: replacing plastic wrappers with biodegradable materials; planting trees in lieu of sending Christmas cards; printing fewer leaflets and reducing our carbon footprint by working from home or holding meetings online.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Other Activities**

**Education and engagement**

Young people and children are a key focus. The Parsonage was a family home and the Brontës wrote from a young age. Our formal learning programme is praised by teachers but the restrictions of the pandemic and the related pressures on schools meant we did not welcome the usual number of school groups during the first half of 2021. While many of our school workshops are curriculum-linked, creativity is embedded throughout. We position the visit as connected to the creative process, enabling students to take advantage of the immersive nature of the Museum, the imaginative potential of our collection, and the sensory connection with the outdoors. We offer free workshops for local schools, forging stronger links and a sense of ownership of the Museum. During 2021, we were awarded funding from The Foyle Foundation to support and diversify our learning programme.

**Publications and Conferences**

Early 2021 saw the retirement of Amber Adams, who had edited 'Brontë Studies', the Brontë Society's journal, for over sixteen years. We remain extremely grateful to Amber for her work and commitment over such a long period. Dr Sarah Fanning was appointed as the new Editor via an open recruitment process in February 2021 and together with the Deputy and Associate Editors, continues to work closely with the Society and Taylor & Francis, our publishers. 2021 saw a total of 47,000 downloads of 'Brontë Studies'.

Due to the ongoing uncertainty around travel restrictions and indoor gatherings, the Society decided to hold the postponed 2020 Anne Brontë conference online. It took place in September 2021 and was attended by over one hundred delegates from across the world.

**Building partnerships**

A key partnership of 2021 was the consortium established by the Friends of the National Libraries to save the Honresfield Library. By working together over many months, this group of museums, libraries and academic institutions acquired a unique collection of rare and precious manuscripts for the nation. We will continue to work in partnership with these other organisations on a programme of public engagement during 2022 and 2023.

The Society continued to work with Bradford's other cultural organisations during 2021, in particular on the bid for Bradford to be UK City of Culture 2025. The Brontë Society is represented on the Bradford 2025 steering committee and our involvement will continue now that Bradford has been awarded the City of Culture title.

We also work in partnership with other literary houses, particularly Gaskell's House, Wordsworth Grasmere and Jane Austen's House. We have close links with national writing charity Arvon and literary festivals in the area eg Bradford Literature Festival and Ilkley Literature Festival.

Our outreach programme is an important aspect of building new partnerships in order to reach people and communities who are not familiar with the Museum. Many of these people are local to us, in the Bradford district and our work with them is ongoing.

**Growing and widening the membership of the Brontë Society**

Our new, inclusive, contemporary and sustainable membership structure was launched in January 2021 and by the end of the year, the majority of existing members had transitioned to the new class of memberships. The digital membership packages help to reduce costs associated with printing and postage and also contribute to a reduction in our carbon footprint. The free Young Brontë Friend (16 – 25) category has also proved popular with over 75 members in this category by the end of 2021.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Developing a positive culture that supports staff and volunteers**

The organisation continues to foster a learning culture, embedding evaluation and review at the heart of its activities. All staff and volunteers are encouraged to seek out, and take advantage of, opportunities for Continued Professional Development, including regular 'library time' to pursue their studies of all things Brontë.

Ideas from all parts of the organisation are shared via our monthly staff forum and employees and volunteers are kept up to date with news and developments via our fortnightly e-newsletter. The mental health of our workforce is considered as important as its physical health and all staff are entitled to a monthly 'Wellbeing Hour' to pursue leisure or wellbeing activities.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Income & Expenditure**

The Consolidated Financial Statements of the Brontë Society incorporate the results of the Society's trading company, The Brontë Genius Company Ltd, which is 100% owned by the Society and operates under licence the retail premises within the Parsonage Museum and the online shop.

Total income for the year was £990,173 compared to £1,070,942 in 2020. Due to the imposition of another national lockdown in January 2021, the shop did not open until the middle of April and the Museum opened from the middle of May. As a result, income from these sources does not represent a full year of activity. Income included a full year's National Portfolio Organisation grant from Arts Council England and other grants, including the final instalment of the Cultural Recovery Fund grant, awarded in 2020. We were also in receipt of Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme funds in the first half of the year until the Museum was fully open and staffed. Income from Museum admissions totalled £203,093 compared to £90,081 in 2020. Whilst this is a significant increase year on year, admissions income was still well below 50% of the admissions income received pre-pandemic (2019: £492,280) reflecting the closures, fewer visits by groups and people from overseas and the organisation maintaining limits on the number of visitors in the museum in order to protect our staff and volunteers. Shop sales income was £166,510 compared to £88,605 in 2020, again this is significantly lower than pre-pandemic (2019: £306,761) but follows the trend in admissions and is a positive indication of our visitors' support as they returned after the closures.

Total expenditure for the year was £876,806 compared with £1,043,446, due to decreases in costs, in particular staff costs, advertising & marketing and exhibition costs. The largest decrease was in staff costs where the effect of the staff restructure at the end of 2020 was felt over the full year.

Overall, the net movement in funds for the year was £128,415 compared with £23,836 in 2020.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)**

**Financial sustainability**

The Brontë Society welcomed 24,827 visitors in 2021, compared with 11,016 in 2020 and 70,405 in 2019. Due to continuing lockdowns, the Museum did not open for the 2021 season until 19 May 2021 and visitor numbers were restricted to comply with social distancing regulations. As the regulations lifted, restrictions on visitor numbers were eased gradually but were still limited throughout 2021. During the first half of 2022 we have gradually increased the number of tickets available each day and are now operating without limits on the number of visitors.

In 2021 the Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum continued to benefit financially as one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations. The total grant funding received in 2021 was £302,338, which includes the last quarter of Cultural Recovery Fund support up to 31 March 2021. The Society is very grateful to the Arts Council for this ongoing NPO support, which has been confirmed will now continue until April 2023.

Being an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation yields benefits other than the immediately financial. It opens doors to networking opportunities, training and professional development, being part of 'something bigger', and encourages confidence in other potential funders.

The Society has taken the decision to change its accounting year end from December to March and the next consolidated financial statements will cover the 15 months to 31 March 2023. This will bring the year end in line with that of Arts Council England and will facilitate quarterly and annual reporting required of National Portfolio Organisations.

As part of our involvement in the successful initiative to save the Blavatnik Honresfield Library, we donated £50,000 to the fundraising campaign led by the Friends of the National Libraries. This comprised funds from a public fundraising campaign that raised £20,587 and a £29,413 contribution from our Restricted Purchases fund.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**Investment policy and objectives**

The objectives of the investment policy are as follows:

- To provide for on-going cash needs to support the operation of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum on a day-to-day basis;
- To ensure the continued protection of the fabric of the Parsonage house;
- To provide for, or contribute towards, the purchase of new acquisitions for the Museum and its collections;
- To provide a basis for future financial planning that will carry forward the Charity's objectives.

**Investment review**

During 2021 the Finance & Audit Committee met with Charles Stanley, the Brontë Society's Investment Managers to review the management of the charity's investments and its goals, and will continue to do so, given the current climate of uncertainty and the ongoing commitment to utilise the investments to further the aims and objectives of the organisation. The existing overall risk level will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

During the year net realised and unrealised gains on investments totalled £15,048 and the cost of managing the investments was £2,169.

**Reserves policy**

At 31 December 2021 the group held unrestricted reserves of £2,824,080, of which £2,292,427 were Heritage Assets, £63,260 were other tangible assets and £173,536 were investments. Restricted reserves at the year-end amounted to £100,531. The trustees have agreed, in line with many other National Portfolio Organisations, that the organisation should aim to hold three months' worth of operating costs in reserve. Three months' worth of operating costs, being total unrestricted expenditure less depreciation and irrecoverable VAT, at the year-end amounted to £206,858. In comparison to this at 31 December 2021, total readily available unrestricted reserves amounted to £298,437. Operating costs have been lower over the past two years, which has enabled us to achieve a level of reserves in excess of this policy. However, we intend to keep this policy under review as maintaining reserves of three months operating costs proved to be challenging in the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic. These are funds in cash and investments that the Board of Trustees is able to designate for specific purposes.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

In line with the Society's objectives, the following aims for the year ahead have been agreed:

**To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants**

We will continue to develop events and projects, through partnerships and guided by our audience development aims, that will attract those with whom we have had little engagement in the past, as well as expanding our traditional audiences. The successful launch of our online programme has helped realise our potential to engage audiences digitally and this will be developed and expanded during the year ahead, both as a way of reaching new audiences, and also for monetising opportunities as we identify content that people will pay for.

**To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience**

We will continue to invest in our staff, identifying training that will enable them to continue to deliver exceptional customer service and enhance the visitor experience. We will continue to source and commission high-quality products for our shop and upgrade our website to improve user experience and maximise income from retail sales and donations. Using digital technology, we will expand access to the Parsonage and its important collection to enable more people to experience and enjoy the historic house and the objects it contains.

**To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do**

The Brontë Society is committed to building on the work of previous years and will continue to commission work from, or programme events featuring, writers, artists and creatives of colour, D/deaf or disabled writers, creatives and artists and those who identify as LGBTQ+. In addition, we will ensure that we work with creatives from across the UK and with different lived experiences.

Through our outreach programme, we will continue to work with groups and communities who live near the Museum, but who are not familiar with it. This work will be partially funded by Bradford Metropolitan District Council and the Garfield Weston Foundation.

**To manage and share our Museum and our collections in line with our accredited status**

We will present a new exhibition, 'Defying Expectations: Inside Charlotte Brontë's Wardrobe', which will share new research about our textile collections for the first time.

We will work with our Honresfield consortium partners to digitise and display items from the Blavatnik Honresfield Library and programme a range of engagement activities.

We will seek to expand and appropriately store the Museum's collections and, following the successful outcome of a Stage 1 application, will work towards 'designated' status for the Brontë Parsonage Museum.

**To increase our resilience through dynamism, data and digital**

Building on the success and learning of the bicentennial festival and the events of the last two years, we will continue to diversify our income through our events programme, our retail offer and by identifying other commercial activities through The Brontë Genius Company. We will make it easier for people to donate through our website and will also continue to target applications to trusts and foundations to support specific areas of our activity. 2022 will also see us considering how we can build on the success of recent fundraising campaigns and the develop an individual giving programme.

**To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation**

We will roll out Carbon Literacy training across the organisation and continue to collate and analyse our environmental data, so that we can set appropriate targets, identify new ways to reduce our carbon footprint and monitor our progress. We have set up an organisational-wide 'Green Group' to ensure that the policy and plan remain relevant and innovative and become embedded in our governance, operations and creative programme. We will share our commitment and the changes we make with our staff and volunteers, members, visitors, audiences and creatives through our communications.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The Society is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society was established in 1893 and opened its first museum in 1895. It is a company limited by guarantee (number 00073855), having been incorporated in 1902, and is registered as a charity (number 529952). The affairs of the Brontë Society are governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of the Members in the event of the Society being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1 each. The number of Members at 31 December 2021 was 1,689 of whom 530 were Life Members.

**Organisational structure and decision-making policies**

The Brontë Society is governed by a board of up to twelve trustees who are appointed at the AGM. We are proactive in developing the Board through succession planning, supported by appropriate training and induction. We recruit trustees with diversity in mind and take care to set out the commitment, responsibilities and expertise involved to ensure we attract candidates with the appropriate skills and experience. The Board currently has three sub-committees, Finance & Audit; Governance, and the Nominations Committee, all of which meet regularly ahead of full Board meetings.

The leadership and day-to-day running of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum is delegated to the Interim Director (a marketing and communications professional with extensive experience in the arts and heritage sector) and the Executive Team, comprising a qualified museum professional with over 30 years' curatorial experience, an experienced hr and project manager, and two Heads of Finance (job share) who are both chartered accountants with more than fifty years' experience between them. The Executive Team is collectively stronger than the sum of its parts and this collaborative leadership model works well.

**Appointment, induction and training of new Trustees**

At the first meeting of the Board following the Annual General Meeting the Trustees elect one of their number to serve as Chair of the Board.

All new Trustees are expected to attend an induction training session and to undertake appropriate training during their period of office.

**Key management remuneration**

The Trustees consider the members of the Executive Team to form the key management personnel of the Society, in charge of directing, running and operating the Society on a day-to-day basis. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and in view of the nature of the organisation, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities.

**Related parties**

The charity operates a wholly owned trading subsidiary, The Brontë Genius Company Limited. This company operates the gift shop of the Brontë Society. During 2021 the company made a profit of £7,169 compared with a loss of £21,796 in 2020.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)**

**Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In order to monitor those risks and respond to any changes, the organisation maintains a risk register, which is regularly reviewed and updated by the Board and Executive Team.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Charity and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

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

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Auditors**

The auditors, Clive Owen LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 27 July 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



**Patricia Gurney**  
Chair of Trustees

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Brontë Society (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2021 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2021 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 Companies Act 2006 and 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 and parent charitable company 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 parent charitable company'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 BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**

**Other information**

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. 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.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report.

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

- the parent charitable company 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 charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**

**Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**

**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts.

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, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Our audit must be alert to the risk of manipulation of the financial statements and seek to understand the incentives and opportunities for management to achieve this.

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Group. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be around employment law, charity law, company law, health and safety law, taxation law and GDPR
- Enquiry of directors and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of Board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of directors and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. 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 concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**



**Christopher Beaumont BA (Hons) BFP FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**Clive Owen LLP**

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors

140 Coniscliffe Road

DARLINGTON

County Durham

DL3 7RT

Date: 3 August 2022

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	37,986	46,998	84,984	156,657
Charitable activities	5	679,246	22,500	701,746	801,862
Other trading activities	6	201,341	-	201,341	105,562
Investments	7	2,102	-	2,102	3,821
Other income	8	-	-	-	3,040
<b>Total income</b>		<b>920,675</b>	<b>69,498</b>	<b>990,173</b>	<b>1,070,942</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	9,10	143,921	-	143,921	157,242
Charitable activities	11,12	732,885	-	732,885	886,204
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>876,806</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>876,806</b>	<b>1,043,446</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		15,048	-	15,048	(3,660)
<b>Net income</b>		<b>58,917</b>	<b>69,498</b>	<b>128,415</b>	<b>23,836</b>
Transfers between funds	22	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>108,917</b>	<b>19,498</b>	<b>128,415</b>	<b>23,836</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		2,715,163	81,033	2,796,196	2,772,360
Net movement in funds		108,917	19,498	128,415	23,836
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>2,824,080</b>	<b>100,531</b>	<b>2,924,611</b>	<b>2,796,196</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	16	63,260	88,192
Heritage assets	17	2,292,427	2,272,927
Investments	18	173,536	160,321
		<u>2,529,223</u>	<u>2,521,440</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	69,155	82,273
Debtors	20	96,952	47,939
Cash at bank and in hand		295,423	278,029
		<u>461,530</u>	<u>408,241</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(66,142)	(133,485)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>395,388</u>	<u>274,756</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>2,924,611</u>	<u>2,796,196</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>2,924,611</u>	<u>2,796,196</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>2,924,611</u></u>	<u><u>2,796,196</u></u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	22	100,531	81,033
Unrestricted funds	22	2,824,080	2,715,163
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>2,924,611</u></u>	<u><u>2,796,196</u></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 on 27 July 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

  
**Patricia Gurney**  
(Chair of Trustees)

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)**

**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	16	63,260	88,192
Heritage assets	17	2,292,427	2,272,927
Investments	18	198,636	185,421
		2,554,323	2,546,540
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	19	2,800	3,124
Debtors	20	147,889	129,132
Cash at bank and in hand		282,075	253,597
		432,764	385,853
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(61,188)	(127,740)
<b>Net current assets</b>		371,576	258,113
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		2,925,899	2,804,653
<b>Net assets</b>		2,925,899	2,804,653
<b>Total net assets</b>		2,925,899	2,804,653
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	22	100,531	81,033
Unrestricted funds	22	2,825,368	2,723,620
<b>Total funds</b>		2,925,899	2,804,653

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 on 27 July 2022 and signed on their behalf by

**Patricia Gurney**  
 (Chair of Trustees)

The notes on pages 27 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>32,602</b>	44,476
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>2,102</b>	3,821
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(14,337)</b>	(6,224)
Proceeds from sale of investments	<b>36,305</b>	162,527
Purchase of investments	<b>(39,278)</b>	(90,743)
Net cash drawings on investments	<b>-</b>	115,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>	<b>(15,208)</b>	<b>184,381</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>17,394</b>	<b>228,857</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>278,029</b>	49,172
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>295,423</b>	<b>278,029</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 27 to 52 form part of these financial statements

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**1. General information**

The Brontë Society is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered details can be found on page 1. In the event of the Brontë Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Brontë Society.

**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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society meets the definition of a public interest 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 Group and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Group has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

**2.2 Going concern**

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the company will continue to trade for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. The Trustees have prepared forecasts that demonstrate that the company will be able to continue to trade within existing bank facilities for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

**2.3 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.

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.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.4 Income**

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

Grants are included in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Charity's accounting policies.

Donated facilities and services are recognised in the financial statements when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.5 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.

Support costs directly attributed to an activity have been allocated to the activity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to any activity they have been allocated in proportion to direct expenditure.

Costs of generating funds (direct costs) are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

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.

**2.6 Government grants**

Government grants are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on receipt.

**2.7 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.

**2.8 Taxation**

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.9 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.

No depreciation is charged on the asset in the year of purchase.

No depreciation is charged on freehold property as the Trustees consider its value to be not less than original cost.

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:

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% - 15% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

**2.10 Heritage assets**

The Charity's collection comprises assets of historical importance recognised as heritage assets previously under FRS 30 (Heritage Assets) and now under the provision of SORP 2015 and FRS102 which require such assets to be reported in the balance sheet where information is available regarding cost or value. Items purchased for the collection are capitalised as heritage assets and included at cost or value at acquisition in the balance sheet. Items purchased prior to the implementation of SORP 2005 are not capitalised. Items donated to the collection are capitalised as heritage assets at market value at the point of donation where material. Depreciation has not been provided on heritage assets on the basis that their residual value is such that any depreciation charge would be immaterial. A description of the collection, its management and developments during the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

**2.11 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.

Investments held as fixed assets are shown at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities.

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.12 Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Benefits received and receivable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term, unless another systematic basis is representative of the time pattern of the lessee's benefit from the use of the leased asset.

**2.13 Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell. Stock is measured on a first in first out basis.

**2.14 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.

**2.15 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.

**2.16 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.

**2.17 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.

**2.18 Irrecoverable VAT**

The charity was partially exempt for VAT purposes for the year ended 31 December 2021. Irrecoverable VAT has been included in the Statement of Financial Activities during the year within support costs.

**2.19 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.

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**3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

Estimates and judgments 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.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgment:

Stock provision - a provision is allocated against any identified obsolete or slow-moving stock where appropriate.

**4. Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
<b>Donations</b>				
Bequests and donations	37,986	-	37,986	150,976
Contemporary arts donations	-	272	272	345
Collection care donations	-	227	227	48
Purchase fund donations	-	22,288	22,288	4,325
Museum redecoration scheme	-	68	68	72
Piano maintenance fund	-	-	-	241
Honresfield Library donations	-	20,587	20,587	-
Education donations	-	3,556	3,556	650
	<u>37,986</u>	<u>46,998</u>	<u>84,984</u>	<u>156,657</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>150,976</u>	<u>5,681</u>	<u>156,657</u>	

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**5. Analysis of income from charitable activities by type of income**

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Museum admission donations	186,821	-	186,821	79,767
Museum admission gift aid tax	16,272	-	16,272	10,314
Grants receivable	312,370	22,500	334,870	425,202
Contemporary arts income	1,956	-	1,956	903
Education group admission	6,577	-	6,577	5,953
Events	11,477	-	11,477	13,356
Subscription from members	39,073	-	39,073	28,702
Conference	3,661	-	3,661	-
Exhibition tax refund	6,507	-	6,507	13
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	62,286	-	62,286	212,652
Bradford Council grant	32,246	-	32,246	25,000
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>679,246</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>701,746</b>	<b>801,862</b>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>801,862</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>801,862</i>	

**6. Income from other trading activities**

**Income from non charitable trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Royalties, licensing and repo fees	34,831	34,831	16,957
Income from sales	166,510	166,510	88,605
	<b>201,341</b>	<b>201,341</b>	<b>105,562</b>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<i>105,562</i>	<i>105,562</i>	

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**7. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Dividends receivable	1,597	1,597	3,517
Bank interest	505	505	304
	<u>2,102</u>	<u>2,102</u>	<u>3,821</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>3,821</u>	<u>3,821</u>	

**8. Other incoming resources**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Insurance	-	-	3,040
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,040</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>3,040</u>	<u>3,040</u>	

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**9. Expenditure on raising funds**

**Expenditure on raising funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Purchases and direct costs	92,582	<b>92,582</b>	43,167
Wages and salaries	48,625	<b>48,625</b>	109,571
Pension costs	545	<b>545</b>	2,195
	<u>141,752</u>	<u><b>141,752</b></u>	<u>154,933</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>154,933</u>	<u><b>154,933</b></u>	

**10. Investment management costs**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Investment management fees	2,169	<b>2,169</b>	2,309
	<u>2,309</u>	<u><b>2,309</b></u>	
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>2,309</u>	<u><b>2,309</b></u>	

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**11. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	732,885	-	<b>732,885</b>	886,204
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>883,168</u>	<u>3,036</u>	<u>886,204</u>	

**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2021 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	362,721	370,164	<b>732,885</b>	886,204
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>470,893</u>	<u>415,311</u>	<u>886,204</u>	

£732,885 (2020: £883,168) of the above costs were attributable to unrestricted funds. £nil (2020: £3,036) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds.

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**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Staff costs	278,799	<b>278,799</b>	381,107
Curatorial	21,256	<b>21,256</b>	20,848
Advertising and marketing	22,133	<b>22,133</b>	30,588
Exhibition and display	-	-	6,223
Education	-	-	842
Contemporary art expense	30,312	<b>30,312</b>	22,649
Travel and training	2,936	<b>2,936</b>	2,628
Events	781	<b>781</b>	4,175
Membership	3,330	<b>3,330</b>	1,833
Conference costs	3,174	<b>3,174</b>	-
	<u>362,721</u>	<u><b>362,721</b></u>	<u>470,893</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>470,893</u>	<u>470,893</u>	

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**12. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Staff costs	148,423	<b>148,423</b>	176,446
Depreciation	36,589	<b>36,589</b>	47,328
Travel and training	1,222	<b>1,222</b>	1,395
Rates and water	1,445	<b>1,445</b>	1,683
Insurance	12,202	<b>12,202</b>	10,000
Light and heat	5,647	<b>5,647</b>	5,701
Temporary staff	-	-	31,817
Communications and technology	27,278	<b>27,278</b>	18,356
Security and fire safety	13,456	<b>13,456</b>	16,190
Cleaning	3,363	<b>3,363</b>	3,514
Garden	2,108	<b>2,108</b>	1,596
Property repairs	15,641	<b>15,641</b>	16,061
Input VAT not recoverable	12,787	<b>12,787</b>	11,886
Miscellaneous	4,360	<b>4,360</b>	706
Administration costs	14,716	<b>14,716</b>	11,145
Bank charges	8,725	<b>8,725</b>	7,796
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of investments	212	<b>212</b>	-
Governance costs	61,990	<b>61,990</b>	53,691
	<u>370,164</u>	<u><b>370,164</b></u>	<u>415,311</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>415,311</u>	<u>415,311</u>	

**13. Auditors' remuneration**

	<b>2021 £</b>	<i>2020 £</i>
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	<u><b>13,250</b></u>	<u>8,000</u>

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**14. Staff costs**

	<b>Group 2021 £</b>	<i>Group 2020 £</i>	<b>Charity 2021 £</b>	<i>Charity 2020 £</i>
Wages and salaries	442,060	623,833	393,435	514,262
Social security costs	21,200	28,456	21,200	28,456
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	13,132	17,030	12,587	14,835
	<u>476,392</u>	<u>669,319</u>	<u>427,222</u>	<u>557,553</u>

Included within staff costs are redundancy payments totalling £986 (2020: £33,744).

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

	<b>Group 2021 No.</b>	<i>Group 2020 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2021 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2020 No.</i>
	29	39	26	32

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>Group 2021 No.</b>	<i>Group 2020 No.</i>	<b>Charity 2021 No.</b>	<i>Charity 2020 No.</i>
	18	39	16	32

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Group was £141,644 (2020 - £163,014).

**15. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2020 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2021, expenses totalling £NIL were reimbursed or paid directly to Trustee (2020 - £364 to 2 Trustees). Expenses reimbursements related to travel and subsistence and were repaid directly to Trustees.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**16. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 January 2021	18,640	619,300	110,711	748,651
Additions	-	14,337	-	14,337
Disposals	-	(21,437)	-	(21,437)
At 31 December 2021	<u>18,640</u>	<u>612,200</u>	<u>110,711</u>	<u>741,551</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2021	-	562,409	98,050	660,459
Charge for the year	-	29,415	7,174	36,589
On disposals	-	(18,757)	-	(18,757)
At 31 December 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>573,067</u>	<u>105,224</u>	<u>678,291</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 December 2021	<u>18,640</u>	<u>39,133</u>	<u>5,487</u>	<u>63,260</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>18,640</u>	<u>56,891</u>	<u>12,661</u>	<u>88,192</u>

**Charity**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 January 2021	18,640	619,300	110,711	748,651
Additions	-	14,337	-	14,337
Disposals	-	(21,437)	-	(21,437)
At 31 December 2021	<u>18,640</u>	<u>612,200</u>	<u>110,711</u>	<u>741,551</u>

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**16. Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

**Charity (continued)**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2021	-	562,409	98,050	660,459
Charge for the year	-	29,415	7,174	36,589
On disposals	-	(18,757)	-	(18,757)
At 31 December 2021	-	573,067	105,224	678,291
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 December 2021	18,640	39,133	5,487	63,260
At 31 December 2020	18,640	56,891	12,661	88,192

**17. Heritage assets**

**Group**

**Assets recognised at cost**

	Heritage asset 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Carrying value at 1 January 2021	2,272,927	2,272,927
Additions	19,500	19,500
	2,292,427	2,292,427

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**17. Heritage assets (continued)**

**Group (continued)**

The Society owns the Parsonage at Haworth which was the home of the Brontë family from 1820 to 1861 and which was gifted to the Society in 1928. The Parsonage houses a world class collection of artefacts and documents associated with the Brontë Family and their literary works. The collection is maintained in order to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family and consists of material which belonged to the Brontë family, their friends and associates. It includes books, manuscripts, letters, paintings, drawings, furniture, household items and personal possessions. The Research Library Collection, also housed within the Parsonage building, contains secondary source material and a wide range of biographical, critical, topographical and related works on the Brontë family. Today the Brontë Society continues to carry out its founding aim; collecting and exhibiting material relating to the Brontës' lives and works and making them known to the widest audience through display, online access, appointments to view and a lifelong learning programme.

Under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 and FRS30 Heritage Assets items purchased for the collection were capitalised and included at cost in the balance sheet and this has continued under SORP 2015.

The Society maintains its collection for its historical and literary value. Any valuation is completed within the confines of the requirements of the management and preservation of the collection and for no other purpose. In accordance with the provisions of the SORP, no value has been attributed to items acquired prior to the implementation of the SORP 2005 due to the lack of reliable information regarding cost or valuation. Heritage asset acquisitions reported in the balance sheet totalled £19,500 in 2021, £2,050 in 2020, £676,239 in 2019, £10,800 in 2018, £32,852 in 2017, £60,137 in 2016, £857,146 in 2015, £28,770 in 2014, £89,366 in 2013, £245,665 in 2012, £43,900 in 2011 and £226,002 prior to this date. Additions in 2016 included the kind donation by the BBC of items used in the production of To Walk Invisible.

Access to the collection is promoted through educational workshops and tours as well as through general admissions to the Museum. The collection is detailed in the Society's online catalogue which can be accessed via the website at [www.bronte.org.uk](http://www.bronte.org.uk).

**Charity**

**Assets recognised at cost**

	<b>Heritage asset 2021 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Carrying value at 1 January 2021	2,272,927	2,272,927
Additions	19,500	19,500
	<u>2,292,427</u>	<u>2,292,427</u>

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**18. Fixed asset investments**

Group	Listed investments £	Cash and settlements pending £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 January 2021	153,195	7,126	160,321
Additions	39,278	(39,278)	-
Disposals	(36,305)	36,305	-
Revaluations	13,788	(573)	13,215
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>169,956</b>	<b>3,580</b>	<b>173,536</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>169,956</b>	<b>3,580</b>	<b>173,536</b>
<i>At 31 December 2020</i>	<i>153,195</i>	<i>7,126</i>	<i>160,321</i>

The historical cost of listed investments at 31 December 2021 was £141,265 (2020: £137,323).

Charity	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Cash and settlements pending £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 January 2021	25,100	153,195	7,126	185,421
Additions	-	39,278	(39,278)	-
Disposals	-	(36,305)	36,305	-
Revaluations	-	13,788	(573)	13,215
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>25,100</b>	<b>169,956</b>	<b>3,580</b>	<b>198,636</b>
<b>Net book value</b>				
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>25,100</b>	<b>169,956</b>	<b>3,580</b>	<b>198,636</b>
<i>At 31 December 2020</i>	<i>25,100</i>	<i>153,195</i>	<i>7,126</i>	<i>185,421</i>

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**18. Fixed asset investments (continued)**

**Principal subsidiaries**

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Principal activity
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	06504497	The Brontë Parsonage Museum, Church Street, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8DR	The gift shop in the Brontë Parsonage Museum
<b>Class of shares</b>	<b>Holding</b>		
Ordinary	100%		

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Profit/(Loss) for the year £	Net assets £
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	7,169	23,812

**19. Stocks**

	Group 2021 £	Group 2020 £	Charity 2021 £	Charity 2020 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>69,155</u>	<u>82,273</u>	<u>2,800</u>	<u>3,124</u>

**20. Debtors**

	Group 2021 £	Group 2020 £	Charity 2021 £	Charity 2020 £
<b>Due within one year</b>				
Trade debtors	422	383	422	383
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	51,412	81,595
Prepayments and accrued income	96,530	47,556	96,055	47,154
	<u>96,952</u>	<u>47,939</u>	<u>147,889</u>	<u>129,132</u>

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**21. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>Group 2021 £</b>	<i>Group 2020 £</i>	<b>Charity 2021 £</b>	<i>Charity 2020 £</i>
Trade creditors	25,112	25,796	24,783	24,967
Other taxation and social security	5,035	7,564	5,035	7,485
Other creditors	2,429	2,861	2,429	2,861
Accruals and deferred income	33,566	97,264	28,941	92,427
	<u>66,142</u>	<u>133,485</u>	<u>61,188</u>	<u>127,740</u>
	<b>Group 2021 £</b>	<i>Group 2020 £</i>	<b>Charity 2021 £</b>	<i>Charity 2020 £</i>
Deferred income at 1 January 2021	65,240	4,022	65,240	4,022
Resources deferred during the year	3,104	65,240	3,104	65,240
Amounts released from previous periods	(65,240)	(4,022)	(65,240)	(4,022)
	<u>3,104</u>	<u>65,240</u>	<u>3,104</u>	<u>65,240</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**22. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	2,401,994	920,675	(858,934)	264,284	15,048	2,743,067
Collections	139,725	-	(8,500)	(131,225)	-	-
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fund-raising development	6,985	-	-	(3,985)	-	3,000
Other strategic projects	24,194	-	(2,922)	(21,272)	-	-
Tielman Fund	43,534	-	-	(43,534)	-	-
Bicentenaries Fund	23,142	-	-	(23,142)	-	-
New Building Fund	50,887	-	-	-	-	50,887
Quinquennial Fund	7,576	-	(6,450)	8,874	-	10,000
	<u>2,715,163</u>	<u>920,675</u>	<u>(876,806)</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>15,048</u>	<u>2,824,080</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,235	227	-	-	-	3,462
Contemporary Arts	1,581	272	-	-	-	1,853
Education	6,612	3,556	-	-	-	10,168
Purchases	25,723	22,288	-	(29,613)	-	18,398
British Library	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Museum Redecoration	268	68	-	-	-	336
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	7,701	-	-	200	-	7,901
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	2,915	-	-	-	-	2,915
Garfield Weston	15,836	-	-	-	-	15,836
Honresfield Library Fundraising Campaign	-	20,587	-	(20,587)	-	-
Foyle Foundation	-	22,500	-	-	-	22,500
	<u>81,033</u>	<u>69,498</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,531</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>2,796,196</u></u>	<u><u>990,173</u></u>	<u><u>(876,806)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>15,048</u></u>	<u><u>2,924,611</u></u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

Unrestricted Funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated Funds are those funds designated by the Trustees for specific purposes. The allocations are reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. The designated funds are shown as unrestricted funds.

The Tielman fund is a bequest received from France. The Society was initially advised not to use the funds until any potential tax liability had been resolved. The Society considers that there is no longer a tax issue and has begun to utilise the bequest.

Business Process Review Implementation Fund ('BPRI Fund') is to cover consultancy costs for Phase 1 of the project.

Restricted Funds are those funds where monies have been received for a specific purpose. The restrictions placed on the funds as shown above are as follows;

Sir Tresham Lever - monies are only to be used to purchase flowers for the local parish Church;

Top Withens fund - expenditure for the maintenance of the Top Withens site;

Collections Care - expenditure is restricted to cleaning, repairing and conserving the Collection;

Contemporary Arts - Donations are restricted to supporting the Contemporary Arts programme;

Education - expenditure is restricted to supporting the education programme;

Purchases - expenditure is restricted to funding acquisitions for the Collection;

British Library - expenditure is restricted to a "literature in context" project;

Museum Redecoration - donations received towards maintaining the decoration of the Parsonage;

Reception Furniture Fund - donations received for the refurbishment of the admissions area of the Museum;

Piano Maintenance Fund - donation from Society member John Hennessy for the future costs of maintaining the Brontë piano;

Taylor & Francis Prize Fund – consists of an annual donation from Taylor & Francis to fund the cost of a Brontë Society competition;

Garfield Weston - grant funding for outreach projects;

Honresfield Library Fundraising Campaign - donations received towards purchase of heritage assets from Honresfield Library;

Foyle Foundation - monies received to cover core costs.

Transfers between funds:

Transfers between funds are discussed and approved by Trustees at Council Meetings. The principal transfers during the year concern the use of unrestricted funds. Restricted funds transfers relate to the donation towards the purchase of the Honresfield Library heritage assets post year end.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2020 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2020 £</i>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	2,373,060	1,065,261	(1,032,567)	(100)	(3,660)	2,401,994
Collections	139,725	-	-	-	-	139,725
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fund-raising development	6,985	-	-	-	-	6,985
Other strategic projects	24,194	-	-	-	-	24,194
Tielman Fund	43,534	-	-	-	-	43,534
Bicentenaries Fund	24,132	-	(990)	-	-	23,142
New Building Fund	51,727	-	(840)	-	-	50,887
Quinquennial Fund	9,090	-	(1,514)	-	-	7,576
BPRI Fund	4,499	-	(4,499)	-	-	-
	<u>2,694,072</u>	<u>1,065,261</u>	<u>(1,040,410)</u>	<u>(100)</u>	<u>(3,660)</u>	<u>2,715,163</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

**Statement of funds - prior year (continued)**

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2020 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2020 £</i>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,187	48	-	-	-	3,235
Contemporary Arts	1,236	345	-	-	-	1,581
Education	5,962	650	-	-	-	6,612
Purchases	8,278	4,325	-	13,120	-	25,723
British Library	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Museum Redecoration	196	72	-	-	-	268
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	8,612	241	(1,252)	100	-	7,701
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	2,915	-	-	-	-	2,915
Fundraising for Little Book	13,120	-	-	(13,120)	-	-
Garfield Weston	17,620	-	(1,784)	-	-	15,836
	<u>78,288</u>	<u>5,681</u>	<u>(3,036)</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,033</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u>2,772,360</u>	<u>1,070,942</u>	<u>(1,043,446)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,660)</u>	<u>2,796,196</u>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**23. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2021 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	63,260	-	<b>63,260</b>
Fixed asset investments	169,956	3,580	<b>173,536</b>
Heritage assets	2,292,427	-	<b>2,292,427</b>
Current assets	364,579	96,951	<b>461,530</b>
Creditors due within one year	(66,142)	-	<b>(66,142)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,824,080</b>	<b>100,531</b>	<b>2,924,611</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	88,192	-	<b>88,192</b>
Fixed asset investments	153,195	7,126	<b>160,321</b>
Heritage assets	2,272,927	-	<b>2,272,927</b>
Current assets	334,334	73,907	<b>408,241</b>
Creditors due within one year	(133,485)	-	<b>(133,485)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,715,163</b>	<b>81,033</b>	<b>2,796,196</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

	<b>Group 2021 £</b>	<i>Group 2020 £</i>
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>128,415</b>	23,836
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>36,589</b>	47,328
Loss/(profit) on disposal of fixed assets	<b>2,680</b>	-
Gains on investments	<b>3,185</b>	3,584
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>(2,102)</b>	(3,821)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of investments	<b>(212)</b>	16,235
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	<b>13,118</b>	(4,770)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	<b>(49,013)</b>	19,729
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<b>(67,343)</b>	32,424
Donated heritage assets	<b>(19,500)</b>	(2,050)
Reclassification of investments	<b>(13,215)</b>	(88,019)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>32,602</b>	44,476

**25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>Group 2021 £</b>	<i>Group 2020 £</i>
Cash in hand	<b>295,423</b>	278,029
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>295,423</b>	278,029

**26. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 January 2021 £</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>At 31 December 2021 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>278,029</b>	<b>17,394</b>	<b>295,423</b>
	<b>278,029</b>	<b>17,394</b>	<b>295,423</b>

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**27. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 December 2021 the Group and the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Group</b> <b>2021</b> £	<i>Group</i> <i>2020</i> £	<b>Charity</b> <b>2021</b> £	<i>Charity</i> <i>2020</i> £
Not later than 1 year	<b>6,312</b>	3,176	<b>6,312</b>	3,176
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<b>12,902</b>	16,352	<b>12,902</b>	16,352
	<u><b>19,214</b></u>	<u>19,528</u>	<u><b>19,214</b></u>	<u>19,528</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	<b>Group</b> <b>2021</b> £	<i>Group</i> <i>2020</i> £	<b>Charity</b> <b>2021</b> £	<i>Charity</i> <i>2020</i> £
Operating lease rentals	<b>6,010</b>	2,669	<b>6,010</b>	2,669

**28. Related party transactions**

The charitable company has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.

**THE BRONTE SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 529952

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# Accounts

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**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**



The Brontë Society

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Trustees**

Patricia Gurney, Chair  
Susan Aykroyd, Vice Chair  
Prof. Shahidha Bari (appointed 7 November 2020)  
Rachel Coaker (resigned 20 March 2020)  
Sarah Collins (resigned 8 May 2020)  
Elina Eady  
Samantha Ellis  
Helen Meller  
Diane Park (resigned 9 May 2020)  
Anne Powell  
Rosamund Sellars (appointed 10 May 2020, resigned 22 November 2020)  
John Thirlwell

**Company registered number**

00073855 (England and Wales)

**Charity registered number**

529952

**Registered office**

The Brontë Parsonage Museum  
Haworth  
KEIGHLEY  
West Yorkshire  
BD22 8DR

**President**

Dame Judi Dench CH DBE FRSA

**Executive Team**

Clare Dewhirst  
Ann Dinsdale  
Rebecca Yorke  
Gail Price  
Mhairi Tomlinson

**Independent auditors**

Clive Owen LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors  
140 Coniscliffe Road  
DARLINGTON  
County Durham  
DL3 7RT

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS**  
**(CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Solicitors**

Wrigleys  
19 Cookridge Street  
LEEDS  
LS2 3AG

**Investment Advisers**

Charles Stanley  
7 Park Row  
LEEDS  
LS1 5HD

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the The Brontë Society for 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives and Aims**

The Brontë Society was formed in December 1893 for the purpose of promoting interest in the Brontë family of Haworth and their works. From the beginning the Society sought to acquire and preserve manuscripts and artefacts, and in April 1895 the Society opened its first Museum in Haworth. In 1928, Haworth Parsonage was gifted to The Brontë Society, which has run the Brontë Parsonage Museum since then.

**The charitable objectives of the Society are:**

1. To promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family in particular, but not exclusively, by establishing and maintaining permanent museums, galleries and libraries for the public benefit;
2. To acquire by donation, purchase, or otherwise, and to renovate and preserve artefacts, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, engravings, paintings, drawings, photographs, clothing, furniture and other objects of or relating to the Brontë family, and if thought fit, of other authors, for the public benefit;
3. To provide for the examination of the literary remains for further scholarship and better understanding of the lives and works of the Brontës and their writing, and if thought fit, of other authors, and publication of the memoirs of the Brontë family and other authors for the public benefit;
4. To promote the advancement of literature and the arts and to initiate projects that deepen literary engagement locally, nationally and throughout the world and which are rendered interesting by their association with the Brontë family for the public benefit;
5. To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives or any of them.

**The Society's vision is:**

'To bring the Brontës to the world and the world to Yorkshire'.

**Its mission statement is:**

To celebrate the lives and works of the Brontës, and their contemporary significance to a global audience. We will seek to grow Society membership and preserve and care for the Parsonage Museum. We will conserve, interpret, display, expand and promote creative engagement with our world-class collections and the landscape that inspired the Brontës.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**The Brontë Society seeks to promote the following values:**

**Excellence:** This will underpin all our endeavours. We will be informed, authoritative, consistent and constantly benchmarking to ensure we raise standards to foster our status as the world's leading authority on Brontë literature and history, dedicated to maintaining their legacy and consistently operating with financial and organisational efficiency. We aim to have the highest professional standards in all that we do.

**Inspiration:** We will ensure that all our activities have the maximum impact on our audiences, welcoming them physically as well as digitally, stimulating and engaging them at all levels with memorable experiences and enriching their lives through the Brontë experience.

**Creativity:** We will be imaginative, responsive, progressive and original in the way we approach our activities and operations bringing the widest audiences to the Brontës' story and their works through creative displays, exhibitions and programming.

The Brontë Society has a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and to promoting a positive culture which celebrates difference, ensures fairness and challenges prejudice. In accordance with this commitment, and the values of Excellence, Inspiration and Creativity listed above, the Brontë Society will foster a positive working environment and wider membership community where Trustees, staff, volunteers and members treat each other with dignity and respect at all times, and where bullying, harassment and discrimination are known to be unacceptable.

Our values will be promoted by our Trustees, staff and volunteers and will inform and support our working practices, creating a work environment that is challenging, creative and rewarding. Additionally, a guiding principle, for staff and Trustees, is **Respect** - for our colleagues, partners and audiences. We will invest in our Trustees, staff and volunteers, providing training, support, opportunity and encouragement, and restructuring appropriately. We will commit to governance and staff reviews to ensure we have the right people with the required skills in the appropriate places, to enable us to achieve our objectives.

**The strategic objectives of the Society in 2020 were:**

1. To create new opportunities for artists and audiences.
2. To improve the visitor experience.
3. To make Diversity central to everything we do.
4. To manage our Museum in line with our accredited status.
5. To increase resilience.

**Main activities undertaken to further the charitable group's purposes for the public benefit**

The charitable group's aims and achievements are set out within this report. The activities set out in this report have been undertaken to further the charitable group's charitable purposes for the public benefit. The Trustees have complied with the duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission and the Trustees have paid due regard to this guidance in deciding what activities the charitable group should undertake.

The charitable group considers that it satisfies the public benefit requirement as the Brontë Parsonage Museum is open to all members of the United Kingdom and worldwide, making its collections accessible for scholars and the general visitor, via its public programmes and use of digital technologies.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRATEGIC REPORT**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Overview by the Chair of Trustees**

The report that follows details all that The Brontë Society achieved in the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

2020 was to be a year of a review, reflection and consolidation: an opportunity to take the learning from the Brontë200 bicentennial period and make it the foundation of the next chapter in the organisation's history. However, a global pandemic meant that change needed to happen more urgently.

2020 was a year in which the unexpected became the norm and the Brontë Society, like many other charitable organisations, was confronted with unprecedented challenges that threatened its long-term survival. On 17 March 2020, the Museum closed for what was to be the longest period in its 92-year history, our usual income streams dried up overnight and whilst we managed to reopen at the end of August 2020, we were forced to close again in November and still remain closed at the time of this report, in early 2021.

Throughout this challenging period, the Board met (and continues to meet) via video conferencing, and Trustees are in regular contact with each other and the Executive Team to monitor the ongoing and ever-changing situation. We have had to take some difficult but necessary decisions, including an organisational restructure, and plans continue to be reviewed with meticulous scrutiny. We consult with our partners and advisers and work closely with our committed Executive Team to ensure we make a steady but sustainable recovery.

We have come through this intensely challenging period with integrity and fortitude, ever mindful of our responsibility and the work and commitment required to ensure the future of the charity and the Museum for our employees, our members and the wider public.

We are enormously grateful to Arts Council England for their continued and very public faith in us. Successful applications to their Emergency Response Fund and the Culture Recovery Fund enabled us to reopen the Museum safely and sustainably at the end of August 2020 and plan for the post-COVID world with increased confidence. We are proud to be a National Portfolio Organisation and we have already started to align our plans with the new national Let's Create strategy, so that we can continue to be part of the rich cultural fabric of the country and a beacon for contemporary women's writing.

It is vital, however, that we do not lose sight of the challenges that are ahead. The world has changed, and while we are immensely proud of what we achieved 2016 - 2019, the events of 2020 have accelerated our preparations for a future that will see us connecting more closely with both our local communities and, through digital media, a wider global audience. Working together, the Brontë Society Board of Trustees and Executive Team will continue to lead the organisation through this period of change and development and ensure that the Brontë Parsonage Museum will survive and thrive to celebrate its centenary in 2028.

Trish Gurney, Chair of the Brontë Society Board of Trustees, April 2021.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Charitable objectives**

Many of our charitable objectives are achieved through the Museum, Library and our associated learning programmes but the Brontë Society also runs a programme of workshops, publications, events, scholarships and conferences, and maintains relationships with museums, writers, artists, cultural commentators and academics, nationally and around the world. In addition, the Brontë Society presents a Contemporary Art programme (CAP), which offers contemporary artists the opportunity to respond to the lives and works of the Brontë family, and reflect them in new and engaging ways to a contemporary audience. There is also a wholly-owned trading company which runs the Brontë Parsonage Museum shop, commissioning and selling items that reflect the lives and stories of the Brontës and the Museum collection, to support the activities of the organisation and help further its charitable objectives. These are consistent with the objectives set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

**Strategic objectives**

2020 marked the bicentenary of the birth of Anne Brontë, the youngest of the Brontë siblings. It was the fifth and final year of Brontë200, the Brontë Society's bicentennial festival. This offered opportunities to reflect Anne's life by exploring the themes of resilience and women's rights in addition to challenging the myths and stereotypes that are often associated with her.

During 2020 the following achievements were recorded against our strategic objectives:

**1. Creating new opportunities for artists and audiences**

Our 2020 season opened with 'Go Back With Me', a series of works by textile artist Lindsey Tyson and composer Sarah Dew. These Scarborough artists were commissioned to create work that drew on Anne's relationship with Scarborough and Haworth, and her journeys between these two places. This exhibition ran until the end of 2020.

We also commissioned an exhibition of illustrations by Isabel Greenberg and an interactive installation inspired by the diary papers of Emily and Anne Brontë by ceramicist Layla Khoo, both these projects will now take place in 2021.

In early 2020, we appointed Samira Ahmed to be our creative partner as we marked the bicentenary of Anne Brontë. This programme will also now be rolled out during 2021 and will see Samira examining some of the still-relevant issues around women's rights written about in *Agnes Grey* and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.

Poets Toria Garbutt and Jasmine Gardosi were appointed as our writers in residence. Both created new work in response to Anne Brontë' and this will be shared with our audiences during 2021.

**2. Improving the visitor experience**

Comments collected via TripAdvisor and our visitor books indicate that the visitor experience at the Brontë Parsonage Museum is overwhelmingly positive. Investment in staff training (including away days at other attractions, interpretation training and disability awareness training) has been a major factor in generating repeat visits and complimentary feedback as has our expanded programme of free talks and holiday activities.

In order to reopen the Museum safely at the end of August 2020, a number of measures had to be put in place. Glass screens were installed at the Admissions and Shop counter areas and hand sanitisers located at various locations around the Museum. We introduced a one-way system, facilitated by floor stickers and new signage and hands-free access to our offices and staff room. We set up timed entry and online booking via Art Tickets managed by Art Fund. All of these measures were communicated via detailed updates on our website, including a 'Staying Safe' page about what to expect. Feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive:

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Strategic objectives (continued)**

"It was so good to be back at the Museum. I felt very welcomed, safe and the Museum staff did a wonderful job of making me feel at ease. I felt like I had the Parsonage to myself due to the small groups allowed in at allocated times. Thank you to everyone involved for making the experience truly great despite such difficult times."

**3. Making Diversity central to everything we do**

Through our 2019-20 outreach programme, we worked with a number of groups who serve communities not familiar with the Museum and our work. These included Keighley Association Women and Children's Centre (KAWACC), Bevan Healthcare and Wellbeing Centre and Bradford Together Women. Work with these groups was paused during 2020 as a result of the pandemic, but we are committed to developing these partnerships during 2021-22, supported by a successful funding application to Garfield Weston.

Although we were unable to deliver a physical events programme during 2020, our Brontë Lounge series of online events was enthusiastically received and enabled us to reach Brontë audiences across the world. By holding events online, we are also able to connect with people closer to home who are unable to visit due to distance, disability or socio-economic factors.

**4. Managing our Museum in line with our accredited status**

**Conservation**

The movements for the two longcase clocks at the Parsonage underwent cleaning and conservation treatment during the January closed period.

**Acquisitions**

The following items came as donations to the Museum collection:

A ledger for the 1820s containing records relating to a Haworth haberdashery business.

An extract from the Haworth burial registers for James Beaver, buried 29 September 1853, signed by Patrick Brontë.

Three letters from Alice Law (author of *Emily Brontë and the authorship of Wuthering Heights*) to John Drinkwater, dating from the 1920s.

We also received a large collection of Brontë-related books for the Research Library, donated by the family of Sarah Fermi.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Strategic objectives (continued)**

**Loans**

We received two 1840s guide books to Scarborough as loans from a private collector. These were displayed in the Exhibition Room.

Charlotte Brontë's 'Thackeray' dress and a collection of costumes from the BBC drama, *To Walk Invisible*, were loaned to Bankfield Museum in Halifax, as part of their *As Seen on TV* exhibition. A further three items from the collection featured in the *Man Up!* exhibition at Chawton House in Hampshire. These were a Charlotte Brontë letter to George Smith, Robert Southey's letter to Charlotte and Emily Brontë's diary paper for 26 June, 1837. A collection of items relating to Anne Brontë were loaned to Heritage Quay, Huddersfield, for an exhibition entitled *The Many Lives of Anne Brontë*, curated by students from Huddersfield University whom we worked with in 2019.

**Maintenance**

During the January 'closed period' the Parsonage, Library and Museum stores had their annual deep clean. All collection items were cleaned and inspected for any signs of deterioration, and the displays throughout the house were changed. The new exhibition, *Anne Brontë: 'Amid the brave and strong'*, was set up in the Bonnell room in time to celebrate Anne's Brontë's bicentenary on 17 January.

**5. Increasing our resilience**

**Finance**

In line with Government guidelines introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Brontë Society closed the Brontë Parsonage Museum and shop on 17 March 2020 and the Trustees and Executive Team immediately put plans in place to ensure the charity would survive the financial challenges this would bring.

The spring and summer months are traditionally the busiest time of the year for the organisation, with over £500k income from admissions, education, events and retail sales earned in the period April to October 2019. Being closed March – September meant a drastic reduction in anticipated income for 2020.

The organisation took advantage of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the majority of Brontë Society office staff were put on furlough from 1 April. The Front of House team (retail/Museum staff) had their furloughing period backdated to 18 March, when the Museum closed.

We successfully applied for a local government emergency grant of £25,000 and met the requirements to have business rates waived for 2020/21, saving approx. £5,000. We also received £10,400 from HMRC following an application to reclaim tax from Museums and Galleries Events Tax Relief (MGETR).

To improve cash flow, we also negotiated a short-term deferral of the Society's PAYE and NI monthly liabilities with HMRC.

The Museum online shop closed briefly but reopened in the late spring with orders being fulfilled by senior staff who were not furloughed. Online sales increased during lockdown and show a 76% increase on previous years.

An application to the Arts Council's Emergency Response fund was successful and resulted in an award of £133,000 which covered many of the costs of implementing Covid-19 requirements enabling the Museum to reopen on 28 August 2020. Front of house staff returned to work when the Museum reopened, but the Society continues to make use of the flexibility of the CJRS scheme for the remainder of employees.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Strategic objectives (continued)**

**Digital**

We launched the Brontë Lounge, a digital events space in the summer of 2020 as a way to remain connected with our audiences and raise some income while closed. This was very successful and we will be developing and expanding our online programme during 2021.

Like many organisations, we moved our meetings online and quickly came to appreciate the benefits offered by platforms like Zoom and Microsoft Teams. We also conducted an audit of our website to identify navigation issues and barriers to income generation.

The Brontë Society recognises that digital and ecommerce will have a significant part to play in our post-Covid recovery and development. During 2021 we will seek opportunities to develop these skills within our existing workforce and identify innovative and affordable ways of building resource in these areas.

**Marketing**

The Brontë Society continues to produce high quality marketing materials. An annually-updated general leaflet was distributed widely to other attractions and visitor-facing businesses in early 2020 but these businesses, like ours, were forced to close for the majority of the year due to the pandemic. We remain members of Yorkshire's DMO Welcome to Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Attractions Group and were supported with training and information sharing by both these organisations throughout 2020.

Despite being closed, our social media platforms continued to grow, and engagement with our online community flourished throughout 2020, with our followers on Facebook and Twitter increasing by 12% on 2019 numbers.

**PR and media**

The Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum attracted high-profile media coverage at the beginning of 2020, especially in relation to a rare Charlotte Brontë 'little book' going on display for the first time and a new exhibition *Anne Brontë: 'Amid the Brave and Strong'*. We continued to allocate budget to working with a PR agency to support our own media activity and this partnership is very fruitful. Later in the year, our JustGiving fundraising campaign was covered in national newspapers, and in international media including within America, Europe and Asia.

During September and October, the Parsonage hosted film crews from BBC Children in Need and Channel 5's Susan Calman's *Grand Day Out* and *Britain by Book* hosted by Gyles Brandreth.

**Other Activities**

**Education and engagement**

Our learning programme was suspended during 2020 as a result of the pandemic and our Learning Officer being on furlough. Similarly, our outreach work with groups of refugees and vulnerable adults was also paused until restrictions are lifted during 2021.

**Publications and Conferences**

A conference to mark the bicentenary of the birth of Anne Brontë was scheduled for September 2020, but was postponed to September 2021 due to the ongoing restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In its place, a one-day online event was organised by Dr Sarah Fanning and Dr Claire O'Callaghan to raise funds for the Brontë Parsonage Museum. It was attended by around 200 people.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Strategic objectives (continued)**

**Building partnerships**

We continue to be active in Bradford Council's many cultural initiatives as they prepare to lodge a bid to become UK City of Culture 2025. The Brontë Society is represented on the steering committee which is leading on the Bradford 2025 bid.

Our outreach programme is an important aspect of building new partnerships in order to reach people and communities who would otherwise perhaps think that the Brontë Society and the Museum would have nothing to say to them. Many of these people are local to us, in the Bradford district and work to engage them with the Museum will continue in 2021.

**Growing and widening the membership of the Brontë Society**

2020 saw a review of the Brontë Society's membership scheme. Subscription rates had not been reviewed since 2013 and as a result, were barely covering the cost of administering the scheme and not making any contribution to the upkeep of the Museum. While financial resilience was a key driver in this exercise, we also identified an opportunity to become more relevant to younger members and to a diverse, international audience. As the majority of Trustees are drawn from the members, a more diverse membership will also help ensure that the organisation becomes more representative of the communities it serves. The October 2020 issue of our members magazine, *Gazette*, announced new classes of membership, including a digital-only offer to attract those for whom travel to Haworth is not an option, whether due to distance, disability or socio-economic factors. We also introduced a Young Brontë Friend category, offering free membership for 16-25s. Our new, inclusive, contemporary and sustainable membership structure was launched in January 2021 and the uptake to date is promising.

**Developing a positive culture that supports staff, volunteers and Trustees**

The organisation continues to foster a learning culture, embedding evaluation and review at the heart of its activities, and staff are encouraged to seek out, and take advantage of, opportunities for Continued Professional Development.

In early 2020, our staff training programme included, for the first time, a day out for the whole organisation spent at a fellow Yorkshire visitor attraction, Yorkshire Sculpture Park. This offered the opportunity for staff to get to know colleagues outside of the workplace and also provided a chance to learn from the displays, interpretation and retail offer of another arts venue. Following the onset of the pandemic, non-furloughed staff attended training on the implementation of the Covid Job Retention Scheme, managing mental health and reopening the Museum and shop safely and in line with Government restrictions. Refresher training about conducting an organisational restructure, including attendance at specialist webinars led by ACAS and our legal advisors, was also undertaken by members of the Executive Team.

The closure of the Museum from mid March – late August 2020 meant that the majority of staff were furloughed during this period and cut off from their colleagues. This prompted the introduction of a weekly bulletin that was emailed to all staff and volunteers at their home email address. This communication contained important updates about the evolving situation, activities such as quizzes and other challenges and links to wellbeing resources and support. The bulletin continues to be sent out on a fortnightly basis.

The redundancy consultations and resulting restructure which took place in the autumn of 2020 was a difficult period for all staff. To lessen the impact on the mental health and well-being of employees, the organisation sought professional advice and support at all stages of the process and provided regular and transparent updates via a number of communication channels. The initiatives introduced during 2019 i.e. a monthly 'wellbeing hour' and access to trained mental health First Aiders will continue as staff return to work off furlough in 2021.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Income & Expenditure**

Total income for the year was £1,070,942 compared to £1,891,586 in 2019. This included a full year's National Portfolio Organisation grant from Arts Council England and other grants including an ACE Emergency Response Grant and a Cultural Recovery Fund grant, also awarded by ACE. The Museum was closed for the majority of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and so income generated from Museum admissions only totalled £90,080 compared with £492,280 in 2019.

Total expenditure for the year was £1,043,446 compared with £1,341,114 in 2019, due to decreases in costs as a result of the closure of the Museum and shop. The main areas of decrease are staff costs, marketing, contemporary arts and events and general administration expenses. In addition, the conference planned for 2020 was postponed until 2021.

The Society's investments experienced a small decrease in market value in 2020 compared with an increase of over £33,500 in the previous year, largely due to uncertainties in the markets as a result of the pandemic.

Overall, the net movement in funds for the year was £23,836 compared with a net surplus of £584,146 in 2019, which was particularly high due to the fundraising for, and acquisition of, Charlotte Brontë's 'Little Book' in November 2019.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

As a result of COVID-19 the Museum had to shut in March 2020 in accordance with the national lock down. Whilst the Museum re-opened on the August Bank holiday weekend it operated at reduced capacity, due to social distancing regulations, until 31st October 2020 when first a regional and then the second national lock down led to the closure of the Museum for a second time. The Museum has remained closed, whilst the shop was able to open in December 2020. In January 2021 a third national lockdown began and the shop was closed. The shop has now reopened and if restrictions are relaxed as planned the Museum will reopen in the middle of May 2021, again with reduced capacity until social distancing regulations are lifted.

The charity has accessed Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), received funding from both the Arts Council Emergency Fund and Cultural Recovery Fund and received donations from various supporters during this period. The Board has taken the difficult decisions to change the opening times of the Museum and shop and to streamline the staffing structure, reducing the number of roles and making them more flexible. As a result of these staff costs savings, continued government support (CJRS and ACE) and the gradual reopening of the shop and Museum, the Trustees believe that they can continue to pay liabilities as they fall due, even if the ongoing restrictions and consequent economic downturn results in 2021 admission numbers being up to 55% lower than 2019 admissions.

**Financial sustainability**

The Brontë Society welcomed 11,016 visitors in 2020, compared with 70,405 in 2019 which reflects the effect of being closed due to the pandemic and associated restrictions. However, the Trustees and the Executive Team monitored income closely throughout the year, reforecasting on a regular basis, and made expenditure reductions accordingly, to ensure the overall budget came in on target.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)**

**Financial sustainability (continued)**

In 2020 the Brontë Society and Brontë Parsonage Museum continued to benefit financially as one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations. The total grant funding received in 2020 was £236,788 and the Society is very grateful to the Arts Council for this ongoing support, with the current funding cycle continuing until April 2023. The grant funding covers, amongst other areas, funding for the continuation of the Contemporary Arts programme.

Being an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation yields benefits other than the immediately financial. It opens doors to networking opportunities, training and professional development, being part of 'something bigger', and encourages confidence in other potential funders.

The financial emergency created by the pandemic and subsequent enforced closure of the Museum necessitated additional fundraising activity to make up the shortfall between budgeted and reforecast income. A campaign with associated JustGiving page was launched in June 2020 and had reached its target of £100,000 by October. This total was made up of donations from individuals around the world and boosted by £20,000 from the T S Eliot Estate and £25,000 from the Charlotte Aitken Trust.

The Museum was able to open at the end of August 2020, but subsequent lockdowns and the ongoing impact of social distancing requirements limits our ability to welcome visitors back to the Museum at sustainable levels: due to the intimate size and lay out of the Parsonage, we are currently only able to admit 150 visitors a day. It is also anticipated that international visitor numbers and group visits by schools and tour operators will fall substantially compared to 2019 and so we anticipate that admissions in 2021 will be circa 40% of 2019 figures.

As a result of this reduction in anticipated income and uncertainty about future changes to COVID-19 regulations and Government support for the museum sector, the Trustees also reviewed the most significant cost of the charity and made the difficult decision that the staffing structure needed to be reviewed and staffing costs significantly reduced in order to achieve a balanced budget in 2021.

Following a period of collective and individual consultation with Prospect Union and staff members, a revised structure was rolled out in November 2020, with a new streamlined Visitor Experience team replacing the separate Museum and Retail teams, vacant posts not recruited to and office staff working a reduced number of hours. This is expected to result in an approximate saving of 45% in 2021 staffing costs compared with 2019.

The organisation was awarded £119,200 from the Culture Recovery Fund, and this, together with the other actions listed above, enabled the Trustees to reforecast the outturn for the rest of this year and arrive at a balanced budget for 2021.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)**

**Investment policy and objectives**

The objectives of the investment policy are as follows:

- To provide for on-going cash needs to support the operation of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum on a day-to-day basis;
- To ensure the continued protection of the fabric of the Parsonage house;
- To provide for, or contribute towards, the purchase of new acquisitions for the Museum and its collections;
- To provide a basis for future financial planning that will carry forward the Charity's objectives.

**Investment review**

During 2020 the Finance & Audit Committee met with Charles Stanley, the Brontë Society's Investment Managers to review the management of the charity's investments and its goals, and will continue to do so, given the current climate of uncertainty and the on-going commitment to utilise the investments to further the aims and objectives of the organisation. The existing overall risk level will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

During the year net realised and unrealised losses on investments totalled £3,660 and the cost of managing the investments was £2,309.

**Reserves policy**

At 31 December 2020 the group held unrestricted reserves of £2,715,163, of which £2,272,927 were Heritage Assets, £88,192 were other tangible assets and £153,195 were investments. Restricted reserves at the year-end amounted to £81,033. The Trustees have agreed, in line with many other National Portfolio Organisations, that the organisation should aim to hold three months' worth of operating costs in reserve. Three months' worth of operating costs, being total unrestricted expenditure less depreciation and irrecoverable VAT, at the year end amounted to £248,271. At 31 December 2020 total readily available unrestricted reserves amounted to £200,849. These are funds in cash and investments that the Board of Trustees is able to designate for specific purposes.

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

In line with the Society's objectives, the following aims for the year ahead have been agreed:

**To create high-quality opportunities for artists, audiences and participants**

We will continue to develop events and projects, through partnerships and guided by our audience development aims, that will attract those with whom we have had little engagement in the past, as well as expanding our traditional audiences. The successful launch of the Brontë Lounge during 2020 has helped realise our potential to engage audiences digitally and this will be developed and expanded during the year ahead, both as a way of reaching new audiences, and also for monetising opportunities as we identify content that people will pay for.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRATEGIC REPORT (continued)**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (continued)**

**To provide visitors and customers with an excellent physical and online experience**

We will continue to invest in our staff, identifying training that will enable them to continue to deliver exceptional customer service and enhance the visitor experience. We will continue to source and commission high-quality products for our shop and upgrade our website to improve user experience and maximise income from retail sales and donations. Using digital technology, we will expand access to the Parsonage and its important collection to enable more people to experience and enjoy the historic house and the objects it contains.

**To place diversity, inclusivity and relevance at the centre of all we do**

The Brontë Society is committed to building on the work of previous years and will continue to commission work from, or programme events featuring, writers, artists and creatives of colour, D/deaf or disabled writers, creatives and artists and those who identify as LGBTQ+. In addition, we will ensure that we work with creatives from across the UK and with different lived experiences. Our 10<sup>th</sup> Brontë Festival of Women's Writing has been programmed with diversity in mind and 2021 will also see us working with ceramic artist Layla Khoo to present a new installation inspired by the diary papers of Emily and Anne Brontë.

**To manage and share our Museum and our collections in line with our accredited status**

We will seek to expand and appropriately store the Museum's collections and work towards 'designated' status for the Brontë Parsonage Museum. An application for this was lodged early in 2020. We will progress our plans for the development of improved storage facilities and toilet facilities for our visitors, identifying sources of funding to enable us to carry out these capital works.

**To increase our resilience through dynamism, data and digital**

Building on the success and learning of the bicentennial festival and the events of 2020, we will continue to diversify our income through our events programme, our retail offer and by identifying other commercial activities through The Brontë Genius Company. We will make it easier for people to donate through our website and will also continue to target applications to trusts and foundations to support specific areas of our activity. 2021 will also see us considering how we can build on the success of the 'little book' campaign of 2019 and our 2020 Just Giving campaign and develop an individual giving programme.

**To become a more sustainable and environmentally responsible organisation**

The landscape and natural world are fundamental to the Brontës' work and an important part of what visitors to the Brontë Parsonage Museum, situated on the edge of Yorkshire moorland, experience. We have always had a commitment to respecting and protecting the natural environment but will step this up during 2021. We will continue to collate and analyse our environmental data, so that we can set appropriate targets, identify new ways to reduce our carbon footprint and monitor our progress. We will also establish an organisational-wide 'Green Group' to ensure that the policy and plan remain relevant and innovative and become embedded in our governance, operations and creative programme. We will share our commitment and the changes we make with our staff and volunteers, members, visitors, audiences and creatives through our communications.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The Society is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society was established in 1893 and opened its first museum in 1895. It is a company limited by guarantee (number 00073855), having been incorporated in 1902, and is registered as a charity (number 529952). The affairs of the Brontë Society are governed by its Articles of Association. The liability of the Members in the event of the Society being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1 each. The number of Members at 31 December 2020 was 1,896 of whom 552 were Life Members.

**Organisational structure and decision-making policies**

The Brontë Society is governed by a board of up to twelve Trustees, mostly drawn from the Society membership. These are elected at each AGM, for up to three terms of three years. These fall vacant at different times. As we consolidate the learning of the bicentenary period and start to align the organisation with Arts Council England's 'Let's Create' strategy, we are being proactive in developing the Board through succession planning, supported by appropriate training and induction. We recruit Trustees with diversity in mind and although any member of the Brontë Society may stand for election to the Board, we are taking care to set out the commitment, responsibilities and expertise involved to ensure we attract candidates with the appropriate skills and experience. The Board has two sub-committees, Finance & Audit and Governance, both of which meet regularly ahead of full Board meetings.

Following the departure of the Executive Director in March 2020, the leadership and day-to-day running of the Brontë Society and the Brontë Parsonage Museum is delegated to the Executive Team. The Executive Team comprises a qualified museum professional with over 30 years' curatorial experience, an experienced HR and project manager, a marketing and communications professional with extensive experience in the arts and heritage sector and two Heads of Finance (job share) who are both chartered accountants with more than fifty years' experience between them. The Executive Team is collectively stronger than the sum of its parts and this collaborative leadership model works well.

**Appointment, induction and training of new Trustees**

At the first meeting of the Board following the Annual General Meeting the Trustees elect one of their number to serve as Chair of the Board.

All new Trustees are expected to attend an induction training session and to undertake appropriate training during their period of office.

**Key management remuneration**

The Trustees consider the members of the Executive Team to form the key management personnel of the Society, in charge of directing, running and operating the Society on a day-to-day basis. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually and in view of the nature of the organisation, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other charities.

**Related parties**

The charity operates a wholly owned trading subsidiary, The Brontë Genius Company Limited. This company operates the gift shop of the Brontë Society. During 2020 the company made a loss of £21,796 compared with a profit of £13,339 in 2019, due to the effect of the pandemic restrictions. The Society has committed to provide support for the trading subsidiary until its return to profitability. A break-even budget is foreseen for 2021.

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)**

**Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. In order to monitor those risks and respond to any changes, the organisation maintains a risk register, which is regularly reviewed and updated by the Board and Executive Team.

The Trustees have assessed the major risk to which The Brontë Society is currently exposed as being the reliance on income from visitors to the Parsonage Museum. The Society is working hard to diversify income streams to mitigate the effect of this on-going risk by developing our digital offer.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Charity and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

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

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

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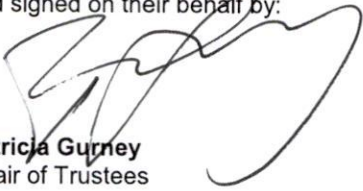
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Auditors**

The auditors, Clive Owen LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on ..... 7 May 2021 .....  
and signed on their behalf by:

**Patricia Gurney**  
Chair of Trustees



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Brontë Society (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2020 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 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 Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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.

**Material uncertainty related to going concern**

We draw attention to note 2.2 in the financial statements, which indicates that the Group as a result of COVID-19 had to close in accordance with the national lock down during the year ended 31 December 2020. As stated in note 2.2, these events or conditions, along with the other matters as set forth in note 2.2, indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Other information**

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. 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.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)**

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report and the Strategic Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

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

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

- the parent charitable company 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 charitable company 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 (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (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, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Our audit must be alert to the risk of manipulation of the financial statements and seek to understand the incentives and opportunities for management to achieve this.

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Group. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be around employment law, charity law, company law, health and safety law, taxation law and GDPR
- Enquiry of directors and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of Board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of directors and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.

Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. 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 concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

THE BRONTË SOCIETY  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRONTË SOCIETY (CONTINUED)



**Christopher Beaumont BA (Hons) BFP FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of  
**Clive Owen LLP**

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors

140 Coniscliffe Road

DARLINGTON

County Durham

DL3 7RT

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	150,976	5,681	156,657	696,753
Charitable activities	5	799,907	-	799,907	860,246
Other trading activities	6	107,517	-	107,517	327,376
Investments	7	3,821	-	3,821	7,211
Other income	8	3,040	-	3,040	-
		<u>1,065,261</u>	<u>5,681</u>	<u>1,070,942</u>	<u>1,891,586</u>
<b>Total income</b>					
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		157,242	-	157,242	258,409
Charitable activities	10,11	883,168	3,036	886,204	1,082,705
		<u>1,040,410</u>	<u>3,036</u>	<u>1,043,446</u>	<u>1,341,114</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>					
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(3,660)	-	(3,660)	33,674
		<u>21,191</u>	<u>2,645</u>	<u>23,836</u>	<u>584,146</u>
<b>Net income</b>					
Transfers between funds	21	(100)	100	-	-
		<u>21,091</u>	<u>2,745</u>	<u>23,836</u>	<u>584,146</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>					
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		2,694,072	78,288	2,772,360	2,188,214
Net movement in funds		21,091	2,745	23,836	584,146
		<u>2,715,163</u>	<u>81,033</u>	<u>2,796,196</u>	<u>2,772,360</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>					

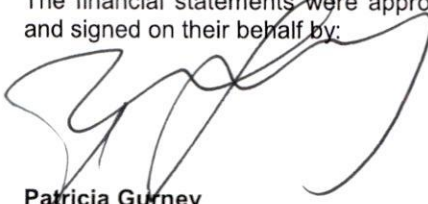
**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	15	88,192	129,296
Heritage assets	16	2,272,927	2,270,877
Investments	17	160,321	278,905
		2,521,440	2,679,078
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	18	82,273	77,503
Debtors	19	47,939	67,668
Cash at bank and in hand		278,029	49,172
		408,241	194,343
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(133,485)	(101,061)
<b>Net current assets</b>		274,756	93,282
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		2,796,196	2,772,360
<b>Net assets</b>		2,796,196	2,772,360
<b>Total net assets</b>		2,796,196	2,772,360
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	21	81,033	78,288
Unrestricted funds	21	2,715,163	2,694,072
<b>Total funds</b>		2,796,196	2,772,360

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 on 7 May 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

  
**Patricia Gurney**  
 (Chair of Trustees)

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
REGISTERED NUMBER: 00073855 (England and Wales)

**CHARITY BALANCE SHEET**  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	15	88,192	129,296
Heritage assets	16	2,272,927	2,270,877
Investments	17	185,421	304,005
		2,546,540	2,704,178
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	18	3,124	-
Debtors	19	129,132	113,480
Cash at bank and in hand		253,597	36,512
		385,853	149,992
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(127,740)	(95,149)
		258,113	54,843
<b>Net current assets</b>		258,113	54,843
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		2,804,653	2,759,021
<b>Net assets</b>		2,804,653	2,759,021
<b>Total net assets</b>		2,804,653	2,759,021
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	21	81,033	78,288
Unrestricted funds	21	2,723,620	2,680,733
		2,804,653	2,759,021
<b>Total funds</b>		2,804,653	2,759,021

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 on 7 May 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

  
**Patricia Gurney**  
(Chair of Trustees)

The notes on pages 26 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	44,476	452,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	3,821	7,211
Purchase of heritage assets	-	(671,514)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(6,224)	(12,419)
Proceeds from sale of investments	162,527	230,672
Purchase of investments	(90,743)	(108,813)
Net cash drawings on investments	115,000	70,172
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>184,381</b>	<b>(484,691)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>228,857</b>	<b>(31,755)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	49,172	80,927
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>278,029</b>	<b>49,172</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 26 to 51 form part of these financial statements

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**1. General information**

The Brontë Society is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered details can be found on page 1. In the event of the Brontë Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Brontë Society.

**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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Brontë Society meets the definition of a public interest 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 Group and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Group has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.2 Going concern**

As a result of COVID-19 the Museum and the shop had to close in March 2020 in accordance with the national lock down. They both reopened on the August Bank holiday weekend until 31 October 2020, when the second national lock down led to their closure for a second time. The shop reopened again in December 2020 but the Museum remained closed due to local restrictions. Throughout these periods of lockdown the shop continued to trade online.

In January 2021 a third national lockdown was announced and the Museum and shop were closed. The shop reopened on 15 April 2021 and the Museum is planning to reopen on 19 May 2021 if the planned relaxation of restrictions remains on track.

Given the impact on the Society, the Board took the difficult decisions to change the opening times of the Museum and shop and to streamline the staffing structure, reducing the number of roles and making them more flexible. As a result of these staff cost savings it is anticipated that the charity will continue with a positive cashflow during 2021 and achieve a break even budget for the year, even if the ongoing restrictions and consequent economic downturn results in 2021 admission numbers being up to 55% lower than 2019 admissions.

The charity has accessed Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), received funding from both the Arts Council Emergency Fund and the Cultural Recovery Fund and received donations from various supporters during this period. A proportion of this additional funding has been allocated to the trading subsidiary, The Brontë Genius Company, during 2020. In addition, to help Brontë Genius manage its cash flow during the next twelve months, the Society has extended the guarantee made in 2020 that it will not seek to recover any monies due to it, and if necessary will provide additional funding so the company can pay its liabilities as they fall due.

During 2020 the Trustees have increased the frequency of meetings. Initially meetings were held weekly, then monthly, to discuss and make strategic decisions as new or additional information became available. The Trustees continue to meet on a regular basis. Financial modelling to 31 December 2022 has been prepared and is regularly updated to reflect actual results and changes in external factors such as government policy.

**2.3 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.

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.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.4 Income**

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

Grants are included in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Charity's accounting policies.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.5 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.

Support costs directly attributed to an activity have been allocated to the activity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to any activity they have been allocated in proportion to direct expenditure.

Costs of generating funds (direct costs) are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

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.

**2.6 Government grants**

Government grants are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on receipt.

**2.7 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.

**2.8 Taxation**

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.9 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.

No depreciation is charged on the asset in the year of purchase.

No depreciation is charged on freehold property as the Trustees consider its value to be not less than original cost.

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:

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% - 15% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

**2.10 Heritage assets**

The Charity's collection comprises assets of historical importance recognised as heritage assets previously under FRS 30 (Heritage Assets) and now under the provision of SORP 2015 and FRS102 which require such assets to be reported in the balance sheet where information is available regarding cost or value. Items purchased for the collection are capitalised as heritage assets and included at cost or value at acquisition in the balance sheet. Items purchased prior to the implementation of SORP 2005 are not capitalised. Items donated to the collection are capitalised as heritage assets at market value at the point of donation where material. Depreciation has not been provided on heritage assets on the basis that their residual value is such that any depreciation charge would be immaterial. A description of the collection, its management and developments during the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

**2.11 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.

Investments held as fixed assets are shown at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.12 Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Benefits received and receivable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term, unless another systematic basis is representative of the time pattern of the lessee's benefit from the use of the leased asset.

**2.13 Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell. Stock is measured on a first in first out basis.

**2.14 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.

**2.15 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.

**2.16 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.

**2.17 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.

**2.18 Irrecoverable VAT**

The charity was partially exempt for VAT purposes for the year ended 31 December 2019. Irrecoverable VAT has been included in the Statement of Financial Activities during the year within support costs.

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.19 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.

**3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

Estimates and judgments 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.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgment:

Depreciation - Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less residual value, over the economic life of that asset. An estimate of the useful life of assets is detailed in the depreciation accounting policy. The value of depreciation charge during the year was £47,328.

Vauation of donated heritage assets - Items donated to the charity's collection are capitalised as heritage assets at the point of donation where material. Donations are valued as outlined within the heritage asset accounting policy.

**4. Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
<b>Donations</b>				
Bequests and donations	150,976	-	<b>150,976</b>	13,793
Contemporary arts donations	-	345	<b>345</b>	395
Collection care donations	-	48	<b>48</b>	90
Purchase fund donations	-	4,325	<b>4,325</b>	1,643
Museum redecoration scheme	-	72	<b>72</b>	60
Piano maintenance fund	-	241	<b>241</b>	-
Auction donations	-	-	-	680,772
Education donations	-	650	<b>650</b>	-
	<u>150,976</u>	<u>5,681</u>	<u><b>156,657</b></u>	<u>696,753</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>12,783</u>	<u>683,970</u>	<u>696,753</u>	

**THE BRONTË SOCIETY**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**5. Analysis of income from charitable activities by type of income**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Museum admission donations	79,767	-	<b>79,767</b>	440,867
Museum admission gift aid tax	10,314	-	<b>10,314</b>	51,413
Grants receivable	425,202	-	<b>425,202</b>	254,880
Contemporary arts income	903	-	<b>903</b>	13,179
Education group admission	5,953	-	<b>5,953</b>	43,406
Events	13,356	-	<b>13,356</b>	19,105
Subscription from members	26,747	-	<b>26,747</b>	24,439
Conference	-	-	-	2,513
Exhibition tax refund	13	-	<b>13</b>	10,444
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	212,652	-	<b>212,652</b>	-
Bradford Council grant	25,000	-	<b>25,000</b>	-
<b>Total 2020</b>	<u>799,907</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>799,907</b></u>	<u>860,246</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>828,672</u>	<u>31,574</u>	<u>860,246</u>	

**6. Income from other trading activities**

**Income from non charitable trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Royalties, licensing and repo fees	18,912	<b>18,912</b>	20,615
Income from sales	88,605	<b>88,605</b>	306,761
	<u>107,517</u>	<u><b>107,517</b></u>	<u>327,376</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>327,376</u>	<u>327,376</u>	

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**7. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Dividends receivable	3,517	<b>3,517</b>	7,059
Bank interest	304	<b>304</b>	152
	<u>3,821</u>	<u><b>3,821</b></u>	<u>7,211</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>7,211</u>	<u><b>7,211</b></u>	

**8. Other incoming resources**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Insurance	3,040	<b>3,040</b>	-
	<u>3,040</u>	<u><b>3,040</b></u>	<u>-</u>

**9. Investment management costs**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Investment management fees	2,309	<b>2,309</b>	5,369
	<u>2,309</u>	<u><b>2,309</b></u>	<u>5,369</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>5,369</u>	<u><b>5,369</b></u>	

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**10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	883,168	3,036	<b>886,204</b>	1,082,705
<i>Total 2019</i>	<i>1,069,045</i>	<i>13,660</i>	<i>1,082,705</i>	

**11. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Operation of Brontë Parsonage Museum	470,893	415,311	<b>886,204</b>	1,082,705
<i>Total 2019</i>	<i>601,199</i>	<i>481,506</i>	<i>1,082,705</i>	

£883,168 (2019: £1,069,045) of the above costs were attributable to unrestricted funds. £3,036 (2019: £13,660) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds.

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**11. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Staff costs	381,107	<b>381,107</b>	394,486
Curatorial	20,848	<b>20,848</b>	42,591
Advertising and marketing	30,588	<b>30,588</b>	44,524
Exhibition and display	6,223	<b>6,223</b>	7,082
Education	842	<b>842</b>	7,602
Contemporary art expense	22,649	<b>22,649</b>	50,511
Travel and training	2,628	<b>2,628</b>	11,602
Events	4,175	<b>4,175</b>	21,807
Membership	1,833	<b>1,833</b>	2,895
Conference costs	-	-	2,275
Bicentenary costs	-	-	1,281
Process review costs	-	-	14,543
	<u>470,893</u>	<u><b>470,893</b></u>	<u>601,199</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>601,199</u>	<u>601,199</u>	

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**11. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Charitable activities 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Staff costs	149,451	<b>149,451</b>	156,553
Depreciation	47,328	<b>47,328</b>	50,953
Travel and training	1,395	<b>1,395</b>	5,460
Rates and water	1,683	<b>1,683</b>	5,613
Insurance	10,000	<b>10,000</b>	8,361
Light and heat	5,701	<b>5,701</b>	7,188
Temporary staff	31,817	<b>31,817</b>	39,915
Recruitment	-	-	1,000
Communications and technology	18,356	<b>18,356</b>	21,005
Security and fire safety	16,190	<b>16,190</b>	7,352
Cleaning	3,514	<b>3,514</b>	5,954
Garden	1,596	<b>1,596</b>	1,812
Property repairs	16,061	<b>16,061</b>	30,104
Input VAT not recoverable	11,886	<b>11,886</b>	21,048
Miscellaneous	706	<b>706</b>	5,610
Administration costs	11,145	<b>11,145</b>	26,361
Bank charges	7,796	<b>7,796</b>	12,492
Governance costs	80,686	<b>80,686</b>	74,725
	<u>415,311</u>	<u><b>415,311</b></u>	<u>481,506</u>
<i>Total 2019</i>	<u>481,506</u>	<u>481,506</u>	

**12. Auditors' remuneration**

	<b>2020 £</b>	<i>2019 £</i>
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	<b>8,000</b>	9,250

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**13. Staff costs**

	<b>Group</b> <b>2020</b> £	<i>Group</i> <i>2019</i> £	<b>Charity</b> <b>2020</b> £	<i>Charity</i> <i>2019</i> £
Wages and salaries	<b>623,833</b>	630,382	<b>514,262</b>	531,975
Social security costs	<b>28,456</b>	34,775	<b>28,456</b>	34,775
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	<b>17,030</b>	17,771	<b>14,835</b>	15,946
	<b>669,319</b>	682,928	<b>557,553</b>	582,696

Included within staff costs are redundancy payments totalling £33,744 (2019: £nil).

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

	<b>Group</b> <b>2020</b> No.	<i>Group</i> <i>2019</i> No.	<b>Charity</b> <b>2020</b> No.	<i>Charity</i> <i>2019</i> No.
	<b>39</b>	48	<b>32</b>	41

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>Group</b> <b>2020</b> No.	<i>Group</i> <i>2019</i> No.	<b>Charity</b> <b>2020</b> No.	<i>Charity</i> <i>2019</i> No.
	<b>39</b>	41	<b>32</b>	34

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Group was £163,014 (2019 - £178,920).

**14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2019 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2020, expenses totalling £364 were reimbursed or paid directly to 2 Trustees (2019 - £1,607 to 4 Trustees). Expenses reimbursements related to travel and subsistence and were repaid directly to Trustees.

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**15. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 January 2020	18,640	619,300	104,487	742,427
Additions	-	-	6,224	6,224
At 31 December 2020	<u>18,640</u>	<u>619,300</u>	<u>110,711</u>	<u>748,651</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2020	-	521,384	91,747	613,131
Charge for the year	-	41,025	6,303	47,328
At 31 December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>562,409</u>	<u>98,050</u>	<u>660,459</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 December 2020	<u>18,640</u>	<u>56,891</u>	<u>12,661</u>	<u>88,192</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>18,640</u>	<u>97,916</u>	<u>12,740</u>	<u>129,296</u>
<b>Charity</b>				
	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 January 2020	18,640	619,300	104,487	742,427
Additions	-	-	6,224	6,224
At 31 December 2020	<u>18,640</u>	<u>619,300</u>	<u>110,711</u>	<u>748,651</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2020	-	521,384	91,747	613,131
Charge for the year	-	41,025	6,303	47,328
At 31 December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>562,409</u>	<u>98,050</u>	<u>660,459</u>

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**15. Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

**Charity (continued)**

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 December 2020	18,640	56,891	12,661	88,192
At 31 December 2019	18,640	97,916	12,740	129,296

**16. Heritage assets**

**Group**

**Assets recognised at cost**

	Heritage asset 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Carrying value at 1 January 2020	2,270,877	2,270,877
Additions	2,050	2,050
	<u>2,272,927</u>	<u>2,272,927</u>

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**16. Heritage assets (continued)**

**Group (continued)**

The Society owns the Parsonage at Haworth which was the home of the Brontë family from 1820 to 1861 and which was gifted to the Society in 1928. The Parsonage houses a world class collection of artefacts and documents associated with the Brontë Family and their literary works. The collection is maintained in order to promote interest in the life and works of the Brontë family and consists of material which belonged to the Brontë family, their friends and associates. It includes books, manuscripts, letters, paintings, drawings, furniture, household items and personal possessions. The Research Library Collection, also housed within the Parsonage building, contains secondary source material and a wide range of biographical, critical, topographical and related works on the Brontë family. Today the Brontë Society continues to carry out its founding aim; collecting and exhibiting material relating to the Brontës' lives and works and making them known to the widest audience through display, online access, appointments to view and a lifelong learning programme.

Under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005 and FRS30 Heritage Assets items purchased for the collection were capitalised and included at cost in the balance sheet and this has continued under SORP 2015.

The Society maintains its collection for its historical and literary value. Any valuation is completed within the confines of the requirements of the management and preservation of the collection and for no other purpose. In accordance with the provisions of the SORP, no value has been attributed to items acquired prior to the implementation of the SORP 2005 due to the lack of reliable information regarding cost or valuation. Heritage asset acquisitions reported in the balance sheet totalled £2,050 in 2020, £676,239 in 2019, £10,800 in 2018, £32,852 in 2017, £60,137 in 2016, £857,146 in 2015, £28,770 in 2014, £89,366 in 2013, £245,665 in 2012, £43,900 in 2011 and £226,002 prior to this date. Additions in 2016 included the kind donation by the BBC of items used in the production of To Walk Invisible.

Access to the collection is promoted through educational workshops and tours as well as through general admissions to the Museum. The collection is detailed in the Society's online catalogue which can be accessed via the website at [www.bronte.org.uk](http://www.bronte.org.uk).

**Charity**

**Assets recognised at cost**

	<b>Heritage asset 2020 £</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>
Carrying value at 1 January 2020	2,270,877	2,270,877
Additions	2,050	2,050
	<u>2,272,927</u>	<u>2,272,927</u>

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**17. Fixed asset investments**

Group	Listed investments £	Cash and settlements pending £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 January 2020	229,770	49,135	278,905
Additions	90,743	(90,743)	-
Disposals	(162,527)	162,527	-
Revaluations	(4,791)	1,207	(3,584)
Net cash drawings	-	(115,000)	(115,000)
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>153,195</b>	<b>7,126</b>	<b>160,321</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>153,195</b>	<b>7,126</b>	<b>160,321</b>
<i>At 31 December 2019</i>	<i>229,770</i>	<i>49,135</i>	<i>278,905</i>

The historical cost of listed investments at 31 December 2020 was £137,323 (2019: £209,479).

Charity	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Cash and settlements pending £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At 1 January 2020	25,100	229,770	49,135	304,005
Additions	-	90,743	(90,743)	-
Disposals	-	(162,527)	162,527	-
Revaluations	-	(4,791)	1,207	(3,584)
Net cash drawings	-	-	(115,000)	(115,000)
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>25,100</b>	<b>153,195</b>	<b>7,126</b>	<b>185,421</b>
<b>Net book value</b>				
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>25,100</b>	<b>153,195</b>	<b>7,126</b>	<b>185,421</b>
<i>At 31 December 2019</i>	<i>25,100</i>	<i>229,770</i>	<i>49,135</i>	<i>304,005</i>

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**Principal subsidiaries**

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Company number</b>	<b>Registered office or principal place of business</b>	<b>Principal activity</b>
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	06504497	The Brontë Parsonage Museum, Church Street, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8DR	The gift shop in the Brontë Parsonage Museum

<b>Class of shares</b>	<b>Holding</b>
Ordinary	100%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Profit/(Loss) for the year £</b>	<b>Net assets £</b>
The Brontë Genius Company Limited	(21,796)	16,643

**18. Stocks**

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	<i>Group 2019 £</i>	<b>Charity 2020 £</b>	<i>Charity 2019 £</i>
Finished goods and goods for resale	<b>82,273</b>	<i>77,503</i>	<b>3,124</b>	<i>-</i>

**19. Debtors**

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	<i>Group 2019 £</i>	<b>Charity 2020 £</b>	<i>Charity 2019 £</i>
<b>Due within one year</b>				
Trade debtors	<b>383</b>	<i>1,704</i>	<b>383</b>	<i>1,704</i>
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	<b>81,595</b>	<i>46,287</i>
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>47,556</b>	<i>65,964</i>	<b>47,154</b>	<i>65,489</i>
	<b>47,939</b>	<i>67,668</i>	<b>129,132</b>	<i>113,480</i>

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**20. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	<i>Group 2019 £</i>	<b>Charity 2020 £</b>	<i>Charity 2019 £</i>
Trade creditors	25,796	49,008	24,967	48,801
Other taxation and social security	7,564	10,704	7,485	10,704
Other creditors	2,861	2,466	2,861	2,466
Accruals and deferred income	97,264	38,883	92,427	33,178
	<u>133,485</u>	<u>101,061</u>	<u>127,740</u>	<u>95,149</u>
	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	<i>Group 2019 £</i>	<b>Charity 2020 £</b>	<i>Charity 2019 £</i>
Deferred income at 1 January 2020	4,022	4,081	4,022	4,081
Resources deferred during the year	65,240	4,022	65,240	4,022
Amounts released from previous periods	(4,022)	(4,081)	(4,022)	(4,081)
	<u>65,240</u>	<u>4,022</u>	<u>65,240</u>	<u>4,022</u>

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**21. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	2,373,060	1,065,261	(1,032,567)	(100)	(3,660)	2,401,994
Collections	139,725	-	-	-	-	139,725
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fund-raising development	6,985	-	-	-	-	6,985
Other strategic projects	24,194	-	-	-	-	24,194
Tielman Fund	43,534	-	-	-	-	43,534
Bicentenaries Fund	24,132	-	(990)	-	-	23,142
New Building Fund	51,727	-	(840)	-	-	50,887
Quinquennial Fund	9,090	-	(1,514)	-	-	7,576
BPRI Fund	4,499	-	(4,499)	-	-	-
	<u>2,694,072</u>	<u>1,065,261</u>	<u>(1,040,410)</u>	<u>(100)</u>	<u>(3,660)</u>	<u>2,715,163</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Collections Care	3,187	48	-	-	-	3,235
Contemporary Arts	1,236	345	-	-	-	1,581
Education	5,962	650	-	-	-	6,612
Purchases	8,278	4,325	-	13,120	-	25,723
British Library	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Museum Redecoration	196	72	-	-	-	268
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	8,612	241	(1,252)	100	-	7,701
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	2,915	-	-	-	-	2,915
Fundraising for Little Book	13,120	-	-	(13,120)	-	-
Garfield Weston	17,620	-	(1,784)	-	-	15,836
	<u>78,288</u>	<u>5,681</u>	<u>(3,036)</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,033</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>2,772,360</u></u>	<u><u>1,070,942</u></u>	<u><u>(1,043,446)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(3,660)</u></u>	<u><u>2,796,196</u></u>

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

Unrestricted Funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated Funds are those funds designated by the Trustees for specific purposes. The allocations are reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis. The designated funds are shown as unrestricted funds.

The Tielman fund is a bequest received from France. The Society was initially advised not to use the funds until any potential tax liability had been resolved. The Society considers that there is no longer a tax issue and has begun to utilise the bequest.

Business Process Review Implementation Fund ('BPRI Fund') is to cover consultancy costs for Phase 1 of the project.

Restricted Funds are those funds where monies have been received for a specific purpose. The restrictions placed on the funds as shown above are as follows;

Sir Tresham Lever - monies are only to be used to purchase flowers for the local parish Church;

Top Withens fund - expenditure for the maintenance of the Top Withens site;

Collections Care - expenditure is restricted to cleaning, repairing and conserving the Collection;

Contemporary Arts - Donations are restricted to supporting the Contemporary Arts programme;

Education - expenditure is restricted to supporting the education programme;

Purchases - expenditure is restricted to funding acquisitions for the Collection;

British Library - expenditure is restricted to a "literature in context" project;

Museum Redecoration - donations received towards maintaining the decoration of the Parsonage;

Reception Furniture Fund - donations received for the refurbishment of the admissions area of the Museum;

Piano Maintenance Fund - donation from Society member John Hennessy for the future costs of maintaining the Brontë piano;

Contemporary Arts 2017 – is the grant awarded by Arts Council England towards the funding of the Society's Contemporary Arts Programme for 2017 and the first part of 2018;

Taylor & Francis Prize Fund – consists of an annual donation from Taylor & Francis to fund the cost of a Brontë Society competition;

Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds are discussed and approved by Trustees at Council Meetings. The principal transfers during the year concern the use of restricted funds.

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

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2019 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2019 £</i>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Funds - all funds	1,786,852	1,175,982	(1,283,220)	659,772	33,674	2,373,060
Collections	140,000	-	(275)	-	-	139,725
Daphne Carrick	17,126	-	-	-	-	17,126
Fund-raising development	21,285	-	(14,300)	-	-	6,985
Other strategic projects	24,194	-	-	-	-	24,194
Tielman Fund	46,293	-	(2,759)	-	-	43,534
Bicenteneries Fund	25,414	-	(1,282)	-	-	24,132
New Building Fund	62,802	-	(11,075)	-	-	51,727
Quinquennial Fund	9,090	-	-	-	-	9,090
BPRI Fund	19,042	-	(14,543)	-	-	4,499
	<u>2,152,098</u>	<u>1,175,982</u>	<u>(1,327,454)</u>	<u>659,772</u>	<u>33,674</u>	<u>2,694,072</u>

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

**Statement of funds - prior year (continued)**

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2019 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2019 £</i>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Sir Tresham Lever	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Top Withens Collections	2,129	-	-	-	-	2,129
Care	3,597	90	(500)	-	-	3,187
Contemporary Arts	841	395	-	-	-	1,236
Education	7,358	1,604	(3,000)	-	-	5,962
Purchases	6,635	1,643	-	-	-	8,278
British Library Museum	12,789	-	-	-	-	12,789
Redecoration	136	60	-	-	-	196
Reception Furniture Fund	244	-	-	-	-	244
Piano Maintenance Fund	8,442	70	-	100	-	8,612
Contemporary Arts 2017	(9,970)	9,970	-	-	-	-
Taylor and Francis Prize Fund	1,915	1,000	-	-	-	2,915
Fundraising for Little Book	-	680,772	(7,780)	(659,872)	-	13,120
Garfield Weston	-	20,000	(2,380)	-	-	17,620
	<u>36,116</u>	<u>715,604</u>	<u>(13,660)</u>	<u>(659,772)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,288</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u><u>2,188,214</u></u>	<u><u>1,891,586</u></u>	<u><u>(1,341,114)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>33,674</u></u>	<u><u>2,772,360</u></u>

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**22. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2020 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2020 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	88,192	-	<b>88,192</b>
Fixed asset investments	153,195	7,126	<b>160,321</b>
Heritage assets	2,272,927	-	<b>2,272,927</b>
Current assets	334,334	73,907	<b>408,241</b>
Creditors due within one year	(133,485)	-	<b>(133,485)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,715,163</u>	<u>81,033</u>	<u><b>2,796,196</b></u>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2019 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2019 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2019 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	129,296	-	129,296
Fixed asset investments	258,390	20,515	278,905
Heritage assets	2,270,877	-	2,270,877
Current assets	136,570	57,773	194,343
Creditors due within one year	(101,061)	-	(101,061)
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,694,072</u>	<u>78,288</u>	<u>2,772,360</u>

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

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	<i>Group 2019 £</i>
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>23,836</b>	584,146
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>47,328</b>	50,953
Gains/(losses) on investments	<b>3,584</b>	(18,083)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>(3,821)</b>	(7,211)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of investments	<b>16,235</b>	(15,145)
Increase in stocks	<b>(4,770)</b>	(4,273)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	<b>19,729</b>	(29,559)
Increase in creditors	<b>32,424</b>	3,547
Donated heritage assets	<b>(2,050)</b>	(4,725)
Reclassification of investments	<b>(88,019)</b>	(106,714)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>44,476</b>	452,936

**24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>Group 2020 £</b>	<i>Group 2019 £</i>
Cash in hand	<b>278,029</b>	49,172
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>278,029</b>	49,172

**25. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 January 2020 £</b>	<b>Cash flows £</b>	<b>At 31 December 2020 £</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	49,172	228,857	278,029
	<b>49,172</b>	<b>228,857</b>	<b>278,029</b>

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**26. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 December 2020 the Group and the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>Group</b> <b>2020</b> £	<i>Group</i> <i>2019</i> £	<b>Charity</b> <b>2020</b> £	<i>Charity</i> <i>2019</i> £
Not later than 1 year	3,176	3,176	3,176	3,176
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	16,352	19,528	16,352	19,528
	<u>19,528</u>	<u>22,704</u>	<u>19,528</u>	<u>22,704</u>

The following lease payments have been recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities:

	<b>Group</b> <b>2020</b> £	<i>Group</i> <i>2019</i> £	<b>Charity</b> <b>2020</b> £	<i>Charity</i> <i>2019</i> £
Operating lease rentals	<u>2,669</u>	<u>2,669</u>	<u>2,669</u>	<u>2,669</u>

**27. Related party transactions**

The charitable company has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.