

4 CORNERS FESTIVAL

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

4 CORNERS FESTIVAL

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

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4 CORNERS FESTIVAL

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Date of Incorporation 27 January 2016

Members Reverend David A Campton
Dr Gladys A Ganiel resigned 23/05/2022
Anthony F Hennessey
Fr Martin J Magill (Co-Chair)
Edward J Petersen
Reverend Robert S Stockman (Co-Chair)
Steven Gregg
Heather Palmer

Registered Office 77 University Street
Belfast
Co Antrim
BT7 1HL

Administrator Megan Boyd

Company Registration No. NI 636050

HMRC Charities Registration No. NI 00955

Charities Commission NI Reg No. NIC 107877

Bankers Danske Bank
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

4 CORNERS FESTIVAL

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

MEMBERS' REPORT

The members present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. The members confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity'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 Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) as amended by update Bulletin 1 (effective 1 January 2015).

Objectives and Activities

a. History and Purposes

4 Corners Festival was initially incorporated in January 2016 as a charitable company. It seeks to inspire people from across the city of Belfast to transform it for the peace and prosperity of all. It consists of innovative events designed to entice people out of their own "corners" of the city and into new places where they will encounter new perspectives, new ideas and new friends.

The objects of 4 Corners Festival are:

- a) The provision of an annual festival in Belfast which acts as an inspiration to people from across the city; to transform it for the peace and well-being of all.
- b) To engage in relationship building and conflict transformation activities which support communities and societies who are experiencing or have experienced conflict.

b. Public benefit

When setting our aims and objectives and in planning our activities for the year we have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

The public benefit requirement states that purposes must be for the public benefit to be charitable. The benefits which flow from the Festival's purposes are increased opportunities for people living, working and socialising in Belfast to meet those from different backgrounds, become more familiar with and comfortable in shared spaces within the city and engage in cross-community consideration of issues affecting communities, leading to potential for improved community relations and a more peaceful and shared society.

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YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

MEMBERS' REPORT (Cont'd)

c. Achievements and Performance

4 Corners Festival 2023

The 2023 4 Corners Festival ran from 29 January - 5 February 2023. The theme was *Dreams... Visions For Belfast* and events were designed to share stories of personal and community dreams and inspire positive, inclusive attitudes towards the future development of Belfast. Most events were in-person, with some also streamed online and further online content including exhibitions and nightly prayer meetings.

As in previous years, the committee organised Festival events in all four corners of the city. Most events were open to the public and free to attend. Events included walking tours, panel discussions, drama, interviews, music and youth events.

The Festival opened in the Skainos Centre, East Belfast with an inspiring address by Julieann Moran exploring what we can all learn from the Worldwide Synod about walking together towards a shared dream for Belfast. Julieann also contributed to the Festival's annual lunchtime discussion for students held at Queen's University.

Following involvement in the final event of the 2022, the Festival was delighted to invite Dana Masters to an In Conversation event at which the musician performed and spoke to Rev Steve Stockman about her experiences of growing up in the USA with the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement and moving to NI to become part of the community here.

'We Have A Dream: The Role of Women In Peacebuilding', celebrated the work of women in this area with a panel featuring Inspector Róisín Brown PSNI; Dr Maria-Adriana Deiana, Queen's University; Eileen Weir, Shankill Women's Centre; and Emma De Sousa. It was chaired by Professor Gladys Ganiel and music was provided by Ferna, recent winner of NI Music Awards' Single of 2022.

Other key events included a screening of 'The Letter' exploring dreams for our environment and Mark Simpson interviewing David Goodwin, the captain of the Belfast Giants ice hockey team which is supported by people of all community backgrounds in Belfast. At the former event the Festival announced plans for a carbon offsetting initiative with aims to become carbon-neutral.

The Grief Of Dreams Unrealised provided a platform for the telling of stories from a range of perspectives, enabling the sharing of lament and learning from these experiences. The Morning Service broadcast by Radio Ulster featured Paul Lutton preaching on dreams, visions and prophetic imagination for Belfast.

Two annual festival favourites took place on the Saturday afternoon. Knitting 4 Corners Together brought together crafters from across the city for an afternoon of knitting for a good cause with the items produced gifted to asylum seekers and charities helping those who are

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MEMBERS' REPORT (Cont'd)

homeless. The Wonderful Wander guided walking tour wove through Belfast City Centre taking in reflections, drama and poems en route.

On Saturday evening Bright Umbrella Drama Company presented 'A Farther Shore', a drama exploring themes of boundary crossing, dreams and inclusion through a retelling of Simon Peter's story.

The closing event was held in St John's Parish, West Belfast, with reflections on issues raised during the festival and a keynote address by Rev Dr Inderjit Singh Bhogal OBE, founder of City of Sanctuary.

An exhibition and installation ran throughout the week of the Festival, sparking conversation around the dreams of sectors of the community who are sometimes misunderstood and under-represented. Never In My Wildest Dreams was a photography exhibition on the theme of homelessness curated by the Westcourt Centre. A series of powerful images explored the causes and impacts of homelessness. It was visited by Belfast's Lord Mayor Tina Black and also served as the venue for a networking lunch for individuals and organisations interested in addressing the issues of homelessness in Belfast. Following the Festival, Westcourt have been pleased to receive invitations to show the exhibition in other venues across Northern Ireland.

As part of the 2023 Festival, Alternatives NI developed PresentFuture, an immersive video and audio installation which explored themes of dreams, aspirations and leadership from the perspective of children and young people in PUL communities in Northern Ireland. Jonathan Hodge of Wonder Arts developed the installation with content including images and voices of children and young people together with specially designed animations. The audience was invited to sit in a cube to experience different dreams and aspirations. PresentFuture created a new narrative around the future of PUL communities in a way that was unique and surprising, engaging a wider audience in a debate about how we give children and young people a better future.

The Festival committee were delighted to resume a full range of youth events following the lifting of pandemic-related restrictions. The Festival's long-term collaboration with Ulster University resumed with an event for 35 sixth form students from across Belfast who participated in a cross-community day of activities exploring their individual and collective dreams for the city and capturing these through photography. Award-winning photographer Mal McCann (Irish News) facilitated sessions on smartphone photography and the resulting images were displayed in an online exhibition on the Festival's website.

Two further successful partnership youth event formats used prior to the pandemic were also revisited and reshaped to reflect the 2023 theme. The Peace Players partnered with the Festival to deliver a Game Of Three Halves event for young people from the North, South, East and West of the city. Participants played a range of sports in integrated teams and completed group exercises on the theme of Dreams for Belfast. Play It By Ear drama company worked with the Festival for a fifth year, developing a bespoke drama project on

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MEMBERS' REPORT (Cont'd)

the theme of dreams. Four pairs of neighbouring primary schools took part, enabling pupils to consider the power of individual and collective dreams in an accessible and age-appropriate manner through drama workshops and engage in cross-community rehearsals and a final public performance in Methodist College's Whitla Hall.

A new youth event was added to the programme in 2023. Members of youth clubs from across Belfast worked with members of the ambulance, council, fire and police services to tidy up an area of the city unfamiliar to them. Accompanied by their youth workers the young people went to the opposite part of their city to complete two hours of voluntary, environmental social action before all gathering together for food, discussion and friendship building.

Positive feedback was received from participants in all youth activities and we look forward to continuing to develop the successful working partnerships established with Ulster University, Peace Players and Play It By Ear. We are pleased to have been able to make new connections with local youth clubs; continue to support collaboration between neighbouring primary schools in Belfast and provide opportunities for children and young people to come together for fun, learning and creativity.

The streaming of a number of festival events, and provision of online content facilitated connections with those unable to attend in person, for example due to health or caring responsibilities. Excalibur Press, with support from Inside Voice Productions were contracted to provide digital event management and content remains accessible via the Festival's website and YouTube channel, creating potential for increased engagement throughout the year.

The Festival benefitted over 3700 people during its delivery by providing them with opportunities to connect with new people, spaces and ideas either in person or online. All events were free to attend and online materials remain free to access via the Festival's website and YouTube channel, increasing potential for more people to engage with this content and consider the issues explored. An online survey of attendees showed that the majority of respondents felt comfortable in a shared space/space they wouldn't traditionally attend; felt more connected with others and increased their knowledge of cultural traditions and backgrounds as a result of attending a festival event. 98% felt that the event played a positive role in bringing people from different backgrounds together.

Festival Promotion

Ruthless Media, with support from Excalibur Press were contracted to provide media and marketing support. The 2023 programme was released in December 2022 following a preview event for the Festival's Friends, funders and event partners. The festival secured coverage in newspapers and on radio and TV. Social media continued to be a key method of connecting with audiences. Listings sites, mailing lists and the Festival's website were also used to share information on events. The 2023 Festival across print, broadcast, online and social channels had a reach of approximately 3.5 million. Bringing the Festival's message into the public square in this way promoted broader consideration and discussion of community relations issues and progress towards improved communication and peace-building initiatives.

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MEMBERS' REPORT (Cont'd)

Income and Funding

All events were free to attend thanks to the generous support of funders and contributors. For the sixth year, a successful funding application was made to The Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund. Further financial support for the 2023 Festival was secured from The Executive Office Central Good Relations Fund, Belfast City Council's Good Relations Fund and St Anne's Cathedral sit-out. A successful application was also made to this last fund in relation to 2023/24 and was awarded in Feb 2023. The Festival partnered with NI Alternatives to develop the PresentFuture installation at The Telegraph Building. The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University Belfast partnered with the Festival to host an event for students and young clergy. Ulster University provided in-kind support for an event for sixth form pupils hosted at their Belfast Campus. The Friends of the Festival scheme that was established in 2019/2020 continues to welcome donations from supporters and one-off donations were also taken at events. These donations facilitate growth of the festival as well as improved sustainability and budget planning. The directors are grateful for the support of funding bodies, partner organisations, host venues and the general public as they seek to build the work of the Festival and improve financial sustainability.

Governance

During the period from 1 Apr 2022 - 31 March 2023, Dr Gladys Ganiel stepped down as a director but remained a valued member of the planning committee. Directors, committee members and staff continue to build good working relationships with others working in the sector, facilitating shared learning, partnership and increased promotional reach.

4 Corners Festival is a company limited by guarantee and registered with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 107877), governed by a Board of Trustees: Rev Fr Martin Magill, Parish Priest, St John The Evangelist, Rev Robert S Stockman, Minister of Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Rev David Campton, Superintendent at Belfast Central Mission, Edward Petersen, Clonard Monastery Peace Ministry Co-ordinator, Anthony Hennessey, chartered accountant, Heather Palmer, HR Consultant and Steven Gregg, Engineer. The charity is controlled by its governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22nd January 2016.

A scheme was introduced during the year 2022/2023 offering selected potential directors an opportunity to attend meetings and gain an understanding of the role and responsibilities of a director of the Festival for a trial period before both parties review whether an appointment would be suitable. Two potential directors are taking part in this scheme

The company's administrator is Megan Boyd.

The company's board and its administrator hold bi-monthly meetings. The company also has a planning committee comprising board representatives and other church and community participants. This committee meets monthly throughout the year.

The company applied for registration with the Charities Commission NI on 2nd March 2020 and this was confirmed on 7th September 2020. The organisation follows the Charities

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YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

MEMBERS' REPORT (Cont'd)

Commission's guidance and sets a target for reserves based on our cash flow requirements and an assessment of the risks facing the organisation. Our aim is to hold reserves at a level which is not excessive but does not put our solvency at risk. The trustees review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil the charity's continuing obligations on a regular basis at their meetings.

We hold reserves for the following reasons

- a) To meet contractual liabilities should the company have to close, including redundancy pay and amounts due to creditors.
- b) To ensure that the charity can continue to provide a stable and quality programme of activity and allow for financial flexibility to respond to new initiatives and changing circumstances that may arise during the year.
- c) To fund risks that may materialise which may result in an unexpected increase in expenditure and/or a reduction in income.
- d) To provide working capital when funding is paid in arrears and place the charity in a position where it could apply for funding which can be paid up to 12 months in arrears.

The trustees have set aside reserves of £27,500 which they believe is adequate to provide both financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. Due to the Covid-19 worldwide epidemic the trustees have prepared a cashflow to 31st October 2024 and are satisfied that there is no material impact on income. An expenditure review shows that the organisation has adequate reserves to meet all predicted liabilities.

Statement of Members' Responsibilities

The members, who are also directors of 4 Corners Festival for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Members' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Members to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them appropriately
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

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MEMBERS' REPORT (Cont'd)

The Members are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Members' report was approved by the Board of Members

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dated 15/9/2023

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YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 4 Corners Festival which are set out on pages 10 - 17

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(b) of the Charities Act;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

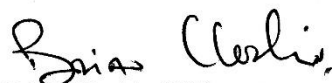
Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

- That accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
- That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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;
- That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's Statement

I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Chartered Accountants Ireland which is one of the listed bodies. I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Brian Clerkin FCA
c/o 77 University Street
Belfast BT7 1HL

Date: 7th September 2023

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YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

		Unres'ted Funds	Res'ted Funds	Desig'ed Funds		2022
Incoming Resources	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & Misc Inc		14,619	-	-	14,619	9,149
Grant Income	1		62,411	-	62,411	59,893
		14,619	62,411	-	77,030	69,042
Outgoing Resources		£	£	£	£	£
Salaries		1,983	19,995	-	21,978	18,020
Events		6,131	41,701	-	47,832	42,601
Other Expenses		453	715	-	1,168	724
		8,567	62,411	-	70,978	61,345
Net Incoming Resources		6,052	-	-	6,052	7,697
Balance brought forward		22,485	-	19,500	41,985	34,288
Transfer to designated funds		- 8000	-	8000	-	-
		20,537	-	27,500	48,037	41,985

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YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Cont'd)

All amounts above relate to the continuing operations of the company

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the results above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

There is no difference between the net incoming resources and the funds retained for the period stated above and their historic cost equivalents.

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YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	£	£
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and on hand		25,720	20,156
Debtors and Prepayments	5	27,108	23,070
Stock		-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		52,828	43,226
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and Accruals	6	4,791	1,241
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Current Assets		48,037	41,985
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Represented by		£	£
Unrestricted Funds		20,537	22,485
Restricted Funds		-	-
Designated Funds		<hr/> 27,500	<hr/> 19,500
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		48,037	41,985
		<hr/>	<hr/>

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YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

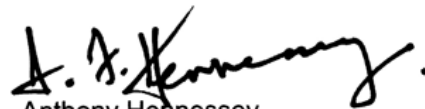
For the financial year ended 31st March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised by the Board on 15.09.2023 and signed on its behalf by



Fr Martin Magill
Director



Anthony Hennessey
Director

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YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Surplus for the year	6,052	7,697
Add: Depreciation	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,052	7,697
Investment income received	-	-
Fixed Assets purchased	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,052	7,697
Increase in Debtors	- 4,038	- 7,888
Decrease in Creditors	3,550	- 1,163
Decrease in Stock	-	- 200
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,564	- 1,154
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase in Bank Balance	5,564	- 1,154
Opening Bank Balance	20,156	21,310
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing Bank Balance	25,720	20,156
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Grant Income	2023	2022
	£	£
The Executive Office Central Good Relations Funding	37,350	36,579
Belfast City Council - Good Relations Funding	3,850	-
Linen Quarter BID	-	1,399
Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade - Reconciliation Fund	20,611	20,915
St Anne's Cathedral Sit-out	600	1,000
	62,411	59,893

2. General Information

The company is a private company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland.

The address of its registered office is:

77 University Street
Belfast BT7 1HL

HMRC Charities Number	NI 00955
Company Registration No	NI 636050
NI Charities Commission Ref Number	NIC 107877

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YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Cont'd)

3. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. They have been consistently applied to all of the years presented unless otherwise stated.

Statement of Compliance

3.1 These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A – 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. They have been prepared in accordance with the company's governing document. The company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

Notwithstanding the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 the directors have decided to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

3.2 Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts the Members have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The directors have reviewed the ongoing impact of Covid - 19 and are satisfied that it will not have a negative effect on the charity's going concern assumption.

3.3 Charities Commission NI

The company applied for registration with the Charities Commission NI on 2nd March 2020 and this was confirmed on 7th September 2020. The company was recognised as a charity for tax purposes by H M Revenue and Customs in line with Para 1 of Schedule 6 Finance Act 2020 with effect from 27th January 2016.

3.4 Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention.

3.5 Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the members in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the members for specific future projects and to meet contractual liabilities should the charity have to close including redundancy payments, amounts due to creditors and commitments under leases.

3.6 Incoming Resources

Income is recognised when the company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised upon receipt.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Cont'd)

3.7 Resources Expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the company to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

3.8 Stock

Stock is stated at the lower of cost and nett realisable value.

4. Staff numbers

The average number of employees for the year was 1.

5. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants due	23,120	22,084

6. Creditors and Accruals

	£	£
Creditors & Accruals: falling due within one year	4,791	1,241

7. Members

None of the members (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the company during the year.

8. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year. (2022 - none)