

Alchemy Film and Arts

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Alchemy Film and Arts

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Alchemy Film and Arts

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees**Charity Registration Number**

SC042142

Principal Office

Room 305
Heart of Hawick
Kirkstile
Hawick
TD9 0AE

Independent Examiner**Bankers**

Co-operative Bank

Alchemy Film and Arts

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal objects of the company are:-

- (a) To champion the development of the arts, predominantly but not exclusively, in the Scottish Borders and beyond. We aim to encourage the people of the Scottish Borders, in particular its young people, visitors to the region and its creative residents in high quality arts experiences, thus generating creative, cultural and economic benefit for the region. We aim to stimulate local talent, social and community cohesion, and engage people with the unique Borders landscape and heritage, thus enriching their quality of life, and in furtherance of those objects.
- (b) To advance the arts, heritage, culture and science in the Scottish Borders, predominantly but not exclusively, particularly by the practice, knowledge, understanding and appreciation of visual arts, music, literature, performance, film and craft (herein after known as the arts) and not excluding other art forms as may be relevant.
- (c) To advance education through the arts and to promote, maintain and improve education through the arts.
- (d) To promote equality and diversity through the arts, and to increase the accessibility of the arts to the public throughout the region by providing facilities for the presentation and practice of the arts.
- (e) Any other purpose that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to any of the preceding purposes.

Use of volunteers

The directors wish to record their appreciation of the time and efforts contributed by volunteer helpers who have worked extremely hard to ensure that the events have proceeded.

Alchemy Film and Arts

Trustees' Report (continued)

Achievements and performance

Alchemy Film & Arts continues to go from strength to strength, and we have raced through this year with a renewed sense of confidence and purpose. No doubt, part of that energy comes from the fact that, halfway through our financial year, we received news that we are to receive core funding until 2028 as part of Creative Scotland's Multi-Year Funding portfolio, having joined its network of Regular Funded Organisations in 2018. From our substantial growth since then, it is clear what continuous and sustained cultural funding can achieve: deep community relationships, sustained creative contributions, and thriving shared cultural meaning-making that can contribute to wellbeing and social cohesion. Reaching the milestone of another clear period of sustained funding has allowed us to take stock of our consolidation of programme, team and resources; and to enhance and entrench our strategically intersecting programme that consists of Scotland's only film-specific residencies programme, an award-winning year-round skills development and creative learning programme, and our flagship annual event – the UK's festival of experimental film and artists' moving image

Below, we outline some of the key achievements of this year: I would like to say that these in no small part have come to fruition due to the strategic clear-thinking of my fellow trustees and myself, but the truth of the matter is that these are only possible due to the incredibly competent and talented Team, including the supportive and brilliant Directors.

This year's festival welcomed 97 industry delegates, screened 65 films across 14 screenings, nine exhibitions, five features and nine outcomes from our residencies and creative learning initiatives. It took place against ever-worsening global crises and unimaginable traumas of plunder, displacement and genocide — and was received positively by international press for framing and delivering its programme in this context. Within the industry, it was reported that our Festival was a “communitarian gathering that captures the best of what festivals can offer.” (Sight and Sound). For Art Monthly, [redacted] noted “the compassion and care evident in the design and delivery of the festival... Alchemy does well to evade the stereotypical snobbery of the film scene.” For the Skinny, [redacted] offered: “The festival continues to be a partisan intervention... To attend Alchemy is to be immersed in ways of seeing that unmake hegemonic truth and power — and to be urgently reacquainted with the necessary imagination and sense of possibility we need to think our way out of the mess.” We are humbled that the sector recognises the good work we do, and are proud that these reports appear to prove that we live up to our own expectations.

Also presented at this year's festival was several new moving-image artworks that we produced this year, developed by our several artists-in-residence, including [redacted] whose *We Del Here* explores Scotland's colonial residues in Guyana. [redacted] also developed a new work – *On Weaving* – that explores the legacies of textile design [redacted] and his modernist home on the River Tweed. On a related note, our researcher in residence [redacted] curated a series of screenings and events exploring extraction and displacement within the context of Venezuela.

It has also been a pleasure to continue to work with our musician-in-residence [redacted] (and former Alchemy trustee [redacted]) with whom we produced and launched Noren, her debut record, and our first foray into musical domains. Miwa is now enjoying a successful tour following Noren's launch at our Festival.

The Festival's opening launch included two wildly successful manifestations of locally engaged projects spanning multiple years: The first being *Rum an Milk*, a new feature-length documentary focusing on Hawick Common Riding and the town-wide labours that sustain the ancient tradition, directed by [redacted] and supported by our National Lottery Heritage Fund grant. We also opened the festival with 400 Hawick school pupils visiting exhibition, bringing to a conclusion another year of us partnering with Hawick's primary and high schools to test and evaluate a new film and screen curriculum developed by Screen Scotland and Education Scotland.

Other projects outside of our Festival include the activity we delivered as part of our commitment to local communities, including the design and production of a new videogame exploring living with neurodiversity in the Scottish Borders, made with Borders Additional Needs Group; a partnership with NHS Borders and After a Suicide Working Group, on a series of films designed to support people bereaved by suicide; and a new moving-image exhibition dealing with climate breakdown designed by participants of our monthly film club.

Alchemy Film and Arts

Trustees' Report (continued)

Of course, the year began with the appointment of seven new Trustees in [REDACTED]. This expansion of our Trustee cohort to include new voices in Scottish cultural leadership gives us the confidence to ensure our governance is clear, diverse and guided by the anti-racist and inclusive values that are at the core of our work.

Considering all the above, I am confident we continue to be a respected organisation; and that our public facing work is engaging, novel and exciting; and that our internal management is consistent, clear and supportive. This ensures that we're operating as a holistic partner in the world, and in specific, in Hawick. As included in the past two reports written – and fast becoming a strapline – our work is not just film and art: it's lives and it's communities.

Financial review

Income has decreased to £319,353 (2024: £398,902) during the year. Costs continued to increase this year to £391,274 (2024: £362,294) giving us a deficit of £71,921 (2024 - £13,264 surplus).

Our reserves now stand at £149,757 of which £50,000 is unrestricted.

Policy on reserves

A small amount of unrestricted funds are maintained to meet the running costs of the charity. The reserves policy will be reviewed as time progresses.

Funds in deficit

No funds are in deficit.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding has been from grants and donations as well as ticket and merchandising sales.

Going concern

The trustees consider that the charity is a going concern.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The company was a company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 17 June 2013. On the 4 August 2017 the company converted to a SCIO, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by a revised constitution.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The management of the organisation is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the new constitution.

Arrangements for setting key management personnel remuneration

Trustees are not remunerated for their services.

Organisational structure

The trustees meet on a quarterly basis to discuss the charity's affairs. All trustees participate in the decision-making process.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

No funds are held on behalf of other organisations.

Creditor payment policy

It is the policy to settle invoices within normal supplier credit terms.

Alchemy Film and Arts

Trustees' Report (continued)

2026-01-30

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on and signed on its behalf by:



Alchemy Film and Arts

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

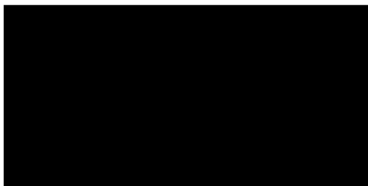
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the applicable Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

2026-01-30

Approved by the trustees of the charity on and signed on its behalf by:



Alchemy Film and Arts

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Alchemy Film and Arts

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAS.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be

Deans
ICAS

Date: 30.1.26

Alchemy Film and Arts

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	-	308,288	308,288
Other trading activities	3	-	11,065	11,065
Total income		-	319,353	319,353
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	4	-	(391,274)	(391,274)
Total expenditure		-	(391,274)	(391,274)
Net expenditure		-	(71,921)	(71,921)
Gross transfers between funds		14,518	(14,518)	-
Net movement in funds		14,518	(86,439)	(71,921)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		35,482	186,196	221,678
Total funds carried forward	13	50,000	99,757	149,757
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	-	381,792	381,792
Other trading activities	3	-	17,110	17,110
Total income		-	398,902	398,902
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	4	-	(362,294)	(362,294)
Total expenditure		-	(362,294)	(362,294)
Net income		-	36,608	36,608
Net movement in funds		-	36,608	36,608
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		35,482	149,588	185,070
Total funds carried forward	13	35,482	186,196	221,678

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 13.

Alchemy Film and Arts

(Registration number: SC042142)
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Debtors	10	302	85,325
Cash at bank and in hand	11	<u>212,556</u>	<u>165,742</u>
		212,858	251,067
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(63,101)</u>	<u>(29,389)</u>
Net assets		<u>149,757</u>	<u>221,678</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	13	99,757	186,196
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>50,000</u>	<u>35,482</u>
Total funds	13	<u>149,757</u>	<u>221,678</u>

The financial statements on pages 8 to 16 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 2026-01-30 and signed on behalf of the trustees



Alchemy Film and Arts

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis of preparation

Alchemy Film and Arts meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in sterling and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Alchemy Film and Arts

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

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.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Alchemy Film and Arts

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Grants, including capital grants;		
Government grants	274,501	274,501
Grants from other charities	33,787	33,787
	<u>308,288</u>	<u>308,288</u>
	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Grants, including capital grants;		
Government grants	284,042	284,042
Grants from other charities	97,750	97,750
	<u>381,792</u>	<u>381,792</u>

3 Income from other trading activities

	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Other income from other trading activities	11,065	11,065
Total for 2025	<u>11,065</u>	<u>11,065</u>
Total for 2024	<u>17,110</u>	<u>17,110</u>

Alchemy Film and Arts

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Event costs		205,134	205,134
Staff costs		173,019	173,019
Allocated support costs		12,721	12,721
Governance costs		400	400
Total for 2025		391,274	391,274
Total for 2024		362,294	362,294

5 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	400	400
Total for 2025	400	400
Total for 2024	400	400

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

Alchemy Film and Arts

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	158,125	142,741
Social security costs	10,744	9,212
Pension costs	4,150	3,411
	<u>173,019</u>	<u>155,364</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Charitable Activities	5	5
Governance	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

8 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	-	85,023
Prepayments	<u>302</u>	<u>302</u>
	<u>302</u>	<u>85,325</u>

11 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash on hand	112	8
Cash at bank	<u>212,444</u>	<u>165,734</u>
	<u>212,556</u>	<u>165,742</u>

Alchemy Film and Arts

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	2,164	250
Deferred income	60,937	29,139
	<u>63,101</u>	<u>29,389</u>

13 Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General	35,482	-	-	14,518	50,000
Restricted funds					
Restricted	<u>186,196</u>	<u>319,353</u>	<u>(391,274)</u>	<u>(14,518)</u>	<u>99,757</u>
Total funds	<u>221,678</u>	<u>319,353</u>	<u>(391,274)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,757</u>
	Balance at 1 July 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £		Balance at 30 June 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General	35,482	-	-	-	35,482
Restricted					
Restricted	<u>149,588</u>	<u>398,902</u>	<u>(362,294)</u>		<u>186,196</u>
Total funds	<u>185,070</u>	<u>398,902</u>	<u>(362,294)</u>		<u>221,678</u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Restricted funds represent unspent grants and specific items of income that have been earmarked for future expenditure, in accordance with the donors wishes.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 30 June 2025 £
Current assets	50,000	162,858	212,858
Current liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>(63,101)</u>	<u>(63,101)</u>
Total net assets	<u>50,000</u>	<u>99,757</u>	<u>149,757</u>

Alchemy Film and Arts

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 30 June 2024 £
Current assets	35,482	215,585	251,067
Current liabilities	-	(29,389)	(29,389)
Total net assets	<u>35,482</u>	<u>186,196</u>	<u>221,678</u>

15 Related party transactions

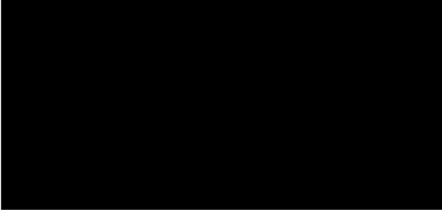
There were no related party transactions in the year.

CERTIFICATE *of* SIGNATURE

REF. NUMBER
M96GJ-GGLZQ-DOV9X-WYQF7

DOCUMENT COMPLETED BY ALL PARTIES ON
30 JAN 2026 07:41:02
UTC

SIGNER



TIMESTAMP

SENT
29 JAN 2026 20:22:44
VIEWED
30 JAN 2026 07:39:52
SIGNED
30 JAN 2026 07:41:02

SIGNATURE



LOCATION
MUSSELBURGH, UNITED KINGDOM

RECIPIENT VERIFICATION

EMAIL VERIFIED
30 JAN 2026 07:39:52

