

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04441388 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1097718

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025
FOR
ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

TRUSTEES	S Walpole (Joint Chair) P Taylor L Schmitz (Joint Chair) S Bell S Warner (Resigned July 25) K Davies N McCarthy (Appointed July 24)
COMPANY SECRETARY	N Oldham
REGISTERED OFFICE	The Old Slaughterhouse Sheep Street Stratford upon Avon Warwickshire CV37 6EE
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	04441388 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1097718
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS	TC Murphy Salisbury Ltd Celixir House, Stratford Business & Technology Park Innovation Way Banbury Road Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire CV37 6GZ
BANKERS	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 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 year ended 31 May 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning activities

Vision

'A world transformed by the power of the arts, where every story is celebrated, every voice is heard, and communities thrive.'

Mission

Our core belief is that enriching people's lives strengthens our communities.

Escape: Community Art in Action (Escape Arts) uses arts and heritage to respond to social, health, educational and well-being needs, through integrated sessions and targeted interventions. It offers inclusive access to high quality, creative activity to address isolation and empower individual achievement, progression and recognition.

Escape Arts provides locally led community activities through innovative school's delivery, heritage projects, festivals, art and health initiatives and celebrations.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Report

The financial year 2024/5 has been an exciting year for all at Escape Arts! We have had lots to celebrate: from reopening the Escape Arts and Heritage Centre to the public for the first time since before the pandemic, to our CEO Karen Williams being awarded an MBE in King Charles III's New Year's Honours for services to the community in Warwickshire. On behalf of the Escape Arts Board of Trustees and staff team, we would like to dedicate this report to Karen, our incredible leader. Karen co-founded Escape Arts with Robin Wade in 1997 and has nurtured the charity to grow and develop for the last 28 years. Karen is a kind, caring and generous person whose dedication to making Warwickshire a better place to live for the whole community knows no bounds. Her vision, passion and dedication has transformed many lives in our community and is an inspiration to us all. We are all so proud of her receiving this recognition, it is incredibly well deserved, and we look forward to celebrating again with her in the Autumn when she goes to the palace to receive her MBE!

In July 2024, our CEO Karen Williams and Deputy CEO Niamh Oldham launched a new Miles for Smiles fundraising campaign. Karen swam 5.5 miles end-to-end of Coniston in the Lake District and Niamh walked the 109-mile Cleveland Way with her Dad, Phil. The campaign was designed to raise awareness of the powerful connection between physical health and mental health and raised £1300 to support Escape Arts' core creative programme. This initiative was hugely rewarding for both Karen and Niamh and inspired a 2025 campaign with Escape Arts Volunteers Hattie Throssell and Joe Moore and has led to exciting partnership work with Stratford Parkrun in the financial year 2025/6.

In October 2024, Escape Arts were proud to receive Highly Commended for Community Support at the Stratford Herald Business & Tourism Awards, which gave us another chance to celebrate with our amazing community. This award makes us reflect on how very proud we are of our Escape Arts team and our creative communities. We are so lucky to work alongside such incredible people, organisations and businesses. It's so important that the impact of the work we do in improving mental health and wellbeing is recognised and this award validates the value of the work we do.

In November 2024, we were delighted to receive a three-year grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop a People's Archive: a social history of Stratford-upon-Avon shining a spotlight on local stories and local voices. The People's Archive will be an accessible digital platform that amplifies community voice and will bring local stories to life through videos, songs and other creative methods! In the last twelve months, we have been collating Escape Arts' current archive and delivering creative engagement workshops with our community groups and partners, supported by two International Internships with the University of Warwick. There will be lots of opportunities for the wider community to get involved in developing the archive in the financial year ahead.

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES Continued) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

We have continued to extend our public art and heritage installations in the last twelve months through our *Heritage In Unusual Places* trail in Stratford-upon-Avon. We have addressed local need and concern for the empty shops in our town by utilising the windows to share visual artwork, local stories and heritage images across five empty units, including the windows at the former British Home Stores on Bridge Street. This project will extend beyond the current financial year as we continue to bring creative work into places where people live, work, eat and shop.

In April 2025, we were delighted to reopen the Escape Arts & Heritage Centre to the public for the first time since before the pandemic, showcasing our community art and heritage work that celebrates local people, place and stories. The venue has been closed since 2020 as we focused our resources on supporting our community groups through the pandemic and our reopening coincided with our tenth anniversary of opening the building. We celebrated in true Escape Arts style with a big birthday party, featuring performances from local musicians and organisations and creative activities led by our volunteers. We look forward to welcoming new visitors to the Escape Arts & Heritage Centre across the next financial year!

In the last twelve months, we were delighted to welcome Nicola Patterson, Holly Gorne, Fiona Henderson, Kathryn Hill and Evie Minney to the team. Nicola joins the team as our Volunteer Coordinator, supporting our team of 82 volunteers across the county. Holly joins the team as a Project Support Worker, supporting our Arts Award and Stratford Escape community groups. Fiona, Kathryn and Evie have all joined the team to support our People's Archive three-year project: Fiona leads the team as Heritage Programme Coordinator, supported by Kathryn as Community Engagement Facilitator and Evie as Digital Heritage Apprentice. Welcome to the team Nicola, Holly, Fiona, Kathryn and Evie!

Escape Arts CEO, Deputy CEO & Trustees were delighted to welcome Nick McCarthy to the Board for a three-year term in July 2024. Nick was previously employed by Escape Arts as a Project Coordinator until May 2024 and brings unique insights and personal knowledge of our community groups and beneficiaries to the Board. Welcome to the Board, Nick!

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of staff members who have left Escape Arts in the last twelve months. We sadly said goodbye to Rakha Madahar and Kunjan Russell in October 2024, who both led our Social Brew creative community project in Nuneaton. Both Rakha and Kunjan made a tremendous impact on the local community in Hilltop and Caldwell whilst running the Social Brew project and we would like to thank them for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm whilst delivering this project. Rakha and Kunjan are both incredibly talented Artists, and we look forward to working with both Rakha and Kunjan again in an Artist capacity at our community groups in Stratford and Nuneaton.

Like many small charities in the UK in the last twelve months, we have faced a combination of diminishing income and rising costs, alongside increased demand for our services. Donations have fallen as our communities contend with the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, while competition for grants and funding has increased. We remain committed to delivering our mission and we are actively exploring new funding opportunities, partnerships, and cost-saving measures to ensure we maintain our long term financial stability.

As we conclude this year's report, we would like to say a big thank you to all those who have supported us throughout the year. Our achievements would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, the commitment of our partners, the generosity of our funders, and the engagement of the communities we serve. Your continued support not only sustains our programmes but also enables us to expand our reach, preserve local stories, and deliver creative opportunities that enrich lives and strengthen our local community. We look forward to building on this year's successes in the financial year ahead to ensure that Escape Arts continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact.

Karen Williams CEO & Niamh Oldham Deputy CEO

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

ACTIVITIES 2024-2025

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The charity relies mainly on grants and donations to cover its operating costs. The Trustees have considered the accessibility of the activities for those on low income, so no fees are charged to individuals for the core activities offered. However, following a consultation with beneficiaries, Escape Arts has a donation process for those who can afford to donate towards delivery costs.

Project Delivery Figures

- Delivered 341 artist-led sessions to our community as part of our core programme. We have also taken part in ten community festivals and events, including Stratford Pride, Warwickshire Pride Festival, Warwickshire Open Studios, Nuneaton Festival of Arts, Shakespeare's Birthday, Stratford Pursuits Festival, Nuneaton Wellbeing for Life Festival and Heritage Open Days.
- Supported 2,403 individual participants across our community programme, including families, older people, young people, people with physical disabilities, people who are neurodiverse, people who have been displaced and people experiencing mental ill health and social isolation.
- Volunteer Support – 82 volunteers have given 3108 hours to the charity, with an in-kind value of £31,080 in 2024-5. Volunteer support has now reached pre-pandemic levels.

Key Flagship Adult Activities

- Stratford & Nuneaton Escape - weekly artist-led sessions for inclusive adult groups, working towards projects on a range of arts & heritage themes.
- Paper Moon - monthly artist-led sessions supporting adults with learning disabilities and their carers.
- Nourish & Flourish - outdoor wellbeing group focusing on gardening, planting and nature. The group meets weekly at the beautiful Lifeways Garden in Stratford-upon-Avon from April to October.

Multigenerational Programmes

- Veterans and Interesting Pensioners (VIPS) - monthly volunteer-led sessions supporting Veterans and older people, meeting at Stratford Town Football Club.
- Platform1 Crafts - weekly creative upcycling group meeting at The Station Gallery, Nuneaton.
- Nuneaton In Stitches - a creative volunteer-led textile group based at The Station Gallery in Nuneaton, meeting every two weeks.
- Stratford In Stitches - the Nuneaton In Stitches' South Warwickshire sister project, this creative volunteer-led textile group meet weekly at The Escape Arts & Heritage Centre.
- Arts & Heritage Hub - weekly drop-in warm hub in Stratford-upon-Avon, featuring free creative activities and cooking workshops.

Youth Programme

- Young Creatives - weekly sessions giving young people the opportunity to engage with the local art community and create a portfolio of work showcasing creative skill development & knowledge, working towards their Arts Award qualification.
- Work Experience - supported work experience framework for young people.

Outreach Programme

- Surprise Santa 'Grotto-on-the-Go' Visits - impactful annual project that transforms the Escape Arts van into a 'Grotto-on-the-go', visiting families experiencing hardship at Christmas. In December 2024, we visited 120 families, including 234 children, over 11 days, our highest ever participatory figures for the Santa project. This shows the increasing number of families needing support at Christmas as the Cost-of-Living Crisis worsens.
- International Internships with Warwick University - online community heritage engagement and development projects supporting Escape Arts' People's Archive, working with students in July 2024 and March 2025.

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

Celebratory/Promotional Exhibitions & Events

A key part of Escape Arts work is to contribute to local community events and celebrate the achievements of our participants. Over the past year Escape Arts has collaborated with local organisations to contribute to:

- Warwickshire Open Studios - community exhibition showcasing work completed by participants as part of the Double Negative project with Artist Jonny Nicholds in June 2024. Work including intergenerational sketch work, dioramas and Jonny's famous Big Gobs Puppets!
- Stratford Pride – annual march and picnic in Stratford-upon-Avon celebrating pride and inclusivity.
- Warwickshire Pride Festival – annual march and festival in Leamington Spa celebrating pride and inclusivity.
- Heritage Open Days – annual heritage engagement festival showcasing hidden heritage and local stories.
- Shakespeare's Birthday – annual community event in Stratford-upon-Avon celebrating Stratford's most famous former resident. Escape Arts deliver community engagement activities as part of this town initiative.
- Nuneaton Wellbeing For Life Festival – community event showcasing health and wellbeing opportunities in Nuneaton and surrounding areas.

Commissioned Projects:

- Stratford Pursuits Festival - community festival celebrating local organisations and culture. In 2025, we worked with Artist Ros Ingram who mentored our Young Creatives member Jess Parsons to lead a big build activity of Toothless the Dragon.
- Social Brew – commission by Hilltop & Caldwell Big Local to deliver weekly creative activities at the Hilltop Community Hub.
- Art Fridays – creative activities during the summer holidays in 2024 at Rother Street Market in Stratford-upon-Avon, commissioned by LSD Promotions.
- Historic Buildings Trust – to support Escape Arts' *Heritage In Unusual Places* trail.
- Porterbrook – Stratford's Lost Railway exhibition reimaged by Artist Phil Williams for Porterbrook's annual Rail Live event.

Funding Stakeholders:

In 2024-25, Escape Arts was supported with grants from:

- Community Rail
- Foyle Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- GJW Turner Trust
- Heart of England Community Foundation
- Helen Hamlyn Trust
- Lifeways Charity
- National Lottery - Awards for All
- National Lottery – Heritage Fund
- Patrick Trust
- Souter Charitable Trust
- Stratford District Council
- Stratford Town Trust
- Stratford Youth Collective
- The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
- Trinity College London
- Warwickshire County Council
- Warwick District Council
- W.E.D Charitable Trust

Escape Arts would like to acknowledge and thank all of our funders and stakeholders who provided advice and funding to enable the Charity to carry out its charitable objectives.

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In June 2025, we were delighted to have been awarded with a Garfield Weston Award. The Weston Award has brought national recognition to Escape Arts and comes with a grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation and expert support from award partners Pilotlight UK. This couldn't come at a better time as we strengthen our creative health work across Warwickshire. Through winning the award, we have gained access to Pilotlight's 360 programme, which will provide nine-months of support to our leadership team from Pilotlight mentors, including fundraising and long-term strategy development. This will be simply transformational for the financial year ahead. Thank you so much to the Garfield Weston Foundation and Pilotlight UK!

Plans are already underway for our 2025/6 creative health programme. We are very excited to continue our work on the People's Archive and start building the platform alongside our local community. Our CEO Karen Williams and Deputy CEO Niamh Oldham are also planning their 2026 Miles for Smiles fundraiser, after the huge success of this initiative in 2025 which raised £5000. We have exciting plans to scale this initiative through our partnership network, including new projects with Stratford Parkrun, Stratford Men's Walking & Talking & Stratford Town Trust.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Statement of Financial Activities

The results for the year are contained in the Statement of Financial Activities. The net surplus for the year £2,698 (2024: Surplus £31,804) and comprised total incoming resources of £309,411 (2024: £368,401) and total resources expended of £306,713 (2024: £336,597).

At 31st May 2025 total reserves were £207,680 (2024: £204,982) of which £28,863 (2024: £50,667) represented unrestricted funds.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have set policies relating to both Unrestricted Reserve levels and to cash to ensure both beneficiaries and staff can be protected against short term adverse economic fluctuations. In the case of Unrestricted Reserves this has been set at a minimum of £15,000 with a target of £50,000. In the case of cash, it has been set at the equivalent of two months average expenses.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a memorandum and articles of association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. Amendments were passed by Special Resolution in January 2021 to update the governing document to bring it more in line with current law and reflect the Charity Commissions' template governing document.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Trustee either to fill a vacancy or to increase the skills of the board. The number of Trustees shall not be less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum.

Where vacancies arise, after submitting a curriculum vitae, suitable applicants are interviewed, following which a recommendation is made to the full Board. Upon appointment, the new Trustee undertakes an induction programme.

We recognise the value of a diverse board and are proud of the diversity represented by our Trustees. The Board sees diversity in all its forms and when deciding how to recruit trustees, consideration is given on how to attract a diverse pool of candidates with appropriate skills set.

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees (continued)

Nick McCarthy was appointed as a Trustee in July 2024 and Samantha Warner resigned as Trustee in July 2025.

Under the memorandum and articles of association, the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit. The Board of Trustees meet quarterly for full board meetings, with quarterly subcommittee meetings to manage Operations, Finance policy and Human Resources.

The Chief Executive is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operation of the charity. The Chief Executive Officer and Programme Managers meet regularly to track existing project delivery and action future plans and development of project progression.

These action plans contribute to the Board of Trustees Management Report which is presented at full meetings. The Management Report clearly presents information on each of the projects, including financial status, participation and resources, including the appointment of sessional workers. At these meetings the project budget and financial forecasting is confirmed and agreed, giving updates of new income/expenditure and forecasts which are reviewed and re-allocated. It is within these budgets that the Chief Executive Officer delivers the agreed programmes.

The Report also addresses action points for discussion with Trustees. These action points relate to project progression and often require Trustee decision, for which a voting system operates. The Board work within the operational structures of its Memorandum and Articles, which set out clear procedures for organisation meetings and decision making. All meetings are minuted in accordance to our Company and Charity requirements.

The Chief Executive Officer has quarterly meetings with programme managers and coordinators to plan program development and provide supervision of roles for all staff, to evaluate project delivery, feed-back on Trustee decisions. Occasionally issues may arise for which professional advice is sought, in such cases, identified professional persons will be invited to the Trustee Meeting. Votes directly relating to the Chief Executive Officer are passed in their absence.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

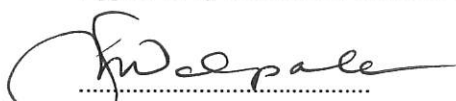
The trustees (who are also the directors of Escape: Community Art in Action for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

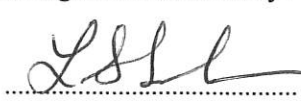
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.


Approved by order of the board of trustees on 17/11/2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs S Walpole - Joint Chair of Trustees



Mrs L Schmitz - Joint Chair of Trustees



S Bell - Trustee Treasurer

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS TO THE TRUSTEES OF
ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Escape: Community Art in Action ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 May 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors 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 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

TC Grose
.....

Date 19/11/2025

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	19,703	-	19,703	22,141
Charitable activities					
Grants received for projects	5	-	266,078	266,078	325,910
Other trading activities	3	20,039	-	20,039	18,659
Investment income	4	<u>3,591</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,591</u>	<u>1,691</u>
Total		43,333	266,078	309,411	368,401
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Grants and other income received for projects	6	<u>65,122</u>	<u>241,591</u>	<u>306,713</u>	<u>336,597</u>
Total		<u>65,122</u>	<u>241,591</u>	<u>306,713</u>	<u>336,597</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(21,789)	24,487	2,698	31,804
Transfers between funds	17	<u>(15)</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(21,804)	24,502	2,698	31,804
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>50,667</u>	<u>154,315</u>	<u>204,982</u>	<u>173,178</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>28,863</u>	<u>178,817</u>	<u>207,680</u>	<u>204,982</u>

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 MAY 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	123,121	149,055
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	13	126,488	25,521
Cash at bank		<u>128,318</u>	<u>151,977</u>
		254,806	177,498
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(170,247)	(121,571)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		<u>84,559</u>	<u>55,927</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>207,680</u>	<u>204,982</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>207,680</u>	<u>204,982</u>
FUNDS	17		
Unrestricted funds		28,863	50,667
Restricted funds		<u>178,817</u>	<u>154,315</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>207,680</u>	<u>204,982</u>

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

For the financial year ended 31st May 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year ended 31st May 2025 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to the accounting records and for the preparation of the accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17/11/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mrs S Walpole - Joint Chair of Trustees



Mrs L Schmitz - Joint Chair of Trustees



S Bell – Trustee Treasurer

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Only individual tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Improvements to property	- over the term of the lease
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on straight line basis
Motor vehicles	- 25% on straight line basis
Computer equipment	- 25% on straight line basis

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial Instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets and liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price. The charity only has financial assets and liabilities which qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially measured at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

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

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Grant income and lottery awards

Grants received are credited to income in the period to which they relate.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	<u>19,703</u>	<u>22,141</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Events, workshops and commissions	12,360	13,690
Hire of building	7,679	4,969
	<u>20,039</u>	<u>18,659</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>3,591</u>	<u>1,691</u>

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2025	2024
	Activity	£	£
Art Friends Warwickshire	Grants received for projects	-	1,990
Arts Council England	Grants received for projects	-	46,996
Community Rail/WCC	Grants received for projects	6,146	5,804
Cross Country Trains/WCC	Grants received for projects	-	5,000
Foyle Foundation	Grants received for projects	10,000	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	Grants received for projects	18,333	13,333
GJW Turner	Grants received for projects	1,000	-
Heart of England Community Foundation	Grants received for projects	30,775	7,694
Helen Hamlyn Trust	Grants received for projects	3,000	-
Lifeways Charity	Grants received for projects	4,375	3,125
Municipal Charities of Stratford upon Avon	Grants received for projects	-	2,500
National Grid	Grants received for projects	-	9,573
National Lottery – Awards for All	Grants received for projects	19,955	6,942
National Lottery – Community Fund	Grants received for projects	-	94,545
National Lottery – Heritage Fund	Grants received for projects	97,082	-
Patrick Trust	Grants received for projects	1,000	-
Sir John Middlemore Charitable Trust	Grants received for projects	-	1,000
Souter Charitable Trust	Grants received for projects	1,167	833
Sport England	Grants received for projects	-	2,700
Stratford Town Trust	Grants received for projects	22,978	36,439
Stratford upon Avon District Council	Grants received for projects	21,709	-
Stratford Youth Collective	Grants received for projects	9,621	51,405
The 29 th May 1961 Charitable Trust	Grants received for projects	7,917	2,083
Think Active Community Fund	Grants received for projects	-	987
Trinity College London	Grants received for projects	105	995
Warwickshire County Council	Grants received for projects	9,935	26,122
Warwick District Council	Grants received for projects	398	1,592
W.E.D. Charitable Trust	Grants received for projects	583	417
West Midlands Trains/LNWR	Grants received for projects	-	835
WRCC	Grants received for projects	-	1,000
YMCA George William College	Grants received for projects	-	2,000
		266,078	325,910

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITY COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Session and event costs	9,795	13,868
Premises costs	14,587	14,194
Administration costs	16,835	12,603
Artists, staff and consultants' costs	236,744	266,801
Depreciation of fixed assets	25,932	25,931
Governance costs:		
Examination and accountancy fees	2,820	3,200
	<u>306,713</u>	<u>336,597</u>

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Governance costs	<u>2,820</u>	<u>3,200</u>

Governance costs are funded by restricted & unrestricted grant income.

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Operating lease – property	5,068	6,125
Depreciation – owned assets	<u>25,932</u>	<u>25,932</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits during either the current year or previous year.

Trustees' expenses

There were no expenses reimbursed to Trustees during the year (2024: Nil).

10. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	187,284	217,928
Social security costs	8,349	10,361
Pension	3,211	4,067
	<u>198,844</u>	<u>232,356</u>

The average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000		

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	22,141	-	22,141
Other Support Grants	-	-	-
Charitable activities			
Grants received for projects	-	325,910	325,910
Other trading activities	18,659	-	18,659
Investment income	1,691	-	1,691
Total	<u>42,491</u>	<u>325,910</u>	<u>368,401</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	-	-	-
Charitable activities			
Grants and other income received for projects	6,488	330,109	336,597
Total	<u>6,488</u>	<u>330,109</u>	<u>336,597</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	<u>36,003</u>	<u>(4,199)</u>	<u>31,804</u>
Transfers between funds	<u>2,229</u>	<u>(2,229)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	38,232	(6,428)	31,804
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>12,435</u>	<u>160,743</u>	<u>173,178</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>50,667</u>	<u>154,315</u>	<u>204,982</u>

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Improvements to property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 June 2024	229,896	31,812	43,078	8,003	312,789
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 May 2025	<u>229,896</u>	<u>31,812</u>	<u>43,078</u>	<u>8,003</u>	<u>312,789</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 June 2024	97,440	31,367	26,924	8,003	163,734
Charge for year	14,720	445	10,769	-	25,934
On disposal	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 May 2025	<u>112,160</u>	<u>31,812</u>	<u>37,693</u>	<u>8,003</u>	<u>189,668</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 May 2025	<u>117,736</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,385</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>123,121</u>
At 1 June 2024	<u>132,456</u>	<u>445</u>	<u>16,154</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,055</u>

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	536	7,184
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>125,952</u>	<u>18,337</u>
	<u>126,488</u>	<u>25,521</u>

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	5,122	8,150
Accrued expenses	3,700	6,253
Deferred income	158,094	104,149
PAYE	2,402	2,190
Pension Fund	929	829
	<u>170,247</u>	<u>121,571</u>

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

15. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Expiring:		
Within one year	2,065	792
Between two and five years	7,400	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	funds	funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	668	122,453	123,121	149,055
Current assets	38,932	215,874	254,806	177,498
Current liabilities	(10,737)	(159,510)	(170,247)	(121,571)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	28,863	178,817	207,680	204,982

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.6.24	Net movement in funds	Transfer between funds	At 31.5.25
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	50,667	(21,789)	(15)	28,863
Restricted funds				
Platform 1 Crafts	1,476	(1,476)	-	-
Escape Arts & Heritage Centre	76,493	(8,500)	-	67,993
Stratford District Council Restart	735	(82)	-	653
WCC On the Move	-	-	-	-
Escape Centre Redevelopment	53,182	(5,909)	-	47,273
Escape Centre Ramp	2,045	(227)	-	1,818
Jubilee Youth Sports	240	(240)	-	-
Universal Youth Delivery	-	(197)	-	(197)
Tracks of Our Lives	(632)	632	-	-
Arts Award Access Fund	495	(495)	-	-
Grow Cook CrEATe	2,679	(2,679)	-	-
Souter Charitable Trust	833	(833)	-	-
Core Community Support	11,867	(11,867)	-	-
Paper Moon	982	(982)	-	-
The 29 th May 1961 Charitable Trust (1)	2,083	(2,083)	-	-
W.E.D. Charitable Trust	417	(417)	-	-
Dangerous Crafts!	1,000	(639)	-	361
Station Gallery Improvements	835	(850)	15	-
Music in Hospitals	189	(189)	-	-
Inclusive Communities	(1,562)	1,562	-	-
Garfield Weston	958	(958)	-	-
Extraordinary Lives	-	-	-	-
Heritage in Unusual Places	-	-	-	-
Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	-
Patrick Trust	-	-	-	-
GJW Turner Trust	-	-	-	-
Helen Hamlyn Trust	-	-	-	-
The Peoples Archive of Stratford	-	60,653	-	60,653
The 29 th May 1961 Charitable Trust (2)	-	-	-	-
Community Climate and Nature	-	264	-	264
Total restricted funds	154,315	24,487	15	178,817
Total funds	204,982	2,698	-	207,680

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movements in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	43,333	(65,122)	(21,789)
Restricted funds			
Platform 1 Crafts	-	(1,476)	(1,476)
Escape Arts & Heritage Centre	-	(8,500)	(8,500)
Stratford District Council Restart	-	(82)	(82)
WCC On the Move	9,435	(9,435)	-
Escape Centre Redevelopment	-	(5,909)	(5,909)
Escape Centre Ramp	-	(227)	(227)
Jubilee Youth Sports	-	(240)	(240)
Universal Youth Delivery	9,621	(9,818)	(197)
Tracks of Our Lives	6,146	(5,514)	632
Arts Award Access Fund	105	(600)	(495)
Crow, Cook, CrEATe	4,375	(7,054)	(2,679)
Souter Charitable Trust	1,167	(2,000)	(833)
Core Community Support	22,978	(34,845)	(11,867)
Paper Moon	-	(982)	(982)
The 29 th May Charitable Trust	2,917	(5,000)	(2,083)
W.E.D Charitable Trust	583	(1,000)	(417)
Dangerous Crafts!	500	(1,139)	(639)
Station Gallery Improvements	-	(850)	(850)
Music in Hospitals	398	(587)	(189)
Inclusive Communities	30,775	(29,213)	1,562
Garfield Weston	18,333	(19,291)	(958)
Extraordinary Lives	19,955	(19,955)	-
Heritage in Unusual Places	19,900	(19,900)	-
Foyle Foundation	10,000	(10,000)	-
Patrick Trust	1,000	(1,000)	-
GJW Turner Trust	1,000	(1,000)	-
Helen Hamlyn Trust	3,000	(3,000)	-
The Peoples Archive of Stratford	97,082	(36,429)	60,653
The 29 th May 1961 Charitable Trust (2)	5,000	(5,000)	-
Community Climate and Nature	1,809	(1,545)	264
Total restricted funds	266,078	(241,591)	24,487
Total funds	309,411	(306,713)	2,698

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – continued

Movements from restricted to unrestricted funds are comprised of the following:

- Internal transfers for project costs including venue hire, equipment hire, media bus hire, administration and other agreed costs relating to full project recovery.
- The transfer of any balance remaining on completion of a restricted project, with the full permission of each donor.

Flagship Project Activities

- **Platform 1 Crafts** – A creative upcycling community project based at The Station Gallery on Platform 1 of Nuneaton Station, funded by Warwickshire County Councillors, Heart of England Foundation, Groundworks and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.
- **Escape Arts & Heritage Centre** – Redevelopment in 2014/15 of a derelict building to house Escape's Arts & Heritage Centre, providing space for workshop sessions, community engagement and a programme of quarterly exhibitions & events. Funded by Stratford Town Trust.
- **Stratford District Council Restart Grant** – Pandemic support package to fund the costs of adapting spaces & services because of the pandemic.
- **WCC On the Move** – Warwick County Council grant to fund the purchase of a new community van and a project co-ordinator for 12 months.
- **Escape Centre Redevelopment** – Warwickshire County Council Social Impact funding to support capital works including the extension of, & alterations to, the layout of the Escape Centre building thereby improving accessibility & enabling increased capacity.
- **Escape Centre Ramp** – Capital funding from the Bruce Wake Charitable Trust for the provision of a permanent disabled ramp at the Escape Arts & Heritage Centre.
- **Jubilee Youth Sports** – Sport England Platinum Jubilee Activity Fund Award to support the provision of sports activities over a 6-month period for Stratford youth clubs.
- **Universal Youth Delivery** – Stratford Youth Collective funding to support the development, staffing and running costs of the new youth hub at the Ministry.
- **Tracks of Our Lives** – Community Rail/WCC funding to support the creation of public informed community art
- **Arts Award Access Fund** – Trinity College grant funding to help local young people gain Arts Award qualifications by embedding Arts Award delivery and support into the new youth provision.
- **Grow Cook CreEATe** – 12-month funding provided by Lifeways Charity to support people with moderate to severe mental ill-health alongside learning disabilities learn gardening skills at Lifeways Garden in Stratford upon Avon.
- **Souter Charitable Trust** – Funding by the Souter Charitable Trust to support core costs during 2024.
- **Core Community Support** – Stratford Town Trust funding to support core costs in 2024.
- **Paper Moon** – Warwick County Council Councillors grants to support Escape's Paper Moon monthly community arts project sessions for adults with learning disabilities, their families and carers and volunteers.

ESCAPE: COMMUNITY ART IN ACTION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025**

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

- **The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust (1)** – A grant to support core costs.
- **W.E.D Charitable Trust** – A grant to support core costs during 2024
- **Dangerous Crafts!** - Warwick County Council Councillors grant to support community arts project sessions in Nuneaton.
- **Station Gallery Improvements** – Funding from West Midlands Trains to support the redecoration of the Escape Gallery at Nuneaton Railway Station following a ceiling collapse.
- **Music In Hospitals** – A 5-month, Warwick District Council grant to develop a pilot project comprising of live music provision on the wards at Warwick Hospital for staff, patients and visitors to support well-being and provide a distraction from the hospital environment.
- **Inclusive Communities: Extraordinary Lives** – funding provided by the Heart of England, Inclusive Communities Fund to support Escape's artistic programme.
- **Garfield Weston** – A contribution by the Garfield Weston Foundation towards core costs in 2024
- **Extraordinary Lives** – A National Lottery – Awards for All grant to support a 9-month creative mental health project. <https://www.escapearts.org.uk/examples-of-our-work>
- **Heritage in Unusual Places** - A 9-month, Stratford-on-Avon District Council funded, creative health project, leading to an innovative heritage trail celebrating people & places across the town.
- **Foyle Foundation** - A grant to support core costs in the year ended 31st May 2025.
- **Patrick Trust** - A grant to support core costs.
- **GJW Turner Trust** - A grant to support core costs.
- **Helen Hamlyn Trust** - A grant to support core costs during 2024
- **The Peoples Archive of Stratford-upon-Avon** – Funding provided by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support the delivery of a 36-month community engagement project.
- **The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust (2)** - A grant to support core costs.
- **Community Climate and Nature** – A 6-month, Stratford-upon-Avon District Council funded project, based at Lifeways Garden.

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions during the year.

19. STATUS

Escape: Community Art in Action is a company limited by guarantee not having any share capital

