



# EDINBURGH WOMEN'S FICTION FESTIVAL TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

PERIOD FROM 01.04.2025 TO 31.03.2026



## Charity Contact Information

**NAME:**

**EDINBURGH WOMEN'S FICTION FESTIVAL**

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER: **SC052494**

CHARITY'S PRINCIPAL ADDRESS: **29 Howe Street, EDINBURGH**

POSTCODE: **EH3 6TF**

EMAIL ADDRESS: **info@edwomensficfest.co.uk**

WEBSITE: **<https://www.edwomensficfest.co.uk>**

SOCIALS: Instagram, Facebook, Threads, Bluesky: **@EdWomensFicFest**

# Charity Trustees

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TRUSTEE NAME:                      OFFICE:                      DATES ACTED: (if not full year)

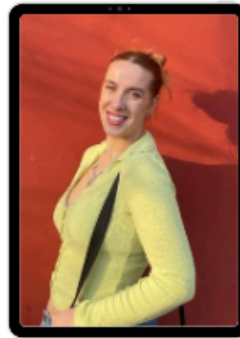
Jane Anderson                      Treasurer

Olivia Kekewich                      Chair

Fran Woodrow                      Secretary

Grace Baird

Emma Steele



Trustees, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Anderson".

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

**Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned partway through the financial period)**

None

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

### TYPE OF GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The Edinburgh Women's Fiction Festival is a single-tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC052494). The charitable trustees are all unpaid volunteers. The board consisted of five people in 2025, including a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

### TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT

Olivia Kekewich, Jane Anderson, Fran Woodrow, and Grace Baird remain trustees and office bearers. We were sad to lose Emma Steele at the end of this financial year. We are delighted to welcome two new trustees to take the charity towards the 2026 festival. Sarah Birrell Ivory writes book club and women's fiction and is an active member of the Edinburgh Writers Forum and Jericho Writers. Previously she was a Senior Lecturer at The University of Edinburgh Business School, published two textbooks with Oxford University Press, and won a prestigious international teaching award. Amy Penrose is a publishing professional who works for the Society of Young Publishers Scotland and Publishing Scotland.

We are also assisted by three non-trustee volunteers. Kristin Pedroja and Robin Facer continue to work on the Festival's behalf. We also welcome Lindsay Miller, a Napier student interested in working in the literature sector.

# Objectives and Activities

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## Charitable Purposes

The Edinburgh Women's Fiction Festival was set up in 2023 to celebrate writing for, by, and about women. It is an inclusive event that welcomes everyone who finds joy in reading women's fiction—commercial, romance, historical, literary, book club, and beyond.

Key Objectives are:

- To provide a platform for women's genre fiction – typically overlooked by other literature festivals.
- To encourage, respect and celebrate all readers of women's fiction, including romantic fiction.
- To reach a broad spectrum of readers including those from socio-economic backgrounds who do not normally attend literature festivals.
- To promote the mental health benefits of reading.
- To create a community of writers and readers of women's fiction in Scotland.

The festival showcases authors of genres that are often overlooked. Our aim is to give readers the opportunity to meet and hear from their favourite authors. We also hope to foster a community through lively discussions, meaningful conversations, and authentic connections.

Our festival includes panels featuring popular authors, writing workshops, and an event with literary agents. Linked events included a series of pre-recorded Masterclasses for writers, which expanded in 2025 to include editor Lucy Stewart sharing editorial advice for first drafts and Jayne Castel sharing tips on how to write market-proof books.

## Summary of main activities in relation to these objectives

In 2025 we ran the Edinburgh Women's Fiction Festival over two days, including seven author panels, three writer workshops, and a literary agent event. We welcomed over 250 readers, reaching our target of offering participants a wide range of women's fiction authors with a continued focus on romantic fiction, as well as introducing both gothic and thriller panels this year. We attracted several well-known authors, including Jenny Colgan, Lucy Mangan, Amita Murray, Mairi Kidd and Rosie Hewlett.

We trialled livestreaming in 2024 and once again offered professional standard livestreaming and recordings in 2025. We were able to cover the cost of livestreaming through crowdfunding, including donation matching from Creative Scotland. We saw growth in this area with over 175 people registered to watch our events online and 100 people tuned in live or on catch-up. For 2026, we intend to continue to offer recordings to a broad spectrum of readers at a low cost.

# Achievements and Performance

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## Summary of the main achievements of the charity

We welcomed 23 authors and chairs at the 2025 festival. Not all the authors of colour we approached to join our panels were able to attend, but in a year with only eight panels we were delighted to include two authors of colour and four members of the LGBTQ+ community.

We ran a voluntary feedback survey. Most of the respondents mentioned the friendly and welcoming vibe of the festival, the professional standard, and the variety of panels on offer. The agent event also received high praise. We were thrilled to see the word "brilliant" was used in half a dozen responses.

Feedback we will improve on includes keeping the website updated, adding more time for discussion and relaxing with others between panels, and including more diversity in our panels. A few agent event participants misunderstood that they would be receiving feedback rather than getting an agent, so we will ensure our language around this event is reinforced. Some complaints were to do with things outwith our control; the discomfort of the church pews, the availability of parking at the church, and personal opinions about the author events.

This year saw a slight dip in ticket sales, with 270 sales over all the events. This includes 26 patron passes and 22 full event passes. We believe some of the sales drop can be linked to venue problems in 2024 but we are reflecting on how to better promote the festival to ensure readers know about it. The vast majority of sales (70%) were to EH (Edinburgh) post codes. However a few visitors travelled from England, Europe, and even North America.

We offered all our authors, chairs and workshop leaders a £200 fee. We ran one fewer event than in 2024. The total income this year was £15,055 against an expenditure of £15,513. This year's loss of £459 (when rounded to the nearest pound) eats into our surplus from previous years, but we still have almost £4,000 in the bank and to cover our liability of £1,398 for our independent examiner, and a plan to scale back and regroup for the 2026 festival.

The free pre-festival event at Craigmillar Library on 7 September, featuring a writing workshop with local commercial fiction author Angela Jackson and two author panels was successful for both authors and participants. We are exploring ties with a different library for 2026. Once again we are offering attendees to library events free tickets on Festival day.

To help promote the 2026 event we will be extending our reach by collaborating with book clubs and local students and offering them discounts on festival passes.

# Financial Review

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## Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We have ended the year with a small deficit, but remain in a strong financial position due to a surplus from 2024. These funds will fund early expenses and allow us to offer panel livestreaming in 2026, when we aim to run four author panels with eight authors and four chairs on Saturday 24th October, with a repeat of our popular agent speed date event on Friday 23rd.

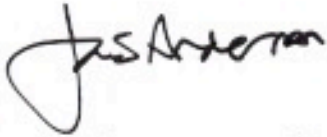
**\*\* No donated facilities or services \*\***

# Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

JANE ANDERSON

Position (e.g. Chair) **TREASURER**

Date

18/5/26

Trustees, 2025



## Edinburgh Women's Fiction Festival

SC052494



Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	April	2025		31	March	2026

## Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
Donations	1,967				1,967	989
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities	3,300				3,300	1,250
Gross trading receipts	9,788				9,788	14,703
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
<b>A1 Sub total</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>16,942</b>
<b>A2 Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>A2 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>16,942</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities	1,618				1,618	1,768
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	13,896				13,896	13,481
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
<b>A3 Sub total</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>15,249</b>
<b>A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>A4 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>15,249</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>(459)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(459)</b>	<b>1,693</b>
<b>A5 Transfers to / (from) funds</b>						
					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	<b>(459)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(459)</b>	<b>1,693</b>

**Section B Statement of balances**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash and bank balances at start of year	4,404				4,404	2,711
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(459)				(459)	1,693
						-	
						-	
	<b>Cash and bank balances at end of year</b>	<b>3,945</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,945</b>	<b>4,404</b>
(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		- 0	-	-	-	- 0	-

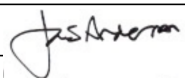
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
<b>B2 Investments</b>				
		<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
<b>B3 Other assets</b>	Simon & Schuster sponsor fee			250	250
		<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
<b>B4 Liabilities</b>	Independent examiners fee		1,500	1,398
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,398</b>

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
<b>B5 Contingent liabilities</b>				
		<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature*	Print Name	Date of approval
	Jane Anderson - Treasurer	

**Section C Notes to the Accounts**

**C1 Nature and purpose of funds** *(may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)*

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**C2 Grants**

	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
<b>Total</b>			-

**C3a Trustee remuneration**

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	
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**C3b Trustee remuneration - details**

	£

**C4a Trustee expenses**

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	
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**C4b Trustee expenses - details**

	Number of trustees	£

**C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons**

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

**C6 Other information**

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## Edinburgh Women's Fiction Festival

SC052494

**Additional analysis (1)**

## Analysis of receipts and payments

## 1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
General donations	1,967				1,967	989
					-	
					-	
					-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,967</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,967</b>	<b>989</b>

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## 2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
			-	
			-	
			-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

- - - - - - -

## 3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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## 4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Ticket/terminal fees (Stripe/Ticket Tailor, CCast.Cfund.Sum Up)	419				419	732
Ticket Refunds	394				394	348
Author Chair fees	7,430				7,430	6,175
Church Venue Hire	1,200				1,200	1,174
Insurance	124				124	110
Festival Expenses	2,402				2,402	2,877
Computer costs	96				96	96
Website	434				434	330
Sundry expenses					-	319
Independent Examination Fee	1,398				1,398	1,320
					-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,896</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,896</b>	<b>13,481</b>

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**Additional analysis (2)**

**5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds**

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations	1,967				1,967	989
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities	3,300				3,300	1,250
Gross trading receipts	9,788				9,788	14,703
buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>16,942</b>
<b>Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>16,942</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities	1,618				1,618	1,768
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Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>15,249</b>
<b>Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>15,249</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>(459)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(459)</b>	<b>1,693</b>
<b>Transfers to / (from) funds</b>						
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	<b>(459)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(459)</b>	<b>1,693</b>

<b>Nature and purpose of funds</b>						
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Edinburgh Women's Fiction Festival

SC052494

**Additional analysis (3)**


**6 Breakdown of restricted funds**

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Transfers to / (from) funds</b>					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Nature and purpose of funds</b>

**APPENDIX 3**



<b>Independent examiner's report on the accounts</b> <span style="float: right;">v2</span>							
<b>Report to the trustees/members of</b>	Charity name <b>Edinburgh Women's Fiction Festival</b>						
<b>Registered charity number</b>	<b>SC052494</b>						
<b>On the accounts of the charity for the period</b>	Period start date			<b>to</b>	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	1	April	2025		31	March	2026
<b>Set out on pages</b>	1-3						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.						
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	My examination is 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 seeks explanations from the 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.						
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and</li> <li>• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>have not been met, or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</li> </ol>						
<b>Signed:</b>					<b>Date:</b>	18/05/26	
<b>Name:</b>	Jaslin Bhagrath CA						
<b>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):</b>	ICAS						
<b>Address:</b>	Level 5, The Stamp Office, 10-14 Waterloo Place,						
	Edinburgh						
	EH1 3EG						

\*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

## APPENDIX 3

### Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose**