Charity No. SC049635
Company No. SC642184

THE WILLIAM SYSON FOUNDATION

(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

THE WILLIAM SYSON FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the period ended 31 December 2025

Legal and administrative information

Trustees
I Arnot (died 17 January 2026)
H Cockburn
R Doyle
J E Holloway
M S Morrison
J W T Syson

Foundation Manager
H Wotherspoon

Grant Manager
B Davies

Principal Address
5 Atholl Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 8EJ

Accountants & Auditors
CT Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6NL

Legal Advisers
Gillespie Macandrew
5 Atholl Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 8EJ

Bankers
Handelsbanken
5th Floor, Waverley Gate
2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh
EH1 3EG

Investment Managers
J M Finn
4 Coleman Street
London
EC2R 5TA

LGT Wealth Management UK LLP
58 Morrison Street
Edinburgh
EH3 8BP

The Trustees hereby submit their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019.

Objectives and Activities

The William Syson Foundation (the "Charity" or the "Company") is a charity registered in Scotland and a Company Limited by Guarantee.

The Charity's objects are:

(a) the advancement of the arts, heritage and culture, including (but not restricted to) promoting, developing and ensuring the practice and enjoyment of the arts, including music, the visual arts, theatre and literature as the directors in their absolute and uncontrolled discretion think fit; and

(b) without prejudice to the forgoing generality, the Charity will have a particular (but not exclusive) focus on Scottish organisations and individuals resident in Scotland.

The Charity fulfils its charitable purpose by:

i) awarding grants to eligible organisations and individuals for activities that promote the Charity's objects, and monitoring the use of these grants; and

ii) holding the annual Beatrice Huntington Award for Cellists, with awards in Junior (aged 12-17 years) and Senior (aged 18-22 years) categories.

The Charity funds its grant-making activities from its own resources. The Charity does not undertake fundraising.

Guidelines and details of how to make a grant application to the Charity can be found on the Charity's website (www.williamsysonfoundation.org.uk).

Grants made by the Charity are subject to terms and conditions (which are available to view on the website), and the Charity reviews the activities of the beneficiaries it supports. Successful applicants must supply a written report within twelve months of the grant being awarded or as otherwise required by the terms of their grant award letter.

THE WILLIAM SYSON FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Achievements and Performance

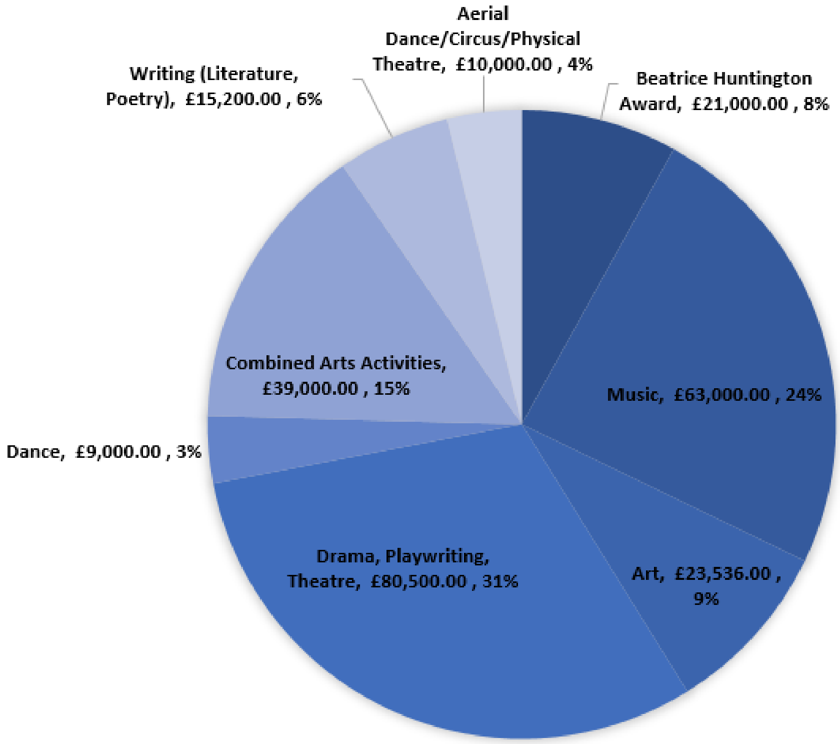
Review of Grant-Making in 2025

During 2025 the Charity awarded £538,736 in grants, comprising:

- £263,700 to organisations via the Small Grants Fund;
- £254,036 to 6 organisations via the Core Support Fund; and
- £21,000 to prize winners in the Beatrice Huntington Award for Cellists.

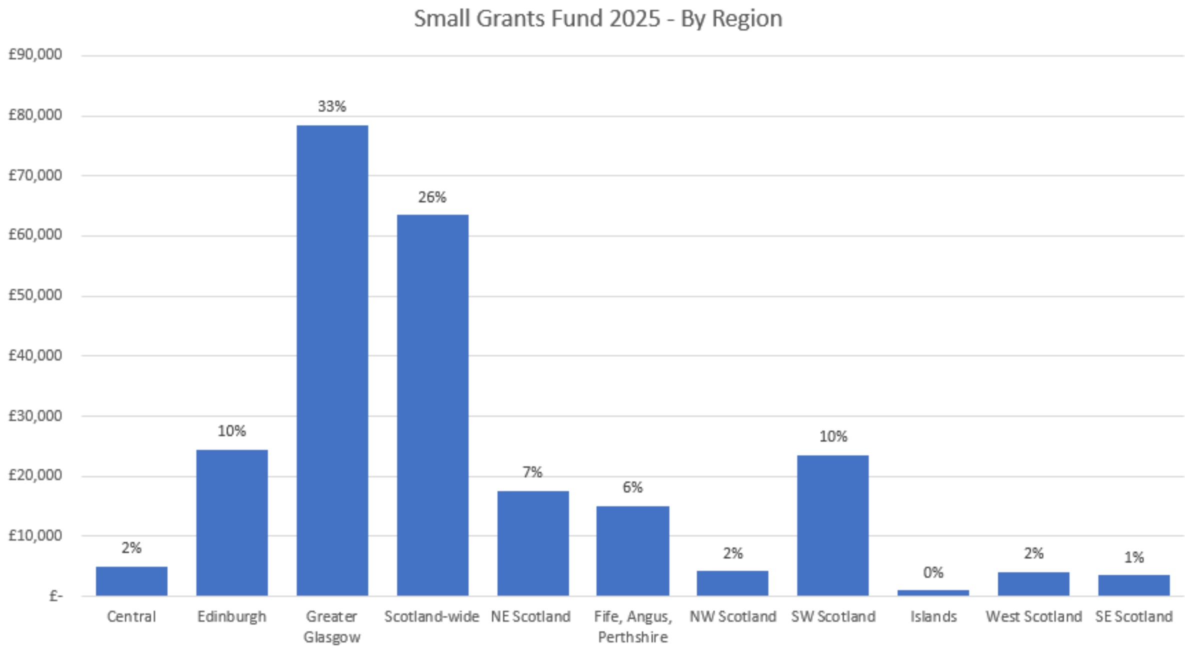
The above grants awarded were in addition to the payment of further instalments in respect of existing multi-year grant commitments.

A list of recipients for grants awarded over £5,000 can be found in Note 6 to the financial statements



Small Grants Funds 2025

Review of Grant-Making in 2025 *(continued)*



The Small Grants Fund for grant awards up to £5,000 opened twice in 2025 in March and September, respectively. 50% of applicants meeting the strictly applied published criteria were awarded a grant, and the average grant was £3,586.

The Core Support Fund made new multi-year awards to Music Education Partnership Group to support their Instrument Libraries Initiative and to Scottish Opera in support of their Young Workforce Development. Love Music was awarded the second year of the three-year award in support of their pioneering Community Music Making Programmes. Music Education Partnership Group was awarded the second year of the three-year award to support and enhance the Scottish Young Musicians Competition. Citizens Theatre in Glasgow was awarded the final year of the three-year award to support its Participate Programme. The Charity made new single-year awards to The National Galleries of Scotland (Edinburgh), Aberdeen City Council and Glasgow Life (Culture and Sport Glasgow) for a continuation pilot Travel Fund Initiative to support schools' attendance and learning at key galleries in their respective regions. A single year unrestricted award was also made to the Filmhouse (Edinburgh) to support its re-opening in August 2025. Note that applications are not accepted for the Core Support Fund. Themes and beneficiaries are identified by the Charity.

The Charity is committed to being transparent as a funder, all grants awarded can be viewed on 360giving's GrantNav website

Review of Grant-Making in 2025 ***(continued)***

Recipients of funding are required to report on the use of funds after twelve months or as otherwise required by the terms of their grant award letter. The Charity is mindful of the pressures faced by non-profit organisations and no longer requests tailored monitoring reports from recipients of Small Grants. However, the Charity has an obligation to ensure that its charitable purposes are fulfilled by the grants awarded, and requests recipients send published annual reports or reports prepared for other funders in the first instance. The Charity remains interested in feedback from users, statistics, budgeting, photos, and outlook for future plans and would encourage recipients to include this in such reports.

The annual level of grant-making by the Charity is determined by the financial performance achieved by the Charity's investments. After allowing for the costs of running the Charity, the Trustees aim to award as much of the total return as possible while building reserves against leaner years. The performance of the Charity's investment portfolios depends on the performance of stock and other financial markets and of its appointed investment managers.

Plans for Future Periods

The Charity will continue to fulfil its charitable purposes by awarding grants to eligible organisations for activities that promote the Charity's objectives, and by holding the annual Beatrice Huntington Award for Cellists.

The Charity began a strategic development process in 2024, which resulted in an agreed new focused purpose to support our future grantmaking.

Making a Difference: by enriching lives through supporting professional delivery of the Arts

We have continued our strategic planning and research throughout 2025, and we have made changes to our grant giving for 2026 because of this work, reducing our Small Grants to one round in 2026 as we plan and develop new grant-giving.

Financial Review

Summary

The Trustees are satisfied with the financial position of the Charity. As of 31 December 2025, the Charity had funds amounting to £13,916,832 (2024: £12,648,978).

During the financial period grants totaling £538,736 (2024: £490,843) were made. Total expenditure for the financial period amounted to £739,432 (2024: £724,823), leaving a deficit of £222,351 (2024: deficit of £293,665) before net gains on investments of £1,490,205.

This resulted in reserves (all of which were unrestricted and undesignated) of £13,916,832 (2024: £12,648,978) at 31 December 2025.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Charity is reliant on its own resources, principally in the form of its investments, to fund its activities.

As the Charity's activities do not have a finite life or fixed end date, the Trustees are able to take a long-term approach to investment. Therefore, other than maintaining sufficient cash at bank to cover anticipated near-term grant-making and operating expenses, the Trustees believe the assets of the Charity should otherwise be invested to achieve a balance between income and capital growth.

At 31 December 2025 the Charity's principal investments comprised:

- liquid investments in the form of direct holdings of stocks, shares and bonds, and holdings in investment funds and other collective investment schemes; and
- property investments.

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Investment Policy and Performance (continued)

To achieve a spread of risk, the liquid investments are divided across two separate actively managed portfolios, each with the aim of generating a return from both income and capital growth. The Trustees have mandated two separate investment managers, JM Finn and LGT Wealth Management, to run these portfolios. The Trustees use the ARC Charity (Sterling Steady Growth) Index as comparator for the investment performance of the appointed managers.

Despite a number of macroeconomic shocks, 2025 was a surprisingly strong year for investment returns across almost every asset class. US equity markets posted strong gains, but for the first time in several years non-US equities (e.g. UK) outperformed the US, helped by rotation away from US mega-cap, less demanding company valuations outside the US and a weaker US dollar. The Foundation's investments benefited from this, with both portfolios generating positive returns during 2025. On an aggregate basis, the two portfolios delivered total returns (comprising income and growth) in excess of £1.7m, equivalent to approximately 16.9% of the 31 December 2024 valuation of these portfolios. In 2025 our benchmark (ARC Charity (Sterling Steady Growth) delivered a comparator total return of positive 8.8%; one of our portfolios significantly exceeded this benchmark, while the other portfolio was broadly in line with the benchmark.

The Charity's investments and investment policy are kept under regular review.

Reserves Policy

The Charity does not have a formal reserves policy. The Trustees consider such a policy unnecessary given the Charity's significant reserves (all of which are unrestricted and undesignated) and minimal level of contractual commitments and other liabilities.

In addition, most of the Charity's reserves comprise cash or other liquid investments, which can be accessed with little or no notice if required.

However, the decision not to have a formal reserves policy is monitored on an annual basis.

The Trustees can confirm that having taken into account the high levels of reserves of the Charity and its existing levels of grant and other cost commitments, they are satisfied that it remains a going concern.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risks faced by the Charity are:

Investment Risk: The Trustees consider variability of investment returns to constitute the Charity's major financial risk and have set up a sub-committee tasked with oversight of this.

For the investment portfolios, the risk is mitigated by ensuring the involvement of Trustees with investment knowledge, agreeing a clear investment policy, appointing established investment managers, ensuring diversified investment portfolios, and close monitoring of performance. For the commercial property portfolio, this is mitigated by the appointment of an experienced commercial property manager to maintain regular communication with tenants and ensure compliance with rental obligations.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties (continued)

Objectives Risk: The Charity's funds must be used to meet its charitable objectives, so the Charity assesses applications rigorously and monitors the use of the grants it awards to reduce the risk of fraudulent or ineffective use of funds.

The risk that grant awards are ineffective in advancing, developing and ensuring practice and enjoyment of the arts, is managed by retaining Trustees of sufficient skill and expertise in Arts and Culture and by having award criteria that focus on the nature of the charitable and public benefit of the organisations we support. The process of reporting and ongoing review assists us, and those we support, in keeping track of how grants are spent and the benefits produced.

Governance Risk: The Board is comprised of experienced professionals with a wide range of skills and experience committed to ensuring good governance of, and a clear direction for, the Charity.

Operational Risk: The Charity is reliant on two key persons (both paid employees) to carry out its day-to-day activities. All processes are documented to allow the Trustees to ensure continuance of activity if one (or both) of these should become unavailable. All electronic data is backed up to ensure that IT system failure or loss of assets would not impede activity. A sub-committee of the Board is responsible for ensuring the Charity meets its obligations to its employees.

Data Risk: Due to the nature of its activities the Charity is the Controller (for the purposes of the UK General Data Protection Regulation ("UK GDPR")) of the personal data of applicants. All recommended measures have been taken to ensure security of electronic and paper records.

Compliance Risk: The possibility of failing to comply with relevant legal and regulatory requirements is reduced by careful adherence to said requirements, with appropriate professional advice sought where necessary.

Finance Risk: The Trustees agree an annual budget and review the financial position of the Charity on a quarterly basis. Appropriate controls are in place for authorisation of expenditure as well as payments made by way of bank transfer.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution and Governing Document

The William Syson Foundation is a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status. The Company was incorporated on 20 September 2019 and is governed by its Articles of Association. It was registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator on 23 September 2019.

The structure of the Company consists of the Members and the Directors. In practice these are the same persons, as the Members of the Company are also the Directors of the Company. No person may be appointed a Director of the Company without also becoming a Member.

The Members and Directors of the Company for the purposes of company law are the Trustees of the Charity for the purposes of charity law.

Recruitment and Appointment of New Trustees

The Trustees have been selected due to their interest in the activities of the Charity, and for the relevant skills and abilities they possess. The Company's Articles of Association contain typical provisions for the election, retiral, re-election and removal of Trustees.

The Trustees during the period and up to and including the date of approval of the financial statements are listed on page 2.

Induction and Training of New Trustees

New Trustees are provided with information relating to the work of the Charity and charity governance in order to familiarise themselves with the role of a Trustee. In addition, relevant training is provided to Trustees as required.

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

Organisational Structure
The Trustees of the Charity comprise a Board of Trustees. The Board meets quarterly to consider relevant matters and the financial position of the Charity. The Board has delegated some decision making to sub-committees, which meet as required.

The day-to-day operational management of the Charity has been delegated by the Board to the Foundation Manager, who is employed by the Charity. A Grant Manager is also employed. The Foundation Manager and Grant Manager report to the Board. Together, the Trustees, and the Foundation Manager and the Grant Manager are considered to be the Charity's key management personnel.

The Foundation Manager's and Grant Manager's remuneration have been set based on similar roles at grant-making charities both in Scotland and elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Remuneration is kept under review.

Acknowledgement of contribution
The Trustees record their sadness at the death of Ian Arnot on 17 January 2026 and acknowledge his valuable contribution to the work of the Charity.

Relationships with Related Parties and Related Party Transactions
All Trustees give of their time freely. Under the Charity's Articles of Association no Trustee is permitted to receive payment for the work they do for the Charity. Details of Trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 9 to the financial statements.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests in the Register of Interests maintained by the Charity. In accordance with the Charity's Articles of Association and its Conflicts of Interest policy, a Trustee must withdraw and not participate in decision-making regarding matters where her or she has a conflict of interest.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement
The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period, 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 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 (FRS102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

In preparing this report advantage has been taken of the small companies' exemption.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provision of Part 15 of The Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Trustees on 28th May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Jonathan Syson
………………………………….
Jonathan Syson, Trustee

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of The William Syson Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the charitable company has not kept proper and adequate accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small company's exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 8, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the charitable company which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. These included but were not limited to the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)
Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the charitable company's financial statements. Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiries of the Foundation Manager and the Trustees;
- review of minutes of board meetings throughout the period;
- review of legal correspondence or invoices, and
- obtaining an understanding of the control environment in monitoring compliance with laws and regulations.

There are inherent limitations in an audit of financial statements and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 44(1) (c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members and the charitable company's Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company, its members as a body, and its Directors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jeremy Chittleburgh BSc CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of CT Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh, EH3 6NL

19 June 2026

CT Audit Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

THE WILLIAM SYSON FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Year to 31 December 2025 £	Year to 31 December 2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Investment income	3	517,081	431,158
Total income		517,081	431,158
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	4	68,045	104,698
Charitable activities	5	671,387	620,125
Total expenditure		739,432	724,823
Net (expenditure) before gains/(losses) on investments		(222,351)	(293,665)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	1,490,205	268,131
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		1,267,854	(25,534)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	16	12,648,978	12,674,512
Total funds carried forward	16	13,916,832	12,648,978

The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

All funds are unrestricted.

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

THE WILLIAM SYSON FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2025

	Notes	£	As at 31 December 2025 £	£	As at 31 December 2024 £
Fixed Assets					
Investments	11		13,982,928		12,764,131
			13,982,928		12,764,131
Current Assets					
Debtors	12	18,789		11,181	
Cash at Bank and in hand		98,230		39,424	
		117,019		50,605	
Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within one year	13	123,115		115,758	
Net Current (liabilities)/assets			(6,096)		(65,153)
Total assets less current (liabilities)/assets			13,976,832		12,698,978
Creditors falling due after more than one year	14		(60,000)		(50,000)
Net Assets	15		13,916,832		12,648,978
Represented by:					
Unrestricted reserves	16		13,916,832		12,648,978

Approved by the Trustees on 28th May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Jonathan Syson

Jonathan Syson, Trustee

Company No. SC642184

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash (used in) operating activities	17	(729,683)	(785,766)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income		517,081	431,158
Proceeds from sale of investments		4,250,182	4,723,495
Purchase of investments		(3,593,410)	(4,400,907)
Movement in cash held as part of investment portfolio		(385,364)	(86,417)
Cash provided by investing activities		788,489	667,329
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		58,806	(118,437)
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		39,424	157,861
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		98,230	39,424
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank – current account		57,433	8,181
Cash at bank – property manager client accounts		40,797	31,243
		98,230	39,424

Analysis of Changes in Net Debt	2024 £	Cash flows £	2025 £
Cash and cash equivalents	39,424	58,806	98,230
Total net debt	39,424	58,806	98,230

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

1. General Information

The William Syson Foundation is a company limited by guarantee incorporated and domiciled in Scotland with registered company number SC642184. The registered office is 5 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 8EJ. The financial statements have been presented in Pounds Sterling as this is the functional and presentational currency of the charitable company

2. Accounting Policies

Statement of compliance and basis of preparation
The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have assessed the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, including the impact of ongoing economic challenges, and have adequate expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income
All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when entitlement has passed to the Charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Charity, and the amount can be reliably measured.

Rental income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is receivable.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

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 settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and all expenses are allocated to the applicable expenditure headings. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

Governance costs are included within charitable activities. These are the costs of general governance of the Charity as opposed to direct management inherent in meeting charitable objectives and are those costs associated with strategic, constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Costs of raising funds
The costs of raising funds consist of investment management fees and costs of maintaining the investment property.

Charitable activities
Costs of charitable activities include grants and governance costs as detailed in note 6.

Tangible fixed assets
All assets with an initial cost of more than £500 and lasting more than three years are capitalised and valued at historic cost. Depreciation is charged at 33.33% on a straight-line basis.

Investments
Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently at fair value as at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investment property
Investment property was initially included in the balance sheet at fair value based on the probate values applied to the estate from which it was transferred as part of legacies received in December 2019. The investment property portfolio was revalued in December 2022. The next revaluation will be in five years or sooner if the Trustees consider that it is warranted.

Investments in listed shares and securities
These investments are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

The Charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. The main form of financial risk faced by the Charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities, both generally and within particular sectors or sub-sectors.

Investments in unquoted shares, funds, and art
These investments were received as part of the original legacies and were initially recognised at probate value. It is the Trustees' intention to dispose of them when opportunity arises. Investments not disposed of at the balance sheet date are adjusted to fair value based on an assessment by the Trustees taking into account considerations of market demand and anticipated future returns. Unrealised and realised gains or losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Financial instruments
A financial asset or financial liability is recognised only when the Charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Basic financial assets, which include cash at bank and other debtors, are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future receipts discounted at the market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

2. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Basic financial liabilities, which include committed donations and other creditors, are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future receipts discounted at the market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

At each reporting date the Foundation assesses whether there is objective evidence that any financial asset has been impaired. A provision for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the Foundation will not be able to collect all amounts due. The amount of the provision is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

Funds

All funds of the Foundation are considered by the Trustees to be unrestricted and free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

Pension contributions

The Foundation makes contributions to a defined contribution personal pension scheme on behalf of its employees and these are accounted for when due.

3. Investment Income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Rental income	131,640	142,413
Dividends received	382,660	285,455
Interest received	2,781	3,290
	517,081	431,158

4. Raising funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
Investment management fees	60,154	68,785
Property management and maintenance charges	7,891	35,913
	68,045	104,698

5. Charitable activities expenditure

	2025	2024
	£	£
Grant making (note 6)	538,736	490,843
Support costs (note 7)	132,651	129,282
	671,387	620,125

For the year ended 31 December 2025

6. Grant making activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Art		
Individual grants greater than £5,000		
Aberdeen city council	-	25,000
Culture and Sport Glasgow	15,000	25,000
National galleries of Scotland	25,000	25,000
Total grants greater than £5,000	40,000	75,000
Total grants £5,000 or less (2025: 5, 2024: 9)	23,536	31,750
	63,536	106,750
Music		
Individual grants greater than £5,000		
Love music	-	90,000
Scottish Opera	90,000	-
Music Education Partnership Group	90,000	60,000
The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust	7,500	-
Total grants greater than £5,000	187,500	150,000
Total grants £5,000 or less (2025: 18 2024: 30)	63,000	95,848
	250,500	245,848
Dance		
Individual grants greater than £5,000		
The Work Room	10,000	-
	10,000	-
Total grants £5,000 or less (2025: 2 2024: 5)	9,000	20,000
	19,000	20,000
Drama, Playwriting, Theatre		
Individual grants greater than £5,000		
Braw Clan Limited	10,000	-
Citizens Theatre	-	-
Total grants greater than £5,000	10,000	-
Total grants £5,000 or less (2025: 20 2024: 13)	80,500	48,500
	90,500	48,500
Film		
Individual grants greater than £5,000		
Filmhouse Edinburgh	30,000	-
Total grants £5,000 or less (2025: 0 2024: 0)	-	-
	30,000	-
Writing (Literature and poetry)		
Total grants £5,000 or less (2025: 5 2024: 4)	15,200	6,400
	15,200	6,400
Combined Arts Activities		
Total grants £5,000 or less (2025: 12 2024: 11)	39,000	40,345
	39,000	40,345

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THE WILLIAM SYSON FOUNDATION

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

For the year ended 31 December 2025

6. Grant making activities (continued)	**2025** **£**	**2024** **£**
Other		
Total grants £5,000 or less (2025: 0, 2024: 2)	-	7,500
	-	7,500
Aerial Dance/Circus/Physical Theatre		
Total grants £5,000 or less (2025: 2 2024: 0)	10,000	-
Beatrice Huntington Award		
See note below (2025: 9, 2024: 8)	21,000	17,000
	21,000	17,000
	568,736	492,343
Returned grant	-	(1,500)
	538,736	490,843

Beatrice Huntington Award

Prizes of 1 x £5,000 (1st place Senior Award), 1 x £2,500 (runner up Senior Award), there being no outright winner of the Junior Award, 7 x Junior Awards were made totaling £13,500. Total Beatrice Huntington Awards of £21,000 awarded to 9 participants.

7. Analysis of support costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
General Support		
Staff costs (note 8)	99,132	87,742
Recruitment costs	-	7,931
Website development and charges	297	1,016
Bank charges	975	902
IT costs	6,881	6,661
Communications	327	571
Accounting and payroll	3,357	3,181
Legal expenses	180	1,670
Insurance	914	1,209
Miscellaneous	2,098	1,581
Other staff costs	3,277	3,583
Governance costs		
Meeting costs	4,713	3,334
Auditor remuneration – audit fees	7,200	6,300
Auditor remuneration – statutory accounts and taxation compliance	3,300	3,150
	132,651	129,282

Included in Accounting and payroll costs are further fees paid to the auditor for the provision of accounting support in the year amounting to £2,736 (2024: £2,698).

8. Analysis of staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	82,603	78,754
Social security costs	4,598	1,888
Pension costs	11,931	5,875
Contract staff costs	-	1,225
	99,132	87,742

The total number of employees during the period was two (2024: two).

The key management personnel remuneration during the period amounted to £99,132 (2024: £87,742).

9. Related party transactions and Trustees' remuneration

The Trustees received no remuneration for their services during the period. No Trustees (2024: three) were reimbursed expenses totaling £nil (2024: £195) for travelling and subsistence during the period.

During the period, the investment managers JM Finn received management fees totaling £40,005. Howard Cockburn (Trustee) is an investment manager employed by JM Finn and is responsible for the portfolio managed by JM Finn. Fees payable to JM Finn are charged at market rates with the agreement of the other Trustees.

10. Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment 2025 £
Cost	
At 1 January 2025	796
Addition	342
At 31 December 2025	1,138
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025	796
Addition	342
At 31 December 2025	1,138
Net book value	
At 31 December 2025	-
Net book value	
At 31 December 2024	-

11. Investments

	Listed £	Unlisted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Market value at 1 January 2025	10,841,754	1,734,429	12,576,183	12,630,640
Additions	3,593,410	-	3,593,410	4,400,907
Disposal proceeds	(4,250,182)	-	(4,250,182)	(4,723,495)
Unrealised gain/(loss)	949,102	-	949,102	377,838
Realised gain/(loss)	550,532	(9,429)	541,103	(109,707)
	11,684,616	1,725,000	13,409,616	12,576,183
Cash held	573,312	-	573,312	187,948
Market value at 31 December 2025	12,257,929	1,725,000	13,982,928	12,764,131
Cost at 31 December 2025	9,232,833	1,931,186	11,164,019	11,281,025

There are no individual holdings that comprise of more than 5% of the market value of the listed investment portfolio at 31 December 2025 (2024: £nil)

11. Investments (continued)

Unlisted investments	**Investment Properties** £	**Other Investments** £	**2025 Total** £	**2024 Total** £
Market value at 1 January 2025	1,725,000	9,429	1,734,429	1,734,429
Disposal	-	-	-	-
Unrealised gain/(loss)	-	(9,429)	(9,429)	-
Fair value at 31 December 2025	1,725,000	-	1,725,000	1,734,429
Cost at 31 December 2025	1,825,000	106,186	1,931,186	1,931,186

The investment properties were valued on 19 December 2022 by Shepherd Commercial.

The significance of financial instruments to the ongoing financial sustainability of the Charity is considered in the financial review and investment policy sections of the Trustees' Annual Report.

The main risk to the Charity from financial instruments lies in the continuing uncertainty regarding world economic prospects leading to changeable investment markets and volatility in capital values and yields. The Charity manages these risks by appointing investment managers and operating an investment policy geared towards a balanced return between capital growth and income.

12. Debtors

	2025 £	**2024** £
Prepayments and accrued income	18,789	11,181
	18,789	11,181

13. Creditors falling due within one-year

	2025 £	**2024** £
Other creditors and accruals	11,220	18,951
Grants payable *(3rd instalment to Love Music and MEPG, 2nd instalment to MEPG and Scottish Opera)*	110,000	95,000
PAYE and pension costs	1,895	1,807
	123,115	115,758

14. Creditors falling due after more than one year

	2025 £	**2024** £
Grants payable *(3rd instalment to MEPG and Scottish Opera)*	60,000	50,000

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Investments	Net current Assets/ (liabilities)	Long Term Liabilities	2025 Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted reserves	13,982,928	(6,096)	(60,000)	13,916,832
	=========	=========	========	========

	Investments	Net Current Assets	Long Term Liabilities	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted reserves	12,764,131	(65,153)	(50,000)	12,648,978
	=========	=========	========	========

16. Analysis of charitable funds

	At 31 Dec 2024	Income	Expend-iture	Gains and Losses	At 31 Dec 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	12,648,978	517,081	(739,432)	1,499,634	13,926,261
	========	========	========	========	========

	At 31 Dec 2023	Income	Expend-iture	Gains and Losses	At 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	12,674,512	431,158	(724,823)	268,131	12,648,978
	========	========	========	========	========

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

	2025	2025
	£	**£**
Net movement in funds	1,267,854	(25,534)
Deduct income from investing activities	(517,081)	(431,158)
(Gains) on investments	(1,490,205)	(268,131)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(7,608)	974
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	17,357	(61,917)
	----------------	----------------
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(729,683)	(785,766)
	=========	=========