



Annual Review 2022–23

Accessible version

scottishbooktrust.com



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and a Scottish charity (SC027669).

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Our mission and our approach

Our mission

Our charity's mission is to ensure that people living in Scotland have equal access to books. Everyone should have the opportunity to improve their life chances through books and the fundamental skills of reading and writing. Access to books and a love of books bring many important benefits, from family bonding and advancing children's learning, to unlocking creativity, helping employability and improving mental health and wellbeing. We want to support all communities across Scotland, with particular focus on those who are vulnerable, under-represented and who need it most.

We also aim to ensure that Scotland's wide-ranging literary talent, both emerging and established, is nurtured and supported.

Our approach

We are trusted experts on bringing the benefits of reading and writing for enjoyment to people all over Scotland. Our programmes are designed to support a love of reading from the earliest moments and beyond, through all life stages; it's never too early or too late to begin a journey with books. We deliver both universal and specially-tailored programmes, working with a range of partners including libraries, health visitors, schools and other organisations. We connect individuals and communities, bringing them together to share and enjoy the magic of books.

Chair's report

In 2022–23, we were happy to reintroduce more in-person activity for our programmes, following the Covid pandemic, in what has been a busy and productive year. 2023 also marks the charity's 25th anniversary and it has been impressive to look back and see how the charity has grown and developed its work over the years, delivering impactful support to communities and families all over Scotland, and at all life stages.

Reading Schools began its national roll out after three pilot years with an ambition that every school in Scotland will become a Reading School in the next five years. This accreditation programme helps schools build and sustain a reading culture. In an independent evaluation, a class teacher commented 'the love of reading has been restored in our school' and 97% of learning professionals felt reading for pleasure had become a routine activity at their school. Over 500 schools are signed up with over 370 accredited.

The first in-person New Writers Awards Showcase was hosted since before Covid, with the atmosphere and attendance clearly demonstrating the appetite for such opportunities. The awards has an impressive alumni, including Graeme Macrae Burnet who was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2016 and Gail Honeyman, best-selling author of Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine. Since the awards began, 165 titles have been published by 80 awardees.

We continue to develop our Reading is Caring programme which supports people living with dementia and their carers. This relatively new programme extended beyond the Scottish Borders this year into Edinburgh and the Lothians. Training through friendly free workshops creates personalised, shared sensory reading experiences and the benefits are significant, helping to maintain caring relationships, spark memories and relieve stress.

In its eleventh year, Book Week Scotland took the theme of 'Scotland's Stories', linking to Scotland's Year of Stories 2022. Celebrations began with a special live-streamed event at Glasgow Film Theatre, highlighting stories created at four community residencies held across the country in partnership with Event Scotland. 70,000 copies of the free book Scotland's Stories were gifted during the week as well as partnering with RNIB Scotland to provide an audio version. Over 870 events were held with an audience of 25,000 people.

One of the charity's longest running programmes, Bookbug, is the world's largest nationwide universal book gifting programme for babies and children. Funded by Scottish Government, over 8.8 million books have been gifted to date. Approximately 375 free song and rhyme Bookbug Sessions also take place in libraries and community spaces every week, with additional targeted support given to families through Bookbug for the Home – all supporting families to give children

the best start in life. The charity also launched an [online shop](#), featuring Bookbug items selected by their Early Years experts.

The charity's annual Christmas Appeal featured Mog the Forgetful Cat, and thanks to the generosity of donors and publishers, thousands of books were delivered to children and families using food banks, all over Scotland. We thank HarperCollins and Judith Kerr's Estate for their support, and we were delighted to help mark the centenary of such a well-loved author and illustrator who touched the lives of so many, spanning generations.

So much of the work Scottish Book Trust delivers is only possible through the many valued partners and organisations we work with. From teachers, librarians, early years practitioners and health visitors to food banks, hospitals, other charities and many more.

We are incredibly grateful to our funders and donors for their generosity and commitment, without which we would simply be unable to progress our mission of bringing the access and benefits of books to all.

With continued support, and our dedicated and inspirational team of staff, I look forward to many more exciting chapters ahead for Scottish Book Trust.

Andy Marchant, Chair.

CEO's introduction

It is now twenty-five years since Scottish Book Trust became an independent charity working for the good of people in Scotland.

During that time, we have become the leading charity of our kind in the world, with a national programme that spans everything from the all-important early years to aiding those living with dementia and their carers. Meanwhile, our work with schools in Scotland is recognised as both innovative and strategically decisive, while our writer development programmes continue to unearth literary talent that is subsequently recognised at the highest levels in the UK and beyond. No other like organisation in the world can boast such a diverse, creative and complete programme of work.

Twenty-five years – a cause for both celebration and reflection.

We have come a long way in that time, and even further from our origins in the National Book League, set up during the 1950s.

During the 1990s, under the leadership of my immensely knowledgeable and talented predecessors, Lindsey Fraser and Kathryn Ross, the Scottish Book Trust stage was set for all the many contributions to the quality of life in Scotland that have followed.

And yet our mission has remained the same. We are a national charity that passionately believes that books, reading and writing have the power to change lives. We know that a love of reading inspires creativity, improves employment opportunities, mental health, wellbeing, and is one of the most effective ways to help break the poverty cycle.

It is also worth saying that, in addition to all these wonderful benefits, reading is quite simply one of the most fun and entertaining things a human being can do. To the avid reader – no matter whether you are six years old or 60 – literature is a field of play, with something beautiful and significant to be found for everyone.

These are not well-meaning, idle or trivial assertions. Our own research, and our partnerships with university academics and other experts, independently prove that our work is effective in driving real outcomes in people's lives. What's more, during the last year, we have developed a theory of change and an impact framework for all of our programmes that articulates why our work is important, the change we need to see, and the necessary measures for assessing whether we have been successful.

In other words, we take our charitable mission very seriously indeed. And, with all that has happened in the UK over the last period, we can see that is never more needed than today. If anyone wants to dispute that, a quick look at reports on Scottish poverty by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation will soon disabuse them.

Our society is at a crossroads. Deprivation has never been worse, and is increasing. And at the heart of deprivation lies illiteracy. That is why the majority of those in Scottish prisons have a reading comprehension age of around eleven years, and why folk growing up in deprived neighbourhoods have fewer opportunities, more mental health and physical health problems, and why they tend to live shorter lives than the more fortunate.

All this cuts across the ideas we have about the egalitarian nature of our culture and history. Much in these ideas has fallen apart under the social and economic stresses of the early 21st Century. And yet they are worth holding on to, and fighting for, because we are all, potentially, equal before the word. The word unlocks human potential and is the primary means by which humans thrive. That is what Scottish Book Trust exists to help realise for each and every citizen. Long may we continue to do so – for another twenty-five years, at the very least!

Marc Lambert, CEO.

We are 25!

Celebrating 25 years of Scottish Book Trust

We are delighted to be celebrating 25 years of Scottish Book Trust – a national, independent charity that believes everyone living in Scotland should have equal access to books and the benefits this brings.

Our work changes lives through books, reading and writing, and spans all stages of life from babies and children to emerging writers and older people living with dementia.

Access to books and a love of books bring many important benefits from family bonding and advancing children’s speech, language and learning, to unlocking creativity, helping employability and improving mental health and wellbeing.

There have been many highlights over the past 25 years and [our timeline](#) showcases some of our favourite milestones and achievements along the way.

Scottish Book Trust aims to support all communities across Scotland, with particular focus on those who are most in need of our help. Explore [our map](#), which provides a bird’s eye view of a typical day at Scottish Book Trust and our work taking place all over Scotland.

Gifting books to families in need

In 2022, Scottish Book Trust continued its mission of equal access to books for everyone in Scotland. Our [annual Christmas Appeal](#) supported our core work and gifted additional books to children and families in need through food banks, hospitals, community spaces and other charities.

We know that the only books that children like Iona and Callum have are the ones given to them by Scottish Book Trust. Because of the cost-of-living crisis, the situation has worsened. Without books, children are missing out, and the impact of this lasts a lifetime. Books bring families together, comfort children and inspire joy. They help children understand the world, do well at school and broaden their horizons.

We were delighted to secure permissions and support from publisher HarperCollins and the Judith Kerr estate to use iconic illustrations from *Mog the Forgetful Cat* and a festive image from *Mog's Christmas* for our Christmas Appeal.

Iona has never spent Christmas with Mog

Too many children in Scotland do not have books at home. Books bring magic, comfort and joy. Make sure no child misses out this Christmas. Donate now to give the magic of books to a child like Iona.

scottishbooktrust.com/donate

Scottish Book Trust
100 YEARS

Callum has never shared a bedtime story with Mog

Too many children in Scotland do not have books at home. Books bring families together, comfort children and inspire joy. Donate now to give the life-changing magic of books to a child like Callum.

scottishbooktrust.com/donate

Scottish Book Trust
100 YEARS

Our generous community of readers, writers, librarians, teachers, learning professionals and supporters came together and raised the funds needed to deliver over 65,000 books across Scotland.

At Garioch Community Kitchen in Inverurie, over 100 families received books with their festive food parcels. More than half of those families said it had been over a decade since they'd managed to buy new books.

One family who received the parcel told us: 'The kids love it when we read them books and they love to sit and read to us, so the books have been amazing and definitely get their imagination going.'

Giving children the best start in life

Bookbug for the Home

We have an active community of 627 [Bookbug for the Home](#) practitioners working in every local authority to support Scotland's most vulnerable families.

Practitioners from health, social care and third sector backgrounds are trained by Scottish Book Trust to deliver one-to-one Bookbug activities with families who are facing significant challenges.

We asked practitioners how they had been using their training in 2022–23 and found that our targeted programme continues to transform families' lives in a wide range of ways.

Key conclusions

Responses to the survey show that Bookbug for the Home:

- Helps children's speech and language, social and listening skills.
- Builds daily routines using stories, songs and rhymes.
- Supports parents to read with their children and builds their confidence and self-esteem.
- Helps children with additional needs have positive shared experiences with their siblings.
- Brings families together and supports bonding.
- Establishes stability, routine and safety for families who have suffered abuse or trauma.

Key statistics

- In 2022–23, we reached over 5,000 vulnerable families with our targeted programme.
- On average, each practitioner is working with 8.4 families.
- Some respondents work with a single family while others are bringing Bookbug for the Home to a caseload of 120 families.

Demand for our targeted work is extremely high. We receive double the number applications for places available on Bookbug for the Home training, underlining the urgent need for our ongoing support.

Many practitioners reported the breadth of impact that Bookbug for the Home has for whole communities and how families' lives have been changed.

Bookbug for the Home practitioners are also connecting families to other aspects of the programme encouraging use of the books in the Bookbug bags, taking

families to their first Bookbug Session in the library and introducing the Bookbug app.

‘Our families live in poverty and deprivation and often don’t know how to play with their children as they were never shown. I have used Bookbug in so many ways to help bonding and attachment, speech and language progression, for establishing a sleep routine and promoting positive play.’

– Health professional, North Ayrshire.

‘Support was given to a father recently released from prison to engage with his son and build a relationship with him, as his age and stage has developed greatly since they were last able to spend time together.’

– Social Worker, Aberdeen.

‘My Bookbug for the Home delivery is ongoing, and I feel it has made a difference. The parents love that there is an app to help support their child’s communication skills – parents often don’t know how to introduce songs and stories. The app helps develop both parent and child’s skills at their own pace.’

– Community Nursery Nurse, NHS Grampian.

Children and Young People’s Improvement Collaborative

In November 2022, the [Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative \(CYPIC\) National Conference](#) brought together over 400 individuals to discuss a shared method to improve outcomes for babies, children, and young people in Scotland.

In the session on Early Child Development, Bookbug was the highest rated theme, with 100% of practitioners surveyed saying it is ‘working really well’ and both bag gifting and Bookbug Sessions were specifically mentioned.

Building reading cultures for young people

Reading Schools rolled out to every school in Scotland

[Reading Schools](#) is an accreditation programme linked to the curriculum, empowering schools to build positive, fun and long-lasting reading cultures.

Hundreds of schools have now gained their accreditation and been rewarded for the excellent work that they have done to put reading for pleasure at the heart of the school. Schools can work towards core, silver and gold levels, with their accreditation lasting three years.

Key statistics

- 98% of learning professionals noted an increase in the number of families engaged in reading for pleasure.
- 97% of learning professionals felt reading for pleasure had become a routine activity at their school due to Reading Schools.
- 99% told us that Reading Schools had significantly contributed to professional development.

‘This initiative is incredible! I am stunned at how much this journey has impacted our once-reluctant readers and even further engaged the children who would happily read before. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed getting involved and feel this is a significant strength in my practice as a teacher – getting kids to love books. It has inspired me to continue reading and learning more about the amazing benefits of reading for pleasure.’

– Primary school teacher, South Lanarkshire.

Sharing Sensory Stories

Our [Sharing Sensory Stories](#) project offers an inclusive and engaging storytelling experience for children with additional support needs.

Through live author visits to ASN schools and settings and custom learning resources, the project aims to engage and captivate young minds, raise confidence, and aid expression and communication skills. The project – supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation – also provides funding grants, school residencies and free tactile book gifting, ensuring that learning professionals and children alike can access the necessary resources to enhance their storytelling experiences.

‘Over the sessions we have observed an improvement in our young people’s ability to tell stories, develop characters and build confidence when presenting to others. The author was able to ensure the complex needs of our young people were accommodated during the sessions. The young people are so proud of their achievement.’

– Teacher, part of an ASN School Residency.

How reading can help dementia

Reading is Caring

[Reading is Caring](#) helps people living with dementia and those who care for them use reading and sensory experiences to create special moments of connection, spark memories and relieve stress.

More and more people are living with dementia in Scotland or supporting loved ones through dementia.

Creating moments of positivity – a memory, a hint of a smile, or laughter – and sharing stories together can provide enjoyment and comfort to the person living with dementia and the person caring for them, helping to maintain their loving relationship.

The Reading is Caring training is free to attend and we work with people individually who have been trained to help them put into practice what they have learned.

This programme has now expanded beyond its pilot phase in the Scottish Borders into Edinburgh and the Lothians, and we have huge ambitions to grow Reading is Caring across Scotland if funding can be secured.

So far, we've provided over 420 hours of support across 114 workshops, training 394 carers to help over 400 people living with dementia.

'Reading is Caring was fantastic. The stories bring mum into the here and now. She laughs, she's interested and engaged. I get a glimpse of her personality again, which is lovely for both of us.'

– Daughter who cares for her mother with dementia.

'It was as if, when we read together, she was lost with me in the story, and we then talk about the story as if her dementia was no longer there.'

– Professional carer.

Nurturing Scotland's writing talent

Scottish Book Trust New Writers Awards

Our [New Writers Awardees](#) take part each year in a showcase to share their work with an audience made up of the general public and industry professionals. In 2023, our 10 awardees read their writing during an in-person event at Assembly Roxy in Edinburgh. The event was also livestreamed, and we captured recordings to share on our [YouTube channel](#) at a later date.

Samples of their work were also made available for over 400 key contacts in the publishing industry.

‘Winning a New Writers Award was such a pivotal moment for me in my writing journey. It gave me a huge confidence boost and working with a mentor was a fantastic experience, helping me take my writing to a new level. Once you're a New Writer, you're part of an incredibly supportive and inclusive community.’

– Victoria MacKenzie, New Writers Awardee 2016.

‘Winning a New Writers Award has been life-changing. The mentoring, advice, bursary, time away at a retreat, support from other writers and industry training led to me being published. Because of Scottish Book Trust, I'm now in the privileged position of being able to help children grow their imagination through my books, events and creative writing workshops.’

– Juliette Forrest, New Writers Awardee 2014.

Total number of NWA publications to date: 165 titles.

Total number of awardees published to date: 80.

Number of awardees to date: 177 (including Gaelic, Callan Gordon and Next Chapter).

19 titles published during 2022–23, by 20 awardees:

- Objects for Private Devotion by Lydia Harris
- The Modern Craft by Alice Tarbuck and Claire Askew
- Illuminated by Water by Malachy Tallack
- What Doesn't Break Us by Helen Sedgwick
- Modren Makars: Yin by Ann MacKinnon
- You Can Stay by Lucy Ribchester/Elle Connel
- The Mountain Rescue Dog by Juliette Forrest

- Site Report by Rhona Warwick Paterson
- Find Yourself at Constant Falls by Kathrine Sowerby
- Based on a True Story by Thomas Stewart
- Ace Voices by Eris Young
- Now She is Witch by Kirsty Logan
- What I Love About This Life by Anne Hay
- For Thy Great Pain Have Mercy On My Little Pain by Victoria MacKenzie
- Bird Cherry by Roshni Gallagher
- Nemidoonam by Nasim Rebecca Asl
- In Ascension by Martin MacInnes
- Thirsty Animals by Rachelle Atalla
- Quinn by Em Strang

‘The New Writers Award has played a really useful part in my book's journey towards publication. Over the course of the year, the input and advice of my mentor, as well as the workshops and the week-long writing retreat at Moniack Mhor, have been invaluable in preparing the final draft of my manuscript for submission – and I'm delighted to be able to share that Birlinn will be publishing the book in October 2023.’

– Dougie Strang, author of *The Bone Cave*.

The power of book gifting

Book gifting impact study: An exploration of 12 years of universal book gifting in Scotland

Scottish Book Trust delivers two universal book gifting programmes, funded by Scottish Government: Bookbug and Read Write Count. The aim of both programmes is to support families to play, read and learn together, fostering the bonding opportunities and the love of reading that are so vital to children's life chances.

Currently, through the two programmes all children in Scotland receive six free bags of high-quality books and other resources between birth and age eight, totalling 16 books across the six bags, with an additional two books gifted to expectant parents in the Baby Box. It is believed that through Bookbug and Read Write Count, Scotland has the largest nationwide universal book gifting offer in the world.

Bookbug has been gifting books for 12 years, and Read Write Count for six years. The bags have a number of important impacts for families and children in Scotland across: book access; language, communication and literacy development; and children's development as readers, as well as vital socio-emotional impacts around: bonding and attachment; relaxation; and comfort in difficult times.

Through a mixed methods approach, including the voices of children who have been recipients of the book bags, we commissioned [a study](#) aimed to holistically assess the potentially unique cumulative impact of the two programmes for children and families in Scotland.

Three key enabling factors emerged from the data:

- Universal gifting, which creates excitement and a shared culture of reading for pleasure across Scotland.
- The inclusion of high-quality, fun books in the book bags.
- Professionals providing families with information about the book bags at the point of gifting.

Awards and prizes

Bookbug Hero Award

The recipient of the 2023 Bookbug Hero Award was Janice Middleton, Library Supervisor with Argyll and Bute Council.

The Bookbug Hero Award recognises someone working with Bookbug who has used the programme to make a real difference to the lives of the young children, families and communities they work with.

Janice was nominated for going above and beyond to reach out and introduce new families to Bookbug on the Isle of Bute. She went out of her way to welcome new families from Syria and Ukraine to the island and the library, running special welcome Bookbug Sessions and ordering in book stock in their home languages.

Janice also regularly tours the island making short Bookbug videos that are shown on the library's social media. She runs regular storytelling sessions in the library with adults with learning difficulties and autism, creating craft activities for them in association with the books.

Our thanks also to Walker Books for making this award possible, which allows us to spotlight the fantastic work that our [Bookbug Co-ordinators](#) do across Scotland.

'I was speechless when I was told I'd won the Bookbug Hero Award. I'm truly honoured, though the truth is the award is all thanks to everyone who attends our Bookbug Sessions at Live Argyll Rothesay Library and all who watch our small videos online. It's amazing that Bookbug and I have travelled so far, without stepping on a plane.'

– Janice Middleton.

Learning Professional Award

The recipients of the 2023 Learning Professional Award were Julie Paterson and Gail Abraham from Renfrewshire.

The Learning Professional Award recognises a teacher or librarian who has had a powerful impact on the reading culture of young people and adults in their community.

Julie, Literacy and Languages Development Officer, and Gail, Social Work Practice and Process Development Co-ordinator, were recognised for their inspiring work at Renfrewshire Council to develop early literacy and ensure access to books for children and young people across the region – in particular their work with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which has seen more than 63,000 books gifted to children in Renfrewshire in the last two years. Their work resulted in Renfrewshire being the only Scottish region to offer monthly books to all 2–4-year-olds through the Imagination Library, in addition to the local authority's existing programme for care-experienced children.

Our thanks to Browns Books for making this award possible and allowing us to highlight the wonderful work of learning professionals.

‘We are so thrilled, although we both agree that it is the ambassadors in our early years classes and centres and across our partner organisations who are the real winners. They are true champions of the Imagination Library and early literacy and, without their efforts, we wouldn’t have been able to achieve as much as we have.’

– Julie Paterson and Gail Abraham.

Looking forward 2023–24

From 2023–24, Scottish Book Trust is focusing on the following areas of work:

Extending the scope and deepening the impact of our work to reach currently under-represented audiences. While driving increases in universal audience numbers, we will further extend audience diversity and impact.

Priorities include:

- Implementing the strategic plans developed by our EDI group to address employment, access and inclusion in under-represented groups, while continuing to develop programmes targeted at areas and audiences in most need.
- Building on our popular digital services to reach a wider audience across the country.
- Building on our work with other Third Sector partners, such as food banks, to provide free books to families in need.
- Embedding our Theory of Change Impact Framework to assess our programmes so that we can ensure that they are accessible, effective and make a genuine impact, and plan for the future.

To be the leading advocate in Scotland for the power, value and joy of reading and writing, empowering the people of Scotland and enhancing their lives. We will influence positive and sustained change in Scotland by advocating for the creative, personal, social and economic value and benefits of reading and writing.

Priorities include:

- Driving participation in Reading Schools across Scotland to build whole school reading cultures, while championing reading and writing as creative cultural accomplishments in their own right which lead to other social, personal and educational benefits.
- Continue to support new voices on their writing journeys through our Live Literature and Author Residency programmes.
- Growing our Reading is Caring programme which helps people living with dementia and their carers to maintain caring relationships and support wellbeing.
- Investing in and developing our Bookbug for the Home targeted programme across Scotland, which brings the joy of songs, rhymes and stories into the homes of families who need our support the most.

- Deepening our collaboration with universities and other partners to continue to grow Scottish Book Trust's expertise as a research and information hub for reading, writing, education and other reading-related issues.
- Forging strategic partnerships in the UK and Europe that support and amplify our own advocacy, while administering the new EURead website, representing 22 European countries.
- Proactively developing and managing key policy, funding and national network relationships.

Design and implement structures and strategies to ensure Scottish Book Trust's future sustainability. We will develop a business model and deliver organisational improvements to secure the long-term future of Scottish Book Trust.

Priorities include:

- Building on our national fundraising campaign, prioritising unrestricted income so that we can invest more in reaching those most in need of our help.
- Continuing to shape and integrate our communications, marketing and social media profile to clearly position Scottish Book Trust as an independent charity with fundraising needs, and to communicate meaningfully with our wide range of audiences.
- Empowering our staff to develop the skills, expertise and experience that support continuous improvement in the delivery of our charitable programmes.
- Leveraging our website and powerful CRM system to improve data analysis, and the efficiency and effectiveness of our audience development to priority groups.
- Increasing resilience through partnership by cultivating relationships with peer organisations.

Support us

Give the life-changing magic of books

By donating to Scottish Book Trust, you are helping to ensure everyone in Scotland has access to books and the many benefits this brings.

Scottish Book Trust delivers programmes and outreach work designed to support a love of reading in children, families and adults through all life stages. Your donations will help deliver more life-changing work. This includes creating specialised kits to support families to share stories, songs and rhymes with their children, sending tactile books to children with additional support needs, and gifting books to families who need them most through food banks and community hubs.

Ways to support

There are lots of ways that you can support people all over Scotland to reach their potential through reading and writing.

You can:

- make a [donation](#)
- [shop with us](#) and bring home Bookbug merchandise including soft toys, colouring books and stickers
- hold a [fundraiser](#) in your community, school or workplace
- join our book-loving community by making a regular donation and becoming a [Friend of Scottish Book Trust](#)
- sign up to [The Book Club](#), hosted by our CEO, to share your love of books and reading with other like-minded people and support Scottish Book Trust
- leave a [gift in your will](#) and support the next 25 years of readers and writers

‘One refugee family were so delighted. They had nothing, but this has meant their boys had books.’

– Learning professional.

‘Library books saved me through difficult childhood experiences. I want every child to feel safe in a book.’

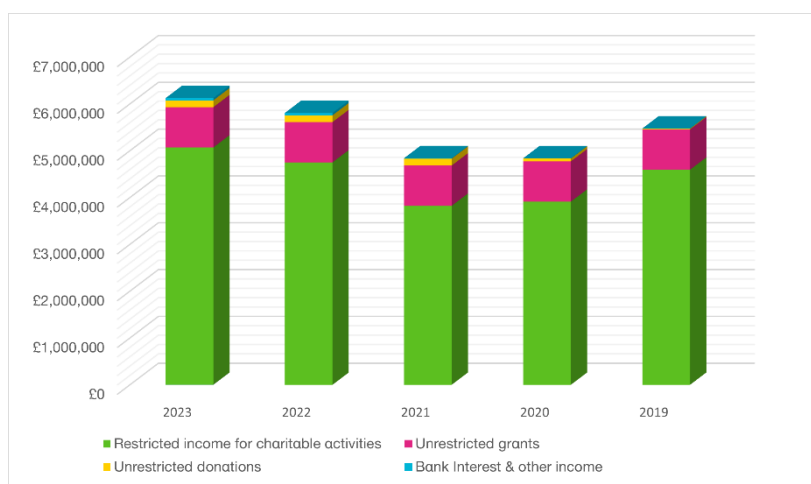
– Linda, supporter.

Financial review

In the year to 31 March 2023, our total income increased from £5.8m (2022) to £6.1m. Our unrestricted income reduced this year due to a decrease in the in-kind donations of books from various publishers for our fundraising campaign (following on from generous donations during the Covid pandemic). Our restricted funds increased, reflecting additional funding for our Early Years and Attainment Scottish Government programmes and funding from Creative Scotland to support Covid recovery. Most unrestricted income comes from Creative Scotland to fund our operation and remained unchanged from last year.

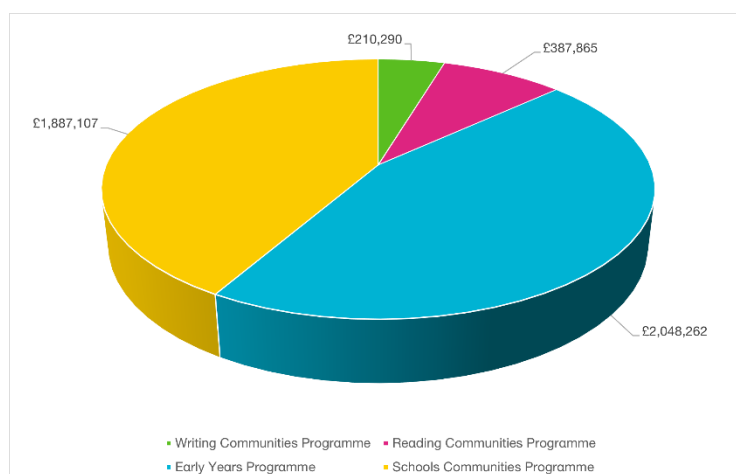
Income comparison

Of the total income of £6.1m, restricted income of £4.5m funded a diverse range of programmes for all ages, across Scotland, and includes fundraised income from trusts, foundations and corporate donors, as well as private individuals.



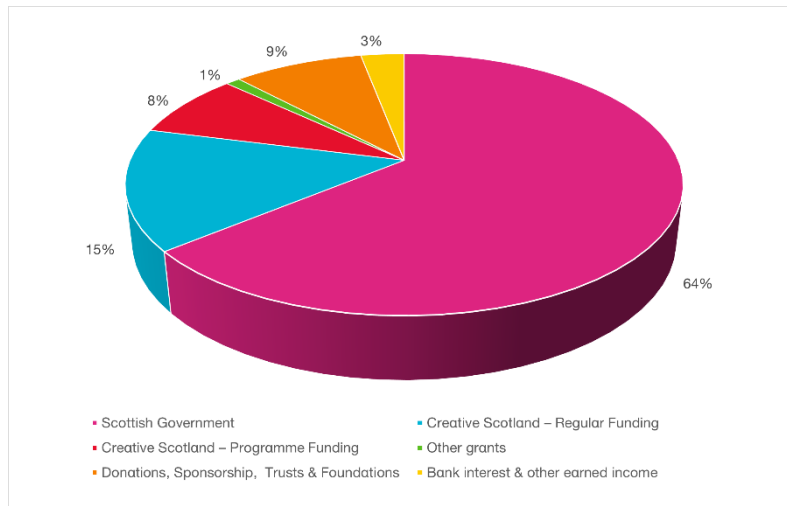
Restricted income split by programme 2022–23

As well as funding direct programme staff costs, our restricted income of £4.5m funds the purchase of books, print materials and other resources required for the delivery of our programmes.



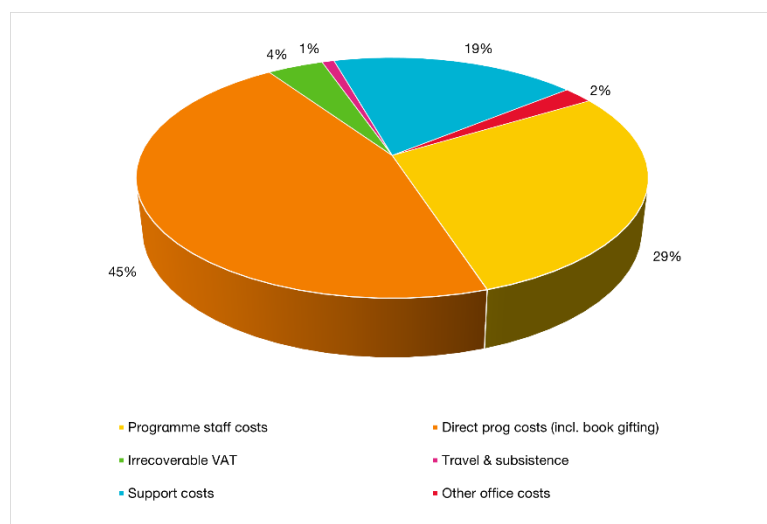
Funding split 2022–23

Total funds carried forward at the year-end increased from £3.2m (2022) to £3.5m. The majority of these funds (£2.7m) are restricted to specific programmes and represent advance funding for purchasing books and other resources early in 2023–24 to ensure our programmes run to agreed delivery deadlines.



Expenditure split 2022–23

Total expenditure increased by £337k to £5.8m. This increase relates to growth in programme activity due to additional programme funding. Staff numbers were stable over the year with an average of 70 (64 in 2022).



Our supporters

Thank you

A warm thank you to all of you who donated to Scottish Book Trust through our Reading is Caring Appeal and our Christmas Appeal, supporting the families most in need across Scotland.

Thank you to the following organisations for your grants, donations, sponsorship and in-kind support:

- Scottish Government
- Creative Scotland
- Alanna Max
- Andersen Press
- Badenoch & Co
- Barrington Stoke
- Better World Books
- Birlinn
- Bloomsbury
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- Browns Books
- CALL Scotland
- Chicken House
- Child's Play
- The City of Edinburgh Council
- Cranachan
- Cyrenians
- Dekko Comics
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
- The Dr David Summers Charitable Trust
- DWF Foundation
- Education Scotland
- Farshore
- Floris Books
- Flying Eye Books

- The Gaelic Books Council
- The Garfield Weston Foundation
- The Garrick Charitable Trust
- Gecko Press
- Hachette Children's Group
- Harper Collins
- HR Creswick Charitable Trust
- The Hugh Fraser Foundation
- Kingfisher
- Kiran's Trust
- Libros del Zorro Rojo
- The Literary Gift Company
- Little Door Books
- Little Tiger Press
- Luath Press Ltd
- Macmillan Cancer Research
- Macmillan Children's Books
- McCarthy Stone Foundation
- The Mohn Westlake Foundation
- National Library of Scotland
- The Northwood Charitable Trust
- Nosy Crow
- Otter-Barry Books
- Oxford University Press
- Puffin Books
- Q Charitable Trust
- Quarto Kids
- Royal Bank of Scotland
- The Russell Trust
- Scholastic UK
- The School of Life
- Scotland Street Press
- Scottish Adoption

- Scottish Friendly
- Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC)
- Self Made Hero
- Simon & Schuster
- The Sir Iain Stewart Foundation
- Social Bite
- Two Hoots
- Usborne
- Visit Scotland
- Walker Books
- Walter Scott
- The William Grant Foundation
- The William Syson Foundation
- Wren & Rook
- Young Scot
- Youth Music Initiative

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Our programmes

- Arts Alive
- Authors Live
- Bookbug
- Book Week Scotland
- Bookzilla
- Callan Gordon Award
- Digital Storytelling
- First Minister's Reading Challenge
- Ignite Fellowship
- Live Literature
- New Writers Awards
- Next Chapter Award
- Reading is Caring
- Reading Schools
- Read Write Count
- Scotland's Stories
- Scots Language Publication Grant
- Scottish Book Trust Awards
- Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour
- Scottish Teenage Book Prize
- Sharing Sensory Stories
- The Bookbug Picture Book Prize
- 50 Word Fiction

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