

**Scottish
Book Trust**
inspiring readers and writers



Annual Review 2020–21

Accessible version

scottishbooktrust.com



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Our mission and our approach

Our mission

Our charity's mission is to ensure 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 that share our values. We connect individuals and communities, bringing them together to share and enjoy the magic of books.

Chair's report

After a unique and challenging year, it seems that we are now emerging from the pandemic and something like normality is beginning to return.

Over the last eighteen months many organisations of all sorts have simply ceased to function. Many more have survived – but only just. The number which can honestly claim to have thrived and are now stronger than ever is very small. It is to the great credit of the board, staff and management that Scottish Book Trust is in that small category.

We had begun to invest substantially in digital technology long before any of us had heard of Covid19. The reason had nothing to do with resilience during a global emergency. New media would, we believed, help us to reach new audiences and deliver programmes in imaginative ways. That has been proven correct. Being able to flourish and deliver enhanced services at a time when they were particularly needed was a bonus.

The figures speak for themselves. Over 30,000 page views on our Home Learning Hub, specifically designed with a wealth of creative learning content to keep young people and their families engaged with learning; over 3,000 teachers, educationalists and Early Years practitioners from every local authority taking part in our events, as well as professionals from healthcare, libraries and the third sector; a digital Book Week Scotland with over 290,000 participants; our Scottish Friendly Children's author touring programme, viewed by over 100,000 children during lockdown; and two fundraising campaigns which enabled us, in collaboration with foodbanks and Local Authorities, to provide over 100,000 quality books to families with limited or no access to books. This is just some of what we managed to achieve under the most difficult of circumstances.

I began by referring to our returning to 'something like normality'. Offices are opening but working from home, at least for part of the time, will continue to be a feature of many working lives. Learning has changed too. The place of technology as an essential tool is now firmly established. As indicated above, Scottish Book Trust is well placed to navigate these new waters in pursuit of its mission to transform lives through the power of literacy, reading, writing and creative education.

Yet there is much to do. The crisis illuminated some of the weaknesses of our society. Those who were already disadvantaged suffered most. Gaps in educational achievement became more pronounced. Isolation affected most profoundly those whose personal resources were weakest. The need for our programmes has become even more evident.

Although much is uncertain, it is clear that the future will favour organisations that address society's needs and do so in ways that are innovative and imaginative. Scottish Book Trust is unquestionably one of them.

Keir Bloomer, Chair.

CEO's introduction

In last year's Annual Review I asked what the future might look like. Given the unprecedented disruption of the Coronavirus pandemic, lockdowns and the associated social and professional challenges we faced, it was difficult at that stage to fully know. One year on, we may have a better idea, but we are still trying to bottom out how profoundly and permanently the patterns of our lives are changed. Nevertheless it is clear that given Brexit, Climate Change, the pandemic and the ever growing inequities of the economic system we live under, Scotland faces challenges the like of which it has not encountered before.

In such a scenario, it is not just the responsibility of our politicians to act, but also of civic society all across Scotland, too. The social need for this is undeniable. The gap between rich and poor grows wider by the day, and is only exacerbated by recent events. It is hugely significant, for example, that in at least half of Scotland's most disadvantaged families, a family member is actually working while still remaining unable to adequately support their nearest kin.

Poverty is the result of many malign and endemic factors, and the results of poverty are just as complex, long-lasting and malign – not just or especially so for the individuals involved, but for all of us. Language development and literacy sit at the heart of meeting the challenge to create a better and fairer society. For while literacy cannot 'solve' poverty itself – and all the deleterious effects that are attendant on it – poverty cannot possibly be solved without it.

The command of language, thought and expression that naturally flow from being literate means that literacy is the one essential, basic skill that every individual needs in order to progress their life in a positive way. Those with poor vocabulary skills at age five are four times more likely to have reading difficulties, three times more likely to have mental health problems and twice as likely to be unemployed by the time they are 34.* Reading for pleasure brings important benefits in childhood and all throughout life. Books open doors to the wider world, provide a sense of escapism and fire imaginations.

Where would you be if you could not read? When considering the challenges of disadvantage, we believe it is always instructive to ask oneself that question.

As a charity we are more than aware of the disparities which disfigure individual destinies and by extension the social fabric of Scotland itself. For over 20 years we have worked in and for Scotland, investing through our programmes and activities in the potential of every individual, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our world-class charitable work is needed now more than ever, and as you will see in the following pages, we really do put our shoulders to the wheel.

Marc Lambert, CEO.

*Source: The British Cohort Study <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19951922/>

A few words from our Patron

Writing is a lonely business. I don't know a writer who isn't plagued with self-doubt, no matter how many books they've published. All of this is amplified for aspiring writers on the verge of their achieving their ambition of publication.

The New Writers Award is just one of the many initiatives of Scottish Book Trust, but it's a vital one. It sends a powerful message to those early-career writers. The bursaries matter, helping to buy a slice of time or space to write. Even more important is the mentoring element of the awards, providing contact with professionals across the industry and training writers in how to present their work to readers. Probably most significant is the opportunity to join the generous community of writers. That's where the life-long connections that offer support and help – and friendship! – come from, and the New Writers Award makes that happen.

To earn one of these awards opens those doors, but what it also does – and this *really* matters – is to provide validation. On those dark days when a blank screen is beyond intimidating, when we regret that hubris drove us to thinking we'd ever be a writer, when we don't have an idea in our heads beyond the next cup of coffee, knowing that an organisation as respected as Scottish Book Trust has deemed us worthy of an award is a spur to drive us on.

And these awards are emphatically not about maintaining the status quo of a privileged cadre. They're about reaching out to embrace the diversity and range of Scottish writing, in all of our national tongues. Reading widely helps us to understand the different worlds around us; and so the New Writers Awards aim to make that possible by opening the gates to as wide a constituency of writers as possible.

The Scottish literary scene has transformed itself in my writing lifetime. The rise of independent publishers and indie booksellers has helped to develop an extraordinary richness in our culture. Major publishing houses have spotted those talents too and made the most of them. From the Booker Prize to the Costa Awards, from the Forward poetry prizes to the Orwell Prize for political writing, Scots have been making their mark. For that to continue, we need to carry on supporting writers at the start of their careers, when they most need the boost of knowing someone thinks they have something worth saying and the means to communicate it.

I'm proud to be part of an organisation that understands the value of encouragement and support to make the future happen.

Val McDermid, Patron.

Reading in Scotland

The impact of reading in lockdown

During the early stages of the pandemic, Scottish Book Trust set out to discover what impact the lockdown was having on readers in Scotland. We recruited a panel of people living in Scotland to complete regular surveys about their experiences of reading between March and August 2020.

Throughout the study it was clear that the majority of the panel found reading important to their wellbeing: 98% agreed that reading supports their wellbeing, 97% that reading helps them to relax and 92% that reading was important to them in times of stress or anxiety. One commented that they found reading 'as essential as my daily walk as a mental break from the current situation'.

65% reported reading more over the lockdown, with some noting that this was due to their working from home: 'I am able to give more time to it because I am saving three hours on commuting so can get my household chores done in that time. I think this has helped me with sleep and I also feel happier'.

However, 38% reported having difficulty focusing on reading. Some found this upsetting, especially if reading was something that ordinarily helped them to relax: 'I miss the way I used to be able to fall easily into books. I've only managed to find one book so far that has brought me comfort'. Some combatted this by sharing their reading with others: 'joining an online book group has been great. It was a huge relief to talk in detail about something other than the current situation'. Overall, 64% reported that reading made them feel less isolated and 50% agreed that sharing their reading with family and friends made them feel less stressed.

At the end of each weekly survey we asked our panel if they had any reading tips they would like to share. Over the course of the study our readers submitted over 300 tips in which they overwhelmingly urged us to be kind to ourselves and truly read for enjoyment. Whilst for some that meant immersing themselves in a weighty tome like War and Peace, many others found comfort in old childhood favourites or escapist thrillers. As one panellist put it: 'all the tips were like little connections every week. It was nice to know how other people were coping. Some of them helped me through the harder times'. Another perfectly captured our own feelings when they said that taking part in the study had made them 'proud to be part of a nation of readers'.

You can read the full report on our website:

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/our-impact/reading-in-scotland-reading-over-lockdown>

'It's hard for me to imagine coping with the current situation without books.' – Panellist.

Giving children the best start in life

The hope and joy of online Bookbug Sessions

Lockdown has been a challenging time for everyone, not least parents of new babies. The forced closure of libraries and community venues, and the lack of group activities like Bookbug Sessions, has been hugely detrimental to families. However, we were absolutely blown away by how our Bookbug Co-ordinators and practitioners across the country thought of new ways to engage with families, with hundreds of them creating online Bookbug Sessions for their communities.

Scarlett was born in April 2020 and, like many other parents, her mum felt isolated due to the lack of interaction with other parents and group activities she could take part in with her new baby. But this all changed for the better when Scarlett was a few months old and she started taking part in online Bookbug Sessions run by Ian Keane, their local Bookbug Co-ordinator.

Scarlett not only learnt a lot of songs and rhymes, but, more importantly, the sessions gave her and her mum an opportunity to engage with other families and do something fun and meaningful together.

The experiences of Scarlett and her mum reflect those of so many families during the last year. By no means are online Bookbug Sessions a replacement for the face-to-face equivalent, but they have gone some way to alleviating the isolation faced at a very difficult and scary time.

From the initial lockdown in March 2020 until the end of March 2021:

- 2,058 Bookbug Sessions took place
- 542,231 online views

‘Through a screen, Ian has managed to build relationships with Scarlett and the other regular attendees, teach them lots of rhymes and actions, develop their interest in books and has even entertained them by telling fairy tales using spoon puppets. I’m sure I’m not the only parent that’s been glad to have the opportunity to see other families during what’s been a very isolating time.’ – Jenni McQuillan, Scarlett’s mum.

Inspiring young readers

A journey of discovery for Findochty Primary School as they travel the world through books during lockdown

When schools were plunged into a second lockdown last winter, the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour's 'Connected' series presented a way for schools across Scotland to journey around the globe through books. The series explored the world's seven continents, polar regions and outer space by bringing authors and experts together for live, virtual events, with the aim of inspiring young people to dream big and show them that they still belong to a wider world.

Findochty Primary School, Moray, signed up for a round-the-world ticket with the aim of learning and exploring as many countries around the globe as they could. Over the course of three months, they virtually travelled from the North to the South Pole, Australia to South America and even into Outer Space!

As well as being delighted to be transported round the world from the comfort of their classroom, they were inspired to take on their own round the world challenge by exploring 30 countries in 55 days.

During this time pupils 'visited' Greenland and had a go at traditional Inuit soap carving, discovered how to draw in the manga style and, in pupil led learning, they each chose a country to research, plan and deliver a lesson on.

'It gave me an insight into the wider world. It was fun learning about different parts of the world, the different religions and their different lifestyles. It allowed me to see the world as a smaller, interconnected place. The Arctic session made me want to actually go and visit the Arctic, to see for myself what is happening with climate change and to devise a plan that will help reverse the damage we are doing.' – Caleb, pupil.

Bringing authors to communities

Additional support needs author residency brings storytelling to St Philomena's Enhanced Nurture Provision

St Philomena's work with young people referred from mainstream schools. This Additional Support Needs (ASN) residency saw author and storyteller Allison Galbraith lead a storytelling project, working alongside school staff, to support pupils who face a range of barriers attending mainstream schools.

Pupils were initially reluctant to engage in the project, and showed little interest in reading and writing. Sessions could be disrupted due to behavioural issues that also prevented certain groups from working together. The school supported sessions with writing activities before each session and Allison introduced different storytelling techniques and games as pupils became more invested in the project. Allison focused on a variety of approaches to encourage pupils to create their own characters.

Teachers noted that as Allison's residency progressed, pupils were carrying knowledge into other lessons, enjoying writing and starting to take ownership of their own stories. The project built to a final video, which pupils scripted and starred in – alongside some staff members – telling their own story about the legend of Finn and the Fianna.

Staff reflected that Allison's sessions had a noticeable impact on pupil attitudes towards stories, language and imagination. Allison could also see that as pupils took greater ownership of their writing, their engagement and enthusiasm improved.

'The children have shown a great enthusiasm towards the story, and it has encouraged their own pieces. It was lovely to see the pupils take ownership of the story and create their own version. We have loved having Allison work with us and the boys have had a fantastic time. Thank you so much for the Scottish Book Trust funding to allow for the children to be involved in such a wonderful experience.' – Adele Flynn, Teacher

Nurturing Scotland's writing talent

Scottish Book Trust New Writers Awards

Bert Thomson shares his experience of being one of our 2020 New Writers Awardees.

'I was on holiday, sitting in a T-shirt and shorts, looking online for a place to submit my crime stories to, when I first came across the New Writers Awards.

Figuring there was nothing to lose, I sent off an application containing my cruellest piece, and the first validation came from knowing that year's impressive prose judges, Abir Mukherjee and Ajay Close, liked the story.

The year itself began with a writing retreat at Moniack Mhòr in the company of other awardees, and after that there was training in press, PR and media, the production of a sampler containing examples of everybody's work and the assignment of a writing mentor – that man o' pairs, Doug Johnstone, in my case.

All of this is specifically designed to make each awardee a better writer and all of it culminates in a thrilling showcase where you get to lay your work before editors, publishers and agents.

And whaddaya know? As a direct result of that year and that showcase, I'm now signed up with Christine Green Authors' Agent.

Though they probably won't want me to say it, the support through the year from Scottish Book Trust is something else. Take a bow here, Lynsey Rogers!

Mentoring on the New Writers Awards

'It can be intimidating being given a polymath like Doug Johnstone as a mentor, but here and now, at the halfway stage of my mentoring process, I'm finding it invaluable. The criticism – and there must be criticism – is always constructive and the writing advice from a genre expert is unmatched.' – Bert Thomson, Mentee

'It's been a joy to work with Bert. He's very talented and dedicated, but new to the wider publishing world and I've hopefully helped him in that respect. His connected crime stories are terrific and we've worked on both line and structural edits, as well as discussing the overall goals of his work.' – Doug Johnstone, Mentor

Total number of NWA publications to date: 115 titles.

Total number of awardees published to date: 57.

Number of awardees to date: 154 (including Gaelic, Callan Gordon and Next Chapter).

14 titles published during 2020/21:

- Scabby Queen by Kirstin Innes
- Crown of Smoke (Shadowscent 2) by P M Freestone
- Cover Your Tracks by Claire Askew
- Friend Me by Sheila Averbuch
- The Night Jar by Louise Peterkin
- The Sacrifice Zone by Samuel Tongue
- This Naked Man by Stephen Keeler
- Deleted by Sylvia Hehir
- Florilegium by Molly Vogel
- Novelista by Claire Askew
- A Spell in the Wild by Alice Tarbuck
- The Rosary Garden by Nicola White
- The End of Enlightenment by Richard Strachan
- Ben Dorain: A Conversation with a Mountain by Garry Mackenzie

‘Being awarded a New Writers Award was a significant step towards getting *The Night Jar* published. The mentorship I received from poet Cheryl Follon helped me organise my poems into a tighter collection with better thematic cohesion. The writers retreat at Cove Park gave me the time and headspace to produce several poems that went on to be included in the collection. Training sessions in performance skills and social media helped me when it came to promotion. Perhaps most importantly, winning the award gave me the confidence boost I needed to believe in myself and send the manuscript out to publishers.’ – Louise Peterkin, author of *The Night Jar*.

Sharing the joy of books

Reading is Caring

Reading is Caring is a programme that uses reading to support the relationships and wellbeing of people living with dementia and the person who cares for them.

Shared reading can help a person living with dementia and the person who cares for them to maintain their relationship. Reading is Caring helps the carer to find ways to join their loved one on their unique dementia journey and also, through personal reading, find some respite from the stress caused by their caring responsibilities.

Scottish Book Trust trains people who are caring for someone with dementia (both professional and family carers) how to make and use personal Life Story Book Boxes, including learning how to select and tailor reading to enjoy together as well as gathering pictures, objects and other sensory triggers to complement the reading.

Due to the pandemic, workshops were delivered online, and a handbook and reading diary were sent to carers, to enable them to tailor the programme to their individual circumstances and capture progress.

There are over 90,000 people living with dementia in Scotland and around 690,000 carers aged 16+ in Scotland, with both groups anticipated to grow in the coming years.*

The Reading is Caring programme completed its pilot year at the end of 2020, and workshops continue to fill up with participants through word of mouth as the programme enters its second year.

*Source: Scottish Government, 2020; Carer's Trust, 2020.

'I've thoroughly enjoyed [the online workshop] and I feel it's been very worthwhile and I'll certainly spend time preparing my 'Life Story Book Box' after today. I wish I'd taken part in this course six years ago!' – Isobel, who cares for her husband Alek, along with two professional carers, who is living with later-stage vascular dementia.

'It's been a well spent few hours and a really well thought-through course. The content was very clear and I found it easy to join in. There is an awful lot covered that will really help my mum and my relationship on her [dementia] journey.' – Colin, who cares for his mum living with dementia in a care home setting.

‘For Mum, I think the idea of having illustrations for her to look at while I read will be brilliant and help her to stay engaged. I have already bought the poetry book Koren recommended. It is WONDERFUL and exactly right for Mum. Although I already was adjusting how I read for Mum, the course has helped me think more about this and given me more ideas and approaches.’ – Martha, who cares for her mum living with dementia in their own home.

Awards and prizes

Bookbug Hero Award

The recipient of the 2021 Bookbug Hero Award is Kylie Watt, Nursery Practitioner at Longridge Nursery, West Lothian.

The Bookbug Hero Award, run in association with Walker Books, seeks to honour someone working with Bookbug who has used the programme to make a real difference to the lives of the young children, families and the communities they work with.

Nominated by her colleagues, Kylie has been recognised for dedicating her working career of over 20 years to children and early years education. Bookbug has been central to the nursery's inclusive and nurturing approach, with Kylie's sessions exploring emotions and feelings to enable children to express their own during a difficult transitional period of setting in after a prolonged lockdown due to Covid. The nursery also uses a self-developed book-borrowing scheme, which became more important than ever with the closure of libraries during the pandemic. Kylie provided parents with resources to support parent-child bonding and fostered a nursery bedtime read initiative as an addition to the Bookbug Explorer bag gifting.

'I am so proud to be announced as the winner of the Bookbug Hero Award. It was a lovely surprise that my colleagues and parents from Longridge Nursery Class nominated me and gave me recognition for doing a job that I love. The award confirms that what I am doing to promote literacy development within our early years setting is having a positive impact on our families and children.' – Kylie Watt.

Learning Professional Award

Elaine Hallyburton and Moira Foster from Dundee have been recognised with the Learning Professional Award 2021.

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

Elaine is the Section Manager for the Children's Library and Information Services at Leisure and Culture Dundee, and Moira is an Education Support Officer for Learning Resources at the Children and Families Service.

Between Moira and Elaine, hundreds of books have been gifted to children and young carers in deprived areas in the city through The Dundee Wishing Tree, in partnership with Waterstones. They succeeded in securing School Library Improvement funding for a new festival for secondary schools, The Two Moons Festival, aiming to link literacy with health and wellbeing. A variety of book events ran across different venues in Dundee for eight weeks in 2019. The festival was

well-received by pupils, staff and authors, and a recent project worked with young people transitioning from P7 to S1.

‘Elaine Hallyburton and Moira Foster work tirelessly to deliver programmes for the benefit and pleasure of Dundee's young people. They are quite simply an inspirational pair – the best collaborators, reliable and fun and completely trusted by their communities and the teachers and librarians they serve.’ – Peggy Hughes, Chair of Literature Alliance Scotland.

Looking forward 2021–22

From 2021–22, Scottish Book Trust is focusing on the following areas of work:

Extend the scope and deepen 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 explicitly 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
- Continuing to develop evaluation methods for assessing our programmes so that we can ensure that they are accessible, effective and make a genuine impact

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:

- Rolling out our new 'Reading Schools' programme across Scotland, supporting the creation of a whole school reading culture, while championing reading and writing as creative cultural accomplishments in their own right which lead to other social, personal and educational benefits
- Developing our work with the National Performing Companies to further establish our Arts Alive programme, allowing schools to access a range of the very best of the arts, while supporting the Scottish Government's Cultural Strategy
- Delivering 'Reading is Caring', an innovative new programme that uses reading to support the relationships and wellbeing of people living with dementia and the person who cares for them
- 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:

- Launching a major new 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
- Continuing to enable and empower our staff to develop the skills, expertise and experience that support continuous improvement in the delivery of our charitable programmes
- Leveraging our new 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.

Poverty is still a huge issue in Scotland, and for many families the books supplied by Scottish Book Trust will be the only ones in their home. Access to books and a love of books transforms lives. There are many benefits, from bringing families together, comforting children and helping them do well in school, to unlocking creativity, advancing employability and improving mental health and wellbeing. Without books, families are missing out.

Since the pandemic, the demand for our work has significantly increased. Your donation will enable more people all over Scotland to enjoy books, reading, and writing. Some examples of our programmes include targeted outreach support for young families through Bookbug for the Home, providing tactile books for children with Additional Support Needs, supporting those living with dementia and the people who care for them, and giving books to families in need through food banks and local authority 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: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/donate>
- hold a fundraiser in your community, school or workplace: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/support-us/fundraise-for-us>
- join our book-loving community by becoming a monthly donor: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/donate>
- 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: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/support-us/join-the-book-club>
- leave a gift in your will and share your love of reading with the next generation: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/support-us/leave-a-gift-in-your-will>

‘With so many libraries closed at the moment [due to Covid], books are even less accessible to folk who aren't in a position to buy them. Thanks for doing what you're doing!’ – Kate Bolden, Supporter.

‘I always loved reading to my two children. The bedtime read was the best time of the day. Precious times and lovely memories. I would love every family to have that

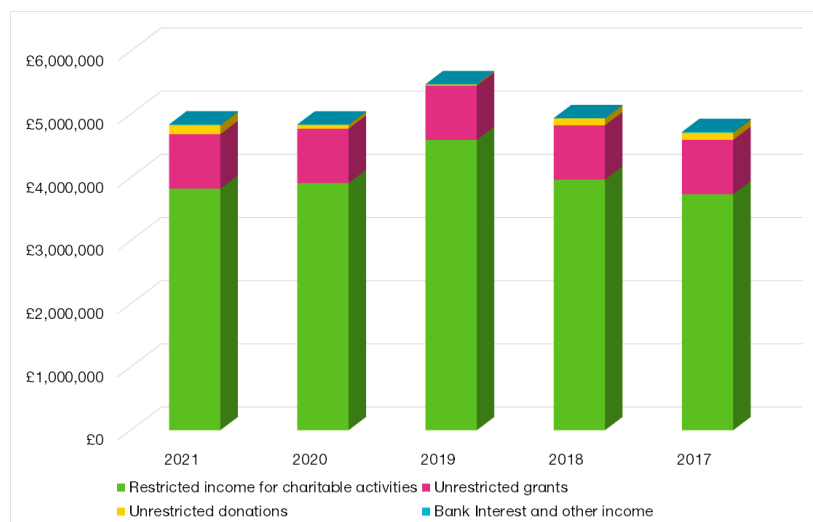
opportunity. Also as a primary school teacher, I know the joy which books can bring to children. They open up whole new worlds. Story time is the best time. I also appreciate the importance of reading in everyone's life and the opportunities it provides. It is so important.' – Tracey Duff, Supporter.

Financial review

In the year to 31 March 2021, our total income remained constant at £4.8m. Our unrestricted income increased this year due to our fundraising appeals. Our restricted funds were reduced by a temporary reduction in our Scottish Government Early Years grant. The majority of unrestricted income comes from Creative Scotland, and remained unchanged from last year.

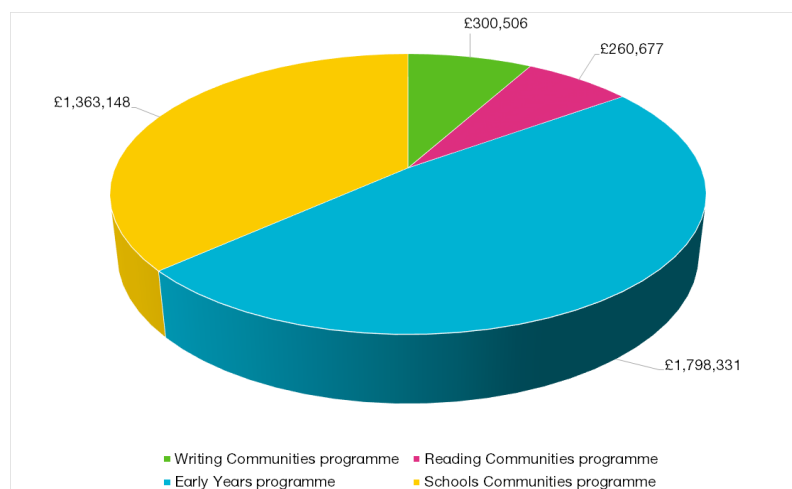
Income comparison

Of the total income of £4.8m, restricted income of £3.7m 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.



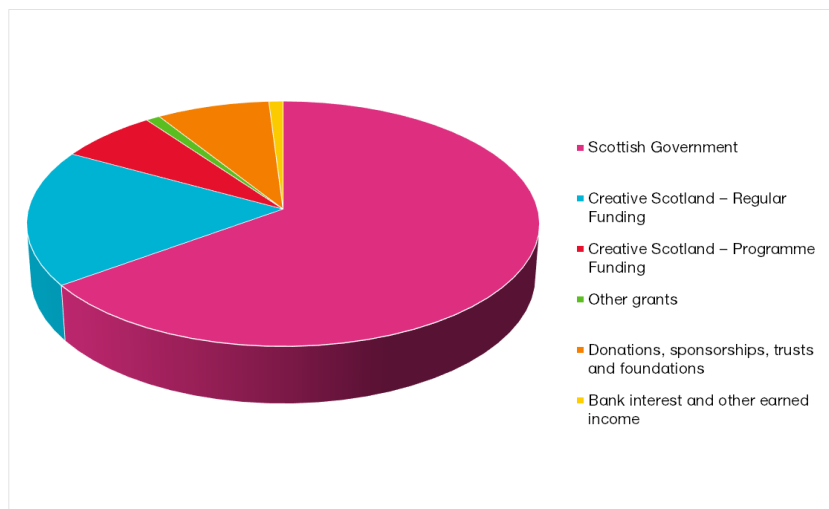
Restricted income split by programme 2020–21

As well as funding direct programme staff costs, our restricted income of £3.7m funds the purchase of books, print materials and other resources required for the delivery of our programmes.



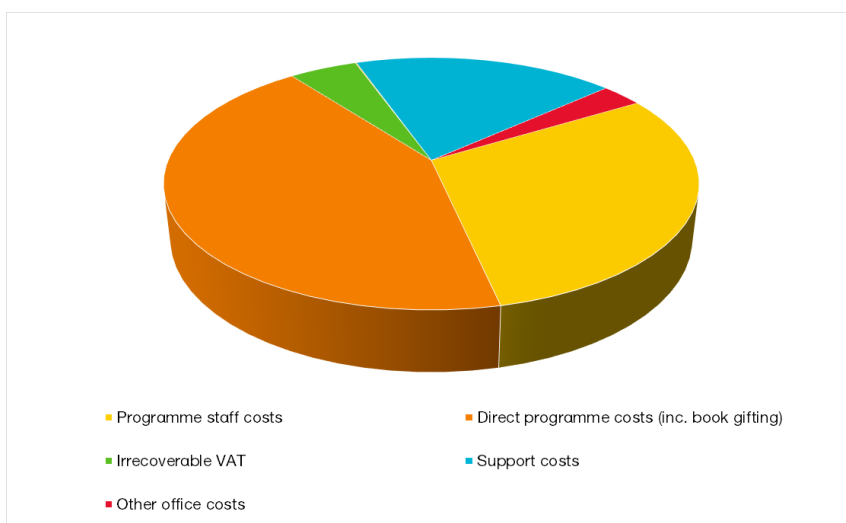
Funding split 2020–21

Total funds carried forward at the year-end increased from £2.4m (2019) to £2.9m. The majority of these funds (£2.2m) are restricted to specific programmes and represent advance funding for purchasing books and other resources early in 2021–22 to ensure our programmes run to agreed delivery deadlines.



Expenditure split 2020–21

Total expenditure decreased by £694k to £4.3m. As a result of Covid restrictions, we have seen a reduction in expenditure as we moved from face-to-face events to digital activity and some programme activities were unfortunately delayed. Staff numbers were stable over the year with an average of 62 staff (59 in 2019).



Our supporters

Thank you

A huge thank you to every single one of you who donated to Scottish Book Trust including our Urgent Children's Book Appeal and Christmas Appeal that delivered over 100,000 books to vulnerable families all over 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
- DWF Foundation
- Education Scotland
- Farshore
- Floris Books
- Flying Eye Books
- The Gaelic Books Council
- Gecko Press

- Hachette Children's Group
- Harper Collins
- Hugh Fraser Foundation
- Kingfisher
- Libros del Zorro Rojo
- The Literary Gift Company
- Little Door Books
- Little Tiger Press
- Luath Press Ltd
- Macmillan Cancer Research
- Macmillan Children's Books
- 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
- Scholastic UK
- School of Life
- Scotland Street Press
- Scottish Adoption
- Scottish Friendly
- Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC)
- Self Made Hero
- Simon & Schuster
- Social Bite
- Two Hoots
- Usborne
- Walker Books

- Walter Scott
- William Syson Foundation
- Wren & Rook
- Young Scot
- Youth Music Initiative

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- Bookbug
- Book Week Scotland
- Bookzilla app
- 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
- Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship
- Scots Language Publication Grant
- Scottish Book Trust Awards
- Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour
- Scottish Teenage Book Prize
- StoryCon
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- What's Your Story?
- Your Stories
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