

**Open Story Tellers**  
living through story

**OpenStoryTellers**  
**Annual Report and Accounts**  
**28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## Message from Sarah, Our Chair of Trustees

I have been deeply impressed and delighted by the work that OST has done throughout the pandemic.

The team were able to stay in touch with everyone, find new ways of working online, and work towards an amazing performance of Peter, The Wild Boy!

I hope that we can grow further in the next year and benefit from what we have learnt from this very difficult year.

We saw a lot of changes this year – we said goodbye to Nicola, our very well loved and respected founder and trustee. Thank you Nicola, for guiding OST for so many years.

Thank you to all the trustees who have given their time to support OST.



Sarah Talbot-Williams



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Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, it has been a very difficult year with many challenges for OST, our staff, volunteers and for our members



Lockdown meant that we had to close our Hub. All our groups had to stop.



The rules put in place to keep everyone safe have been hard for many people but particularly people with learning disabilities.



People have been lonely at home alone. Some people have been anxious and scared about the virus. Some people have found understanding and following the rules difficult.



But OST has risen to the challenges of the pandemic.





Our new Director, Alex, and new Chair of trustees, Sarah, worked on some new goals for OST. Some of our team have new roles to help us achieve these goals.



We ran a lockdown support service so we could stay in touch with our members and help people when they needed it.



We were given funding to give members tablets so they could join in OST sessions online



We found new ways to work together; online, on the phone, doorstep visits and in a group when we were allowed to.



As the rules are changing, we are helping members come back to OST again.



Sadly our storytelling company had to cancel their Fanny Fust and Peter, the Wild Boy tour



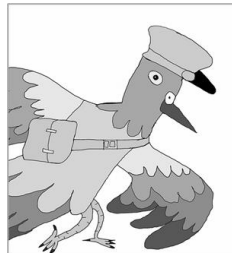
But we found a new way to perform, with a mix of film and live performance.



We ran our sessions and day services online and opened up our Hub again when we were allowed.



We ran our sensory book clubs online and sent out resource packs. Memory People took a long break but is now up and running again



We launched a new social enterprise called Pigeon Productions. It will make complicated information easy to understand through film, pictures and easy read. It will also provide work opportunities for our members.



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## Our Year in Numbers

**50** individuals with learning disabilities were supported OpenStoryTellers employed **2** individuals with lived experience of learning disability and freelance employment for **2** graphic artists with a learning disability or autism

Over **100** Zoom sessions delivered and **52** face to face sessions delivered.

To the digitally excluded: **14** digital devices, **12** sets of headphones and wi-fi mini hub were distributed.

**1** media studio was created at OpenStoryTellers, **1** social enterprise established, **1** new Chair of Trustees welcomed and the **1<sup>st</sup>** online Bardic Chair Storytelling Competition was hosted by The Storytelling Company

**3** new posts created; Social Enterprise Manager, Artistic Director and Community Fundraising and Communications Manager



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Our charity is run by our Director, Alex MacNeil.



We have 9 members of staff, 2 peer mentors, 3 regular volunteers



Our Patrons are Nick Hennessey and Taffy Thomas



We have 8 trustees.



In this year we had 2 trustees leave OST



and 1 trustee join OST.



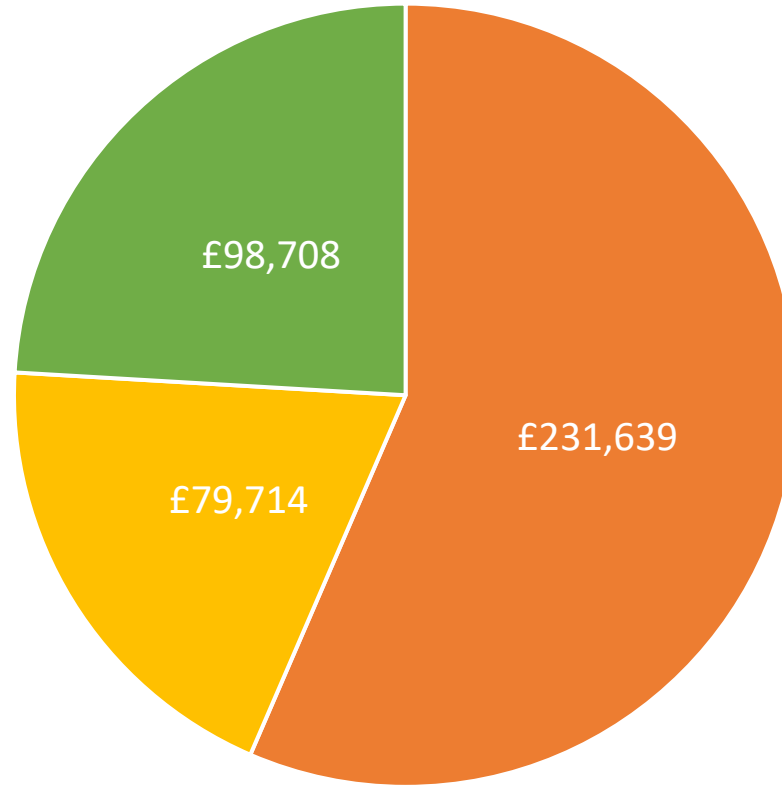
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### Money In and Out

■ Money In   ■ Money Out   ■ Total Reserves



Unrestricted Reserves are £60,604 which is 6 months worth of our general 'core' costs





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*“I don’t know how we can thank you enough. I can’t believe that we can get this kind of support from you. It is something very special and unique that you are doing.”*