

The logo for the Scottish Book Trust, featuring the text "Scottish Book Trust" in a bold, sans-serif font, with the tagline "inspiring readers and writers" in a smaller font below it. The logo is set against a white background that looks like a folded corner of a page.

**Scottish
Book Trust**
inspiring readers and writers

A stylized graphic of an open book. The pages are represented by overlapping, curved shapes in various colors: green at the bottom, followed by yellow, orange, pink, red, and a large magenta shape at the top. The book is set against a yellow background with a textured, paper-like appearance. The bottom half of the cover is a solid blue color with a white, folded-corner effect on the right side.

Scottish Book Trust Annual Review 2015/16

Changing lives through reading and writing

Our vision

Scottish Book Trust is building and sustaining a Scotland where everyone values the power of reading and writing to transform lives.

We believe in the fundamental right of every person in Scotland to read books they love, to develop their own voice through creative writing, and to have that voice heard. We will champion this right and ensure that literacy, imagination and creativity are integral to our society's wellbeing.

We are here to support and inspire everyone but will focus on people whose need and potential are greatest, breaking down the barriers they face to seeing themselves as readers and writers.

We celebrate the experience of reading and writing and invite everybody to join us.

Our mission

Scottish Book Trust inspires, supports and challenges the people of Scotland to see and fulfil their potential as readers and writers.

Our values

We aim to be

— **Creative:** We welcome innovation and experiment with new approaches. All our staff have the opportunity to contribute and test out ideas and we encourage this approach in our partners.

— **Bold:** We tackle challenging issues and ask difficult questions of ourselves and of others. We create a culture of openness within our organisation.

— **Collaborative:** Our partnerships are some of our most valuable assets. We believe that collaboration, both internal and external, is fundamental to our learning, development and impact.

— **Nurturing:** We treat everyone with respect and value diversity and individuality. We are committed to fulfilling potential and developing talent.



CHAIR'S REPORT

2015/16 proved to be an exceptional year of growth and creative development for Scottish Book Trust.

At the request of the Scottish Government we developed two new national programmes. The Read, Write, Count initiative aims to help narrow the educational attainment gap between pupils from different backgrounds, while the First Minister's Reading Challenge represents a major opportunity to promote and sustain a reading culture in Scotland's schools and families.

2015/16 was also the first year of our new three-year Regular Funding agreement with Creative Scotland, a rich and long-standing partnership which once again delivered a range of fantastic programmes such as Book Week Scotland, our extensive schools programme, What's Your Story? (a ground-breaking new programme for young writers), and our influential New Writers Awards.

Through Bookbug, our much loved Early Years programme, we gifted nearly 750,000 books to children in Scotland, and extended the reach and impact of our outreach, working with families in some of Scotland's most deprived communities.

We also continued to work collaboratively with local authorities, the NHS, Education Scotland, BBC Learning, libraries, authors, schools and many third sector organisations, allowing us to act nationally in effective, integrated and impactful ways, and to champion the transformational power of literacy, and reading and writing for pleasure.

In 2015/16 we recruited new members to the Board and Senior Team, ensuring the highest levels of charitable governance and management.

Looking ahead, it is clear that we will have to work hard to sustain and develop our outstanding programme of charitable activity in the face of continuing economic and funding uncertainties. Nevertheless, the achievements of 2015/16 indicate that we are well placed to meet those challenges in the service of the people of Scotland.

Keir Bloomer
Chair



Key facts

We gave away

938,852 books

to encourage the nation to read.

Our website generated over

2 million hits from 185 countries across the world.

Our social media audience grew to

85,500 people

across 10 platforms – enough to fill Wembley Stadium.

1,006

pieces of press coverage were achieved for Book Week Scotland 2015 alone.

Bookbug Sessions

(singing and nursery rhyme sessions in libraries for children under 5) were voted the top free activity for under 5s in Scotland.

We have supported

91 writers through our New Writers Award programme over the last 8 years, of whom a quarter have gone on to be published.

Authors Live

(a partnership with BBC Scotland Learning that broadcasts live author events into classrooms) featured some of the very best names in children's books such as Anthony Horowitz, Liz Pichon and Jackie Kay.

Photo: Chris Scott Photography



CEO'S INTRODUCTION

Developing a love of books and reading – becoming a reader – is one of the best things that can happen to a person.

Whatever their age, stage, or background, the benefits are immeasurable and lifelong. Reading for pleasure, an activity open to everyone, helps in every area of our lives. Reading is fundamental and empowering.

On one hand it enhances the communication skills that are so central to our educational and occupational attainments; on the other it contributes to our wellbeing, and our social and emotional intelligence, fuelling personal expansion and development. In short, the range of life skills we get from reading are among the most important and beneficial we can possibly acquire.

Scottish Book Trust works across every community in Scotland to ensure that everyone has access to the pleasures and benefits that come from reading and writing. Every year we engage with over two million people in Scotland of all ages, offering them an unparalleled range of programmes that enhance lives in ways that are creative, inspirational and deeply engaging.

In doing so we make a major contribution to two key areas of social policy: empowering communities through developing literacy skills, while addressing disparities in educational attainment experienced by people who come from different backgrounds. Equally, we champion Scotland's creative talent, supporting authors, putting them in touch with their audiences, and identifying and nurturing new and young talent.

Wherever we act, our charitable mission is guided by our passionate desire to invest in human potential.

In 2015/16 our ability to deliver our mission was enhanced with the addition of important new programmes, and a host of other creative and organisational developments. In 2016/17 we will build on these to ensure that everyone in Scotland has an equal chance to enjoy and benefit from the transformational power of the word.

Marc Lambert
CEO



Early Years: giving children the best start

5 fast facts

— The Bookbug Programme supports every child to develop a love of books and reading by providing free Bookbug bags to ensure that all families have books in the home.

— 244,480 children in Scotland aged 0–5 received 733,440 free books from Bookbug in 2015/16. In collaboration with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library we give books to a further 2,651 children in care.

— Bookbug uses stories, songs and rhymes to encourage attachment and build family relationships, as well as supporting children’s development and pre-literacy skills.

— Over 22,000 free Bookbug Sessions took place in libraries and community venues across every local authority in Scotland in 2015/16, with more than 643,000 parent and child attendances.

— Bookbug for the Home trains early years practitioners to support families on a 1 to 1 basis. Since 2012, Bookbug for the Home has helped over 14,000 vulnerable families, encouraging parents to do more talking, book sharing and singing with their children.



rt in life

CASE STUDY

Bookbug rebuilds family bonds in prison

Rob, Carrie and their toddler Kyle took part in Bookbug Sessions for children affected by imprisonment. At 18 months, Kyle seemed to be losing the bond with his imprisoned father. Carrie felt isolated and stressed raising their son on her own, and Rob had trouble finding ways to relate to Kyle in their weekly visiting hour. The Bookbug practitioner led the family through fun, child-friendly activities in reading, singing and playing to encourage bonding and child development.

Kyle began to respond to his father very quickly when he read, sang and played with him, and both parents were delighted as they learned to communicate better with their son. Carrie reports that she can now phone Rob when Kyle is crying and Kyle will be soothed by his father singing to him. Rob and Carrie are much more aware of the positive effects reading, singing and playing are already having on Kyle's development. They are also more confident in their roles as parents in supporting Kyle to enjoy reading throughout his life. Carrie has encouraged other family members to read with Kyle and takes care to read and sing with Kyle every day. Rob feels that Bookbug Sessions will help him on his release too, giving him positive things to do with his son.

Rob says, 'It's all good. I enjoy it, he enjoys it, as a family we enjoy it. Perfect.'

'Lots of people think that Bookbug is about literacy. The neuroscience helps us to understand that it is about so much more. Bookbug is about building families.'

*Dr Suzanne Zeedyk
Developmental
Psychologist*

'Professionals didn't know what direction to go in. Within weeks of starting Bookbug for the Home the child became familiar with songs and started interacting and singing, talking and making choices. Something clicked for her and it's been a big impact. Really positive.'

*Early Years Worker on a child
with Selective Mutism*



'Best thing ever! My daughter has post-natal depression so I have temporary kinship care. Bookbug has helped my daughter bond with her baby. She loves sessions at the library but the best thing is the CD.'

Grandparent

Attainment: closing the gap

5 fast facts

— We deliver Scottish Government initiatives aimed at closing the poverty-related attainment gap in education.

— Read, Write, Count aims to ensure that families have access to quality books and other accessible learning resources so all families can have fun learning together at home.

— As part of the Read, Write, Count campaign, Scottish Book Trust gifts bags of free books, writing materials and counting games to all 196,000 Primary 1, 2 and 3 pupils in Scotland.

— The First Minister's Reading Challenge was announced by Nicola Sturgeon in March 2016. Scottish Book Trust will begin to deliver the Challenge in September 2016.

— The First Minister's Reading Challenge is for Primary 4–7 pupils and focuses on reading for pleasure and building reading cultures in schools, homes and communities across Scotland.

'We are so excited to be involved with Read, Write, Count. The project offers a fantastic focus for family learning and enables us to offer creative, meaningful home-learning activities confident in the knowledge that every family has the resources to access them...'

CASE STUDY

Class library project is first chapter in national education programme

As part of the Read, Write, Count programme, Scottish Book Trust worked with Scottish Government's Raising Attainment for All team to develop and deliver a pilot project which used class libraries to support parental involvement.

We delivered libraries of books to 24 Primary 2 and Primary 3 classes across Scotland and provided a reading diary for each pupil taking part. We also developed resources and ran professional development sessions for teachers.

Teachers worked with their classes to set up and run class libraries, encouraging children to take books home and read with their parents and carers.

The majority of the teachers taking part felt the libraries made a positive impact in their classrooms, with some reporting that the class library had helped involve parents in their children's learning.

'I really enjoyed seeing my class get excited about choosing books to take home and hearing their opinions the next day. The books are wonderful.'

'[I received] many positive comments (written and verbal) from parents.'

Some teachers also felt that the project enthused their pupils so much that they intended to keep using the class library after the pilot had ended.

We have used feedback from the pilot project to develop the nationwide Read, Write, Count programme and bag gifting taking place in autumn 2016, providing materials and resources that children, teachers and parents can use and continue to enjoy over an extended period of time.

'...The project will also help build the shared vocabulary between home and school and help parents and teachers work together to support even better outcomes for children.'

*Susannah Jefferies, teacher
at Carnegie Primary
School, Fife*



'We were thrilled to see the resources in the Read, Write, Count bags which are of an extremely high and durable quality. They have been very well thought out and carefully planned to meet a wide range of needs in the pupils and their families. The information included in the guide and on the website offers valuable support and guidance to parents and professionals, which will be crucial in making the best use of these fantastic resources.'

*Emily Sinclair, teacher,
Bankton Primary School,
West Lothian*

Schools: inspiring young readers

5 fast facts

- We build a lifelong love of reading in children through inspirational classroom projects and literary events with top contemporary authors and illustrators.
- 29,000 children and young people cast their vote in the 2015/16 Scottish Children's Book Awards.
- 165,000 young people watched Authors Live in 2015/16 – our series of world-class author events produced in partnership with BBC Scotland Learning and broadcast live online.
- 8,481 children met authors and illustrators in their schools in 2015/16 through the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour, enthusing children and boosting their interest in books.
- We created more than 200 inspirational learning resources to support teachers and school librarians.

‘Shared Reading provides a great opportunity for children to develop confidence, self-esteem and be seen as a role model to younger children.’

*Rae Ritchie, Support for Learning,
Linlithgow Primary*

CASE STUDY

Shared Reading transforms Kincorth Academy

Kincorth Academy took part in Shared Reading, a project which aimed to get reluctant readers excited about reading by sharing books with younger children. Every week, nursery pupils from Abbotswell Nursery came to Kincorth Academy Library to read picture books with S1 pupils. What began as a four-week project involving 24 S1 pupils and 40 nursery pupils was so successful that the school decided to extend Shared Reading to a year-round project involving all S1 pupils, with plans to include S2 and 3 pupils the following year.

Alan Clark, Kincorth Academy’s Library Resource Centre Coordinator, said; ‘What really surprised me was just how quickly and easily the young people took to the task. Within seconds of pairing up with a nursery pupil and picking their book, they were completely engaged. Our pupils have associated a positive experience with reading – the nursery children clearly loved reading and our S1s enjoyed reading the books to them. Taking part in Shared Reading has had a knock-on effect for our pupils, many of our reluctant readers now see reading a book as a positive and engaging activity.’

A group of pupils who attend support for learning decided to create a play of a picture book to perform for the nursery class. It went so well they later performed in a local care home and were invited by Aberdeen City Libraries to create another play to be performed to nursery pupils from five local primary schools on World Book Day.

‘Authors Live is an excellent resource for learning and can be very valuably incorporated into class lessons, both as a stand-alone stimulus and through using accompanying resources produced by teachers.’

*Peter Kelly, Education Development
Officer, South Lanarkshire*



‘The Scottish Children’s Book Awards contribute to reading for pleasure and have educational value as they contribute to raising attainment in reading.’

*Angela Doogan, librarian, St
Peter the Apostle High School*

Live Literature: bringing authors to commu

5 fast facts

— Live Literature brings books to life and inspires readers through live events with professional writers in communities across Scotland.

— We give more than 700 writers, poets, playwrights, storytellers, illustrators, graphic novelists and cartoonists the opportunity to meet wider audiences and to earn fees for their work.

— 1,200 author visits were supported in 2015/16, reaching approximately 50,000 people – demand outstripped the available funding by 35%.

— The reach of Live Literature is exceptional. Events were held in nurseries, schools, libraries, parks, prisons, adult education classes, drop in centres for homeless and vulnerable people, hospital wards, art galleries, outdoor activity centres, care homes, writing groups and book groups.

— The Live Literature school residencies programme was announced in February and will be delivered to 6 pilot schools from September 2016.

‘Live Literature is, in my opinion, an incredibly valuable resource within the prison environment. The visits are much anticipated and enjoyed and without them we simply couldn’t muster the same enthusiasm amongst our student population for engaging with the creative arts.’

*Sarah McKee,
HMP Low Moss*

CASE STUDY

Live Literature gives young writers confidence to find their voices

Toonspeak Young People’s Theatre in Glasgow were awarded 20 Live Literature sessions in 2015 which they used to hold weekly creative writing workshops with young people, led by writer Catherine Forde. The young writers made their work into the show *Word of Mouth*, which premièred during Book Week Scotland 2015.

The 13 writers ranged in age from 13 to 25 and their work spanned all genres, from performance poetry to dystopian fantasy to confessional prose. Their abilities and reasons for writing were similarly diverse, but their love of writing gave them a common purpose.

Catherine Forde explained, ‘Through Toonspeak these young people knew they would be encouraged to explore their creativity with like-minded peers. This gave them the confidence to be bold with their writing and shed their inhibitions, safe in the knowledge that feedback would be constructive. Over the weeks the cocoon Toonspeak provided transformed the project into a crucible of superb writing. But more importantly and essentially, it built self-esteem and, for some of the young writers, was a transformative experience of release and escape.’

Rachel Aisling Smith, Artistic Director of Toonspeak, added, ‘We’re proud of our young writers’ body of work, which has reached large audiences and self-advocated for the creative work of young people and the quality of Scottish Book Trust writer-mentors’ engagement with them.’



‘I think the Live Literature scheme is terrific. It is such a positive force in the way it enables opportunities for children and families all over Scotland to engage in literature-related events. It has been a huge pleasure to have participated in events and visits from the Highlands and Islands to the Borders and particularly rewarding to have been into schools, libraries and community centres where such events would be totally out of the question without Live Literature.’

*Nick Sharratt, writer and
illustrator*

Young Writers: developing the next generation of Scottish writers



5 fast facts

— What's Your Story? provides development opportunities in creative writing and illustration for 13–19-year-olds in Scotland, funded as part of Creative Scotland's Time to Shine youth arts programme. Our support is offered outwith the school environment, and is led by teens themselves.

— 50 teenagers from all over Scotland applied for 10 spaces on our Young Writer Development programme 2015/16. We selected the teens on the strength of their enthusiasm for engagement with creative writing & illustration.

— The rookie writers were given 7 months 1:1 mentoring with professional writing and illustration mentors, including a 3-day creative retreat.

— The rookies led the design of a pioneering online platform to support teenage writers & illustrators around Scotland: thestoryis.co.uk.

— The rookies programmed and prepared to host StoryCon – Scotland's first creative writing & illustration conference created by teens, for teens in Scotland, planned for June 2016.

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'Because there's not a lot of people near me, or close to me, that are into writing it's really encouraging and quite inspiring to see other writers and people who enjoy writing forms like playwriting and illustration. I had never met anyone my age who was into that.'

Scott (15, Isle of Mull)

CASE STUDY

What's Your Story? raises profile and prospects for teenage illustrator

Caitlyn lives at home with her parents and younger siblings and was in part-time employment and full-time education at college, studying HND Illustration. She was 17 when she applied to What's Your Story? and requested mentoring in creating her own graphic novel.

Highlights of Caitlyn's mentoring included learning advanced tools and skills for the genre and receiving advice on professional progression as a comic artist. Caitlyn worked with graphic novelist Edward Ross and gained in confidence, technical ability and awareness of the landscape for comic production.

Caitlyn's portfolio of work and improved ability to explain her creative aims were very helpful in her successful progression through college. Her dedication as an illustrator has seen her nominated for a Provost's Civic Award as Arts & Culture Champion, West Dunbartonshire.

In January, Caitlyn worked as an events assistant at Scottish Book Trust's New Writers Award Showcase and in March became a member of the First Minister's Reading Challenge Advisory Panel, acting as a representative for young readers and writer/illustrators in Scotland.

'Working at the New Writer Award Showcase was really rewarding. I learned a lot about the dynamics of planning and running an arts showcase and met many people who could be influential to my future. Some of them were kind enough to follow me on Twitter so now they can see my progress. I also got to see extremely talented writers perform live so I have an idea what the June Conference will be like.'

'It's great! There's stuff happening. I feel like there's a scene building for young writers and creators, I feel like I want to say "Come on, join in! Stuff is happening!" I want to share that with people.'

Erin (17, Newport-on-Tay)



'I hope to do something with my writing one day, whether that will be publishing my book and making it a full time job, or doing courses at college/ university... I know it will always be a part of me.'

Sarah (14, Nairn)

Reader Development: sharing the joy of books throughout Scotland



5 fast facts

- Through Book Week Scotland, our annual national celebration of books, we encouraged more than 300,000 people across Scotland to find a book, share their reading with others, visit their library or share their own stories.
- In 2015, we received 500 stories from the public on the theme of Journeys. 40 were included in our book given away during Book Week Scotland to nearly 150,000 people.
- In 2015 Book Week Scotland provided 761 book events for adults and children, working with every library service in Scotland and 100 other partners.
- Tailored outreach events ensured wider participation with 4,620 people: adult learners worked with others in their community, prisoners explored science and science fiction and ESOL learners developed their own creative writing.
- Readers in Residence worked with four local authority library services across the year to help grow their audiences.

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CASE STUDY

Promoting inclusion through reading and writing

Scottish Union Learning (SUL) supports trade unions to offer skills and lifelong learning opportunities for their members across Scotland. In 2015 and in previous years, the organisation has supported multiple Book Week Scotland events and activities targeted at non-traditional learners. In 2015 asylum seekers and refugee workers living in Glasgow were encouraged to write about a journey of personal significance inspired by the free book *Journeys*.

The asylum seekers and refugees wrote striking, thoughtful stories on themes including the migration of ancestors, movement within Scotland and other biographical journeys from the past. Their narratives were developed into short films where participants read their stories, or the stories were read aloud by others. These films were subsequently screened at Glasgow Film Theatre at the end of the STUC Annual St Andrew's Day March and Rally, which had the theme 'No Racism: Refugees Welcome Here'. Copies of the free *Journeys* book were also distributed at the event.

Participants said they enjoyed developing a general awareness of creative writing and increasing their storytelling and writing confidence. Viewers described the outputs as being incredibly 'powerful' and 'inspirational'. Organisers described how the funding from Scottish Book Trust 'really made things happen!'

'It was wonderful to be part of this celebration again this year. It is great to take a whole week to celebrate the power of reading! Thanks to Book Week Scotland, we were able to fund 4 author visits. I think this has been our most successful Book Week Scotland to date, and we look forward to being part of it again next year.'

Wendy Kirk, Glasgow Women's Library

'This has been my first experience of Book Week Scotland. I live in the Scottish Borders and it was a pleasure to find so many different activities locally. I must also say that I have great respect for the library service across the Borders and the activities they organise throughout the year. I can't wait for 2016!'

Book Week Scotland participant

'Hosting a Reader in Residence has proved the efficacy of working with small groups over a longer period. Jan is bursting with creative ideas to engage communities with libraries and reading and this has brought out the creativity of library staff, many of whom have contributed to the success of the projects. The residency experience has given us increased confidence to try projects and approaches out of our comfort zone.'

Vikki Ring, Reader Development Officer, Falkirk Libraries

Learner publications: tackling social issues with

5 fast facts

- We work with adult learners to tackle social issues and help increase literacy skills. One in five adults in Scotland experiences difficulties with literacy.
- We develop graphic novels with adults attending literacy support groups, creating a relaxed route into reading that improves social mobility, mental health, citizenship and more.
- *Skint!*, our graphic novel about managing money produced with support from the Scottish Government and Standard Life Charitable Trust, had such success in Scotland in 2014/15 that Standard Life funded a roll-out of 60,600 copies in 2015/16 to English prisons, community learning groups, social housing providers and youth charities.
- 15,000 copies of our graphic novel *John Muir, Earth – Planet, Universe* were distributed to every secondary school in Scotland to encourage environmental awareness.
- Using *Walk The Walk*, our graphic novel tackling sectarianism, we delivered 15 training courses to 182 literacy support professionals working with 2,000 adults and young people throughout Scotland.



CASE STUDY

Walk The Walk takes a step in tackling sectarianism

Kirsty Docherty, a Parenting Officer at Polmont Young Offenders Institute, delivered a series of *Walk The Walk* sessions to the young men in her parenting groups. Kirsty had attended Scottish Book Trust's training course on tackling sectarianism using the graphic novel *Walk The Walk* with adult learners.

During the sessions all the young men read more than one part and really got into character. The young men discussed seeing sectarianism on TV and during football games. Two of them described the sectarian behaviour their fathers had demonstrated in front of them. Kirsty reported: 'The group were totally shocked and a bit upset when Weezee was stabbed; they spoke about knife crime here and family disputes and how children should never be involved in family feuds like this.'

The group discussed role modelling and learned behaviour and their responsibilities as fathers in their own child's learning, including how important it is to be a good role model for your child, displaying appropriate behaviour, attitudes, values and beliefs.

At the beginning of the sessions, the young men believed that it was the responsibility of others such as family, the police, football clubs and politicians to tackle sectarianism. But after the young men had read the book and carried out some of the supporting activities they began to feel that it was a personal responsibility.

'After reading *Walk The Walk*, people can't just say "oh, he's just doing that because he's a Celtic fan", or whatever. They are forced to think "this is someone's sister" instead.'

Danny, learner at Adult Education Bathgate

"Through *Skint!* Scottish Book Trust has found an engaging way to help young people develop their money management skills.'

Sandy MacDonald, Head of Sustainability, Standard Life

'I am delighted to be able to support Scottish Book Trust who have developed both the *Walk The Walk* novel and support materials for literacy tutors, as this package is an excellent resource that will not only help bring the consequences of sectarianism to life, and to explain them to a wider audience, but will also improve literacy for those learners who use it.'

Paul Wheelhouse MSP, previously Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs

Writer Development: nurturing Scotland's writing

5 fast facts

- We supported 91 writers in the last 5 years, providing inspiration, tailored advice and support as well as mentoring, training, bursaries and retreats.
- The New Writers Awards supported 12 talented writers with a £2,000 bursary and a year-long professional development programme.
- 14 former awardees were published in 2015/16 by publishing houses including Harvill Secker, Saraband, Simon and Schuster and Bloodaxe.
- As part of our outreach programme, we worked with the Scottish Refugee Council to pair former awardee Lucy Ribchester with Sudanese refugee Fatima Mohammed to tell her story as part of the Journeys campaign for Book Week Scotland 2015.
- The Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship gave four established writers a month's writing residency in France, gifting them time to concentrate on and develop their work.



g talent

CASE STUDY

A New Writers Award accelerated this writer's career

Martin MacInnes had previously had a couple of short stories published, had read to a live audience once, and was struggling with an apparently endless project that he was unable to turn into a novel.

The New Writers bursary enabled him to continue working part-time in his job, maintaining focus on his writing. The award gave him validation, encouraging him to be more ambitious, and he went on to publish in several magazines and to win the Manchester Fiction Prize.

Following press coverage of the New Writers Award, Martin was invited to read at the Lake of Stars festival in Malawi, the Winter Words festival in Pitlochry and at the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

Spending an isolated week writing at Cove Park retreat led to a breakthrough with his long prose project, which he developed further with support from his mentor.

Martin explains, 'My mentorship programme, where I worked with the editor Sarah Ream, had the biggest impact on my writing and my career. I became a better writer, a much better editor, and we got the long prose piece into a novel. I got an agent and a publishing deal for the book shortly after my last meeting with Sarah.'

'Without question, I wouldn't be in the position I'm in now if I hadn't first won a New Writers Award. The various aspects of the award and the constant support of Scottish Book Trust allowed me to push on to do what I'd always wanted to do.'

Martin's novel, *Infinite Ground*, will be published in August 2016 by Atlantic Books.

'The encouragement and vote-of-confidence the New Writers Award brings made me take my writing more seriously, while several events connected to the award came together to directly further my career...

'...I'm in no doubt that my New Writers Award has radically fast-forwarded my writing career and I'm enjoying continuing to work with Scottish Book Trust on events and projects.'

Lucy Ribchester, author of The Hourglass Factory and New Writers Awardee 2013

'Winning a New Writers Award was an incredibly important step in my journey towards publication, not only for the amazing support and advice I've received, and continue to receive, from Scottish Book Trust, but also because of the fantastic groups of writers – now friends – I have met through being part of the scheme. I can't praise it highly enough.'

Graeme Macrae Burnet, New Writers Awardee 2013 and author of His Bloody Project (Contraband), shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2016

Our supporters

As a charity, we rely on donations and funding from individuals, companies, trusts and foundations as well as Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government.

Thank you to our funders for helping to change lives through reading and writing. We simply could not continue our life-changing work without you. Thank you to the following for their grants, donations, sponsorship and in kind support:

- ★ **Alison Green Books**
- ★ **Barcapel Foundation**
- ★ **Better World Books**
- ★ **Bloomsbury**
- ★ **Bòrd na Gàidhlig**
- ★ **Callan Gordon Family**
- ★ **CALL Scotland**
- ★ **Campbell Books**
- ★ **Creative Scotland**
- ★ **Child's Play (International) Ltd**
- ★ **Communication Workers Union**
- ★ **Crerar Hotels Trust**
- ★ **Education Scotland**
- ★ **Egmont**
- ★ **EIS**
- ★ **Franklin Watts**
- ★ **Gaelic Books Council**
- ★ **HarperCollins Children's Books**
- ★ **Hodder Children's Books**
- ★ **Ladybird Books Ltd**
- ★ **Literary Gift Company**
- ★ **Little Tiger Press**
- ★ **Local Authorities and Book Week Scotland partners who provided us with in-kind venues**
- ★ **Oxford University Press**
- ★ **Penguin Random House**
- ★ **Scottish Friendly**
- ★ **Scottish Gas**
- ★ **Scottish Government**
- ★ **Scottish Library and Information Council**
- ★ **Scottish Poetry Library**
- ★ **St Andrew's Society of Detroit**
- ★ **Stòrlann**
- ★ **Time to Shine**
- ★ **Walker Books Ltd**
- ★ **Waterstones**
- ★ **Young Scot**
- ★ **Youth Music Initiative**

Find out how you can get involved at scottishbooktrust.com/support.

A successful partnership inspiring thousands of children

Back in 1998, Scottish Book Trust was a small charity seeking financial support to develop our dream of bringing a Scotland-wide children's book tour to life.

Scottish Friendly, a Glasgow-based friendly society with roots going back to 1862, stepped forward to sponsor the tour and 18 years later the partnership is still going strong.

The tour takes the best British and international authors directly into schools in Scotland and more recently takes Scottish authors to schools in England to inspire a love of reading, writing and illustration. Since the partnership's launch over 70,000 school children have been inspired to fall in love with books and get reading – a step towards tackling literacy problems.

The tour is crucial for delivering Scottish Book Trust's charitable aim of turning Scotland into a nation of readers, with a particular focus on children in deprived and remote areas.

For Scottish Friendly their aim is to sustain brand awareness and build corporate and social responsibility by supporting and connecting with local communities.

The tour is free for schools and without this funding Scottish Book Trust would simply not be able to deliver the programme.



'Following a move away from a direct sales force, we wanted to make sure that we were still engaged with our communities and still giving something back because of our roots as a friendly society and so that's how the partnership began.'

'We've continued to support the tour because it's become more successful as the years have gone on – leading authors have heard about the tour and want to go on it. The tour brings authors to places that wouldn't normally get these opportunities. Some of them are remote and others are in deprived communities.'

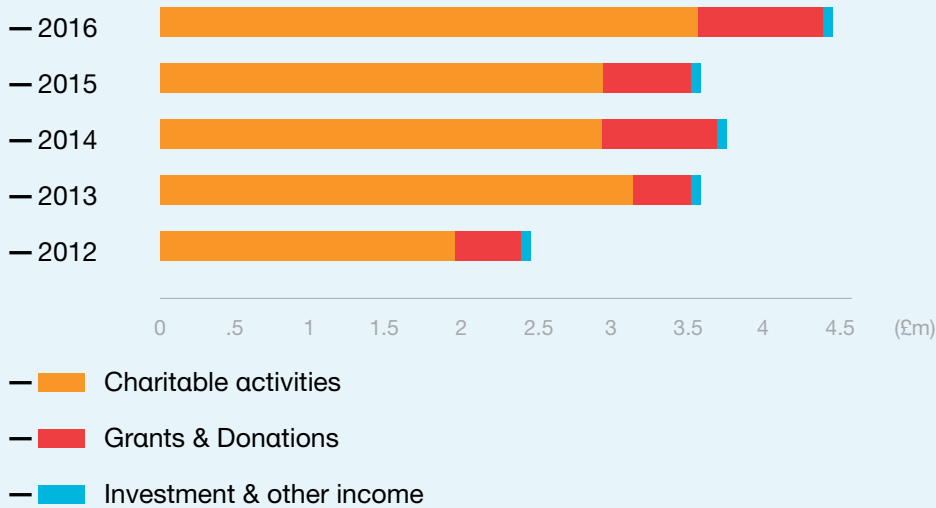
'Parents going along to the tours find out about us and our saving plans for children, and they hear about us through the publicity that comes from the tour. We have been able to increase our brand awareness and give something back to the community.'

Calum Bennie, Communications Manager, Scottish Friendly

Financial review

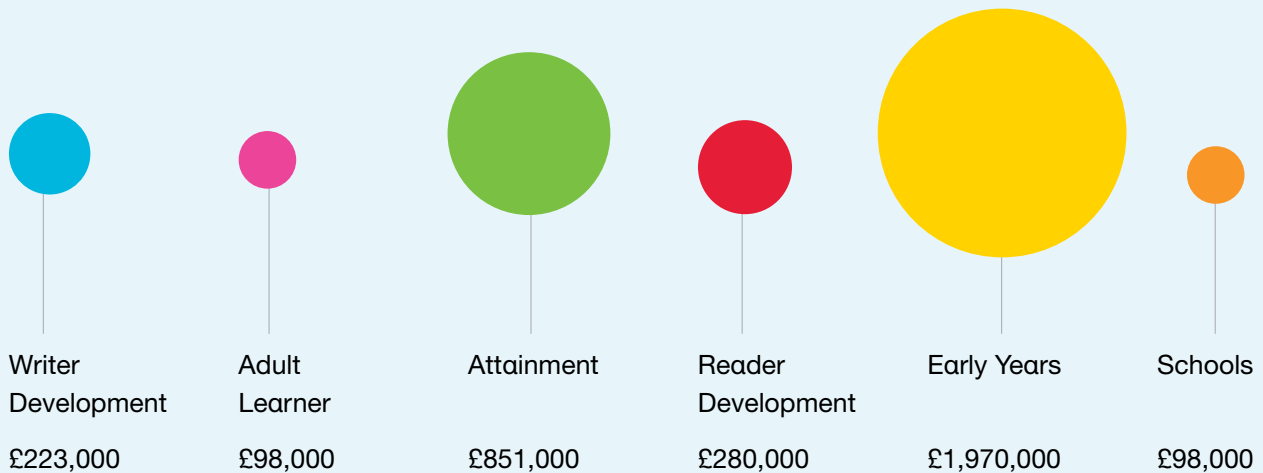
Compared to last year, the year ending 31 March 2016 saw an increase to our total income of £1,060,103. The increase arose primarily from taking on two new attainment programmes funded by the Scottish Government, and from the increase to our unrestricted core grant funding from Creative Scotland, as year 1 of the new three-year Regular Funding award was received.

Income growth



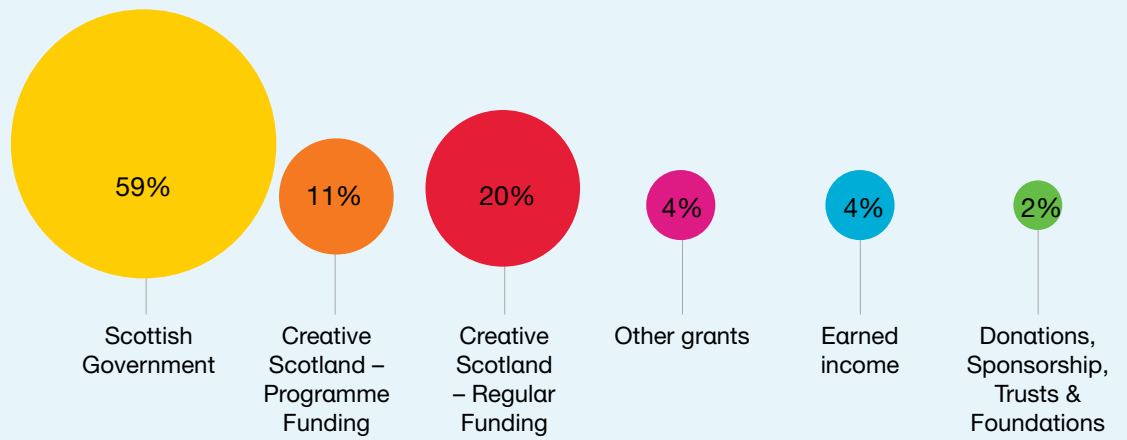
Our restricted income funded a diverse range of programmes for all ages, across Scotland.

Restricted income split by programme



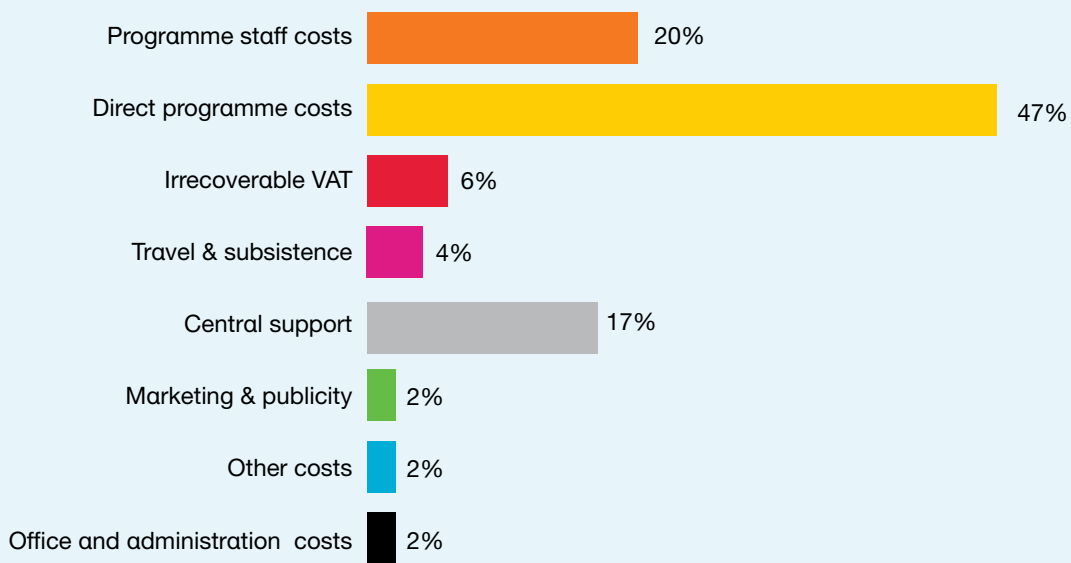
Our income sources for 2015/16 were as follows:

Funding split



Our new attainment programmes accounted for the increase in our total funds carried forward from £1.8m in 2015 to £2.5m at the year end. The majority of these funds will be spent in 2016/17.

Expenditure split



Trustees

Keir Bloomer
Elizabeth Burchell
Don Ledingham
Professor Willy Maley
Dr Anne Pia
Shalinay Raghavan
Catherine Smith
Jackie Taylor
Dr Rebekah Widdowfield

Chief Executive

Marc Lambert

Principal office

Sandeman House
Trunk's Close
55 High Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1SR

Charity number: SC027669

Company number: SC0184248

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First Minister's Reading Challenge:

www.readingchallenge.scot
@FMReadChallenge

'The idea that 64,000 P1 children starting school in Scotland this year will receive a copy of my book to enjoy and hopefully help them on to a path of loving reading and books as much as I do, blows my mind. It's a dream come true and I want to say a big thank you to Scottish Book Trust for all their support!'

*Emily Mackenzie, children's author
selected for the Bookbug P1
Family Bag*

'...books, rhymes, singing and talking have worked magically for some families who only see hardship, poverty, unemployment, doom and gloom. Hearing simple stories, remembering the joy of laughter and forgetting about your problems, for a short time, is good all round.'

*Third Sector volunteer using
Bookbug for the Home*

'I couldn't be more grateful for the wonderful gift of time, space and inspiration the RLS Fellowship offers.'

*Lynsey May, Robert Louis
Stevenson 2015 Awardee*





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