

Arboricultural Association

2025 ANNUAL SUMMARY

For the year **2025–2026** to include
summary financial accounts for **2025**



Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION
The home of tree care



The home of tree care

Your contacts at the Association

As of July 1st, 2026

Volunteers (not remunerated)

All contact details can be found on the Association's website – www.trees.org.uk

Arboricultural Association Trustees:

- **Chair** – Neil Davies
- **Vice Chair** – Paul Barton
- **Treasurer** – Rob Murison
- **Other Trustees:** Laura Ancell, Sarah Armstrong, Stella Bolam, Sarah Kiss, Simon Rotheram, Keith Sacre, Andy Tipping, Naomi Zürcher

Committee Chairs:

- **Finance & Governance Committee**
Chair – Neil Davies
- **Resources Committee**
Chair – Stella Bolam
- **Standards Committee**
Chair – Keith Sacre

Arboricultural Association Trading Ltd Directors (AATL):

Directors of the AATL are the Chair,
Vice Chair, CEO and Finance Manager

The Branches:

Contact details of all branches can be found on the Association's website – www.trees.org.uk

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| • Cornwall | • Scotland |
| • East Anglia | • South Eastern |
| • Ireland | • Thames and Chiltern |
| • Midlands | • Wales |
| • Northern | • Western |



Arboricultural Association

The Malthouse, Stroud Green, Standish, Stonehouse,
Gloucestershire, GL10 3DL, United Kingdom
Tel: **+44 (0)1452 522152**
Email: admin@trees.org.uk

Cover image credit: Maisey Hammond

Association Representation and Liaison: as of July 1st, 2026:

- **Access All Areas**
 - Andy Tipping
- **Action Oak**
 - Emma Gilmartin
- **All Party Parliamentary Gardening Horticulture Group (APPGHG)**
 - John Parker
- **Ancient Tree Forum Technical Advisory Panel**
 - Emma Gilmartin
- **Apprenticeships Trailblazer Management Group**
 - Simon Richmond and Emma Gilmartin
- **British Standards Institution B/213 Trees** – John Parker
- **Environmental Horticulture Group**
 - John Parker and Alan Simson
(Planning & Infrastructure Subcommittee)
- **Environmental Policy Forum**
 - Emma Gilmartin
- **European Arboricultural Council**
 - Jonathan Cocking, Charles McCorkell and John Parker
- **European Forum on Urban Forestry**
 - John Parker
- **Fund4Trees**
 - Mick Boddy and Andy Hiron
- **Future of Forestry Forum**
 - Emma Gilmartin
- **HSE Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group**
 - Tom Hamments
- **International Society of Arboriculture**
 - John Parker
- **International Tree Climbing Competition Working Group**
 - Tom Hamments
- **London Urban Forest Group**
 - John Parker
- **National Tree Safety Group**
 - Simon Richmond
- **Plant Health Alliance**
 - John Parker and Keith Sacre
- **Resilient Treescapes Advisory Group**
 - Emma Gilmartin
- **Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group**
 - William Hinchliffe and Fiona Melville
- **Society for the Environment**
 - Jessica Palfreyman
- **Trees and Design Action Group**
 - John Parker
- **Wood Pasture and Parklands Network**
 - Emma Gilmartin

Staff

(Staff listing as of July 1st, 2026)

(All staff contact details can be found on the website)

- **Charlotte Millard**, Training Officer
- **Emma Gilmartin**, Senior Technical Officer
- **Hanif Bhula**, Finance Manager
- **Holly**, Membership Officer
- **Jane Stuart**, Membership Officer
- **Jason Ward**, Designer and Webmaster
- **Jess Palfreyman**, Membership & Systems Manager
- **John Parker**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Kate Beamish**, Finance and Publications Officer
- **Magda Lapinska**, Training Officer
- **Maisey Hammond**, Marketing Officer
- **Paul Smith**, Technical Officer
(Contractor Accreditation Schemes)
- **Polly Stone**, Membership and Approved Contractor Scheme Officer
- **Rosie Miller**, Operations Officer
- **Sarah Bryce**, Registered Consultant Scheme Officer and Production Editor of the ARB Magazine
- **Simon Richmond**, Senior Technical Adviser and Editor of the ARB Magazine
- **Steve Hodsman**, Marketing and Communications Manager
- **Tom Hamments**, Technical Officer

Association Reports 2025–26



Report of the Chair of Trustees for the period AGM 2025 – AGM 2026

Welcome to the Arboricultural Association's Annual Summary for 2025, containing the financial summaries and a series of reports to describe the Association's activities and progress between AGM 2025 and 2026.

As you will see from the Treasurer's Report and financial summary, 2025 was another challenging year in many ways and unfortunately, as expected, we delivered an in-year deficit budget. However, thanks to the determined efforts and dedication of all involved, this was considerably smaller than the deficit included in the original budget for the year.

Since joining the Board of Trustees at the Association, I have been continuously impressed by the quality and range of the activities undertaken by the Association team to inspire support and promote our industry and membership in the UK and overseas. Although they may not all contribute directly to our income, it's these efforts that help us maintain our respected position with central and devolved government, other trade bodies, the media, and many others. This is, of course, just a small taster of what we do – there is so much more.

It's been a year of difficult decisions, including making significant, and overdue, investment in our website and back-office systems, and of course postponing the ARB Show. I know that John Parker and the team discussed this at length, exploring all potential options before bringing it to the Board, where again it was carefully considered. While not holding the show is disappointing, it would have been more damaging to try to run it with greatly limited resources. However, this has given the team opportunity to review the show and explore options for a re-fresh, which I am sure we'll hear about in due course.



The Trustee elections this year could bring substantial changes to the Board, with three Trustees coming to the end of their terms, including me. A full list of all members who have nominated themselves for election can be found at the end of this Annual Summary, and whatever happens, I would like to thank them all for putting themselves forward to help the work of the Association.

Neil Davies
Chair of Trustees

Report of the Chief Executive Officer for the period AGM 2025 – AGM 2026

The Annual Summary 2025 shows that – much like 2024 – we have had a difficult year financially but were able to deliver a significantly stronger financial outcome than had been originally budgeted for. Almost all areas of the business saw growth, including us once again achieving a record number of paying members. However, it is a continued struggle to balance increases in costs with what we can reasonably pass on to the membership in prices.

The most significant impact on our cash levels at the current time continues to be our Systems Project. This has been an enormous undertaking which has required the close attention of several key team members for a prolonged period of time, which has inevitably had impacts on other areas of our work. It has also meant we have had to invest most of our reserves in order to successfully update our CRM (membership database) and CMS (website) to new platforms.

Whilst this has been incredibly disruptive, the results will be positive for the whole Association. We are expecting considerable time and cost savings back of house, and the membership experience will also be significantly improved. Once the new system is in place, members will notice that engaging with the Association becomes easier and more streamlined, and the new and improved website will benefit members and non-members alike. Ultimately, the pain and the cost will be worth it!

This Annual Summary also includes the budget for 2026. You will see that we have unfortunately had to budget for a deficit once again, but we are confident that as in previous years we will minimise this as far as possible. We are currently engaged in investing in the Association, in both our staff team and our systems, for now and the future. We will see the rewards of that – in terms of finance, output and member experience – in the coming years.



Many thanks as ever to our staff team, volunteers, trustees, members and everyone else who does so much to make the Association a success. None of this would be possible without you.

All the best,

John Parker
Chief Executive Officer

Report of the Treasurer for the year January 1st, 2025 - December 31st, 2025

2025 was a year of significant investment for the Association as we continued to develop our systems, services and operations whilst delivering a wide range of benefits to members and the wider arboricultural sector.

As anticipated, the financial position has been challenging. Rising costs continue to affect many areas of the Association's activities, and, alongside this, we have committed substantial resources towards the development of our new CRM, website and member systems. These investments are intended to improve efficiency, modernise our operations and enhance the experience of members for many years to come.

The Association continues to benefit from a broad range of income streams. Membership subscriptions remain our largest source of revenue and continue to demonstrate the value members place on the work of the Association. Accreditation schemes, training, events, publications, advertising and sponsorship all continue to make important contributions to the overall financial performance of the organisation.

The Association also continues to retain a strong balance sheet of approximately £889,000. Ownership of The Malthouse – providing a valuable long-term asset – and investments in the new CRM systems and development of publications have contributed to this strength.

The Board and Finance & Governance Committee have maintained close oversight of budgets, cash flow and financial forecasting throughout the year. Whilst challenges remain, careful management and forward planning have ensured that the Association remains in a stable position and is able to continue investing in its future.



Looking ahead, 2026 will remain a year of careful financial management. However, with major projects progressing well and the foundations being laid for future efficiencies, I am confident that the Association is well placed to continue supporting, promoting and representing arboriculture and the arboricultural industry.

Rob Murison
Treasurer

Report of Arboricultural Association Trading Ltd (AATL) for the year January 1st, 2025 - December 31st, 2025

The accounts of AATL have been approved by the company's auditors. Being wholly owned by the Association, these accounts are incorporated within the Association's annual accounts. The company's accounts have been approved by the Directors of AATL. The AATL Directors express their thanks to the Association's staff team who continue to make AATL a success.

Neil Davies
Chair of Trustees

Accounts and audit

Receipt of the Accounts of the Association for Financial Year 2025

Trustees' Statement

The accounts have been audited and given an unqualified report, meaning they are accurate and compliant. Copies of the accounts have been filed with Companies House and will be filed with the Charity Commission by the due date.

A full copy of the audited accounts for 2025 is available on the website (www.trees.org.uk/About-Us/Policies-and-Reports) or may be obtained from the registered office at The Malthouse, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3DL, United Kingdom.

A summary for 2025 with a comparison to 2024 is provided in the following pages, as well as details showing year-to-date performance in 2026 alongside the 2026 budget and forecast.

The Association's Strategic Plan 2025-27 was adopted in October 2024 and came into force on January 1st, 2025. This Strategic Plan has been communicated to all members of the Association and other stakeholders.

Neil Davies

Chair of Trustees

Independent auditor's report to the members and Trustees of the Association

The summary financial accounts for the year ended December 31st, 2025 included in this report do not constitute statutory financial statements. The summary financial accounts are extracted from the Group's consolidated statutory financial statements for the year ended December 31st, 2025.

The full set of the 2025 statutory consolidated financial statements including the independent auditor's unqualified report is available on our website as mentioned above.

For and on behalf of BK Plus Cheltenham, Chartered Accountants

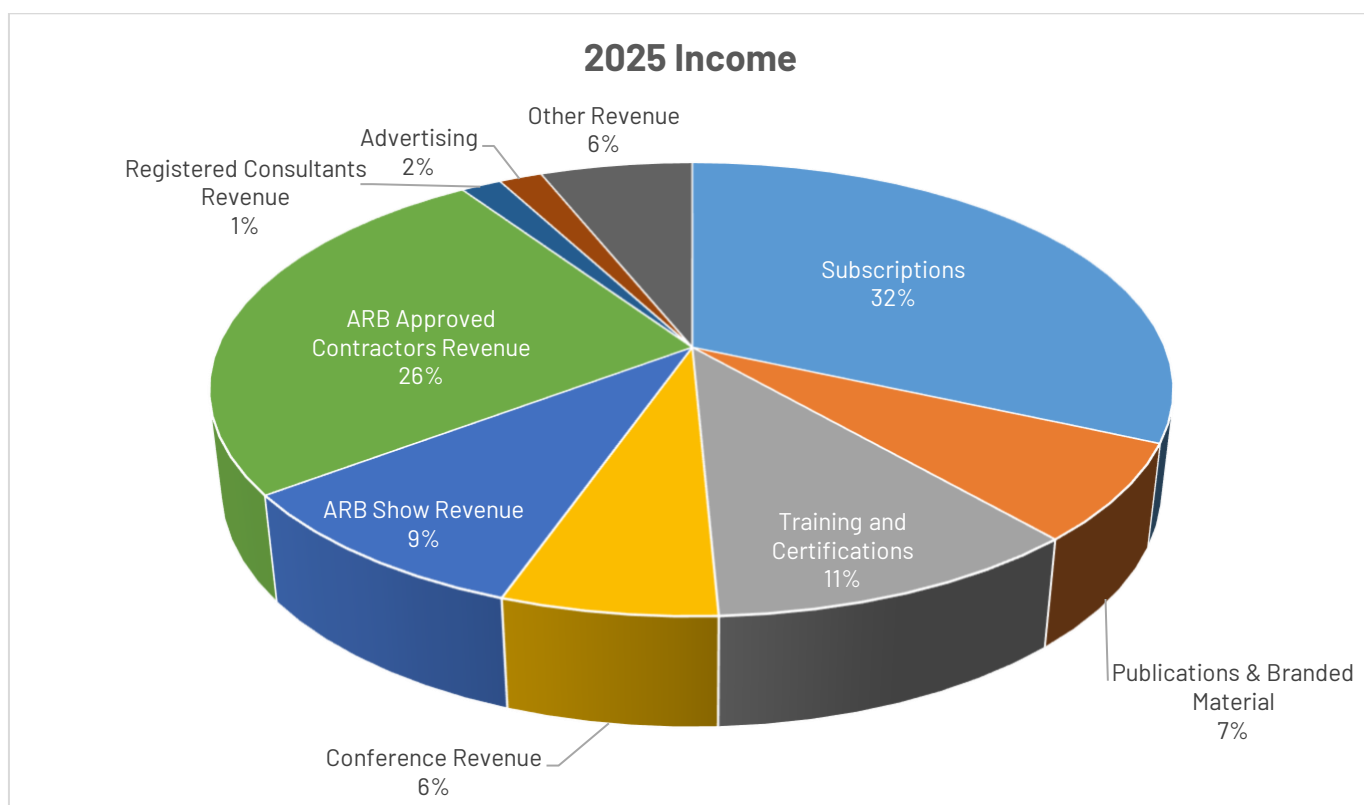
Arboricultural Association Summary Financial Information

January 1st, 2025–December 31st, 2025

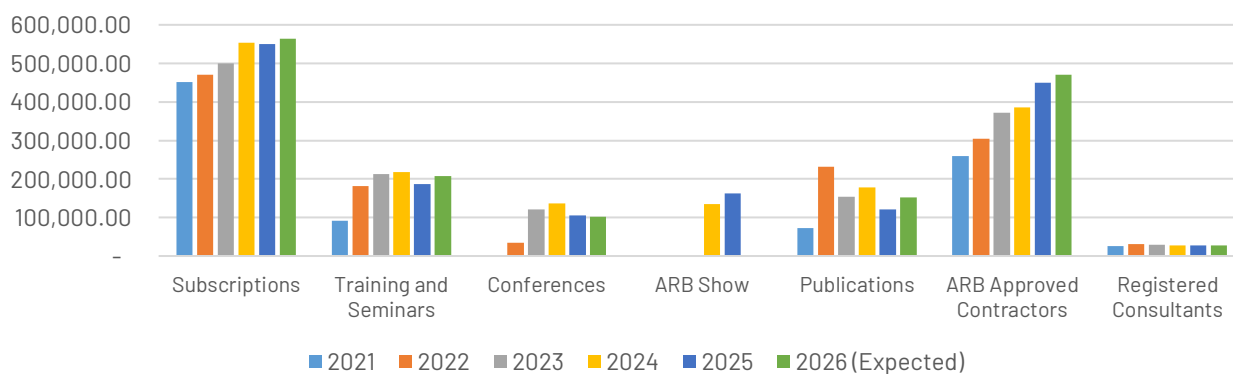
Summary consolidated income and expenditure account	2025			2024		
	Income £'000	Expense £'000	Total £'000	Income £'000	Expense £'000	Total £'000
Activities to further the charity's objectives:						
Subscriptions	550.8	(117.9)	432.9	553.2	(138.4)	414.8
Publications	120.5	(125.2)	(4.7)	177.8	(145.6)	32.2
Conferences	106.0	(335.7)	(229.7)	137.3	(209.4)	(72.1)
Workshops and seminars	185.8	(219.9)	(34.1)	217.4	(214.8)	2.6
Trade fair	162.9	(56.1)	106.8	134.9	(223.7)	(88.8)
Meeting costs	-	(45.1)	(45.1)	-	(49.0)	(49.0)
Newsletter and journal	-	(90.9)	(90.9)	-	(99.3)	(99.3)
Political expenditure	-	(26.2)	(26.2)	-	(19.8)	(19.8)
Grant/Other grants	-	-	-	-	(44.7)	(44.7)
	1,126.0	(1,017.0)	109.0	1,220.6	(1,144.7)	75.9
Activities to generate funds:						
Consultants and contractors	477.4	(341.0)	136.4	414.0	(335.7)	78.3
Marketing and advertising	30.0	-	30.0	41.5	(18.6)	22.9
Promotion	-	(118.1)	(118.1)	-	(120.2)	(120.2)
Management and administration	-	(146.6)	(146.6)	-	(158.4)	(158.4)
Committees and governance	-	(38.9)	(38.9)	-	(43.2)	(43.2)
Branch expenditure	-	(18.0)	(18.0)	-	(23.0)	(23.0)
Technical support	-	(61.6)	(61.6)	-	(42.2)	(42.2)
Interest received	6.9	-	6.9	12.0	-	12.0
Other activities	99.1	-	99.1	145.8	-	145.8
	613.4	(724.2)	(110.8)	613.3	(741.3)	(128.0)
Totals:	1,739.4	(1,741.2)		1,833.9	(1,886.0)	
Net income over expenditure:			(1.8)			(52.1)
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets			0			0
(Deficit)/Surplus of income over expenditure			(1.8)			52.1

Summary consolidated balance sheet	2025		2024	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets:		1,046		887.4
Current assets:				
Stock	35.6		48.7	
Debtors	137.3		110.8	
Cash at bank and in hand	113.5		401.8	
	<u>286.4</u>		<u>561.3</u>	
Creditors due within one year:	<u>(296.4)</u>		<u>(387.6)</u>	
		(10.0)		173.7
Creditors due after one year:		-		(23.3)
		<u>1,036.0</u>		<u>1,037.8</u>
Funds:				
Restricted fund	6.1		6.1	
Unrestricted fund	889.7		890.7	
Revaluation reserve	135.3		136.1	
Non-charitable reserves	4.9		4.9	
	<u>1,036.0</u>		<u>1,037.8</u>	

Graphical representation of 2025 income



Income per year for Subscriptions, Training, Conference, ARB Show, Publications, ARB Approved Contractors and Registered Consultants



Summary consolidated movement in reserve funds

31 st December	Unrestricted Funds/Revaluation Reserve £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Movement on previous year £
2020	703,750	6,097	709,847	(87,115)
2021	865,407	6,097	871,504	161,657
2022	1,067,189	6,097	1,073,286	201,782
2023	1,083,758	6,097	1,089,855	16,569
2024	1,031,717	6,097	1,037,817	(52,038)
2025	1,029,906	6,097	1,036,003	(1,814)

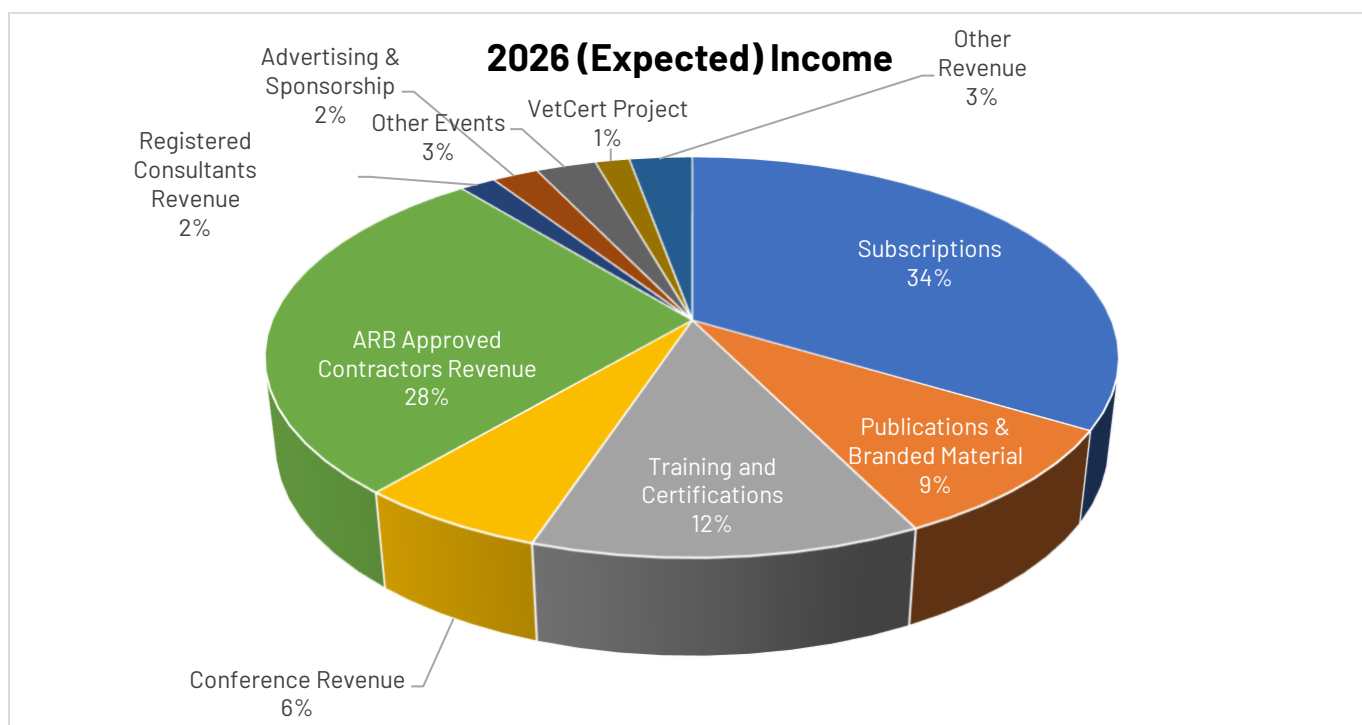
Presentation of the Budget and Performance for 2025 and Re-forecast Data as at June 30th, 2026

In accordance with the Association's established practice, a budget for 2026 was approved by the Board of Trustees at the start of the financial year. Performance against budget is monitored regularly.

	Final	Budget	Actual/Forecast
	2025	2026	June 2026
Sales			
Subscriptions	550,805	562,678	564,214
Training & Certifications	185,833	211,000	207,828
Amenity Conference Revenue	106,031	105,000	102,222
ARB Show	162,948	-	-
In-person Events (including Branches)	42,590	50,000	40,099
Approved Contractors Revenue	449,194	470,000	469,912
Registered Consultants Revenue	28,203	28,300	27,180
Publications	120,490	165,600	152,183
Advertising Revenue	29,993	40,000	35,052
On-demand and Online Events	-	5,500	5,500
VetCert Project Revenue	11,734	20,000	25,975
Other Revenue	51,651	52,800	47,721
Total - Sales	1,739,472	1,710,878	1,677,886
Purchases			
Membership Expenses	8,662	12,350	9,717
Training Expenses	92,508	94,000	91,677
Amenity Conference Expenditure	87,440	90,000	89,595
ARB Show	115,063	-	-
In-person Events	28,455	40,000	35,050
Online Events	-	3,000	2,000
Approved Contractors Expenditure	203,171	215,000	213,190
Registered Consultants Expenditure	10,269	5,000	3,333
Publications Expenses	51,798	60,000	65,573
Marketing Expenditure	34,862	38,200	38,547
Partner Sponsorship	5,467	6,000	4,336
Research Grant	5,000	5,000	5,000
Editor's Expenses	17,291	18,500	18,356
APPGHG/OHRG	12,000	12,000	12,000
Climbing Competitions	33,513	25,000	24,746
VetCert Project Expenditure	13,966	20,000	18,004
Other Purchases	-	-	-
Total - Purchases	719,465	644,050	631,126
Gross Income	1,020,007	1,066,828	1,046,760

	Final	Budget	Actual/Forecast
	2025	2026	June 2026
Overheads			
Member Publications Expenses	78,531	80,850	85,452
Trustees Expenses	3,318	3,500	2,817
Committees & Other Meetings	-	1,500	1,000
Branch Events	3,311	5,000	4,968
Staff Expenses	16,567	16,800	13,479
Finance Expenses	22,424	21,400	21,397
Property Costs	25,694	26,250	31,741
Administration Expenses	88,981	91,000	87,429
Staff Overheads	695,013	783,220	744,245
Staff/Trustee Development	-	1,500	1,000
Internet Support and Administration	35,356	35,500	35,100
Legal & Professional Fees	27,655	26,000	25,456
Depreciation, Disposal & Bad Debt	12,492	27,000	26,959
Malthouse Loan Interest	1,981	655	594
Total - Overheads	1,011,323	1,120,175	1,081,637
Surplus/(Deficit) before Contingency expenses	8,684	(53,347)	(34,877)
Contingency costs	10,500	5,000	5,000
Deficit Income after Contingency expenses	(1,814)	(58,347)	(39,877)

Graphical representation of 2026 (Expected) income



Annual General Meeting 2026

at 6pm on Thursday, August 27th, 2026, to be held online

Appointment of auditors for the 2026 Accounts

It is recommended that the following be appointed as auditors for the coming year:

BK Plus Cheltenham

Chartered Accountants

6 Manor Park Business Centre, MacKenzie Way, Swindon Village, Cheltenham GL51

Board of Trustees AGM 2025–2026

After the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025 there were eight elected Trustees of the Association.

Neil **Davies** (2022), Chair

Paul **Barton** (2023), Vice Chair

Sarah **Kiss** (2023)

Stella **Bolam** (2025)

Keith **Sacre** (2025)

Simon **Rotheram** (2025)

Naomi **Zürcher** (2025)

Andy **Tipping** (2025)

(Brackets show year of most recent election).

In addition to the above, three Trustees were co-opted onto the Board between AGM 2025 and AGM 2026.

Sarah **Armstrong** (first co-opted 2021)

Laura Louise **Ancell** (first co-opted 2024)

Rob **Murison**, Treasurer (first co-opted 2025)

At each AGM, all Trustees who have served a term of three years shall retire from office, other than any Trustee who is in mid-term of office as Chair. At the close of the period AGM 2025 – AGM 2026 there will be three Trustees (Neil Davies, Paul Barton and Sarah Kiss) reaching the end of a three-year term.

Election of Association Trustees at AGM 2026

Any member of the Association is entitled to nominate themselves for election to the role of Trustee, including those retiring as Trustees (unless they have served three consecutive terms of office).

The following Trustees are entitled to remain as Trustees without standing for election:

Stella **Bolam** (last elected 2025)

Keith **Sacre** (2025)

Simon **Rotheram** (2025)

Naomi **Zürcher** (2025)

Andy **Tipping** (2025)

At AGM 2026 there are three vacancies for elected Trustees.

Nominations received for Trustee elections 2026

Valid nominations have been received from the following members:

Paul **Barton**

Neil **Davies**

Oisin **Kelly**

Sarah **Kiss**

Alexander **Lowe**

Matthew **Norman**

Trustee election process 2026

Voting is undertaken electronically during August, with the results announced at the AGM on August 27th.