

**To: Leadership Board**

**On: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: OneRen Annual Report – 2022/2023**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 OneRen, the trading name of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited, recently published its annual report of 2022/23 which highlights the contribution that the organisation makes to the achievement of Council Plan, Community Plan and wider shared objectives through the wide range of projects, events and activities that it provides in the local community. OneRen recorded some 3.9 million attendances at venues and for online activities, up by one million from the previous financial year.
- 1.2 OneRen is the local charitable trust established by the Council to provide culture, leisure and sporting opportunities to help people enjoy active and healthy lives. OneRen works to improve life-long physical and mental health in every one of our communities. The charity provides a range of affordable, accessible and ambitious services that are open to all and designed to improve personal, social and economic outcomes. OneRen's vision is to ensure that everyone locally can live lives that are healthy, happy and fulfilled.
- 1.3 The annual report, included within appendix one, also outlines the organisation's main achievements and community impacts, performance and summary financial statements and forms part of the Council's performance monitoring arrangements. The review of 2022/23 highlights ongoing recovery of services following the pandemic, with increased engagement across all OneRen services.

- 1.4 OneRen's objectives are closely aligned to those of Renfrewshire Council. Progress is reported to the OneRen Board of Directors and the Council's Leadership Board. OneRen's Board is Chaired by Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, with partner directors including Councillor Gillian Graham and Councillor Anne Hannigan. Quarterly performance reports are provided through the Council's monitoring officer for OneRen who measure and report on progress through a suite of performance indicators.
- 1.5 OneRen is currently preparing its annual business plan, which will be submitted to the next Leadership Board cycle. The business plan will outline how the organisation plans to continue to recover its business post-pandemic, enable our citizens to participate in cultural, leisure and sporting activities and events and support communities impacted by economic challenges. The plan will also highlight the next steps in progressing the organisation's transformation programme.
- 1.6 As part of its service provision, OneRen supports the engagement and activities of Renfrewshire's Makar. This report provides an update on the extension to the term of appointment for the current Makar.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Leadership Board:
- Notes OneRen's annual report of 2022/2023.
  - Notes the updated engagement arrangements for the Makar.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Services Agreement with OneRen sets out the terms for it to deliver cultural, leisure and sport services within Renfrewshire. This specification:
- relates to the management of the cultural, leisure and sport facilities operated by OneRen within the council area;
  - sets out standards, specifications, procedures and other requirements to be followed by OneRen in the provision of cultural, leisure and sports services.
- 3.2 One of the terms in the Services Agreement is the development of an annual Business Plan. The plan sets out OneRen's priorities to deliver its strategic objectives and demonstrates its commitment to deliver the related strategic priorities set out in the Council and Community Plans. Last year, the business plan for 2023-24 was approved by OneRen's Board on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. It was presented to and approved by Leadership Board on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

- 3.3 Over the last year, quarterly monitoring meetings have taken place between Council and One Ren officers to review delivery of the service specification and contribution to Council Plan priorities. The Annual Report included as appendix one forms part of the Council's monitoring arrangements and is included with this report for noting.
- 3.4 Post-pandemic, OneRen teams continue to work with partners to improve the physical and mental health of the people of Renfrewshire and beyond.
- 3.5 OneRen staff have also played an important role in terms of the wider public health response required post-pandemic by continuing to provide staffing for the national mass vaccination centres. This has included:
- With funding from the Scottish Government Public Library Covid Relief Fund, the team established a range of creative activities within Renfrewshire Libraries.
  - Similarly, the Live Active Referral Scheme, part funded by NHS GGC, has helped those who need support in restoring their physical activity. In the last financial year, there were 1,424 referrals and 3,642 consultations, up from 624 referrals and 2,291 consultations in the previous year.
  - Across Renfrewshire's 12 community libraries, located in each Council ward, library book issues (physical and digital) increased from 282,000 in 2022/23 to 430,000, while in-person attendances more than doubled to 216,000. The libraries team supported more than 19,000 people to help them navigate the digital world, improving digital literacy and online access – up from 10,000 engagements the previous year.
- 3.6 At the Council meeting in December 2017, the Council agreed to appoint a Makar to celebrate writing and poetry in Renfrewshire. The role has three principal elements which focus on commemorative writing, working with the local community and providing an ambassadorial role for the area. The postholder works closely with the Library Service in OneRen and with the local community throughout the year.
- 3.7 The Makar can be appointed for a term of up to three years, with a further option to extend the appointment to a period of five years at the Provost's discretion. The current Makar, Shaun Moore, was appointed for an initial period to 31 December 2023, following the passing of the first Renfrewshire Makar, Brian Whittingham. Shaun Moore's appointment has now been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025, to enable the postholder to complete a term of three years. The role receives an honorarium payment and has an annual budget for events and activities provided from Future Paisley funding. During the term of

appointment, the Makar will continue to work with the Library Service to develop the programme of activities to celebrate the written word and verse in Renfrewshire.

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## **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial – N/A**
2. **HR & Organisational Development – N/A**
3. **Community/Council Planning –**
  - *Our Renfrewshire is thriving* – Our services recruits and trains volunteers and creates a pathway into employment;
  - *Our Renfrewshire is well* – Our cultural, leisure and sport services and programmes help to maintain positive physical and mental health and well-being;
  - *Our Renfrewshire is fair* – our services and programmes are accessible to all our citizens;
  - *Reshaping our place, our economy and our future* – development and delivery of the cultural infrastructure investment programme supports the regeneration aspirations for the area;
  - *Building strong, safe and resilient communities – Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all* – our services and activities are accessible to all our citizens;
  - *Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy –our programmes build sustainability through volunteer and community development;*
  - *Working together to improve outcomes* – partnership working to deliver shared outcomes remains a key priority in our company strategy.
4. **Legal – N/A**
5. **Property/Assets – N/A**
6. **Information Technology – N/A**
7. **Equality & Human Rights –**
  - (a.) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety – N/A**

9. **Procurement – N/A**
  10. **Risk – N/A**
  11. **Privacy Impact – N/A**
  12. **Cosla Policy Position – N/A**
  13. **Climate Change – N/A**
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#### **List of Background Papers**

- (a) N/A
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# Annual Report

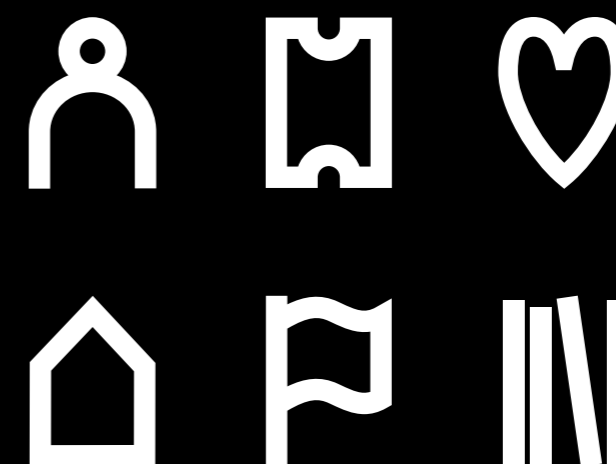
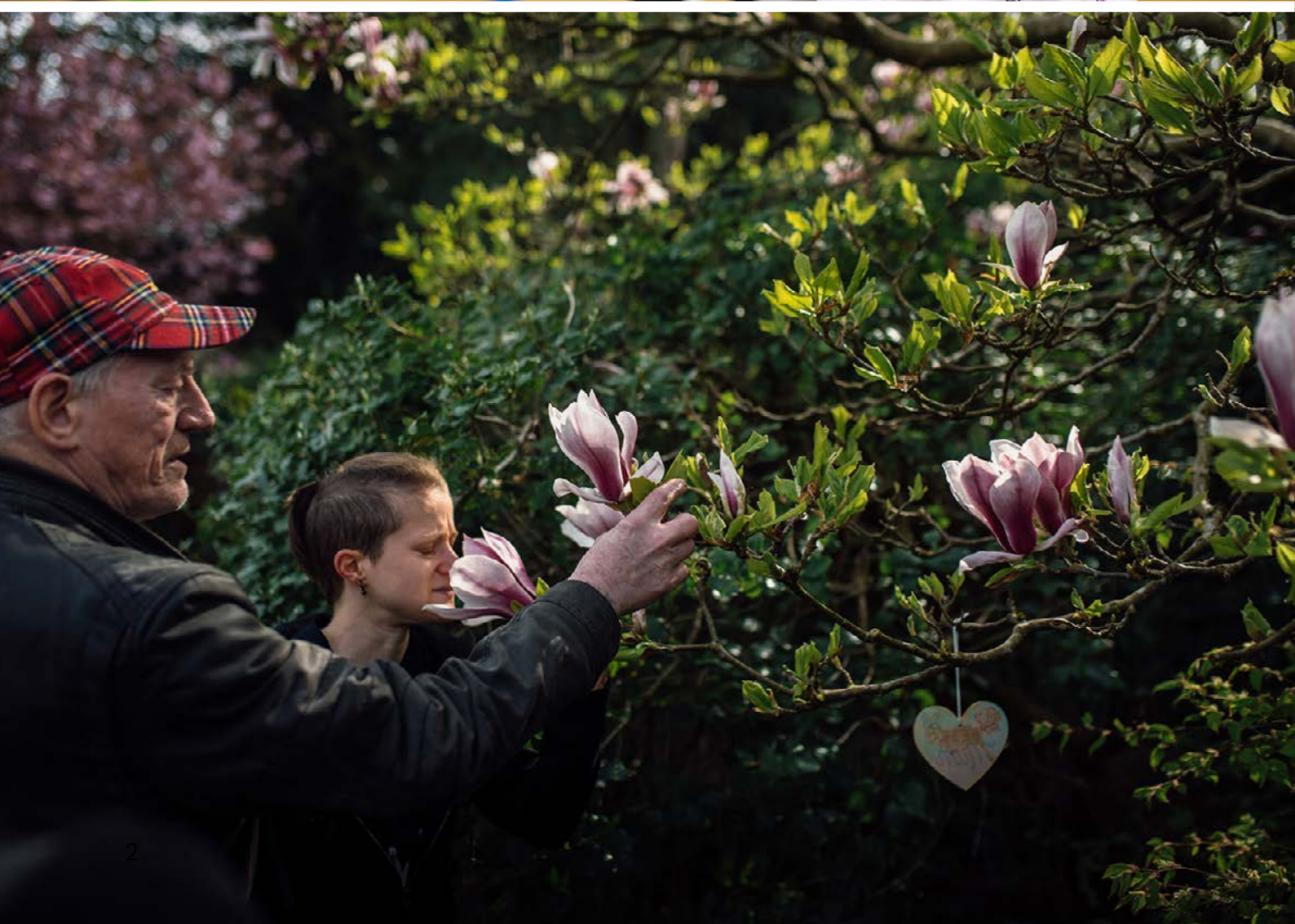
2022/2023





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# Chairperson's Introduction

It's been quite a year for the people of Renfrewshire, and OneRen has provided a raft of services which have brought joy and light to the communities we serve. As ever, we have one ambition – to ensure that everyone living locally can enjoy lives that are healthy, happy, and fulfilled. Our teams work hard to fulfil that mission each and every day.

We continue to provide vaccination clinics in some of our facilities and we have provided support to our most vulnerable populations, helping them to re-emerge from the trauma of the pandemic and into recovery. Our teams continue to do everything they can to improve the physical and mental health of the people of Renfrewshire and beyond. Whether through targeted support to help people back into our facilities and services or inspiring the next generation with activity camps and sport, OneRen teams work to provide confidence and support that helps our communities to flourish.

OneRen continues to be the common thread, weaving together services which are life-affirming and, in many cases life-changing. Numbers attending our venues have not quite recovered to pre-pandemic levels, but we are delighted that we have recorded 3.9

million attendances both in-person and online, in the last financial year, up from 2.9 million in the previous year.

It's a massive achievement and one which could not happen without our OneRen colleagues and volunteers who give their all to our communities – and I want to thank all of them for their unswerving passion and commitment.

Of course, none of this could be achieved without the support of our key partners at Renfrewshire Council and other stakeholders. That partnership is helping us to build our ambitions for the future. During 2022/23, our teams worked together to help bring back four of Renfrewshire's cultural pillars. We've already lifted up the curtain on Paisley's Big Stage, with the refurbished Town Hall wowing audiences and performers alike. It is now, undeniably one of Scotland's premier performance destinations. Most recently, we lifted the cover on Paisley's stunning new Central Library. Repurposing what was an empty shop unit on the High Street, the new library is a huge statement of intent, creating an exciting new chapter in the development of one of Scotland's finest library facilities.

There's so much more to come. The work on the refurbishment of Paisley Arts

Centre and the refurbishment of Paisley Museum, Scotland's biggest cultural heritage project, will come to fruition. They promise to add to the rich cultural vibrancy of Renfrewshire, creating destinations that will be a must-see and must-visit for audiences across Scotland and beyond.

While the return of our cultural venues is something we are all looking forward to, they will be rooted in our local communities. OneRen champions every part of Renfrewshire – that's what we do: improving lives and bringing joy to the people we serve.

**Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes  
Chairperson of the Board**



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Culture.  
Leisure.  
Sport.

#WeAreOneRen

## Year at a Glance

**3.9 M**

Total OneRen customer engagements, increased from 2.9 million in 2021/22 to 3.9 million – with in-person attendances increasing from 1 million to just over 1.56 million visits over the same period.

**1,424**

There were 1,424 referrals to our Live Active team and 3,642 consultations were delivered – all improving the health and wellbeing of patients referred to us by our NHS partners.

**5,699**

Vitality Classes – which help people living with medical conditions to get more active – saw 5,699 attendances – up from 4,332 the previous year.

**3,515**

A record 3,515 people attended 76 events at the Paisley Book Festival. 85 authors and organisations took part with more than 1,650 school pupils attending our schools' programme.

**54,000**

Our Active Schools programme adapted to COVID and recorded an amazing 54,000 attendances at physical activity sessions, with our summer holiday programme recording 4,069 attendances.

**430,000**

Library book issues (physical and digital) increased from 282,000 in 2022/23 to 430,000, while in-person attendances at libraries more than doubled to 216,000.

**12,300**

Our army of incredible volunteers quadrupled the number of hours they give to support Renfrewshire, devoting 12,300 hours of invaluable work across our communities.

**19,086**

Library teams supported 19,086 people to help them navigate the digital world, improving digital literacy and providing online access.

**248,712**

Swim attendances, excluding classes, has increased from 160,369 in 2021/22 to 248,712 this year.



# Our shared ambition

OneRen is the local charitable trust established by Renfrewshire Council to provide culture, leisure and sporting opportunities to help people enjoy active and healthy lives. We are passionate about the part we play in improving life-long physical and mental health in every one of our communities.

Our trust provides a range of affordable, accessible and ambitious services that are open to all and designed to improve personal, social and economic outcomes.

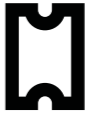
We are committed to our vision to ensure that everyone locally can live that are healthy, happy and fulfilled. Our mission is to improve our community's health and wellbeing by working in partnership to design and deliver a range of life-enhancing and accessible cultural, leisure and sporting opportunities that meet local needs and improve life chances across the population, and is framed around our four strategic objectives.

Our objectives are closely aligned to those of Renfrewshire Council. Our progress is reported to the OneRen Board of Directors and the Council's Leadership Board. Quarterly performance reports to the Council's chief executive office are made through the Council's monitoring officer for OneRen. We measure and report on progress through performance indicators.

As a charitable trust, we have been able to achieve significant savings, such as relief on non-domestic rate charges, which have been re-invested into frontline services.



A Healthy Community



A Sustainable Local Economy



A Great Place to Live, Play and Visit



A Sustainable, High-Performing Charity



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Start  
to  
heal.

**1,424** referrals to our  
Live Active team &  
**3,642** Live Active  
consultations delivered

## A Healthy Community

Our aim is to help everyone lead healthier, happier and more fulfilled lives. We play an active role in improving health and well-being outcomes, addressing inequalities and improving life chances amongst the people of Renfrewshire. We work to deploy a range of interventions to tackle poor mental and physical health in our community.

A key part of that has been our continuing support for the seasonal NHS COVID and flu vaccination programmes. Our teams supported NHSGGC colleagues to deliver mass vaccination facilities at The Lagoon Centre, Renfrew Leisure Centre and Johnstone Town Hall.

### Live Active Referral Scheme

The Live Active Referral Scheme is a well-established service, part funded by NHSGGC. The programme is ideal for those who are keen to make better lifestyle choices and who would benefit from being physically active but need help to do so. Those referred receive bespoke advice and encouragement to set realistic goals on how to make changes to their activity levels. In the last financial year, there were 1,424 referrals and 3,642 consultations, up from 624 referrals and 2,291 consultations in the previous year.



One of those who had their life changed was John, who after 20 years in the army developed severe arthritis, affecting his mobility. John said:

*I have always been very active and did walk lots. However, 20 years in the army has taken its toll on my knees which were becoming very arthritic and really affecting my mobility and my ability to walk much at all.*

*I was contacted by Lyn, my Live Active advisor and we arranged to meet up at Renfrew Sports Centre for a baseline appointment.*

*Six months on I can't believe how much I have progressed. I do a full hour in the gym now twice weekly and have even managed to do some short walks too. It's good to have that support. It is a really friendly atmosphere in the centre, all the staff are so kind and helpful.*





**54,000** Active Schools attendances at physical activity sessions, with our summer holiday programme recording **4,069** attendances.



**5,699** attended Vitality Classes, up from 4,332 the previous year.

## Vitality

Vitality is a series of physical activity classes which have been specifically designed for people living with medical conditions such as Parkinson’s disease, MS, stroke, cardiac conditions, cancer, osteoporosis, cognitive impairments and COPD. They are also ideal for those who have a fear of falling or find their strength and balance is starting to impact on their daily lives. In 2022-23, there were 5,699 class attendances, up from 4,332 the previous year.

OneRen’s Health and Wellbeing Team has been working in partnership with the Colorectal Department at the Royal Alexandria Hospital. Referrals are received for people pre and post-surgery patients who would benefit from support to become physically active.

“ Scott was referred by his nurse at the RAH after having a colostomy fitted. Scott said:  
*When I came out of hospital I was not in a good place in life. I was in pain, sometimes very stiff and unable to walk a lot. I kept pushing myself to get my fitness back, to self-rehabilitate myself back to work. This has brought structure to my life, giving me a purpose to get me out of bed in the day.*  
*The programme has been excellent – it’s given me a new lease of life and has been fantastic for my mental health and wellbeing.* ”

## Active Schools

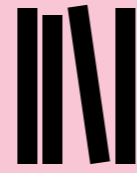
Our Active Schools team provides opportunities for children and young people to become more physically fit and active.

The Active Schools team pioneers with an in-depth survey across all Renfrewshire Schools, which assesses the physical activity of children and flags those who require further support. Our team is the only one in Scotland to produce a regional pupil survey, which provides invaluable insight and data to allow OneRen staff to work with children, their families and carers and schools to improve community health and wellbeing.

Our six-week Summer Holiday Programme returned, providing a programme of leisure and arts activities for schoolchildren over the summer holidays. Taking place across several OneRen venues, there were 4,069 attendances these holiday camps.

The OneRen Active Schools team continued to work with children and young people to improve their health and wellbeing. Following a two-year pandemic pause, at their Disability Sports Event 72 students with a disability from P1-P7 attended a Disability Target Sports & Dance event at the On-X, Linwood. The event was delivered by the Active Schools team for any student with a disability in Renfrewshire. On the day, attendees took part in boccia, archery, tennis, dance and playground games. The event was supported by Strathgryffe Tennis Club, Scottish Disability Sport, OneRen sports coaches and the St Benedict’s High School Sports Leaders.

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# Learn life skills.

Library teams supported  
**19,086** people to  
improve digital literacy  
and provide online access.

## A Sustainable Local Economy

We aim to provide a positive role in developing the local Renfrewshire economy. We want to create opportunities for high quality and sustainable jobs as well as build wider local employability through providing positive development pathways. We will contribute to the local partnership effort to build inclusive economic growth that benefits everyone.

### Importance of our libraries

Growing our economy, means growing our community wealth. Our Library teams continue to work to enable everyone to have access to books. A free library delivery service is available in Renfrewshire for:

- Anyone over 70 years of age
- Anyone with a disability or medical condition which limits their ability to leave their home
- Pre-school or school age children (primary and secondary)

This year, the library self-serve kiosks were replaced with new, upgraded models. The new kiosks are designed to deliver an engaging user experience that also promotes library services and events. It's easier than ever to check out items, view your library account or book a PC.

Long after the last lockdown was lifted, some vulnerable people in our communities remained trapped in their homes, worried about venturing back into the world. OneRen has helped bring people back into the community following long periods of social isolation. With funding from the Scottish Government Public Library Covid Relief Fund the team established a range of creative activities within Renfrewshire Libraries.

Activities were aimed at those looking to improve their mental health and connect with others. In the year following the easing of pandemic restrictions, we aimed to get people into their libraries for a cup of tea, chat and a wee bit of creativity. As part of our Living Well @ the Library initiative, the project included a regular programme of fun, creative workshops.

**“** Candice Haston, 24, from Ferguslie, has been going through a hard patch after losing both her dad and her partner, all while looking after her mum full time. She said:  
*I don't have a social life, like I used to. But now, I come to the library, and I enjoy the relief this can provide. Especially with COVID, I'm still panicky, but it's getting better.*  
*For me this means being able to get out and socialise. It's great for my mental health.*

**“** Margaret Canning, 75, from Ferguslie, who is in a wheelchair and partially sighted following a stroke, said:  
*The staff do a wonderful job. It gets me out of the house and helps to build back my confidence.*



**430,000** library books issued, & attendances at libraries more than doubled to **216,000**.

## Our Library School Team

For the first time, Renfrewshire Libraries worked intensively with eight schools in a "Whole School Sign-Up" programme for the Summer Reading Challenge. The schools shared their pupil data so that the children could be automatically enrolled for library membership. More than 1,500 children were signed up in this way, an important step towards the goal of making Every Child a Library Member.

For the wider Summer Reading Challenge, 2,705 children signed up. As incentives we had free swim passes for OneRen pools given to all children who read 3 books, and fantastic sponsorship for prizes from local businesses.

Some 560 children read 6 books or more (some as many as 12!) and were thrilled to receive their certificate and medal. The Skoobmobile Team provided an intensive programme of support for schools to generate excitement about the Challenge with a number of community stops right across Renfrewshire.

The Skoobmobile also played its part in making new communities to feel welcome, with several visits to the Marriott Hotel at Glasgow Airport to work with Ukrainian families displaced by war. The team offered children and families play and craft activities, slowly building new relationships and working with partner agencies to ease the transition.

E-books from the library service are proving to be extremely popular among high school pupils who are enjoying the convenience of being able to download books onto their own devices. E-book issues in September 2022 alone were 1,255 for e-books and audiobooks, thanks in no small part to the school librarians who have been promoting these at inductions for S1 pupils. This is an increase of 53% on the figures for September 2021 and represents our busiest e-book month ever!

The library service has been working closely with Glencoats Primary School to support them in achieving Reading School status, accredited by the Scottish Book Trust. The school library has been transformed to become an inviting space with attractive displays where the children love to go.

## Out and about in our communities

OneRen ran 20 events throughout the festive season as part of our Winter Programme and sold a total of 698 tickets. Events ranged from Christmas film nights, wreath making workshops to children's parties. One event, Elves and the Shoemaker a puppet show by Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre, sold out both of its shows.

Overall, the Winter Programme was well received with 91% stating they enjoyed the event/activity they attended. However, many stated that price, location, running time, and activity being offered were all factors in deciding whether or not to attend

The Autastic club, supported by OneRen, offers opportunities to children with ASN to explore their interests and be themselves. The sessions bring families together in a safe and relaxed environment, facing challenges and celebrating differences together. Around 80 autistic children each week attend with a parent or carer at Johnstone Community Sports Hub and in the last year, there have been 2,450 attendances..

**"** One parent said:  
*It's been absolutely incredible meeting new families and old ones in our new home at Johnstone Community Sports Hub. Our kids have settled amazingly, and we are loving getting to know every single one of them. We are so lucky.*  
**"**

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# Stand centre stage.

## A Great Place to Live, Play and Visit

We aim to keep building a positive reputation for Renfrewshire as a place for a wide range of exceptional leisure and cultural experiences. We want a growing recognition for our regional leisure opportunities, rich local history and diverse heritage. We provide a high-profile platform for local economic and civic opportunities.

### Artist in Residence Project

The Arts team have been delivering an artist in residence programme in partnership with CIRCLE recovery hub, a unique mental health and addiction service for people looking for a recovery focus. The Arts team have supported service users through weekly activity to commission artists to co-produce the project with the aim of designing a Bothy that can be used for creative and well-being activities. This innovative project aims to support service users to increase creative skills and improve access to arts and culture. One participant said: "I am amazed at what I have done," while another added: "I feel so proud of myself."

### Cycle Arts Festival

The Cycle Arts Festival took place between 1st – 7th August. The festival is an annual Outdoor Arts Festival developed by Place Partnership to celebrate the greenspace surrounding the Renfrewshire Cycle Routes. The festival promotes arts, cycling, environments and wellbeing.

### Renfrew on Film

An annual collaboration between the OneRen arts team and Renfrewshire Council's Event team, now in its 8th year, Renfrew on Film celebrates Renfrew through film and music events. The event this year featured two new film commissions as well as archive film, music scores accompaniment provided by Renfrew Burgh Band as well as four care home film screening visits after the event. The film commissions are available to watch on Ren TV.

### Indoor Leisure Events

Our events at indoor leisure centres continue to build, with 37 events held in Q3 alone with 11,678 spectators. External events included the World TKD Championship event held hosted by OneRen for the very first time with athletes from as far afield as Malaysia and Mexico in attendance. We also hosted the Power of Scotland Thai boxing event at Lagoon.





## Performances throughout the year

OneRen's performance programme saw productions at Renfrew Town Hall, the Tannahill Centre and included a new partnership with the Bungalow as a venue for live performance.

### Other Side of the River

In Motion Theatre, in association with OneRen and funded by Future Paisley premiered Other Side of The River at two sell-out performances at the Tannahill Centre, before embarking on a Scottish tour. The play was developed through a long process of community engagement in Ferguslie Park.

153 people were engaged through writing, dance and music workshops and 2,133 people were engaged through digital performance, events and the final tour, which toured to 7 locations throughout Scotland. The play is a universal story that is inspired by Ferguslie and its people and incorporates food, song, bingo and karaoke! The production won public and critical acclaim, including a four-star review in The Scotsman.

### Visual Arts Meet Up

Our regular monthly Visual Arts Meet Up sessions are intended for artists or creative practitioners who are living or working in Renfrewshire, and who are interested in meeting other artists to collaborate, share practise, and nurture talent.

One attendee said:

*After spending time abroad, I had no idea what the arts scene was like in Paisley. This has been a brilliant way to connect - meeting other local artists in real life!*

### Thread

A new Scottish musical created by Fraser Scott, Iona Ramsay and Bethany Tennick of Paisley based theatre and film production company Kick the Door. Rooted in the town of Paisley, with an original folk-pop score. Thread, a musical co-production between Renfrewshire based theatre company Kick the Door and OneRen, premiered at Renfrew Town Hall and sold out across 5 nights to standing ovations.

One audience member said:

*Thread made me proud, proud to talk about my heritage, my upbringing, and my experiences growing up in Scotland. The music was inspiring, and every character touched a part of my personality. I just wanted to get up and dance!*

### Common is as Common Does – A Memoir,

The play received its world premiere at Johnstone Town Hall with two sell-out shows. A co-production between 21 Common and OneRen, saw 21 Common take up residency at Johnstone Town Hall to research and develop the work which explored how poverty and violence can shape a man. Told through the lens of the Wild West, this piece attracted a new audience for OneRen's performance programme. The show was supported by OneRen and funded by Future Paisley and Creative Scotland.

### Bambino

Bambino by Scottish Opera in Renfrew Town Hall was a magical piece of music theatre for infants up to 12 months. Aimed at an audience that does not often get a look-in at opera but whose minds are wide open to new sounds and experiences, Bambino received four-star reviews from The Observer.





**1,505** runners competed in the 10k, and **1,036** took part in the fun run

[\*\*Click to Watch!\*\*](#)

## Paisley 10k

The Paisley 10k took place on 21 August 2022. Community members came out to cheer on the runners, with 2,541 people taking part. The event, the first to resume since the pandemic, was welcomed back by those running and the huge crowds welcoming them along the route. The men's race was won by local athletics hero, Callum Hawkins. There were 1,505 runners for the 10k and 1,036 took part in the fun run.

*"Really enjoyed this morning's Paisley 10k – a first for me. Good route with a fast downhill finish past UWS and back to Gilmour Street Station. A record crowd apparently and a very tasteful medal. Definitely be back next year. #Paisley10k @onerensport"*

*"#Paisley10k completed! Thanks you @weareoneren @onerensport. What a thrill I had finishing all the way down hill on my #framerunner over the cobbles on the high street. The crowd was electrifying"*

*"@onerensport #Paisley10k Great route and perfect running day. Well done to those who organised it and everyone who ran or came out to support. Amazing atmosphere"*

*"Cheers #OneRen the 10k race today was a cracker and I smashed my PB too #Paisley10k"*

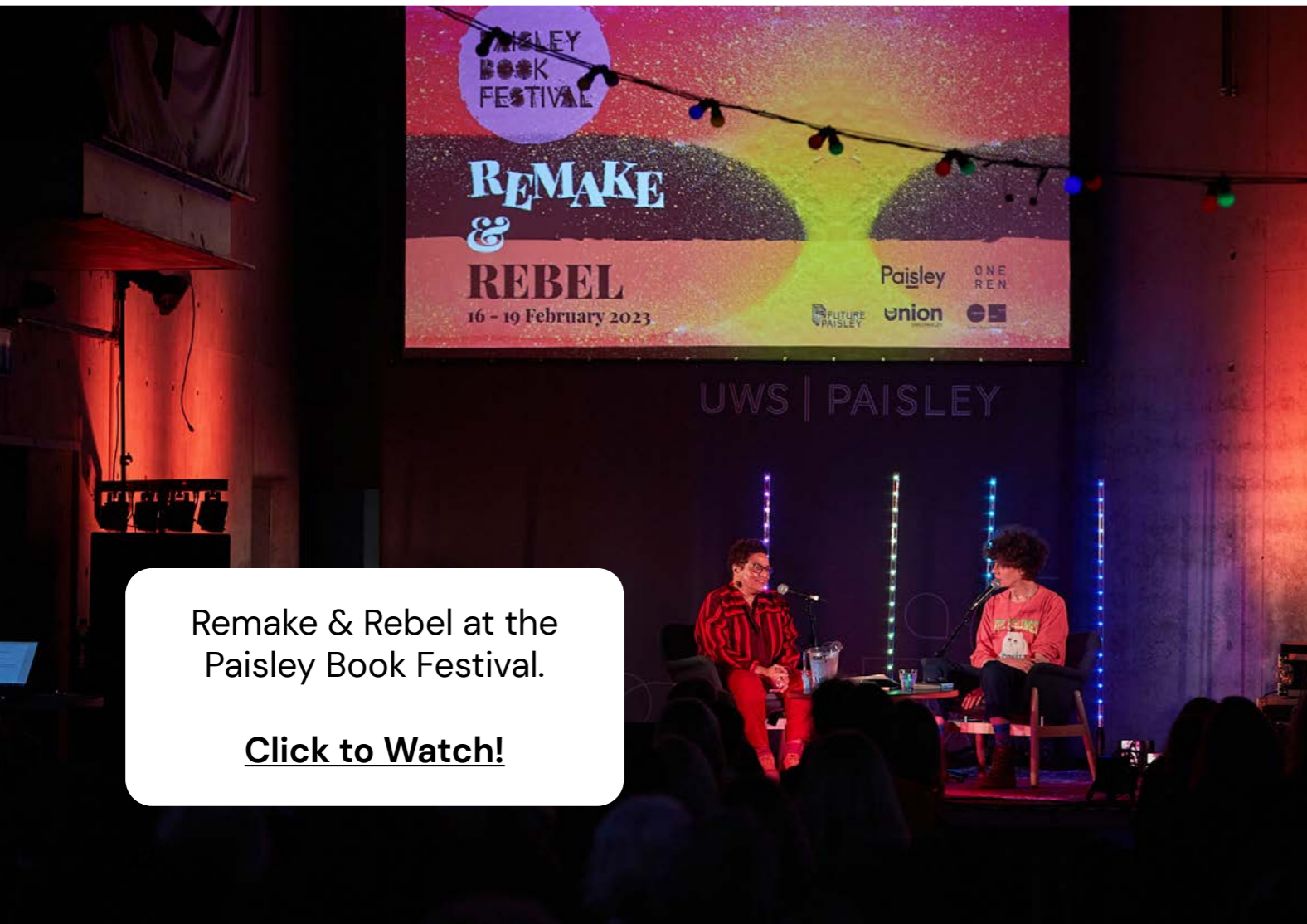




# Paisley Book Festival

The Paisley Book Festival enjoyed a record-breaking year, with 76 unique events, including 33 in its biggest ever schools' programme. Some 85 authors and creatives from across the UK took part in the festival with a total audience of 3515 literary fans, including 1650 pupils in schools' programme.

Big names at the festival included Darren McGarvey, the Hebridean Baker, Jackie Kay and Denise Mina. The former First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, created a buzz by appearing at the festival in her first public appearance following her resignation.



Remake & Rebel at the Paisley Book Festival.  
[Click to Watch!](#)

**76** unique events

**33** events in the main programme

**33** events in the schools' programme

**85** authors + creatives from across the UK took part in the festival

**3,515** audience members

**1,732** tickets sold for the main programme

**1,650** pupils took part in the schools' programme

**133** teachers and school staff helped deliver the schools' programme

*"Paisley Book Festival is a highlight of the Scottish literary calendar bringing together authors and book lovers to share in the joy of the written word."*  
 - Ross MacKay

*"It was an honour to be among the opening speakers and to experience such an eclectic mix of voices."*  
 - Christopher Brookmyre

*"I think it is a fantastic thing for Renfrewshire. I have been late to books in my life, but they are a fantastic way to learn, grow, laugh, think, and overall, just open our minds and hearts to other things."*  
 - Audience Member

*"I went with my friend who had never been to Paisley before, and she now says she's planning to go back."*  
 - Audience Member

ONE  
REN



# Start your future.

Our army of incredible volunteers quadrupled the number of hours they give to support Renfrewshire, devoting **12,300** hours of work across our communities

## A Sustainable, High-Performing Charity

We aim to build a sustainable business founded on fairness, providing flexible services which enable everyone locally to live lives which are healthy, happy and fulfilled. We want to build on our charitable credentials, allowing diverse funding streams to be used to challenge inequality. We will provide modern services based on deep rooted values.

### OneRen Leisure App

In 2022/23 our leisure membership increased by 22% with membership income showing some signs of recovery. Gym admissions increased to 190,242 up from 163,351 in 2021/22. Swim only memberships recorded a 21% increase over the year. Admissions increased to 248,712 up from 160,369 the previous year.

In 2022 we launched a new leisure app for OneRen to allow our members to book and manage their fitness classes, access information on our leisure venues and links to our on-demand fitness classes. The app is also used as a way of communicating directly to our members about various offers and promotional campaigns as well as notifications and updates on facilities.

The app was developed as a direct result of customer feedback and demand and was part of a range of digital improvements to improve customer experience. To date, there has been over 8,500 downloads of the app.

### Volunteering

Across OneRen our army of volunteers have given 12,300 hours of service to their local communities – for which all of our OneRen family and communities are incredibly grateful.

**“** David McCreight, 25, volunteered with our Active Schools team. He said:

*Volunteering with OneRen not only benefits me, but all of the children involved. It gives me a sense of pride to know that I am helping local children and am playing a huge role in their development. While volunteering for OneRen, I have developed skills and knowledge that I wouldn't have been able to gain elsewhere.*

Saima, who volunteered at the Paisley Book Festival, added:

*It was a really good experience for me. This type of opportunity not only cheers your heart, but also gives you mental satisfaction for doing something good. This is not only an event or festival but a platform to develop a social circle, to make good friends and also to get inspiration from others and to learn from other's life experiences.*

**”**



## Art Boss

Art Boss Creative Young Producers project, a collaboration between OneRen and Youth Services delivers an innovative model of blending arts and youth work. The aim of the project is to develop skills in a group of care experienced young people, young carers and young people needing support to improve their mental health and wellbeing, aged between 13-18, to programme cultural events, works and happenings for their peers.

The programme provides a wide range of cultural opportunities to develop the skills required to produce, curate and programme cultural events in Renfrewshire with a positive impact on young people's mental health. The Yo Producers group had a successful trip to Edinburgh to review a musical rendition of Charlie and The Chocolate Factory!

They also reached out to Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden to secure a creative workshop in plant printing. By taking on more responsibility in producing and pursuing their own opportunities, the young people continue to develop an awareness of Scotland's cultural landscape, as well as skills and interests, all while working towards their accredited Silver Arts Award.

## RSSE

At the end of March, Holly Aitken, Amy Couttie & Robert Campbell from our Active School's team hosted this year's Renfrewshire School of Sport Education (RSSE) graduation in the Tweedie Hall where 58 young people graduated.

RSSE is our flagship leadership programme in Renfrewshire for S5 and S6 pupils. Our focus is to maximise the potential of each young person to produce confident, knowledgeable, experienced young leaders in sport who will strengthen our volunteer workforce and programmes around Renfrewshire.

## CHEF

The Cultural Heritage and Events Fund (CHEF) was established to raise cultural ambition and stimulate new cultural, heritage and events activity, aiming to create long-lasting cultural, economic and social transformation in Renfrewshire. The Fund is administered through a partnership between Renfrewshire Council and OneRen.

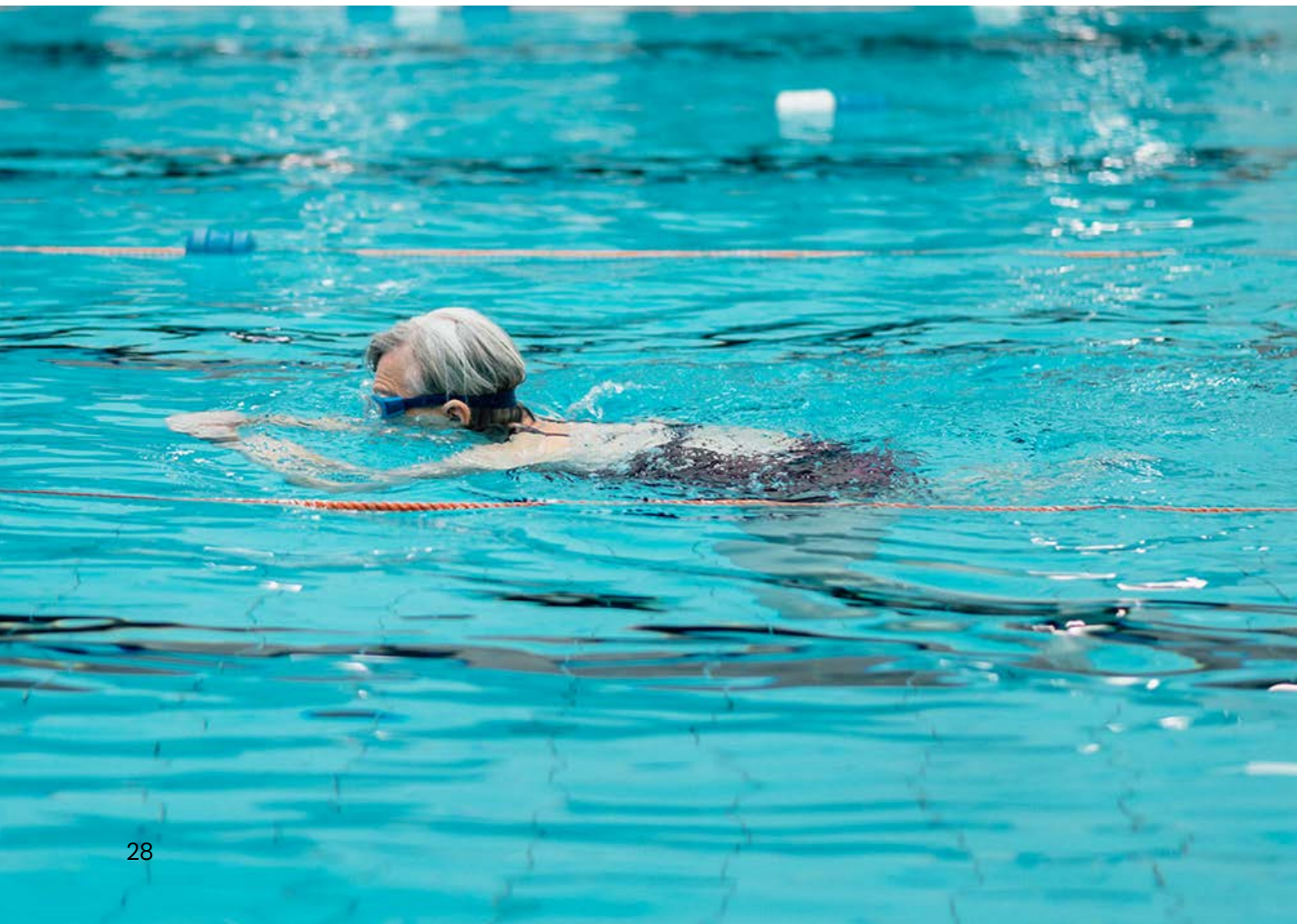
CHEF grant recipients have been wide-ranging, including individual artists, musicians and entrepreneurs; new and established professional and amateur arts, events, media and heritage organisations; youth work organisations; community groups; third sector organisations; schools and nurseries; churches; and further and higher education institutions.

Demand has been extraordinarily high, with 55 applications received with a total value of £522,145, compared with £226,233 available in the fund. The OneRen Arts team assess the majority of the applications and are providing a package of further support and signposting to other funds for applicants who are not being offered grant awards. 23 grants were awarded in Round 12, with a total value of £226,233. Creative projects will be delivered in towns and villages across Renfrewshire between October 2022 and March 2024.

## Dyslexia Friendly Books

Trinity High Library was awarded £1000 for dyslexia-friendly books to promote literacy skills following a successful application by the School Librarian to Glasgow Airport's Flightpath Fund. The funding will be used on short chapter books that are accessible for pupils with dyslexia or literacy difficulties and will go a long way to improve literacy and a love of reading in the school.





## The Wallneuk Crafters

The Wallneuk Crafters, a partnership with OneRen and Renfrewshire Council’s Criminal Justice team, provides opportunities for vulnerable women undertaking Community Payback Orders. The project sees the women create a range of textile products during their time with the Unpaid Work Squad. Alongside the development of practical and creative skills, the project also aims to contribute towards raising confidence, resilience and aspirations for the women attending the group. During the period the Wallneuk Crafters have worked on the following projects for communities:

- Bags for Schools: Embroidered bags for primary 1s beginning primary school.
- Draught Excluders for soup kitchens.
- Zimmer Frame Bags for Disability Resource Centre and Care Homes.
- Spud Buddies: Bags for harvesting vegetables for local growing initiatives.

We also collaborate with community-led women’s space Kairos+ in order to provide positive pathways for participants once they have completed their Community Orders.

A total of 5-10 women attended the programme with 2,732 hours of Community Orders completed through the programme since its onset.

## Environmental Sustainability

Our teams have been working on improving environmental sustainability, continuing our annual investment programme, replacing inefficient lighting with low energy and low emission LED lighting solutions.

In 2022-23, we upgraded lighting at:

- Lagoon – Swimming Changing Village
- Johnstone Sports Centre – Swimming Changing Village
- Johnstone Sports Centre – Swimming Pool Hall
- On-X – Gym Male and Female Changing Rooms
- We aim to continue our energy saving LED investment programme in 2023-24 focusing on football pitch flood-lighting.

Our support functions have been working hard to ensure all OneRen operations and services are delivered effectively and efficiently. Our HR colleagues have been working to streamline recruitment processes and deliver policies which build on our commitment to equality and representation across our workforce. Our finance team continues to plan our budgets and ensure that all services deliver best value for customers and stakeholders. While our admin, ICT and back-office teams always go the extra mile to keep everything – and everyone – working smoothly.



## VACMA

OneRen's Arts team also deliver the Visual Artist and Craft Makers Awards (VACMA) scheme which offers small grants to visual artists and craft makers for their creative development at all stages of their career. These awards are supported by Creative Scotland through funding from the National Lottery in partnership with OneRen and Future Paisley.

Round 9 took place in March 2023. We received 13 applications totalling £9,250, and we had £7,825 remaining from 22/23 budget to distribute. Ten awards were made, totalling £7,250.

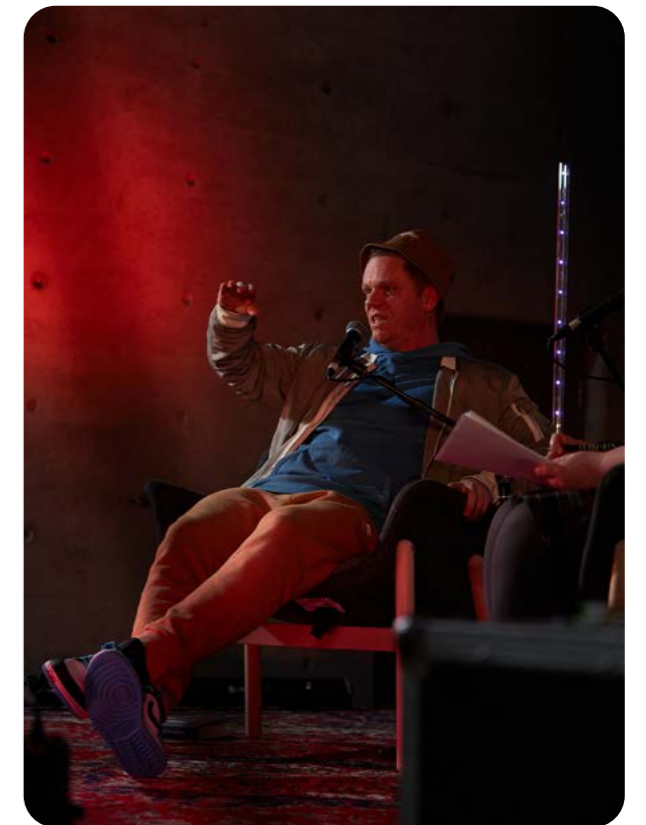
“ One of the artists said:  
*Thank you so much for the amazing news about my application, I really appreciate the panel's support! It feels so exciting to be heading forward with this and I feel so supported.* ”



## Pay What You Can

OneRen reviewed the approach to the pricing structure of cultural events in 2022, piloting a Pay What You Can model for the Winter Programme, taking place across OneRen venues. During a period of significant financial pressure for people across the UK, the pay what you can approach presented an opportunity for audiences to engage with a range of cultural activity and pay what they could afford, no questions asked.

The success of this pilot, allowed for the PWYC approach to be repeated during the Paisley Book Festival in February 2023, where a diverse range of audiences attended author events and workshops for as little as £3. This pricing model allows OneRen to provide access to premium events for Renfrewshire audiences and has been continued into 2024 with further opportunities being developed in this area.



# Creating a new Paisley Through Culture



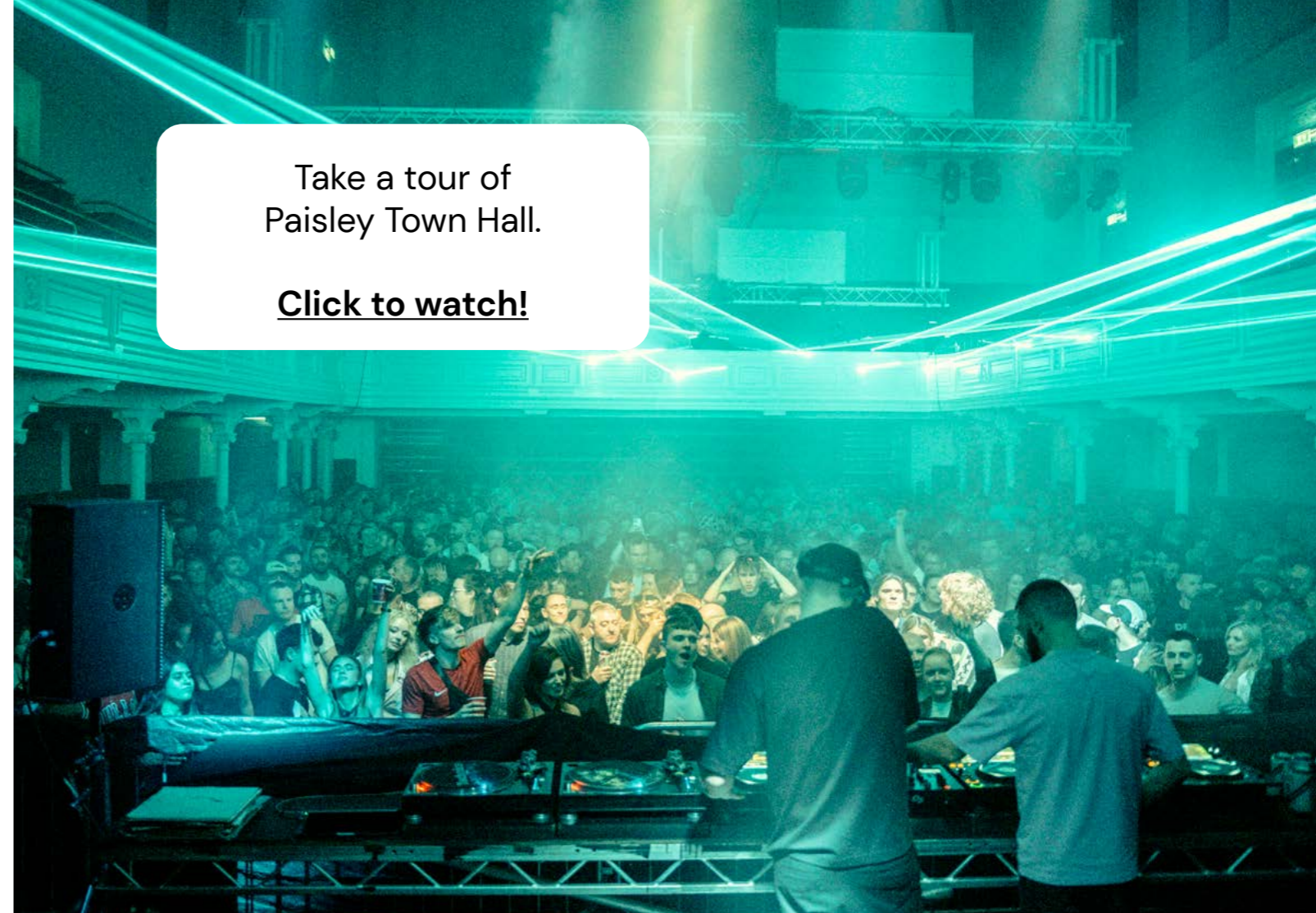
Renfrewshire Council is investing around £100 million in the culture-led regeneration of Paisley town centre – and already we are seeing the fruits of that once-in-a-generation investment. With work ongoing on two of the four projects, due to open in the coming months, it promises to be an exciting period for Paisley and Renfrewshire.

## Paisley Town Hall

In September 2023, we welcomed back the iconic Paisley Town Hall following its remarkable transformation. Rebranded as Paisley's Big Stage, the 'new' Town Hall is one of Scotland's best performance venues. Building on its 140-year history, the new and improved town hall will attract more and bigger performances, bringing with it more people to Paisley. The transformation of the venue is a sight to behold. The inside of the 19th century architectural gem has been turned into a 21st-century entertainment venue.

The first few shows have enjoyed both commercial and critical success, with rave reviews from audiences and performers alike, from Paisley Opera's acclaimed performance of Macbeth to the stand-out success of the Royal National Mod the town hall has delivered. Pop acts like Belle and Sebastian and Optimo sold out their shows within minutes, with future programming likely to attract big names to the venue.

More than that, the venue is a place which the people of Paisley and beyond are taking to their hearts – a place where memories are made that last a lifetime.



Take a tour of  
Paisley Town Hall.

[Click to watch!](#)







## Paisley Central Library

The opening of the new home for Paisley Central Library took place in November 2023. With its official title, the Paisley Learning and Cultural Hub, the team has created a new, modern community and educational facility housing library services in a formerly vacant High Street unit. Paisley Central Library used to be located within Paisley Museum, but in its new home it will stand as an icon on the high street, with the aim of attracting more people into the town centre and the venue.

The new central library is one of Scotland's finest community facilities, providing services across four floors, with an incredible play and family facility on the ground floor – as well as quiet nooks and crannies to curl up with a book upstairs, while watching the world go by.

The investment by the Council in the High Street, complements other facilities such as the nearby Secret Collection museum store.





## Paisley Arts Centre

The refurbished Paisley Arts Centre, will also see its refresh completed in 2024, improving both performance facilities and visitor experience at the popular venue.

Paisley Arts Centre Stage has hosted some of Scotland's biggest names in the three decades since the 250-year-old former church building was converted into one of the country's most vibrant small entertainment venues.

PAC has an excellent reputation within the theatre community for programming a wide and varied range of performances. The centre will offer a platform for emerging artists and performers which will reinforce Paisley and Renfrewshire's place in Scotland's cultural scene.

The facility will be modern and welcoming, while retaining the incredible character of the historic building. The refreshed venue will be flexible enough for small, intimate performances as well as the capacity for larger gigs that we know will attract a range of performers and audiences.



# Paisley Museum

The £45 million refurbishment is the flagship project in the regeneration of Paisley and Scotland's biggest cultural heritage capital development. Home to galleries, an observatory, heritage centre, public gardens, events, and more, the reimagined museum will be at the heart of the local community – and open for everyone to learn, discover, create and connect.

The new museum will be a vibrant and accessible cultural hub providing welcoming facilities to the community whilst attracting visitors to Paisley from across Scotland and beyond. The stories behind the museum and the treasures it holds have been extensively and collaboratively researched and will be shared more widely in the months ahead – building excitement as we look forward to revealing the jewel in our cultural crown.

While the team are creating a truly world-class visitor attraction, it has community at its core. We have worked with more than 70 community groups to get their input on the project. This has led to more detailed work with 16 groups, to co-produce work that really understands how to bring stories across the museum to life. This work has been recognised by museum leaders as industry-leading; but more than that, it is helping to shape and change lives through our shared histories and futures. The hope is that everyone can see themselves reflected in the museum, it's objects and the stories they hold.



The main structural interventions and alterations in the buildings are nearing completion by contractors Keir. The stunning main entrance of the glazed 'red drum' is now in place, as is the west extension building. Work has also started on the detailed exhibition fit-out programme. The Hub Ltd have commenced production and fabrication of some of the display components including display cases, mounts and aluminium frames for networks. All of this work will show Paisley and Renfrewshire's treasures at their very best, creating a must-see attraction for audiences across Scotland and beyond.

The museum's project team has been working conserving a huge number of objects, including paintings, frames, books and sculptures. Some 95% of the conservation work will be completed by the end of 2023. There will be a significant number of digital displays and interactives within the new museum. Creative and innovative films have been commissioned, helping to tell the story of the displays in entertaining and informative ways, employing local companies such as Hug Graphics and Media Co-op to produce content. Joi Polloi Ltd are delivering 15 digital interactives, including digital storybooks for early years audiences. Freakworks and Heehaw Ltd are also working on films and animations.

We continue to work extensively with partners on audience research including gathering recommendations on the museum welcome experience, testing of our content on sensitive topics and specialist terminology, user testing of digital and manual interactive displays, supporting evaluation of selected co-produced stories and activities and engagement with youth groups.

Throughout the project, our photographer has been documenting both the site and our objects, with stunning visual results.



# Chief Executive's Statement

At a time when so much seems so uncertain, I'm incredibly proud of the OneRen family for providing an anchor for people and communities across Renfrewshire and beyond. Our services are a lifeline for many, providing context, stability and opportunity for all, particularly the most vulnerable and excluded.

Our teams work in every corner of Renfrewshire, delivering real innovation, adapting to community needs and, during a cost-of-living crisis, going the extra mile to affect positive change.

OneRen has a mission; to improve our community's health and wellbeing by working in partnership to design and deliver a range of life-enhancing and accessible cultural, leisure and sporting opportunities that meet local needs and improve life chances across the population.

Working with our partners, we're delivering on our shared ambitions. Our attendances, online and in-person, are up by one million in the space of a year. We've doubled the amount of people we are helping to improve digital skills, and there have been massive increases in the number of people who are being helped into better health through our Live Active and Vitality programmes.

We are hosting sell-out shows, world-premiere theatre performances and record-breaking events like the Paisley Book Festival and Paisley 10k – all adding to the local economy and our incredible vibrancy.

None of this could be done without our incredible staff, volunteers, our Board, partners and stakeholders. By working together, we make a real difference to people's lives, and I want to thank everyone involved in our shared efforts.

The last year has not been easy for anyone. At OneRen, supporting those in the margins is part of our DNA. Our teams work with people to tear down the barriers to participation. We've helped people to emerge from their homes, some for the first time in three years since the pandemic, using tailored craft sessions in our libraries to support them. Our teams continue to support care experienced young people to build their confidence through culture and art and we've proven that the same can be done with women who are going through the criminal justice system. We don't do any of this on our own, and I want to pay a special thanks to our army of volunteers, who gave more than 12,300 hours of their time to support our communities – four times as many hours as the previous year.

While our teams work for all our communities, during good times and bad, there has been much to celebrate too. I'm sure it will be no surprise to learn that the re-opening of Paisley Town Hall and the new Paisley Central Library, has created huge levels of excitement – and a lot of hard work – for our teams and our partners. While both facilities are beacons for culture, entertainment and learning, we're only half-way there.

2024 will be another stunning year for Paisley and Renfrewshire, when we bring back to life the town's art centre and work on the delivery of the refurbished Paisley Museum. The rebirth of the town through culture will help make Paisley to Glasgow what Brooklyn is to Manhattan. Everyone will want to be part of our cultural renaissance.

In the weeks and months ahead, OneRen will continue to be a haven for those seeking an anchor, a safe space at a time of great uncertainty. From our libraries and community facilities, leisure centres and facilities, to our wonderful programme of events, OneRen will continue to be a reliable touchpoint, our communities can depend on.

**Dr. Victoria Hollows**  
Chief Executive



# Financial Report

The charity is funded through a service payment from Renfrewshire Council, grant income and admission fees generated at its leisure and sports facilities and cultural venues.

The charity does not trade for profit. Any surplus generated by the charity is applied solely to the continuation and development of the charity for the benefit of the local community.

The summary of the audited statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2023 shows net expenditure of £-2,867,129 (2022 £3,498,000) before other recognised gains and losses.

In line with recommended accounting practice, the reported figures include a notional entry for future pension costs which are based on an actuarial review of future pension liabilities for current and previous OneRen employees. Employer superannuation contributions (pension payments) are paid over to Strathclyde Pension Fund for current employees to meet future pension liabilities.

The charity operated in challenging global conditions during 2022/23, as we continued to recover from the pandemic. A range of proactive measures were taken during the year to manage the financial position which enabled the charity to make a small surplus of £11,871 (excluding pension fund related activities).

## Consolidated statement of financial activities including income and expenditure account

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Operation of leisure and cultural activities</b>				
Income from charitable activities	20,854,842	-	20,854,842	18,519,165
Commercial trading operations	251,624	-	251,624	901
Other Incoming resources	21,106,466	-	21,106,466	18,520,066
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>21,106,466</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,106,466</b>	<b>18,520,066</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Expenditure on charitable activities	23,682,683	-	23,682,683	21,990,671
Commercial trading operations	290,913	-	290,913	27,395
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>23,973,595</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,973,595</b>	<b>22,018,066</b>
<b>Net expenditure before other recognised gains and losses</b>	<b>(2,867,129)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,867,129)</b>	<b>(3,498,000)</b>
<b>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>				
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	32,972,000	-	32,972,000	12,230,000
Net movement in funds	30,104,871	-	30,104,871	8,732,000
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>(2,139,816)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,139,816)</b>	<b>(10,871,816)</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>27,965,055</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,965,055</b>	<b>(2,139,816)</b>

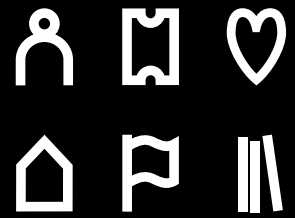
## Consolidated and charity balance sheets

	Group 31 March 2023	Charity 31 March 2023	Group 31 March 2022	Charity 31 March 2022
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets	340,168	340,168	512,799	512,799
Investments	-	1	-	1
	<b>340,168</b>	<b>340,169</b>	<b>512,799</b>	<b>512,800</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stocks	68,924	68,838	74,421	68,073
Debtors	5,821,962	5,821,623	4,900,269	4,900,289
Cash at bank and in hand	735,505	735,215	346,269	346,149
	<b>6,626,391</b>	<b>6,625,676</b>	<b>5,320,959</b>	<b>5,314,511</b>
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>6,586,505</b>	<b>6,516,208</b>	<b>5,465,574</b>	<b>5,428,833</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<b>39,886</b>	<b>109,469</b>	<b>(144,615)</b>	<b>114,322</b>
<b>NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY</b>	<b>380,055</b>	<b>449,628</b>	<b>368,184</b>	<b>398,478</b>
DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME ASSET/(LIABILITY)	27,585,000	27,585,000	(2,508,000)	(2,508,000)
<b>NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION ASSET/(LIABILITY)</b>	<b>27,965,055</b>	<b>28,034,638</b>	<b>(2,139,816)</b>	<b>(2,109,522)</b>
<b>INCOME FUNDS</b>				
UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	27,965,055	28,034,638	(2,139,816)	(2,109,522)
RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	-	-	-	-
	<b>27,965,055</b>	<b>28,034,638</b>	<b>(2,139,816)</b>	<b>(2,109,522)</b>
<b>INCOME FUNDS INCLUDING PENSION ASSET/(LIABILITY)</b>	<b>27,965,055</b>	<b>28,034,638</b>	<b>(2,139,816)</b>	<b>(2,109,522)</b>
PENSION RESERVE (ASSET)/LIABILITY	(27,585,000)	(27,585,000)	2,508,000	2,508,000
<b>INCOME FUNDS EXCLUDING PENSION (ASSET)/LIABILITY</b>	<b>380,055</b>	<b>449,638</b>	<b>368,184</b>	<b>398,478</b>

## Consolidated cashflow statement

	Group 31 March 2023	Charity 31 March 2023	Group 31 March 2022	Charity 31 March 2022
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities	-	389,236	-	125,073
Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment Payments to Acquire Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Net Cash Outflow from Capital Expenditure and financial investment	-	-	-	-
<b>Increase in Cash in the Year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>389,236</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>125,073</b>

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For further information about  
OneRen, please visit our  
website at: [oneren.org](http://oneren.org)

You can contact us:

Lagoon Leisure Centre

11 Christie Street Paisley PA1 1NB

Telephone: 0141 618 6351

OneRen, a trading name of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited

Company limited by guarantee no: 490998

Registered Charity in Scotland: SCO33898

OneRen, a trading name of Renfrewshire Leisure Trading Limited

Company limited by guarantee no: 241310

VAT Registered Company: 210 0336 83

[oneren.org](http://oneren.org)

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