

RIDING LIGHTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1070142

Details

Other names	RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY, RLTC, ROUGHSHOD
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03573945
Registered	1998-06-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Riding Lights Theatre Co Friargate Theatre Lower Friargate York YO1 9SL
Phone	01904 655317
Email	info@rltc.org
Website	www.ridinglights.org

Activities

Objects: (A) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE DRAMATIC ARTS BY PROVIDING AND PRESENTING TO THE PUBLIC HIGH QUALITY PERFORMANCES OF THEATRE OPERA OPERETTA BALLET MUSICALS CINEMA AND OTHER PERFORMANCES WHICH ARE OF EDUCATIONAL CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY (B) TO TEACH TRAIN AND ENCOURAGE YOUNG ARTISTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN THE DRAMATIC ARTS (C) TO EXPLORE PRINCIPALLY THROUGH THE DRAMATIC ARTS THE RELEVANCE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH TO CONTEMPORARY LIFE AND ITS POTENTIAL TO EFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE

Activities: Productions, performances and special events - from small scale to major touring productions.Short filmsYouth TheatreResidential Summer SchoolSpecial education projectsDrama training and teaching

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£455,442	£483,331	-	-
2024-08-31	£337,436	£420,194	-	-
2023-08-31	£336,405	£415,890	-	-
2022-08-31	£369,905	£302,448	-	-
2021-08-31	£320,747	£294,491	-	-
2020-08-31	£602,533	£343,585	£574,177	8

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JOHN CHRISTOPHER EMMETT	Chair	2015-07-06
ANTONY DUNN		2012-06-25
Andrew James Bradley		2017-03-29
David John Lampitt		2017-02-07
Dr Rebecca Amy Benzie		2026-05-13
ISrael Oyelumade		2025-01-02
Joseph Simon Harmston		2025-01-02
SEAN MICHAEL HOWARD CAVANAGH		
Sally Maddison		2022-09-08
YVONNE PATRICIA LOUISE MORLEY-CHISHOLM		

RIDING LIGHTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1070142

Accounts

Company registration number 03573945 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1070142 (England and Wales)

RIDING LIGHTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

RIDING LIGHTS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr A J Bradley	
	Mr O Brown	
	Mr S M H Cavanagh	
	Mr A P N Dunn	
	Mr J C Emmett	
	Mr M J Hands	
	Mr D J Lampitt	
	Miss S Maddison	
	Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm	
	Mr J S Harmston	(Appointed 2 January 2025)
	Mr I Oyelumade	(Appointed 2 January 2025)
Members	Mrs R Jack	
	Mr R Mapletoft	
	Prof. B Quash	
	Mr M Rance	
	Mr J M W Somerville	
Secretary	Mr A P N Dunn	
Charity number	1070142	
Company number	03573945	
Registered office	Friargate Theatre Lower Friargate York UK YO1 9SL	
Independent examiner	David Walker FCA 124 Acomb Road York YO24 4EY	

RIDING LIGHTS

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RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's memorandum and articles of association dated 2 June 1998 as amended July 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are :

- to advance the education, public understanding and appreciation of the dramatic arts.
- to teach, train and encourage young artists and other members of the public in the dramatic arts.
- to explore, principally through the dramatic arts, the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching. There has been no change in these during the year.

The charity has the general aim of providing and presenting performances which are of educational, cultural and religious value to the community.

The main objectives for the year continued to be the promotion and fostering of artistic knowledge and appreciation of the dramatic arts, and the exploration of the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

Strategies for achieving aims and objectives

Strategies for achieving the objectives of the charity continues to be the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching. Performance space is also hired out to local performers, both amateur and professional, as well as to touring artists

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The trustees consider that the charity is a public benefit entity.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Activities

Details of the significant activities of the charity during the year are as follows:

Riding Lights Productions

Cups On A String

A UK tour of 26 dates.

Supported by Transforming Lives For Good, attended by 1,200 audience members.

A Christmas Cracker

Yorkshire tour of schools and churches. Toured to 23 venues and a limited run at Friargate Theatre.

Riding Lights Podcasts

A new podcast dramatizing the Easter story over 8 episodes.

His Last Report

A Co-production with York Theatre Royal.

Riding Lights Roughshod

The charity's Roughshod Company, which is primarily staffed by volunteer actors and actresses offering performances at no charge, did not operate during the year.

Participatory Work

Riding Lights Education works with both young people and adults to offer theatrical opportunities for the York community.

Acting Up!

A company for young people with additional needs, continues for 18-30 year olds. The participants spent the programme for the year developing their performances skills, culminating in a full scale production staged at Friargate Theatre.

A collaboration between Riding Lights and York Explore – History Misbehaves, digital production.

Summer Theatre School

Riding Lights Summer Theatre School returned to a full scale summer school in 2025, at Giggleswick School. Attended by 50 participants.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Friargate Theatre

Work has continued to refresh Riding Lights' home with ongoing fabric improvements. Friargate continues to be more core to the work of the company and has hosted a wider range of events this year, including:

Aesthetica Film Festival.

We continue to host Aesthetica film festival as part of Friargate's programme.

Right Here Right Now!

Riding Lights' monthly improvised comedy night, with a loyal audience attending throughout the year.

Festival of Ideas.

Friargate hosted events for The York Festival of Ideas: Clay Fever.

Season.

Presenting professional work across Autumn and Spring seasons, presenting music, drama, family work, comedy, and musicals.

MAKE

Riding Lights launched its new artist development program of MAKE, incorporating workshops, courses, retreats, artist support, and membership.

Volunteers

Use of Volunteers

Riding Lights is widely supported by many people across the country who help by providing a wide range of valuable resources, particularly when Riding Lights visits local communities. We are particularly grateful for the generous provision of accommodation and hospitality made to our acting companies and for those who organise performances of our work in their area.

Riding Lights has been very pleased to be able to tour this year but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find hosts who are able to offer hospitality and accommodation to actors.

The educational department also benefits from the assistance of volunteers, who provide valuable experience to those individuals taking part.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

Riding Lights Productions

Year 2024/25 was a transitional year for Riding Lights, with the recruitment of 2 new CEO's Paul Birch and Oliver Brown, in August 2024.

Cups On A String a project co-funded with Transforming Lives For Good was created to tour the UK. Written by Bridget Foreman, directed by David Gilbert, the show focused on the relationship between a mentor and a school child at risk of exclusion. It highlighted the positive impact of early intervention for young children who struggle in mainstream education. The tour played to 26 venues, and attracted an audience of 1200.

Christmas 2024 A Christmas Cracker was remounted for a tour of churches and schools ahead of a limited run at Friargate Theatre. The show played to around 2000 young people, bringing the story of the nativity to audiences in an accessible way.

We worked with York Theatre Royal to produce a large scale piece of new writing with a community cast of 100, His Last Report. The show played to around 12,000 in a limited run at York Theatre Royal.

We also worked in collaboration with York Explore for a community audio project – History Misbehaves.

Work continued on Revolving Doors, working with Anchor to create a short film to be presented within prisons, to be shown at Christmas 2025 with an audience reach of approximately 60,000 prisoners

At Easter a new digital product – The Passion was created, an 8 episode podcast, retelling the story of holy week. This was listened to by over 6,500 people, and reached number 17 in the UK podcast charts for religion.

We brought back Summer Theatre Week following a year of absence to Giggleswick School. 50 participants joined the week where 5 shows were produced and performed.

Riding Lights, from its home at Friargate launched its new artist development scheme, MAKE, providing opportunities for local artists to develop skills and to have space to make theatre. MAKE incorporates courses, workshops, residential retreats, subsidised rehearsal space and access to the create team at Riding Lights. As part of the MAKE scheme a new membership, which gained 45 new members was launched.

Running a weekly theatre project, Acting Up, for learning-disabled adults, with performance of a devised pantomime.

The new executive leadership team have launched a number of new initiatives to find new ways of creating and funding work to ensure the company's sustainability for the future.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Financial review

Riding Lights aims to cover all its costs through a mixture of the regular donated income received from Membership and irregular income from one-off donations as well as earned income from projects and productions. The Company aims to ensure that the core costs of operating Riding Lights (Administration, Friargate Theatre, Company Vehicles, Staff etc.) are broadly covered by regular and one-off giving. Any shortfall is met by profit from projects and productions. Any surplus is intended principally to support new productions, which is essential if the Company is to invest in and remain creatively active. Riding Lights costs are kept to a minimum while also ensuring that staff are paid, as a bare minimum, in accordance with the recommendations of the Living Wage Foundation to which the company is affiliated.

As at 31 August 2025 unrestricted reserves stood at £361,445 (2024 £344,127). of which £208,892 (2024 £216,096) is represented by the Friargate Theatre property.

Regular income has seen a steady reduction in membership subscriptions, largely from elderly supporters no longer able to make a regular contribution. Work is being taken to support the building of new members through new work and attracting new audiences.

Irregular income including external funding, grants, donations and partnerships is crucial as a support for the whole organisation.

The Board's current strategy is to:

- Review all the company's operations to ensure we are as efficient as possible.
- Review the current composition of the board and recruit new directors as appropriate to fill any areas of expertise that are underrepresented.
- Review the findings of the Friargate feasibility study with a view creating a plan for the funding and implementation of larger scale capital works.
- Increase regular income by finding more members and encouraging all members to consider their level of contribution.
- To establish, with the new CEO's, a sustainable and viable plan for the company's future.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to six month's fixed costs expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

After falling below this level of reserves in late 2024, the action taken has seen a movement towards being able to work within the policy. It is hoped that by the 2025/2026 financial years this will be achieved.

Investment policy

The company's memorandum and articles of association give the charity the power to make any investment which the trustees think fit. At the present time no such investments are held other than bank deposits.

Major risks

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Plans for future periods

The company has costed projects for the next three years, subject to review.

- Deliver 'Revolving Doors' short film.
- Seasons of professional presented events at Friargate Theatre.
- Christmas tour and Friargate run of A Very Crooked Christmas
- Short Friargate run of Dario Fo's Mistero Buffo
- Expanding reach of improv show Right Here, Right Now at theatres and festivals
- Passion Tour of Night Falls.
- UK Studio Theatre tour The Selfish Giant.
- Major UK Theatre tour The Lamb Who Came For Dinner.
- Riding Lights Podcasts to release; The Miracles, The King, The Prodigal, The Fall.
- Summer Theatre Week at Wydale Hall
- MAKE– an offer for local creatives within York based at Friargate Theatre.
- Continued development of Friargate Theatre to enable more regular use of theatre, rehearsal studio, and café.
- Riding Lights Retreats – new weekend retreats with key creative educational focus.
- MAKE Adventure – a new residential for 11-16 year olds.
- A major UK national tour in the Autumn of 2027.
- Acting Up weekly workshops and shows with learning disabled adults

Structure, governance and management

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 23rd June 1998 charity registration number 1070142 and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, company registration number 03573945 (England and Wales) and is therefore governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 2nd June 1998 as amended on 23rd July 2019.

The company began to operate on 1 November 1998 when the assets and liabilities of Riding Lights Trust (a registered charity) and Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited with the exception of its stock of merchandise were transferred to the company. The Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited then changed its name to Riding Lights (Trading) Limited. Riding Lights (Trading) Limited was dissolved on 16 December 2008.

The principal office and registered office address is:

Friargate Theatre
Lower Friargate
York
YO19 9SL

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A J Bradley	
Mr O Brown	
Mr S M H Cavanagh	
Mr A P N Dunn	
Mr J C Emmett	
Mr M J Hands	
Mr D J Lampitt	
Miss S Maddison	
Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm	
Mr J S Harmston	(Appointed 2 January 2025)
Mr I Oyelumade	(Appointed 2 January 2025)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Board has the power to appoint additional trustees as it considers fit to do so.

In accordance with the provisions of the company's Articles of Association at each AGM one third of the board members shall retire by rotation, any newly appointed trustees shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and shall not be taken into account in determining the board members who are to retire by rotation at the meeting. If not reappointed at such Annual General Meeting, they shall vacate office at the meeting thereof.

In accordance with these provisions Martin Hands, Sally Maddison and Oliver Brown will retire from office by rotation at the next AGM and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The trustees have complied with the duty imposed upon them by Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission including the guidance issued in respect of public benefit.

Qualifying third party indemnity provisions

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a board member may otherwise be entitled, every board member or other officer or auditor of the Charity shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Charity against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Charity, and against all costs, charges, losses, expenses or liabilities incurred by him in the execution and discharge of his duties or in relation thereto.

Organisational structure

The trustees meet regularly to manage the charity's affairs and delegate the day-to-day running of the charity's activities to its executive and artistic directors and administrative staff.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Induction and training of trustees

Riding Lights is a theatre company with a Christian ethos, and it is important that Trustees who join the Board share the Company's beliefs and objectives or at least understand and sympathise with its ethos. The Chair, and a majority of trustees excluding the Chair, should be practising Christians.

Potential new Trustees are identified from amongst the long-term, active supporters of Riding Lights and from those offering relevant skills and experience. The Board seeks to maintain a balance of knowledge and experience relevant to particular aspects of the Company's activities, for example: Theatre Production and Management, Finance, Personnel, Education, etc.

Potential Trustees are invited by the Chairman to think and pray about their possible deeper involvement with the Company. Those who accept are invited to attend a Board meeting to see what goes on and how the Board operates. Once they have formally decided to accept the invitation, they are encouraged to attend as many of the meetings as possible.

Inevitably not everyone can attend every meeting. Meeting dates are agreed up to a year in advance, with some six meetings each year. Minutes and review notes are circulated to all members of the Board on a regular basis.

There is no formal training programme for new trustees, but they are all selected from individuals who have supported or worked with Riding Lights in different capacities in the past, or who bring relevant skills and are familiar with the broad scope of the company's work. Initially they work alongside more experienced members of the Board on sub-committees or in exploring specific issues.

Remuneration policy

Riding Lights ensure that staff are paid, as a bare minimum, in accordance with the recommendations of the Living Wage Foundation to which the company is affiliated.

Promoting the success of the company

The charity continues the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr O Brown
Director & Trustee

18 March 2026

RIDING LIGHTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RIDING LIGHTS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Riding Lights (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

David Walker FCA

124 Acomb Road

York

YO24 4EY

18 March 2026

RIDING LIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	352,671	-	352,671	168,118	75,440	243,558
Charitable activities	3	90,625	-	90,625	85,435	-	85,435
Other trading activities	4	11,204	-	11,204	6,040	-	6,040
Investments	5	942	-	942	2,403	-	2,403
Total income		<u>455,442</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>455,442</u>	<u>261,996</u>	<u>75,440</u>	<u>337,436</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	11,362	-	11,362	9,444	-	9,444
Charitable activities	7	471,969	-	471,969	411,992	7,209	419,201
Total expenditure		<u>483,331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>483,331</u>	<u>421,436</u>	<u>7,209</u>	<u>428,645</u>
Net expenditure		(27,889)	-	(27,889)	(159,440)	68,231	(91,209)
Transfers between funds	13	45,207	(45,207)	-	25,415	(25,415)	-
Net movement in funds	9	17,318	(45,207)	(27,889)	(134,025)	42,816	(91,209)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 September 2024		344,127	76,067	420,194	478,152	33,251	511,403
Fund balances at 31 August 2025		<u>361,445</u>	<u>30,860</u>	<u>392,305</u>	<u>344,127</u>	<u>76,067</u>	<u>420,194</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

RIDING LIGHTS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		222,401		235,286
Current assets					
Stocks	15	500		500	
Debtors	16	89,554		22,064	
Cash at bank and in hand		91,951		187,735	
		<u>182,005</u>		<u>210,299</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Taxation and social security		2,342		2,725	
Other creditors	17	9,759		22,666	
		<u>12,101</u>		<u>25,391</u>	
Net current assets			169,904		184,908
Total assets less current liabilities			392,305		420,194
			<u><u> </u></u>		<u><u> </u></u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	19		30,860		76,067
Unrestricted funds			361,445		344,127
			<u>392,305</u>		<u>420,194</u>
			<u><u> </u></u>		<u><u> </u></u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 18 March 2026

Mr O Brown
Trustee

Mr J C Emmett
Trustee

Company Registration No. 03573945

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Riding Lights is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Friargate Theatre, Lower Friargate, York, YO1 9SL, UK.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document dated 2 June 1998, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The company has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular expense or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose.

Where monies are received as a contribution towards the general costs of a specific performance or project, the money is held as restricted funds until such a time that the nominated performance or project has finished. When the performance or project has finished the monies are transferred into unrestricted funds.

All other income funds are unrestricted unless designated by the trustees.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant which specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

Incoming resources from charitable activities comprises income from ticket sales, memberships, theatrical services and hire of theatre space. Income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Trust.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Straight line over 50 years - allocated against restricted funds
Lighting and equipment	Straight line over 10 years
Fixtures and fittings	Straight line over 5 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line over 5 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.13 Creditors and provisions

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2 Donations, Gifts and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	58,721	-	58,721	92,823
Legacies receivable	2,120	-	2,120	-
Gift Aid & Theatre Tax Relief	162,953	-	162,953	28,464
Memberships	128,877	-	128,877	122,271
	<u>352,671</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>352,671</u>	<u>243,558</u>
For the year ended 31 August 2024	<u>168,118</u>	<u>75,440</u>		<u>243,558</u>
Donations and gifts				
Simple Innovate	3,500	-	3,500	-
Transforming Lives for Good	27,263	-	27,263	47,847
P Davis	3,000	-	3,000	-
B Burbridge	-	-	-	1,500
M & J Dunn	-	-	-	2,000
York CVS	-	-	-	7,715
Dr Bayly	-	-	-	2,000
PCC of St Michael Le Belfrey	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
A Bryan	-	-	-	5,000
Bible Society	-	-	-	4,800
Other	21,958	-	21,958	18,961
	<u>58,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,721</u>	<u>92,823</u>

Where income has been specifically restricted to a future performance by the donor, this income is not deferred but held as a restricted fund.

The company receives donations from various organisations to financially aid the educational program and the production of specific performances. Material & selected donations are shown above.

The Charity also benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with the Charities SORP, the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

'Other' restricted donations are made up of smaller donations.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2 Donations, Gifts and legacies

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Legacies receivable				
Other	2,120	-	2,120	-
	<u>2,120</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,120</u>	<u>-</u>
Tax reliefs and credits receivable for core activities				
Gift Aid	29,847	-	29,847	28,464
Theatre Tax Relief	133,106	-	133,106	-
	<u>162,953</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>162,953</u>	<u>28,464</u>

3 Charitable activities

	Performances 2025 £	Summer school and educational projects 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Performances 2024 £	Summer school and educational projects 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Ticket Sales	46,973	36,310	83,283	68,246	2,078	70,324
Hire of Theatre Space	7,342	-	7,342	15,111	-	15,111
	<u>54,315</u>	<u>36,310</u>	<u>90,625</u>	<u>83,357</u>	<u>2,078</u>	<u>85,435</u>

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Shop income	<u>11,204</u>	<u>6,040</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	942	2,403

6 Raising funds

	2025 £	2024 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Staging fundraising events	180	1,637
Staff costs	5,580	5,500
	<u>5,760</u>	<u>7,137</u>
Fundraising and publicity		
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Merchandise	5,602	2,307
	<u>11,362</u>	<u>9,444</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

7 Charitable activities

	Theatrical activities	Summer School and Educational activities	Total 2025	Theatrical activities	Summer School and Educational activities	Total 2024
	2025	2025		2024	2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	72,912	8,000	80,912	75,620	8,070	83,690
Depreciation and impairment	7,204	-	7,204	7,452	-	7,452
Production costs	107,753	25,718	133,471	89,983	9,787	99,770
Property and Venue costs	13,559	-	13,559	15,616	-	15,616
Insurance	16,567	-	16,567	18,135	-	18,135
Marketing & Promotion	10,019	356	10,375	8,204	1,623	9,827
Travel & Subsistence	3,582	-	3,582	627	-	627
Property Maintenance	7,488	-	7,488	27,476	-	27,476
	<u>239,084</u>	<u>34,074</u>	<u>273,158</u>	<u>243,113</u>	<u>19,480</u>	<u>262,593</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	163,496	5,000	168,496	122,573	5,000	127,573
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	30,315	-	30,315	29,035	-	29,035
	<u>432,895</u>	<u>39,074</u>	<u>471,969</u>	<u>394,721</u>	<u>24,480</u>	<u>419,201</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	432,895	39,074	471,969	387,512	24,480	411,992
Restricted funds	-	-	-	7,209	-	7,209
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,209</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,209</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs	116,236	68,159
Depreciation	5,683	5,467
Storage costs	16,155	15,975
Vehicle running costs	5,378	8,899
Printing & Stationery	2,102	3,157
Postage	4,590	5,163
Computer & IT costs	10,683	10,007
Bank & Credit card charges	1,403	1,294
Telecommunications	2,641	3,813
Sundry Expenses	3,624	5,640
Governance costs	30,316	29,034
	<u>198,811</u>	<u>156,608</u>
Analysed between:		
Theatrical activities	193,811	151,608
Summer school and educational projects	5,000	5,000
	<u>198,811</u>	<u>156,608</u>

	2025 £	2024 £
Governance costs comprise:		
Staff costs	8,985	7,565
Independent examination fees	2,400	2,300
Accountancy	10,846	4,100
Legal and professional	4,423	2,958
Planning and meeting costs	-	5,403
Bookkeeping	3,662	6,708
	<u>30,316</u>	<u>29,034</u>

9 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,400	2,300
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	12,887	12,919
	<u>15,287</u>	<u>15,219</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

10 Trustees

An exception has been granted by the Charity Commission allowing certain trustees & directors to receive remuneration, on a commercial basis, for the roles they perform as follows:

Mr O Brown
Salary £40,000 (2024- £6,457)
Pension contributions £1,122 (2024- £nil)

Mr S Cavanagh
Salary £5,623 (2024- £7,440)
Pension contributions £nil (2024- £nil)

The amount of remuneration paid to the individuals concerned is decided upon and approved by the board of trustees.

The following transactions were undertaken with Mr O Brown who was a trustee & director of the company:

Purchase of services & reimbursement of expenses £1,841 (2024 - £8,547).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2024 - £nil).

All transactions were undertaken under normal commercial terms and rates.

Trustees of the charity are covered by a 'Directors and Officers' liability policy.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	10	18
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	197,007	159,051
Social security costs	9,861	3,317
Other pension costs	4,845	2,546
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	211,713	164,914
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

12 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and on the basis of these financial statements no provision has been made for corporation tax.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

13 Transfers

Transfers between unrestricted and restricted funds represent the amounts received during the year for specific performances or projects which had been completed during the year. These restricted funds received for such projects are then deemed to be unrestricted.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Lighting and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	420,958	59,069	50,120	17,500	547,647
At 31 August 2025	420,958	59,069	50,120	17,500	547,647
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 September 2024	204,862	45,336	46,611	15,550	312,359
Depreciation charged in the year	7,204	2,106	1,677	1,900	12,887
At 31 August 2025	212,066	47,442	48,288	17,450	325,246
Carrying amount					
At 31 August 2025	208,892	11,627	1,832	50	222,401
At 31 August 2024	216,096	13,732	3,508	1,950	235,286

An impairment review of the charity's fixed assets has been undertaken. The net realisable value of the assets concerned has been assessed by estimating their market value. Their value in use has been determined by evaluating present value of the future benefits expected to arise from the continued use of the assets concerned.

The board is satisfied that the values that have been assessed are greater than or equal to their net book values and as such no impairment adjustments are required.

15 Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	500	500

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	1,255	6,213
Other debtors	84,660	13,078
Prepayments and accrued income	3,639	2,773
	<u>89,554</u>	<u>22,064</u>

17 Other creditors falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,012	10,590
Other creditors	1,553	4,653
Accruals and deferred income	6,194	7,423
	<u>9,759</u>	<u>22,666</u>

18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>4,845</u>	<u>2,546</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 September 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Acting Up!	1,460	-	-	(1,460)	-
Cups on a String - Tour	35,847	-	-	(35,847)	-
The Word Bank	35,760	-	-	(4,900)	30,860
Max Maxwell filming	3,000	-	-	(3,000)	-
	<u>76,067</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(45,207)</u>	<u>30,860</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 September 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent Home Fund	7,209	-	(7,209)	-	-
Acting Up!	4,150	7,715	-	(10,405)	1,460
Cups on a String - Tour	-	47,847	-	(12,000)	35,847
Pay it Forward	-	3,010	-	(3,010)	-
The Word Bank	18,892	16,868	-	-	35,760
Max Maxwell filming	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
	<u>33,251</u>	<u>75,440</u>	<u>(7,209)</u>	<u>(25,415)</u>	<u>76,067</u>

Donations were received on a 'pay it forward' basis to support performances of the Christmas play, 'A Christmas Cracker', in schools and communities.

The Word Bank is a fund for new playwriting projects created in memory of Paul Burbridge.

The Charity often receives donations and grants of a restricted nature, usually relating to specific dramatic productions. These are deemed to be restricted until expenditure in relation to the specific purpose takes place.

Transfers from restricted funds are made when funds received for restricted purposes are deemed unrestricted.

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 September 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>344,127</u>	<u>455,442</u>	<u>(483,331)</u>	<u>45,207</u>	<u>361,445</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

20 Unrestricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 September 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	478,152	261,996	(421,436)	25,415	344,127

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 August 2025:			
Tangible assets	222,401	-	222,401
Current assets/(liabilities)	139,044	30,860	169,904
	361,445	30,860	392,305
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 August 2024:			
Tangible assets	235,286	-	235,286
Current assets/(liabilities)	108,841	76,067	184,908
	344,127	76,067	420,194

22 Related party transactions

Other than those reported in note 10. There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024- none).

RIDING LIGHTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1070142

Accounts

Charity registration number 1070142 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 03573945

RIDING LIGHTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

RIDING LIGHTS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr A J Bradley	
	Mr O Brown	
	Mr S M H Cavanagh	
	Mr A P N Dunn	
	Mr J C Emmett	
	Mr M J Hands	
	Mr D J Lampitt	
	Miss S Maddison	
	Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm	
	Mr J S Harmston	(Appointed 2 January 2025)
	Mr I Oyelumade	(Appointed 2 January 2025)
Members	Mrs R Jack	
	Mr R Mapletoft	
	Rev'd Dr B Quash	
	Mr M Rance	
	Mr J M W Somerville	
Secretary	Mr A P N Dunn	
Charity number	1070142	
Company number	03573945	
Registered office	Friargate Theatre Lower Friargate York UK YO1 9SL	
Independent examiner	David Walker FCA 124 Acomb Road York YO24 4EY	

RIDING LIGHTS

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RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's memorandum and articles of association dated 2 June 1998 as amended July 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are :

- to advance the education, public understanding and appreciation of the dramatic arts.
- to teach, train and encourage young artists and other members of the public in the dramatic arts.
- to explore, principally through the dramatic arts, the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching. There has been no change in these during the year.

The charity has the general aim of providing and presenting performances which are of educational, cultural and religious value to the community.

The main objectives for the year continued to be the promotion and fostering of artistic knowledge and appreciation of the dramatic arts, and the exploration of the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

Strategies for achieving aims and objectives

Strategies for achieving the objectives of the charity continues to be the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching. Performance space is also hired out to local performers, both amateur and professional, as well as to touring artists

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The trustees consider that the charity is a public benefit entity.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Activities

Details of the significant activities of the charity during the year are as follows:

Riding Lights Productions

Inspired... The Word Into Action

A UK tour of 20 dates.

Supported by The Bible Society, attended by 1,989 audience members.

Give it Back, Mak!

Christmas tour, of schools and churches, attended by 3,444 audience members.

The Narrow Road

A national tour of the remounted passion play, of 19 venues.

Riding Lights Roughshod

The charity's Roughshod Company, which is primarily staffed by volunteer actors and actresses offering performances at no charge, did not operate during the year.

Educational and Youth Work

Riding Lights Education works with both young people and adults to offer theatrical opportunities for the York community.

Acting Up!, a company for young people with additional needs, continues for 18-30 year olds. The participants spent the programme for the year developing their performance skills, culminating in a full-scale musical of Alice in Wonderland, staged for the first time at Friargate Theatre.

Summer Theatre School

Riding Lights Summer Theatre School took a break this year, with plans to return to a full Summer Theatre School in 2025.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Friargate Theatre

Friargate Theatre, Riding Lights' home, was refreshed, with the fitting of a new kitchen and remodeled foyer space. Friargate is becoming more core to the work of the company and has hosted a wider range of events this year, including:

Aesthetica Film Festival.

We continue to host Aesthetica film festival as part of Friargate's programme.
Right Here Right Now! Riding Lights' monthly improvised comedy night, with a loyal audience attending throughout the year.
Festival of Ideas. For the first time, Friargate hosted 2 events for The York Festival of Ideas: Clay Fever and Nobel Prize-Winning Drama: Jon Fosse's plays.

Creative Hub

Working with local theatre production company, Four Wheel Drive, we presented a 2 week programme of events, the Friargate Creative Hub. We welcomed local creatives to the theatre to use our space, attend workshops and mount or watch performances.

Family Fun Day

In August we held our first Family Fun Day, inviting local families to the theatre to attend workshops, screenings, storytelling and to enjoy our café space.

Volunteers

Use of Volunteers

Riding Lights is widely supported by many people across the country who help by providing a wide range of valuable resources, particularly when Riding Lights visits local communities. We are particularly grateful for the generous provision of accommodation and hospitality made to our acting companies as well as to those who organise performances of our work in their area. Riding Lights has been very pleased to be able to tour this year but has found there is greater reluctance to offer hospitality in homes.

The educational department also benefits from the assistance of volunteers, who provide valuable experience to those individuals taking part.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

Riding Lights Productions

Year 2023/24 was a time of transition for the company. The core team, with support from Associate Directors and Board members, achieved the planned slate of work following the death of Artistic Director Paul Burbridge.

In Paul's memory, a new writing fund, The Word Bank, was launched in June 2023, with this aim: 'Paul was an excellent commissioner and dramaturg: a midwife of new work, and encourager of writers. He simply loved new writing: developing it through rehearsal, bringing it to performance and sharing it with audiences. In his hands, new writing became the lifeblood of the company. The Word Bank will support the commission and production of new writing, ensuring that it remains at the heart of Riding Lights' work.'

The Word Bank received donations through to June 2024 and raised over £35,000 to support this mission.

Inspired, supported by The Bible Society, held a 20 date national tour. The show was a witty, thoughtful and entertaining encouragement to engage freshly with the Bible. It was performed to nearly 2000 people over the course of the tour. Audiences engaged with the show in an impactful way, with responses including 'Tackled some difficult issues very tactfully and kindly. It hit home', 'You know how to bring the Bible alive. It was so good. Inspiring', and 'I knew it would be entertaining, but I learnt so much'.

Give it back, Mak! Was remounted for Christmas 2023, touring to churches and schools nationally. The show brought a fresh retelling of the nativity to over 3000 family audience members. The tour was supported by Pay it Forward, through which donations were made that enabled the company to provide free and subsidised performances to schools and communities who wouldn't normally be able to access theatre.

At Easter, we toured a remounted production of The Narrow Road, visiting 19 churches and cathedrals across the UK. Feedback from audience members included; 'It's a story I know, but it felt so new!'. 'So powerful, and moving'. and 'A powerful reminder, and time to reflect on God'.

In January we held our annual Members' Day at Friargate Theatre. It was well-attended, with Members participating in workshops, followed by an update on the company moving forward and an evening performance of The Beloved Son presented by Wayfarer Productions.

A subcommittee of the board worked alongside architects, Avison Young, to prepare an appraisal on the use and design of Friargate Theatre. They presented a range of possibilities for exciting new ways to use the building, and a scale of options for large-scale capital works in order to make the building more accessible, sustainable and fit for the future. For the time being we lack the resources to implement the large capital project.

Friargate Theatre underwent significant refurbishment works, with a new foyer layout, updated furniture and a new kitchen and bar. The building is now more welcoming and attractive to the community, including local creatives, hirers and companies looking to present work at the theatre. As part of the renovations, a new café now operates working with Divine Coffee, a local Fairtrade company.

As part of the renewal of Friargate Theatre, we launched the Friargate Creative Hub, in association with Four Wheel Drive. This was a 2 week experiment to open the building and offer a base for local creatives. Over the two weeks, we welcomed new people through our doors, who hadn't visited before. A number of workshops and performances were given by external partners, focusing on new work and supporting local early career creatives within York.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In August we opened the doors of Friargate Theatre to welcome families to our first Family Fun Day. The day had free activities, including arts and crafts, storytelling, workshops and a free screening of The Selfish Giant. Over the course of the day, we welcomed over 100 new people to the building who had no previous relationship with Riding Lights or Friargate Theatre.

Work continued on the Revolving Doors, working with Anchor to create a short film to be presented within prisons.

Starting in early 2024, the board commenced a recruitment process to look for the new executive team of Artistic Director and Executive Director. Following a tendering process, executive recruitment specialists, Minerva Recruitment were appointed, and a subcommittee of board members and associate directors, working with Minerva, undertook a thorough, robust and open appointment process. In early summer Paul Birch (Artistic Director) and Oliver Brown (Executive Director) were appointed as Joint CEOs. Paul and Oliver commenced their roles on August 1st 2024.

Financial review

Riding Lights aims to cover all its costs through a mixture of the regular donated income received from Membership and irregular income from one-off donations as well as earned income from projects and productions. The Company aims to ensure that the core costs of operating Riding Lights (Administration, Friargate Theatre, Company Vehicles, Staff etc.) are broadly covered by regular and one-off giving. Any shortfall is met by profit from projects and productions. Any surplus is intended principally to support new productions, which is essential if the Company is to invest in and remain creatively active. Riding Lights costs are kept to a minimum while also ensuring that staff are paid, as a bare minimum, in accordance with the recommendations of the Living Wage Foundation to which the company is affiliated.

As at 31 August 2024 unrestricted reserves stood at £344,127 (2023 £478,152). of which £216,096 (2023 £223,548) is represented by the Friargate Theatre property.

Regular income has seen a steady reduction in membership subscriptions, largely from elderly supporters no longer able to make a regular contribution. Work is being taken to support the building of new members through new work and attracting new audiences.

Irregular income including external funding, grants, donations and partnerships is crucial as a support for the whole organisation.

The Board's current strategy is to:

- Review all the company's operations to ensure we are as efficient as possible.
- Review the current composition of the board and recruit new directors as appropriate to fill any areas of expertise that are underrepresented.
- Review the findings of the Friargate feasibility study with a view creating a plan for the funding and implementation of larger scale capital works.
- Increase regular income by finding more members and encouraging all members to consider their level of contribution.
- To establish, with the new CEO's, a sustainable and viable plan for the company's future.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to six month's fixed costs expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year. However, in the final months of 2024 it became apparent that this policy would be breached and that decisive action needed to be taken to bring the company's costs down to a level it could sustain. This resulted in a reduction in headcount and a reworking of the company's planned programme for 2025.

Investment policy

The company's memorandum and articles of association give the charity the power to make any investment which the trustees think fit. At the present time no such investments are held other than bank deposits.

Major risks

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Plans for future periods

The company has costed projects for the next three years, subject to review.

- 'Cups on a String' An autumn national tour with Transforming Lives for Good.
- Deliver 'Revolving Doors' short film.
- Seasons of professional presented events at Friargate Theatre.
- Christmas tour of 'A Christmas Cracker'.
- Passion Tour of 'Night Falls'.
- Launch of Riding Lights Podcasts, including 3 seasons – 'The Passion', 'The Fall', 'The King'.
- Make Space – an offer for local creatives within York based at Friargate Theatre.
- Continued development of Friargate Theatre to enable more regular use of theatre, rehearsal studio, and café.
- Riding Lights Retreats – new weekend retreats with key creative educational focus.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 23rd June 1998 charity registration number 1070142 and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, company registration number 03573945 (England and Wales) and is therefore governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 2nd June 1998 as amended on 23rd July 2019.

The company began to operate on 1 November 1998 when the assets and liabilities of Riding Lights Trust (a registered charity) and Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited with the exception of its stock of merchandise were transferred to the company. The Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited then changed its name to Riding Lights (Trading) Limited. Riding Lights (Trading) Limited was dissolved on 16 December 2008.

The principal office and registered office address is:

Friargate Theatre
Lower Friargate
York
YO19 9SL

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A J Bradley	
Mr O Brown	
Mr S M H Cavanagh	
Mr A P N Dunn	
Mr J C Emmett	
Mr M J Hands	
Mr D J Lampitt	
Miss S Maddison	
Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm	
Mr J S Harmston	(Appointed 2 January 2025)
Mr I Oyelumade	(Appointed 2 January 2025)
Mr J M Brown	(Resigned 8 March 2024)
Mrs B C G Burbridge	(Resigned 13 November 2023)
Dr B J C Foreman	(Resigned 8 March 2024)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Board has the power to appoint additional trustees as it considers fit to do so.

In accordance with the provisions of the company's Articles of Association at each AGM one third of the board members shall retire by rotation, any newly appointed trustees shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and shall not be taken into account in determining the board members who are to retire by rotation at the meeting. If not reappointed at such Annual General Meeting, they shall vacate office at the meeting thereof.

In accordance with these provisions Mr I Oyelumade, Mr J Harmston, Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm, Mr D J Lampitt and Mr A J Bradley will retire from office by rotation at the next AGM and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The trustees have complied with the duty imposed upon them by Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission including the guidance issued in respect of public benefit.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Qualifying third party indemnity provisions

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a board member may otherwise be entitled, every board member or other officer or auditor of the Charity shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Charity against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Charity, and against all costs, charges, losses, expenses or liabilities incurred by him in the execution and discharge of his duties or in relation thereto.

Organisational structure

The trustees meet regularly to manage the charity's affairs and delegate the day-to-day running of the charity's activities to its executive and artistic directors and administrative staff.

Induction and training of trustees

Riding Lights is a theatre company with a Christian ethos, and it is important that Trustees who join the Board share the Company's beliefs and objectives or at least understand and sympathise with its ethos. The Chair, and a majority of trustees excluding the Chair, should be practising Christians.

Potential new Trustees are identified from amongst the long-term, active supporters of Riding Lights and from those offering relevant skills and experience. The Board seeks to maintain a balance of knowledge and experience relevant to particular aspects of the Company's activities, for example: Theatre Production and Management, Finance, Personnel, Education, etc.

Potential Trustees are invited by the Chairman to think and pray about their possible deeper involvement with the Company. Those who accept are invited to attend a Board meeting to see what goes on and how the Board operates. Once they have formally decided to accept the invitation, they are encouraged to attend as many of the meetings as possible.

Inevitably not everyone can attend every meeting. Meeting dates are agreed up to a year in advance, with some six meetings each year. Minutes and review notes are circulated to all members of the Board on a regular basis.

There is no formal training programme for new trustees, but they are all selected from individuals who have supported or worked with Riding Lights in different capacities in the past, or who bring relevant skills and are familiar with the broad scope of the company's work. Initially they work alongside more experienced members of the Board on sub-committees or in exploring specific issues.

Remuneration policy

Riding Lights ensure that staff are paid, as a bare minimum, in accordance with the recommendations of the Living Wage Foundation to which the company is affiliated.

Promoting the success of the company

The charity continues the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr O Brown
Director & Trustee

7 April 2025

RIDING LIGHTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RIDING LIGHTS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Riding Lights (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

David Walker FCA

124 Acomb Road

York

YO24 4EY

7 April 2025

RIDING LIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	168,118	75,440	243,558	211,085	43,329	254,414
Charitable activities	3	85,435	-	85,435	78,281	-	78,281
Other trading activities	4	6,040	-	6,040	2,413	-	2,413
Investments	5	2,403	-	2,403	1,297	-	1,297
Total income		<u>261,996</u>	<u>75,440</u>	<u>337,436</u>	<u>293,076</u>	<u>43,329</u>	<u>336,405</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	9,444	-	9,444	11,200	-	11,200
Charitable activities	7	411,992	7,209	419,201	397,237	7,453	404,690
Total expenditure		<u>421,436</u>	<u>7,209</u>	<u>428,645</u>	<u>408,437</u>	<u>7,453</u>	<u>415,890</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(159,440)	68,231	(91,209)	(115,361)	35,876	(79,485)
Transfers between funds	13	25,415	(25,415)	-	40,587	(40,587)	-
Net movement in funds	9	(134,025)	42,816	(91,209)	(74,774)	(4,711)	(79,485)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 September 2023		478,152	33,251	511,403	552,926	37,962	590,888
Fund balances at 31 August 2024		<u>344,127</u>	<u>76,067</u>	<u>420,194</u>	<u>478,152</u>	<u>33,251</u>	<u>511,403</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

RIDING LIGHTS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		235,286		244,395
Current assets					
Stocks	15	500		500	
Debtors	16	22,064		37,646	
Cash at bank and in hand		187,735		265,060	
		<u>210,299</u>		<u>303,206</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Taxation and social security		2,725		2,368	
Other creditors	17	22,666		33,830	
		<u>25,391</u>		<u>36,198</u>	
Net current assets			184,908		267,008
Total assets less current liabilities			420,194		511,403
			<u><u> </u></u>		<u><u> </u></u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	19		76,067		33,251
Unrestricted funds			344,127		478,152
			<u>420,194</u>		<u>511,403</u>
			<u><u> </u></u>		<u><u> </u></u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 7 April 2025

Mr O Brown
Trustee

Mr J C Emmett
Trustee

Company Registration No. 03573945

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Riding Lights is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Friargate Theatre, Lower Friargate, York, YO1 9SL, UK.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document dated 2 June 1998, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The company has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular expense or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose.

Where monies are received as a contribution towards the general costs of a specific performance or project, the money is held as restricted funds until such a time that the nominated performance or project has finished. When the performance or project has finished the monies are transferred into unrestricted funds.

All other income funds are unrestricted unless designated by the trustees.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant which specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

Incoming resources from charitable activities comprises income from ticket sales, memberships, theatrical services and hire of theatre space. Income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Trust.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Straight line over 50 years - allocated against restricted funds
Lighting and equipment	Straight line over 10 years
Fixtures and fittings	Straight line over 5 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line over 5 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.13 Creditors and provisions

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Donations, Gifts and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	17,383	75,440	92,823	57,498
Legacies receivable	-	-	-	21,272
Gift Aid & Theatre Tax Relief	28,464	-	28,464	51,655
Memberships	122,271	-	122,271	123,989
	<u>168,118</u>	<u>75,440</u>	<u>243,558</u>	<u>254,414</u>
For the year ended 31 August 2023	<u>211,085</u>	<u>43,329</u>		<u>254,414</u>
Donations and gifts				
St Johns College	-	-	-	13,395
Transforming Lives for Good	-	47,847	47,847	-
St Alban's	1,400	-	1,400	-
B Burbridge	-	1,500	1,500	-
M & J Dunn	-	2,000	2,000	-
York CVS	-	7,715	7,715	4,150
Dr Bayly	2,000	-	2,000	4,000
Feofees of St Michael Le Belfrey	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
A Bryan	3,000	2,000	5,000	-
Bible Society	4,800	-	4,800	4,000
Other	3,183	14,378	17,561	28,953
	<u>17,383</u>	<u>75,440</u>	<u>92,823</u>	<u>57,498</u>

Where income has been specifically restricted to a future performance by the donor, this income is not deferred but held as a restricted fund.

The company receives donations from various organisations to financially aid the educational program and the production of specific performances. Material & selected donations are shown above.

The Charity also benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with the Charities SORP, the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

'Other' restricted donations are made up of smaller donations, the majority of which were made to support The Word Bank and the tour of 'Give it back, Mak'.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Donations, Gifts and legacies

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Legacies receivable				
Gladstone	-	-	-	17,773
Bowler	-	-	-	3,499
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,272</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Tax reliefs and credits receivable for core activities				
Gift Aid	28,464	-	28,464	31,912
Theatre Tax Relief	-	-	-	19,743
	<u>28,464</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,464</u>	<u>51,655</u>
	<u>28,464</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,464</u>	<u>51,655</u>

3 Charitable activities

	Performances 2024 £	Summer school and educational projects 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Performances 2023 £	Summer school and educational projects 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Ticket Sales	68,246	2,078	70,324	33,004	32,638	65,642
Hire of Theatre Space	15,111	-	15,111	12,639	-	12,639
	<u>83,357</u>	<u>2,078</u>	<u>85,435</u>	<u>45,643</u>	<u>32,638</u>	<u>78,281</u>
	<u>83,357</u>	<u>2,078</u>	<u>85,435</u>	<u>45,643</u>	<u>32,638</u>	<u>78,281</u>

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Shop income	<u>6,040</u>	<u>2,413</u>
	<u>6,040</u>	<u>2,413</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	2,403	1,297

6 Raising funds

	2024 £	2023 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Staging fundraising events	1,637	1,675
Staff costs	5,500	9,525
Fundraising and publicity	7,137	11,200
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Operating charity shops	2,307	-
	9,444	11,200

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

7 Charitable activities

	Theatrical activities	Summer School and Educational activities	Total 2024	Theatrical activities	Summer School and Educational activities	Total 2023
	2024	2024		2023	2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	75,620	8,070	83,690	52,538	4,600	57,138
Depreciation and impairment	7,452	-	7,452	7,453	-	7,453
Production costs	89,983	9,787	99,770	63,470	31,611	95,081
Property and Venue costs	15,616	-	15,616	20,263	-	20,263
Insurance	18,135	-	18,135	17,593	-	17,593
Marketing & Promotion	8,204	1,623	9,827	17,625	680	18,305
Travel & Subsistence	627	-	627	5,677	1,634	7,311
Property Maintenance	27,476	-	27,476	2,207	-	2,207
	<u>243,113</u>	<u>19,480</u>	<u>262,593</u>	<u>186,826</u>	<u>38,525</u>	<u>225,351</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	122,573	5,000	127,573	150,982	9,000	159,982
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	29,035	-	29,035	19,357	-	19,357
	<u>394,721</u>	<u>24,480</u>	<u>419,201</u>	<u>357,165</u>	<u>47,525</u>	<u>404,690</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	387,512	24,480	411,992	349,712	47,525	397,237
Restricted funds	7,209	-	7,209	7,453	-	7,453
	<u>394,721</u>	<u>24,480</u>	<u>419,201</u>	<u>357,165</u>	<u>47,525</u>	<u>404,690</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs	68,159	102,252
Depreciation	5,467	5,037
Storage costs	15,975	14,941
Vehicle running costs	8,899	7,272
Printing & Stationery	3,157	5,033
Postage	5,163	4,084
Computer & IT costs	10,007	11,707
Bank & Credit card charges	1,294	2,087
Telecommunications	3,813	3,664
Sundry Expenses	5,640	3,906
Governance costs	29,034	19,356
	<u>156,608</u>	<u>179,339</u>
Analysed between:		
Theatrical activities	151,608	170,339
Summer school and educational projects	5,000	9,000
	<u>156,608</u>	<u>179,339</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Governance costs comprise:		
Staff costs	7,565	5,238
Independent examination fees	2,300	2,250
Accountancy	4,100	2,950
Legal and professional	2,958	2,150
Planning and meeting costs	5,403	-
Bookkeeping	6,708	6,768
	<u>29,034</u>	<u>19,356</u>

9 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,300	2,250
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	12,919	12,490
	<u>15,219</u>	<u>14,740</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

10 Trustees

An exception has been granted by the Charity Commission allowing certain trustees & directors to receive remuneration, on a commercial basis, for the roles they perform as follows:

Mr O Brown
Salary £6,457 (2023- £0)
Pension contributions £nil (2023- £nil)

Mr J Brown
Salary £4,942 (2023- £2,272)
Pension contributions £nil (2023- £nil)

Mr S Cavanagh
Salary £7,440 (2023- £6,816)
Pension contributions £nil (2023- £nil)

Dr B Foreman
Salary £7,440 (2023- £6,816)
Pension contributions £nil (2023- £nil)

The amount of remuneration paid to the individuals concerned is decided upon and approved by the board of trustees.

The following transactions were undertaken with Mr O Brown who was a trustee & director of the company:

Purchase of services & reimbursement of expenses £8,547 (2023 - £nil).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2023 - £nil).

All transactions were undertaken under normal commercial terms and rates.

Trustees of the charity are covered by a 'Directors and Officers' liability policy.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	18	12
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	159,051	162,888
Social security costs	3,317	6,370
Other pension costs	2,546	4,895
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	164,914	174,153
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

11 Employees

(Continued)

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

12 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and on the basis of these financial statements no provision has been made for corporation tax.

13 Transfers

Transfers between unrestricted and restricted funds represent the amounts received during the year for specific performances or projects which had been completed during the year. These restricted funds received for such projects are then deemed to be unrestricted.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Lighting and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2023	420,958	58,138	47,238	17,500	543,834
Additions	-	930	2,882	-	3,812
At 31 August 2024	420,958	59,068	50,120	17,500	547,646
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 September 2023	197,410	43,230	45,151	13,650	299,441
Depreciation charged in the year	7,452	2,106	1,461	1,900	12,919
At 31 August 2024	204,862	45,336	46,612	15,550	312,360
Carrying amount					
At 31 August 2024	216,096	13,732	3,508	1,950	235,286
At 31 August 2023	223,548	14,909	2,088	3,850	244,395

An impairment review of the charity's fixed assets has been undertaken. The net realisable value of the assets concerned has been assessed by estimating their market value. Their value in use has been determined by evaluating present value of the future benefits expected to arise from the continued use of the assets concerned.

The board is satisfied that the values that have been assessed are greater than or equal to their net book values and as such no impairment adjustments are required.

15 Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	500	500

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	6,213	9,596
Other debtors	13,078	25,032
Prepayments and accrued income	2,773	3,018
	<u>22,064</u>	<u>37,646</u>

17 Other creditors falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	10,590	25,620
Other creditors	4,653	840
Accruals and deferred income	7,423	7,370
	<u>22,666</u>	<u>33,830</u>

18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024	2023
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>2,546</u>	<u>4,895</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 September 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent Home Fund	7,209	-	(7,209)	-	-
Acting Up!	4,150	7,715	-	(10,405)	1,460
Cups on a String - Tour	-	47,847	-	(12,000)	35,847
Pay it Forward	-	3,010	-	(3,010)	-
The Word Bank	18,892	16,868	-	-	35,760
Max Maxwell filming	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
	<u>33,251</u>	<u>75,440</u>	<u>(7,209)</u>	<u>(25,415)</u>	<u>76,067</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 September 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent Home Fund	14,662	-	(7,453)	-	7,209
Acting Up!	-	4,650	-	(500)	4,150
Inspired	-	450	-	(450)	-
AI Commission	8,300	-	-	(8,300)	-
Inspired Welsh Tour	15,000	4,000	-	(19,000)	-
The Word Bank	-	18,892	-	-	18,892
Nearly the Goat	-	1,942	-	(1,942)	-
Max Maxwell filming	-	13,395	-	(10,395)	3,000
	<u>37,962</u>	<u>43,329</u>	<u>(7,453)</u>	<u>(40,587)</u>	<u>33,251</u>

During the course of the year ended 31 March 1998, the Riding Lights Trust began to raise funds in order to finance the acquisition and alteration of a freehold property that was suitable to be used as a theatre, office, store and rehearsal facility. A suitable property was acquired on 7 August 1998 in Friargate, York. The restricted fund was transferred as part of the overall assets and liabilities of the Riding Lights Trust when the company began to operate on 1 November 1998. The direct expenditure represents depreciation charged in respect of the freehold property. The entire depreciation charge has been allocated to the restricted fund.

RL received funding from Transforming Lives for Good to commission a new touring play, Cups on a String.

Donations were received on a 'pay it forward' basis to support performances of the Christmas play, Give it Back, Mak, in schools and communities.

The Word Bank is a fund for new playwriting projects created in memory of Paul Burbridge.

The Charity often receives donations and grants of a restricted nature, usually relating to specific dramatic productions. These are deemed to be restricted until expenditure in relation to the specific purpose takes place.

Transfers from restricted funds are made when funds received for restricted purposes are deemed unrestricted.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 August 2024 £
General funds	478,152	261,996	(421,436)	25,415	344,127
Previous year:	At 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 August 2023 £
General funds	552,926	293,076	(408,437)	40,587	478,152

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 August 2024:			
Tangible assets	235,286	-	235,286
Current assets/(liabilities)	108,841	76,067	184,908
	344,127	76,067	420,194
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 August 2023:			
Tangible assets	237,186	7,209	244,395
Current assets/(liabilities)	240,966	26,042	267,008
	478,152	33,251	511,403

22 Related party transactions

Other than those reported in note 10. There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023- none).

RIDING LIGHTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1070142

Accounts

Charity registration number 1070142

Company registration number 03573945 (England and Wales)

RIDING LIGHTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

RIDING LIGHTS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr A P N Dunn	
	Mr A J Bradley	
	Mr S M H Cavanagh	
	Mr J C Emmett	
	Mr M J Hands	
	Mr D J Lampitt	
	Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm	
	Mr O Brown	(Appointed 8 September 2022)
	Miss S Maddison	(Appointed 8 September 2022)
	Mr J M Brown	(Appointed 24 August 2023)
	Ms B J C Foreman	(Appointed 24 August 2023)
Members	Mrs R Jack	
	Mr R Mapletoft	
	Rev'd Dr B Quash	
	Mr M Rance	
	Mrs J Smyth	
	Mr J M W Somerville	
Secretary	Mr A P N Dunn	
Charity number	1070142	
Company number	03573945	
Registered office	Friargate Theatre Lower Friargate York UK YO1 9SL	
Independent examiner	David Walker FCA 124 Acomb Road York YO24 4EY	

RIDING LIGHTS

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RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's memorandum and articles of association dated 2 June 1998 as amended July 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are :

- to advance the education, public understanding and appreciation of the dramatic arts.
- to teach, train and encourage young artists and other members of the public in the dramatic arts.
- to explore, principally through the dramatic arts, the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching. There has been no change in these during the year.

The charity has the general aim of providing and presenting performances which are of educational, cultural and religious value to the community.

The main objectives for the year continued to be the promotion and fostering of artistic knowledge and appreciation of the dramatic arts, and the exploration of the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

Strategies for achieving aims and objectives

Strategies for achieving the objectives of the charity continues to be the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching. Performance space is also hired out to local performers, both amateur and professional, as well as to touring artists

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The trustees consider that the charity is a public benefit entity.

Activities

Details of the significant activities of the charity during the year are as follows:

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023*

Riding Lights Productions

September 2022

- 'Passion for the Earth' performance at St Luke's, York.
- 'Inspired' Wales tour rehearsals begin
- 'Right Here Right Now' monthly comedy improv night
- Acting Up! weekly sessions

October 2022

- 'Inspired' Tour of Wales
- 'Right Here Right Now'
- Acting Up! weekly sessions

November 2022

- 'Nearly the Goat' rehearsals and tour begins
- 'Right Here Right Now'
- Drama workshop in Doncaster
- 'Fire From Heaven' performance at Friargate by Andy Harrison.
- Acting Up! weekly sessions

December 2022

- 'Nearly the Goat' tour finishes
- 'Right Here Right Now'
- Acting Up! weekly sessions

January 2023

- 'The Uneasy Sleeps of Max Maxwell' rehearsals and tour begins
- 'Right Here Right Now'
- Acting Up! weekly sessions

February 2023

- 'Max Maxwell' tour continues
- Rachel Hammond's show 'Joshua (and Me)' at Friargate.
- 'Max Maxwell' filmed to produce an educational film in association with ECLAS
- 'Right Here Right Now'
- Acting Up! weekly sessions

March 2023

- 'Max Maxwell' tour ends
- Jared More and Erin Burbridge deliver storytelling workshops for a World Without Orphans conference in Sofia, Bulgaria
- Right Here Right Now
- Acting Up! weekly sessions

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

April 2023

- 'The People's Passion Plus' performance in 6 different locations.
- 'Shaking All Over' rehearsals begin but are cancelled
- 'Right Here Right Now' - Shakespeare is cancelled
- York International Shakespeare festival. Friargate is used as a venue/straight hire for some events and Pericles is screened 3 times
- Acting Up! weekly sessions

May 2023

- 'Right Here Right Now'
- 'Inspired' shorter version, rehearsals and 2 shows. Cliff College and Christian Caravanners and Campers
- Acting Up! weekly sessions

June 2023

- 'Right Here Right Now'
- Acting Up! weekly sessions
- Acting Up! show, 2 performances at Friargate
- Word Bank opens

July 2023

- 'Right Here Right Now'
- Acting Up! weekly sessions

August 2023

- Summer Theatre School at St Peter's School

Riding Lights Roughshod

The charity's Roughshod Company, which is primarily staffed by volunteer actors and actresses offering performances at no charge, did not operate during the year.

Educational and Youth Work

Riding Lights Education works with both young people and adults to offer theatrical opportunities for the York community and beyond.

Acting Up!, a company for young people with additional needs continues for 18-30 year olds. The young people spent a year learning about filmmaking: writing, directing and performing in their own original short films. In the Summer they placed these films into a devised sci-fi performance about dreams.

In May we were awarded £4,150 by the City of York Council for the work of Acting Up!, specifically to tackle loneliness using creativity. This money will be put towards bringing in new practitioners to teach new and exciting skills and taking the young people to the theatre.

Summer Theatre School

Riding Lights Summer Theatre School took place at St Peter's School, York. Although the number of participants is not as high as before Covid, particularly young people, the week was successful and valued by those who attended. The theme of the week was 'Rise Up - Find Your Voice'. Over the course of the 6 days, our participants used this springboard to create a diverse collection plays and pieces of writing. From an immersive piece about 1970s British Politics to a devised piece about protests across the globe, these plays were impactful and memorable.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023*

Volunteers

Use of Volunteers

Riding Lights is widely supported by many people across the country who help by providing a wide range of valuable resources, particularly when Riding Lights visits local communities. We are particularly grateful for the generous provision of accommodation and hospitality made to our acting companies as well as to those who organise performances of our work in their area. Riding Lights has been very pleased to be able to tour this year but has found there is greater reluctance to offer hospitality in homes.

The educational department also benefits from the assistance of volunteers, who provide valuable experience to those individuals taking part.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

Riding Lights Productions

Inspired, commissioned by the church in Wales, was performed to 17 venues on a Welsh tour. The show was a thoughtful and entertaining encouragement to Christians to engage freshly with the Bible, and to consider not just what they were reading, but how they were reading it. It has proved a durable and transferable piece, robust enough to be performed either in its entirety or in extract form, across a range of settings. There have been opportunities to draw from it throughout the year, and it continues to be a valuable resource to the company.

Friargate Theatre was host to a number of *Aesthetica Short Film Festival* screenings and a performance of Murray Watts' solo play, *Fire from Heaven*.

Nearly the Goat was revived as a Christmas tour to primary schools and churches, and toured through the later part of November and December, giving 38 performances in total. The return to a fully live performance was a joyous restoration of the Riding Lights tradition of Christmas touring, after all the cancellations of last year and the necessary decision to offer a filmed version of *Fizzy Finn Finds His Feet* in 2022 as a response to the Covid disruptions. *Pay it Forward* donations enabled the company to offer 10 free performances to schools and communities.

The Uneasy Sleeps of Max Maxwell was developed through the support of ECLAS (Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science), and their Scientists in Congregations Programme / Templeton Foundation. The commissioned play focused on Artificial Intelligence in modern day life, and toured January-March. Each performance was followed by live Q&A with expert scientists from the local area. It provoked considerable discussion with audiences, and was also filmed as an educational resource.

As a result of the tour of *My Place*, the company delivered story-telling workshops in Bulgaria for A World Without Orphans conference, extending the international reach of the work of the company.

There were a number of community stagings of *The Peoples' Passion* around the UK in the run up to Easter, some supported by Riding Lights creative staff.

In April, after a short illness, the company's long-time Artistic Director, Paul Burbridge, died. This was unexpected and to a large degree un-prepared for, and as a result the company was forced to cancel planned work in the short term as colleagues, including Paul's close relatives, absorbed and adjusted. This largely affected the company's planned contributions to the York International Shakespeare Festival, though external Festival events were still held at Friargate Theatre. Despite the cancellation of planned live events, Paul's filmed version of *Pericles* was screened as a Festival event.

The annual Member's Day, scheduled for May 13th, was cancelled.

The planned-for retirement of Bernadette Burbridge (General Manager, and Paul's wife) was brought forwards, with an inevitable but unavoidable additional impact on the administrative and managerial oversight of the company.

The months immediately following these painful losses were dedicated to maintaining some output of deliverable work whilst ensuring that the depleted staff team could – with the support of the Associate Directors – continue with day-to-day management and planning for future work. Around this there were shortened performances of *Inspired* at summer festivals, and events at Friargate Theatre continued, including regular Right Here Right Now improvisation evenings, and Acting Up! Youth Theatre, who gave performances in addition to their weekly workshop sessions.

Launched in Paul's memory at his Memorial Service, The Word Bank is a fund to support new writing. It has received significant donations and remains open until June 2024.

Ongoing planning for future work for tours for Christmas 2023 and Lent 2024 was maintained and progressed, as was the partnership with charity Transforming Lives for Good, working toward the commission and tour of a new play for Autumn 2024. Growing out of the tour of *My Place* (with Home for Good), this new play will highlight the stories of young people at risk of school exclusion and the work with TLG's volunteer coaches that transforms their lives and life prospects.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial review

Riding Lights aims to cover all its costs through a mixture of the regular donated income received from Membership and irregular income from one-off donations as well as earned income from projects and productions. The Company aims to ensure that the core costs of operating Riding Lights (Administration, Friargate Theatre, Company Vehicles, Staff etc.) are broadly covered by regular and one-off giving. Any shortfall is met by profit from projects and productions. Any surplus is intended principally to support new productions, which is essential if the Company is to invest in and remain creatively active. Riding Lights costs are kept to a minimum while also ensuring that staff are paid, as a bare minimum, in accordance with the recommendations of the Living Wage Foundation to which the company is affiliated.

As at 31 August 2023 unrestricted reserves stood at £478,152 (2022 £552,926). of which £223,548 (2022 £231,001) is represented by property.

Regular income has remained fairly steady with a small reduction in membership subscriptions, largely from elderly supporters no longer able to make a regular contribution, although there has been a small increase in new membership because the company is now back on tour and able to attract new members.

Irregular income including external funding, grants, donations and partnerships are crucial as a support for the whole organisation.

The Board's current strategy is to:

- Review all the company's operations to ensure we are as efficient as possible.
- Recruit an Artistic Director and General Manager to lead the company.
- Review the current composition of the board and recruit new directors as appropriate to fill any areas of expertise that are underrepresented.
- To undertake a feasibility study into the future use of Friargate Theatre, taking into consideration both the company's needs and further opportunities.
- Increase regular income by finding more members and encouraging all members to consider their level of contribution.
- To establish, if possible, a plan for a secure and sustainable future for the company.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to six month's fixed costs expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Investment policy

The company's memorandum and articles of association give the charity the power to make any investment which the trustees think fit. At the present time no such investments are held.

Major risks

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Plans for future periods

The company has costed plans for the next three years, subject to review.

- 'Inspired!' – UK tour autumn 2023
- 'Give it Back, Mak!' – Christmas tour to schools and communities 2023
- Members' Day – 20 January 2024
- 'The Narrow Road' – Tour to churches and cathedrals, Lent 2024
- 'Revolving Doors' – film for prison broadcast to be completed
- National tour in autumn 2024 in partnership with Transforming Lives for Good
- Summer Theatre School – a break in 2024 but resuming in 2025
- Hires of Friargate Theatre
- Revamp of website

Structure, governance and management

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 23rd June 1998 charity registration number 1070142 and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, company registration number 03573945 (England and Wales) and is therefore governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 2nd June 1998 as amended on 23rd July 2019.

The company began to operate on 1 November 1998 when the assets and liabilities of Riding Lights Trust (a registered charity) and Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited with the exception of its stock of merchandise were transferred to the company. The Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited then changed its name to Riding Lights (Trading) Limited. Riding Lights (Trading) Limited was dissolved on 16 December 2008.

The principal office and registered office address is:

Friargate Theatre
Lower Friargate
York
YO19 9SL

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A P N Dunn	
Mr A J Bradley	
Mrs B C G Burbridge	(Resigned 13 November 2023)
Mr P A Burbridge	(Died 19 April 2023)
Mr S M H Cavanagh	
Mr J C Emmett	
Mr M J Hands	
Mr D J Lampitt	
Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm	
Mr O Brown	(Appointed 8 September 2022)
Miss S Maddison	(Appointed 8 September 2022)
Mr J M Brown	(Appointed 24 August 2023)
Ms B J C Foreman	(Appointed 24 August 2023)

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Board has the power to appoint additional trustees as it considers fit to do so.

In accordance with the provisions of the company's Articles of Association at each AGM one third of the board members shall retire by rotation, any newly appointed trustees shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and shall not be taken into account in determining the board members who are to retire by rotation at the meeting. If not reappointed at such Annual General Meeting, they shall vacate office at the meeting thereof.

In accordance with these provisions Sean Cavanagh, John Emmett and Antony Dunn will retire from office by rotation at the next AGM and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The trustees have complied with the duty imposed upon them by Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission including the guidance issued in respect of public benefit.

Qualifying third party indemnity provisions

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a board member may otherwise be entitled, every board member or other officer or auditor of the Charity shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Charity against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Charity, and against all costs, charges, losses, expenses or liabilities incurred by him in the execution and discharge of his duties or in relation thereto.

Organisational structure

The trustees meet regularly to manage the charity's affairs and delegate the day-to-day running of the charity's activities to its executive and artistic directors and administrative staff.

Induction and training of trustees

Riding Lights is a theatre company with a Christian ethos and it is important that Trustees who join the Board share the Company's beliefs and objectives.

Potential new Trustees are identified from amongst the long-term, active supporters of Riding Lights. The Board seeks to maintain a balance of knowledge and experience relevant to particular aspects of the Company's activities; for example: Finance, Personnel, Education, etc.

Potential Trustees are invited by the Chairman to think and pray about their possible deeper involvement with the Company. Those who accept are invited to attend a Board meeting to see what goes on and how the Board operates. Once they have formally decided to accept the invitation, they are encouraged to attend as many of the meetings as possible. Inevitably not everyone can attend every meeting. Meeting dates are agreed a year in advance, with some six meetings each year. Minutes and review notes are circulated to all members of the Board on a regular basis.

There is no formal training programme for new trustees, but they are all selected from individuals who have supported or worked with Riding Lights in different capacities in the past. They are therefore already familiar with the broad outlines of the company's activities. Initially they work alongside more experienced members of the Board on sub-committees or in exploring specific issues.

Relationship with related parties

A number of the charity's trustees invoiced the charity for various fees and expenses, the details of which are disclosed in note 9.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023*

Promoting the success of the company

Note 20 sets out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund by fund basis.

Paul Burbridge

Paul Burbridge, our beloved Artistic Director, died on 19th April, following a short illness.

Paul, along with Nigel Forde and Murray Watts, founded Riding Lights in 1977, and led the company for over 40 years with unwavering vision and extraordinary creativity. His commitment to the company and to all who encountered it in any way was inspiring and infectious, as were his kindness, warmth and humour. He was an encourager, guide, mentor and friend to many, whose faith and faithfulness to God flowed into the lives of others. Riding Lights was his life's work, his calling, and a source of deep joy to him.

Paul's vision for Riding Lights Theatre Company was that we are all called to make kingdom-centred theatre that is responsive, urgent, visionary, insightful and prophetic, and that in order to do that we need new plays.

Paul made extraordinary theatre with a spirit of abundance and generosity. A new fund, The Word Bank, was created in Paul's memory and to which people have donated with that same spirit of abundance. The fund is open for donations until June 2024.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr J M Brown
Director & Trustee

7 March 2024

RIDING LIGHTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RIDING LIGHTS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Riding Lights (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

David Walker FCA

124 Acomb Road
York
YO24 4EY

Dated: 7 March 2024

RIDING LIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	211,085	43,329	254,414	187,220	99,533	286,753
Charitable activities	3	78,281	-	78,281	65,072	-	65,072
Other trading activities	4	2,413	-	2,413	1,529	-	1,529
Investments	5	1,297	-	1,297	35	-	35
Total income		293,076	43,329	336,405	253,856	99,533	353,389
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	11,200	-	11,200	10,043	-	10,043
Charitable activities	7	397,237	7,453	404,690	386,391	7,701	394,092
Total expenditure		408,437	7,453	415,890	396,434	7,701	404,135
Net income/(expenditure)		(115,361)	35,876	(79,485)	(142,578)	91,832	(50,746)
Transfers between funds	12	40,587	(40,587)	-	109,533	(109,533)	-
Net movement in funds		(74,774)	(4,711)	(79,485)	(33,045)	(17,701)	(50,746)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 September 2022		552,926	37,962	590,888	585,971	55,663	641,634
Fund balances at 31 August 2023		478,152	33,251	511,403	552,926	37,962	590,888

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

RIDING LIGHTS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		244,395		249,188
Current assets					
Stocks	14	500		500	
Debtors	15	37,646		27,669	
Cash at bank and in hand		265,060		328,650	
		<u>303,206</u>		<u>356,819</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Taxation and social security		2,368		417	
Other creditors	16	33,830		14,702	
		<u>36,198</u>		<u>15,119</u>	
Net current assets			267,008		341,700
Total assets less current liabilities			511,403		590,888
			=====		=====
Income funds					
Restricted funds	18		33,251		37,962
Unrestricted funds			478,152		552,926
			<u>511,403</u>		<u>590,888</u>
			=====		=====

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The director acknowledges her responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 7 March 2024

Mr J C Emmett
Trustee

Mr J M Brown
Trustee

Company Registration No. 03573945

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Riding Lights is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Friargate Theatre, Lower Friargate, York, YO1 9SL, UK.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document dated 2 June 1998, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The company has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular expense or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose.

Where monies are received as a contribution towards the general costs of a specific performance or project, the money is held as restricted funds until such a time that the nominated performance or project has finished. When the performance or project has finished the monies are transferred into unrestricted funds.

All other income funds are unrestricted unless designated by the trustees.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant which specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

Incoming resources from charitable activities comprises income from ticket sales, memberships, theatrical services and hire of theatre space. Income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Trust.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Straight line over 50 years - allocated against restricted funds
Lighting and equipment	Straight line over 10 years
Fixtures and fittings	Straight line over 5 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line over 5 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.13 Creditors and provisions

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Donations, Gifts and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	14,169	43,329	57,498	115,864
Legacies receivable	21,272	-	21,272	-
Gift Aid & Theatre Tax Relief	51,655	-	51,655	42,345
Memberships	123,989	-	123,989	128,544
	<u>211,085</u>	<u>43,329</u>	<u>254,414</u>	<u>286,753</u>
For the year ended 31 August 2022	<u>187,220</u>	<u>99,533</u>		<u>286,753</u>
Donations and gifts				
St Johns College	-	13,395	13,395	51,400
Representative Body of the Church in Wales	-	-	-	15,000
Templeton Foundation	-	-	-	2,495
The Westhill Foundation	-	-	-	2,100
Anonymous donation	-	-	-	30,233
City of York Council	-	4,150	4,150	-
Dr Bayly	4,000	-	4,000	-
Feofees of St Michael Le Belfrey	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Hebron Trust	-	-	-	1,080
Bible Society	-	4,000	4,000	-
Other	7,169	21,784	28,953	10,556
	<u>14,169</u>	<u>43,329</u>	<u>57,498</u>	<u>115,864</u>

Where income has been specifically restricted to a future performance by the donor, this income is not deferred but held as a restricted fund.

The company receives donations from various organisations to financially aid the educational program and the production of specific performances. Material & selected donations are shown above.

The Charity also benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with the Charities SORP, the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

'Other' restricted donations are made up of smaller donations, the majority of which were made to support The Word Bank and the tour of 'Nearly the Goat'.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Donations, Gifts and legacies

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Legacies receivable				
Gladstone	17,773	-	17,773	-
Bowler	3,499	-	3,499	-
	<u>21,272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,272</u>	<u>-</u>
Tax reliefs and credits receivable for core activities				
Gift Aid	31,912	-	31,912	19,400
Theatre Tax Relief	19,743	-	19,743	15,945
Coronavirus support grants	-	-	-	6,000
Apprentice scheme	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>51,655</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,655</u>	<u>42,345</u>

3 Charitable activities

	Performances	Summer school and educational projects	Total 2023	Performances	Summer school and educational projects	Total 2022
	2023	2023		2022	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ticket Sales	33,004	32,638	65,642	29,449	30,539	59,988
Hire of Theatre Space	12,639	-	12,639	5,084	-	5,084
	<u>45,643</u>	<u>32,638</u>	<u>78,281</u>	<u>34,533</u>	<u>30,539</u>	<u>65,072</u>

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Merchandise & Performance Night Income	<u>2,413</u>	<u>1,529</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	1,297	35

6 Raising funds

	2023 £	2022 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Staging fundraising events	1,675	1,743
Staff costs	9,525	8,300
Fundraising and publicity	11,200	10,043
	11,200	10,043

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7 Charitable activities

	Theatrical activities	Summer School and Educational activities	Total 2023	Theatrical activities	Summer School and Educational activities	Total 2022
	2023	2023		2022	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	52,538	4,600	57,138	45,990	4,400	50,390
Depreciation and impairment	7,453	-	7,453	7,701	-	7,701
Production costs	63,470	31,611	95,081	68,872	27,659	96,531
Property and Venue costs	20,263	-	20,263	12,661	-	12,661
Insurance	17,593	-	17,593	14,660	-	14,660
Marketing & Promotion	17,625	680	18,305	17,736	902	18,638
Travel & Subsistence	5,677	1,634	7,311	11,160	603	11,763
Property Maintenance	2,207	-	2,207	2,851	-	2,851
	<u>186,826</u>	<u>38,525</u>	<u>225,351</u>	<u>181,631</u>	<u>33,564</u>	<u>215,195</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	150,982	9,000	159,982	139,290	24,580	163,870
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	19,357	-	19,357	12,772	2,255	15,027
	<u>357,165</u>	<u>47,525</u>	<u>404,690</u>	<u>333,693</u>	<u>60,399</u>	<u>394,092</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	349,712	47,525	397,237	325,992	60,399	386,391
Restricted funds	7,453	-	7,453	7,701	-	7,701
	<u>357,165</u>	<u>47,525</u>	<u>404,690</u>	<u>333,693</u>	<u>60,399</u>	<u>394,092</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs	102,252	111,870
Depreciation	5,037	4,855
Storage costs	14,941	15,119
Vehicle running costs	7,272	9,593
Printing & Stationery	5,033	4,030
Postage	4,084	2,460
Computer & IT costs	11,707	6,189
Bank & Credit card charges	2,087	2,164
Telecommunications	3,664	2,676
Sundry Expenses	3,906	4,914
Governance costs	19,356	15,027
	<u>179,339</u>	<u>178,897</u>
Analysed between:		
Theatrical activities	170,339	152,062
Summer school and educational projects	9,000	26,835
	<u>179,339</u>	<u>178,897</u>

9 Trustees

An exception has been granted by the Charity Commission allowing certain trustees & directors to receive remuneration, on a commercial basis, for the roles they perform as follows:

P Burbridge
Salary £20,131 (2022- £31,000)
Pension contributions £2,065 (2022- £3,099)

S Cavanagh
Salary £6,816 (2022- £6,816)
Pension contributions £nil (2022- £nil)

B Burbridge
Salary £10,779 (2022- £18,351)
Pension contributions £240 (2022- £363)

The amount of remuneration paid to the individuals concerned is decided upon and approved by the board of trustees.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

9 Trustees

(Continued)

The following transactions were undertaken with Mr S Cavanagh, who is a trustee & director of the company:

Purchases of goods, services and reimbursement of expenses £0 (2022 - £3,568).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2022 - £nil).

The following transactions were undertaken with Mr P A Burbridge, who was a trustee & director of the company:

Purchase of services & reimbursement of expenses £2,543 (2022 - £893).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2022 - £nil).

The following transactions were undertaken with Mrs B Burbridge, who was a trustee & director of the company:

Purchase of services & reimbursement of expenses £684 (2022 - £2,154).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2022 - £nil).

All transactions were undertaken under normal commercial terms and rates.

Trustees of the charity are covered by a 'Directors and Officers' liability policy.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	12	12
Employment costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	162,888	160,006
Social security costs	6,370	6,847
Other pension costs	4,895	7,707
	174,153	174,560

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and on the basis of these financial statements no provision has been made for corporation tax.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

12 Transfers

Transfers between unrestricted and restricted funds represent the amounts received during the year for specific performances or projects which had been completed during the year. These restricted funds received for such projects are then deemed to be unrestricted.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Lighting and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2022	420,958	51,243	46,438	17,500	536,139
Additions	-	6,896	800	-	7,696
At 31 August 2023	420,958	58,139	47,238	17,500	543,835
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 September 2022	189,957	41,056	44,187	11,750	286,950
Depreciation charged in the year	7,453	2,174	963	1,900	12,490
At 31 August 2023	197,410	43,230	45,150	13,650	299,440
Carrying amount					
At 31 August 2023	223,548	14,909	2,088	3,850	244,395
At 31 August 2022	231,001	10,186	2,251	5,750	249,188

An impairment review of the charity's fixed assets has been undertaken. The net realisable value of the assets concerned has been assessed by estimating their market value. Their value in use has been determined by evaluating present value of the future benefits expected to arise from the continued use of the assets concerned.

The board is satisfied that the values that have been assessed are greater than or equal to their net book values and as such no impairment adjustments are required.

14 Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	500	500

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

15 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	9,596	3,506
Other debtors	25,032	21,907
Prepayments and accrued income	3,018	2,256
	<u>37,646</u>	<u>27,669</u>

16 Other creditors falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	25,620	2,182
Other creditors	840	504
Accruals and deferred income	7,370	12,016
	<u>33,830</u>	<u>14,702</u>

17 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £4,895 (2022 - £7,707).

18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 August 2023 £
Permanent Home Fund	14,662	-	(7,453)	-	7,209
Acting Up!	-	4,650	-	(500)	4,150
Inspired	-	450	-	(450)	-
AI Commission	8,300	-	-	(8,300)	-
Inspired Welsh Tour	15,000	4,000	-	(19,000)	-
The Word Bank	-	18,892	-	-	18,892
Nearly the Goat	-	1,942	-	(1,942)	-
Max Maxwell filming	-	13,395	-	(10,395)	3,000
	<u>37,962</u>	<u>43,329</u>	<u>(7,453)</u>	<u>(40,587)</u>	<u>33,251</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 September 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent Home Fund	22,363	-	(7,701)	-	14,662
Films for Prisons	25,000	-	-	(25,000)	-
AI Commission	8,300	-	-	-	8,300
Fizzy Finn Finds his Feet	-	2,100	-	(2,100)	-
Welsh Tour	-	15,000	-	-	15,000
Maryland	-	800	-	(800)	-
Uneasy Sleeps	-	51,400	-	(51,400)	-
My Place	-	30,233	-	(30,233)	-
	<u>55,663</u>	<u>99,533</u>	<u>(7,701)</u>	<u>(109,533)</u>	<u>37,962</u>

During the course of the year ended 31 March 1998, the Riding Lights Trust began to raise funds in order to finance the acquisition and alteration of a freehold property that was suitable to be used as a theatre, office, store and rehearsal facility. A suitable property was acquired on 7 August 1998 in Friargate, York. The restricted fund was transferred as part of the overall assets and liabilities of the Riding Lights Trust when the company began to operate on 1 November 1998. The direct expenditure represents depreciation charged in respect of the freehold property. The entire depreciation charge has been allocated to the restricted fund.

RL received funding from The Templeton Foundation to commission a new play, The Uneasy Sleeps of Max Maxwell, on the subject of Artificial Intelligence. The play toured in early 2023 and was filmed with funding from ECLAS. The final stages of producing the film are to be completed.

Donations were received on a 'pay it forward' basis to support performances of the Christmas play, Nearly the Goat, in schools and communities.

A grant was made by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales towards a new play, Inspired!, which toured in Wales in autumn 2022.

The Word Bank is a fund for new playwriting projects created in memory of Paul Burbridge and opened in June 2023. The fund will close for donations in June 2024.

The Charity often receives donations and grants of a restricted nature, usually relating to specific dramatic productions. These are deemed to be restricted until expenditure in relation to the specific purpose takes place.

Transfers from restricted funds are made when funds received for restricted purposes are deemed unrestricted.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 August 2023 £
General funds	552,926	293,076	(408,437)	40,587	478,152
Previous year:	At 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 August 2022 £
General funds	585,971	253,856	(396,434)	109,533	552,926

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	237,186	7,209	244,395
Current assets/(liabilities)	240,966	26,042	267,008
	478,152	33,251	511,403
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	234,526	14,662	249,188
Current assets/(liabilities)	318,400	23,300	341,700
	552,926	37,962	590,888

21 Related party transactions

Other than those reported in note 9. There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022-
none).

RIDING LIGHTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1070142

Accounts

RIDING LIGHTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

RIDING LIGHTS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mr A P N Dunn
Mr A J Bradley
Mrs B C G Burbridge
Mr P A Burbridge
Mr S M H Cavanagh
Mr J C Emmett
Mr M J Hands
Mr D J Lampitt
Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm
Mr O Brown (Appointed 8 September 2022)
Miss S Maddison (Appointed 8 September 2022)

Members

Mr J Brown
Mrs R Jack
Mr R Mapletoft
Rev'd Dr B Quash
Mr M Rance
Mrs J Smyth
Mr J M W Somerville

Secretary

Mr A P N Dunn

Charity number

1070142

Company number

03573945

Registered office

Friargate Theatre
Lower Friargate
York
UK
YO1 9SL

Independent examiner

David Walker FCA
124 Acomb Road
York
YO24 4EY

RIDING LIGHTS

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RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's memorandum and articles of association dated 2 June 1998 as amended July 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are :

- to advance the education, public understanding and appreciation of the dramatic arts.
- to teach, train and encourage young artists and other members of the public in the dramatic arts.
- to explore, principally through the dramatic arts, the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching. There has been no change in these during the year.

The charity has the general aim of providing and presenting performances which are of educational, cultural and religious value to the community.

The main objectives for the year continued to be the promotion and fostering of artistic knowledge and appreciation of the dramatic arts, and the exploration of the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

Strategies for achieving the objectives of the charity continues to be the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching. Performance space is also hired out to local performers, both amateur and professional, as well as to touring artists

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The trustees consider that the charity is a public benefit entity.

Details of the significant activities of the charity during the year are as follows:

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Riding Lights Productions

PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE – filmed with green screen in Friargate Theatre for York International Shakespeare Festival

MEMBERS' DAY – online

SUMMER THEATRE SCHOOL – Queen Margaret's School

A PASSION FOR THE EARTH – climate change interactive event

KALEIDOSCOPE – Scarborough open air/ Bradford school day with workshops

FIZZY FINN FINDS HIS FEET – play touring North Yorkshire schools

FIZZY FINN FINDS HIS FEET - filmed version

REVOLVING DOORS – ongoing filming for prisons

MARYLAND – script in hand performance

YORK MINSTER CAROL SERVICE – Joy to the World

MY PLACE by Bridget Foreman– in partnership with Home for Good, touring UK, a play about fostering and adoption

THE CRUCIFIXION AND THE DEATH OF CHRIST – Acting Up! for YORK WAGON PLAYS

THE CRUCIFIXION AND THE DEATH OF CHRIST – REVISED – Acting Up! Friargate Theatre

Project in partnership with Scientists in Congregations –THE UNEASY SLEEPS OF MAX MAXWELL – play commissioned and written for production in January 2023

Cancelled and Postponed Productions due to Covid 19

FIZZY FINN FINDS HIS FEET – performances at Friargate Theatre cancelled in response to rapid growth of Omicron variant infection

Riding Lights Roughshod

The charity's Roughshod Company, which is primarily staffed by volunteer actors and actresses offering performances at no charge, did not operate during the year.

Educational and Youth Work

Riding Lights Education works with both young people and adults to offer theatrical opportunities for the York community and beyond. The work includes a broad spectrum of drama workshops as well as full scale productions. Since 2000, with the purchase of Friargate Theatre and the creation of the education department, Riding Lights has continued to partner with both primary and secondary schools to deliver workshops and support teachers across the curriculum.

Summer Theatre School

Riding Lights Summer Theatre School returned to Queen Margaret's School with a smaller contingent than previous years, mainly because there were very few 14-18 year olds. The reasons for this are unclear but may be connected to loss of contact through lockdowns. Queen Margaret's School will not be available for 2023 and a new venue will have to be found.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Use of Volunteers

Riding Lights is widely supported by many people across the country who help by providing a wide range of valuable resources, particularly when Riding Lights visits local communities. We are particularly grateful for the generous provision of accommodation and hospitality made to our acting companies as well as to those who organise performances of our work in their area. Riding Lights has been very pleased to be able to tour this year but has found there is greater reluctance to offer hospitality in homes.

The educational department also benefits from the assistance of volunteers, who provide valuable experience to those individuals taking part. Riding Lights has maintained good relationships with those volunteers during the challenges of lockdown and has been pleased to see many return in person.

Achievements and performance

Riding Lights Productions

The York International Shakespeare Festival went online and Riding Lights was invited to create the main event for the Festival. Pericles, Prince of Tyre by William Shakespeare was filmed in Friargate Theatre using green screen technology which had been learned in the previous year. The seating was removed from the theatre and replaced with a very large green screen. Instead of multi-casting, the company was able to give work to 21 actors who came to perform individual roles. The work received high praise and will be useful in helping to promote the company's work.

Fizzy Finn Finds His Feet was commissioned specifically in response to growing numbers of children expressing anxiety as a consequence of lockdown and isolation. A tour of local schools was put in place but mindful that Covid might return, the decision was taken to film the show as a fall back in case of cancellations. There were many cancellations at very short notice as a result of the rise of the Omicron variant. Many schools were glad to take the cheaper filmed option which they could send to pupils who were isolating at home. This was a costly exercise in monetary terms but a necessary return to ensure continued profile in schools. The experience of filming gained in the previous year was immensely useful in ensuring that a filmed alternative could be made available.

The Spring Harvest organisation invited Riding Lights to bring A Passion For The Earth to their Skegness base. This interactive expression of planet care has been performed in various locations, helping audiences to reflect on what is happening to the planet as a result of climate change and wider destruction or pollution of natural habitats. The performance gives voice to their concerns as well as giving the opportunity to commit to personal responsibility going forward. The piece has been through several iterations and will be available as a download for churches or other people of faith who may find it helpful.

Christmas Online is an ongoing resource of filmed content for churches to download for use in services and other events. This is a slow but steady income stream with increased uptake in the autumn. It is a useful way of continuing to offer content through social media and thereby maintaining public profile.

Filming Revolving Doors was produced entirely in house, building on newly developed film and green screen skills. This is awaiting further work and will be made available to prisons across the UK at no cost.

Members Day online attracted a large number of viewers eventually. Around 40 participated live but there were many views later. This was a valuable exercise with a group of very committed individuals who brought great encouragement to the core staff.

The Wagon Plays are a tradition of York's passion play history. Riding Lights have been invited by the Butchers' Guild to produce The Crucifixion and the Death of Christ with our Acting Up! company. It is a great honour and huge challenge for our young people who will also create a new improvised performance around the plays for an audience at Friargate Theatre.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Uneasy Sleeps of Max Maxwell by Rich Hasnip, commissioned in partnership with Scientists in Congregations for The Templeton Foundation will tour in Spring 2023.

My Place was commissioned to promote the work of Home for Good, a charity that aims to find secure homes for children and young people and vulnerable refugees. The production was subsidised by anonymous donation. Further projects are under discussion as a direct consequence.

Educational Programme

Following the demise of much of Riding Lights youth theatre, the decision was made to continue to facilitate Acting Up!, a young people's company for young people with additional needs. This theatre for young people with additional needs has re-opened for 18-30 year olds. Many of these young people first came to RLTC at the age of 14 and formed a young company of 14-18 year olds. There is no provision for these young people beyond the age of 18 so the company decided to support them and establish a company for this slightly older group. The company has received no funding support for this work but hopes to re-establish a company for the younger age group within the next twelve months.

Last year, planned wellbeing workshops in junior schools, funded by The Westhill Foundation had to be cancelled. The Westhill Foundation gave permission to move that ring-fenced funding to produce teacher support materials for a new play, Fizzy Finn Finds His Feet, in support of junior school children experiencing challenging mental health as a result of their isolation experience during Covid lockdowns.

Financial review

Riding Lights aims to cover all its costs through a mixture of the regular donated income received from Membership and irregular income from one-off donations as well as earned income from projects and productions. The Company aims to ensure that the core costs of operating Riding Lights (Administration, Friargate Theatre, Company Vehicles, Staff etc.) are broadly covered by regular and one-off giving. Any shortfall is met by profit from projects and productions. This surplus is intended principally to support new productions, which is essential if the Company is to invest in and remain creatively active. Riding Lights costs are kept to a minimum while also ensuring that staff are paid, as a bare minimum, in accordance with the recommendations of the Living Wage Foundation to which the company is affiliated.

As at 31 August 2022 unrestricted reserves stood at £552,926 (2021 £585,971).

Despite the pandemic regular income has remained fairly steady with a small loss of Membership, largely from elderly supporters no longer able to make a regular contribution. There has been a small increase in Membership because the company is now back on tour and able to attract new Members.

The government furlough scheme has covered a significant percentage of staff salaries, making it possible to retain the whole staff without redundancy or reducing salaries. The decision, taken last year, to pay staff at 100% whatever the furlough rate, was continued in this year while furlough was available. The Company view continued to be that staff members on relatively low salaries would find it difficult to take any substantial cut in income.

Irregular income including external funding, grants, donations and partnerships are crucial as a support for the whole organisation.

The Board's current strategy is to:

- Increase regular income by finding more members
- Encourage all members to consider their level of contribution.
- Seek additional funding from and partnerships with other organisations to support our work.
- Ensure all projects are more profitable wherever possible.
- Refine the management of the core organisation to ensure we are as efficient as possible.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to six month's fixed costs expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The company's memorandum and articles of association give the charity the power to make any investment which the trustees think fit. At the present time no such investments are held.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Plans for future periods

Plans for the Future

The company has costed plans for the next three years, subject to review.

Summer Theatre School
York Minster Carol Service in partnership with St Michael le Belfrey
Spring Harvest – in person
Members Day 2023
Revolving Doors – film for prison broadcast to be completed
Events at Friargate Theatre
Hires of Friargate Theatre
Revamp of website
Summer Theatre School August 2023
The Welsh Tour – Autumn 2022
Nearly the Goat – UK tour Christmas show for junior school age children Nov-Dec 2022
Tour of The Uneasy Sleeps of Max Maxwell Spring 2023

An ambition remains to re-mount All's Well That Ends Well (2019) for a European Summer Tour and revive the partnership with York Walls for a Youth Theatre project and Primary School tour. This has been seriously affected by a combination of Covid and Brexit. Europe is no longer easily accessible as a touring opportunity and new funding will have to be identified to make that happen.

Current note October 27th 2022

Ruth Gould will leave the company in November to marry and move to Lancashire. Her role will be filled by Chloe Oldroyd who has completed recently her level 3 business administration successfully. Bernadette Burbridge will continue to mentor Rachel until the end of 2023.

Rob Gooch left on 1st July 2022. This role remains open until the new structure of the company becomes clear. In the meantime, the technical responsibilities have been taken on by Erin Burbridge awhile Rachel Sanders has taken on responsibility for running the building.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Paul Burbridge plans to leave in Easter 2023 by which time it is hoped that the creative team will have expanded to bring more experience into the company. At the time of writing Emily Feltham has been appointed to join that team on a half time contract.

The plan is to create a collective rather than a company with a top down structure has not been successful yet. Conversations are taking place with other more experienced creatives with a view to building up that group.

Structure, governance and management

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 23rd June 1998 and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 2nd June 1998 as amended on 23rd July 2019.

The company began to operate on 1 November 1998 when the assets and liabilities of Riding Lights Trust (a registered charity) and Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited with the exception of its stock of merchandise were transferred to the company. The Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited then changed its name to Riding Lights (Trading) Limited. Riding Lights (Trading) Limited was dissolved on 16 December 2008.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A P N Dunn

Mr A J Bradley

Mrs B C G Burbridge

Mr P A Burbridge

Mr S M H Cavanagh

Mr J C Emmett

Mr M J Hands

Miss S R Hoyland

(Resigned 21 July 2022)

Mr D J Lampitt

Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm

Mr O Brown

(Appointed 8 September 2022)

Miss S Maddison

(Appointed 8 September 2022)

All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Board has the power to appoint additional trustees as it considers fit to do so.

In accordance with the provisions of the company's Articles of Association any newly appointed trustees shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and shall not be taken into account in determining the board members who are to retire by rotation at the meeting. If not reappointed at such Annual General Meeting, they shall vacate office at the meeting thereof.

In accordance with these provisions Martin Hands, Antony Dunn and Paul Burbridge retire from office by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Qualifying third party indemnity provisions

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a board member may otherwise be entitled, every board member or other officer or auditor of the Charity shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Charity against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Charity, and against all costs, charges, losses, expenses or liabilities incurred by him in the execution and discharge of his duties or in relation thereto.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The trustees have complied with the duty imposed upon them by Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission including the guidance issued in respect of public benefit.

The trustees meet regularly to manage the charity's affairs and delegate the day-to-day running of the charity's activities to its executive and artistic directors and administrative staff.

Riding Lights is a theatre company with a Christian ethos and it is important that Trustees who join the Board share the Company's beliefs and objectives.

Potential new Trustees are identified from amongst the long-term, active supporters of Riding Lights. The Board seeks to maintain a balance of knowledge and experience relevant to particular aspects of the Company's activities; for example: Finance, Personnel, Education, etc.

Potential Trustees are invited by the Chairman to think and pray about their possible deeper involvement with the Company. Those who accept are invited to attend a Board meeting to see what goes on and how the Board operates. Once they have formally decided to accept the invitation, they are encouraged to attend as many of the meetings as possible. Inevitably not everyone can attend every meeting. Meeting dates are agreed a year in advance, with some six meetings each year. Minutes and review notes are circulated to all members of the Board on a regular basis.

There is no formal training programme for new trustees, but they are all selected from individuals who have supported or worked with Riding Lights in different capacities in the past. They are therefore already familiar with the broad outlines of the company's activities. Initially they work alongside more experienced members of the Board on sub-committees or in exploring specific issues.

A number of the charity's trustees invoiced the charity for various fees and expenses, the details of which are disclosed in note 9.

Promoting the success of the company

Note 19 sets out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund by fund basis.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs B C G Burbridge
Director & Trustee

8 November 2022

RIDING LIGHTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RIDING LIGHTS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Riding Lights (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

David Walker FCA

124 Acomb Road
York
YO24 4EY

Dated: 8 November 2022

RIDING LIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	Notes				
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations, Gifts and legacies	2	187,220	99,533	286,753	315,082
Charitable activities	3	65,072	-	65,072	54,334
Activities to generate funds including trading operations	4	1,529	-	1,529	457
Investments	5	35	-	35	32
Total income		<u>253,856</u>	<u>99,533</u>	<u>353,389</u>	<u>369,905</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Raising funds	6	<u>10,043</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,043</u>	<u>9,322</u>
Charitable activities	7	<u>386,391</u>	<u>7,701</u>	<u>394,092</u>	<u>293,126</u>
Total expenditure		<u>396,434</u>	<u>7,701</u>	<u>404,135</u>	<u>302,448</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(142,578)	91,832	(50,746)	67,457
Gross transfers between funds	12	<u>109,533</u>	<u>(109,533)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(33,045)	(17,701)	(50,746)	67,457
Fund balances at 1 September 2021		<u>585,971</u>	<u>55,663</u>	<u>641,634</u>	<u>574,177</u>
Fund balances at 31 August 2022		<u>552,926</u>	<u>37,962</u>	<u>590,888</u>	<u>641,634</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

RIDING LIGHTS**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
	Notes			
Income from:				
Donations, Gifts and legacies	2	265,924	49,158	315,082
Charitable activities	3	54,334	-	54,334
Activities to generate funds including trading operations	4	457	-	457
Investments	5	32	-	32
Total income		320,747	49,158	369,905
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	6	9,322	-	9,322
Charitable activities	7	285,169	7,957	293,126
Total expenditure		294,491	7,957	302,448
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		26,256	41,201	67,457
Gross transfers between funds	12	59,458	(59,458)	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		85,714	(18,257)	67,457
Fund balances at 1 September 2020		500,257	73,920	574,177
Fund balances at 31 August 2021		585,971	55,663	641,634

RIDING LIGHTS**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		249,188		260,074
Current assets					
Stocks	14	500		500	
Debtors	15	27,669		35,152	
Cash at bank and in hand		328,650		374,669	
		<u>356,819</u>		<u>410,321</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Taxation and social security		417		12,454	
Other creditors	16	14,702		16,307	
		<u>15,119</u>		<u>28,761</u>	
Net current assets			341,700		381,560
Total assets less current liabilities			590,888		641,634
			=====		=====
Income funds					
Restricted funds	18		37,962		55,663
Unrestricted funds			552,926		585,971
			<u>590,888</u>		<u>641,634</u>
			=====		=====

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2022.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 8 November 2022

Mrs B C G Burbridge
Trustee

Mr J C Emmett
Trustee

Company Registration No. 03573945

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Riding Lights is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Friargate Theatre, Lower Friargate, York, YO1 9SL, UK.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document dated 2 June 1998, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The company has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular expense or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose.

Where monies are received as a contribution towards the general costs of a specific performance or project, the money is held as restricted funds until such a time that the nominated performance or project has finished. When the performance or project has finished the monies are transferred into unrestricted funds.

All other income funds are unrestricted unless designated by the trustees.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant which specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

Incoming resources from charitable activities comprises of income from ticket sales, memberships, theatrical services and hire of theatre space. Income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Trust.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Straight line over 50 years - allocated against restricted funds
Lighting and equipment	Straight line over 10 years
Fixtures and fittings	Straight line over 5 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line over 5 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.13 Creditors and provisions

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

RIDING LIGHTS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**2 Donations, Gifts and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	16,331	99,533	115,864	25,913
Gift Aid & Theatre Tax Relief	42,345	-	42,345	148,801
Memberships	128,544	-	128,544	140,368
	<u>187,220</u>	<u>99,533</u>	<u>286,753</u>	<u>315,082</u>
For the year ended 31 August 2021	<u>265,924</u>	<u>49,158</u>		<u>315,082</u>
Donations and gifts				
St Johns College	-	51,400	51,400	-
Representative Body of the Church in Wales	-	15,000	15,000	-
Templeton Foundation	2,495	-	2,495	-
Westhill	2,100	-	2,100	-
Anonymous	-	32,333	32,333	-
More	-	-	-	10,000
Dr Bayly	-	-	-	2,000
Feofees of St Michael Le Belfry	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Hebron Trust	1,080	-	1,080	1,000
York Theatre Royal	-	800	800	2,000
Other	7,656	-	7,656	7,913
	<u>16,331</u>	<u>99,533</u>	<u>115,864</u>	<u>25,913</u>

Where income has been specifically restricted to a future performance by the donor, this income is not deferred but held as a restricted fund.

The company receives donations from various organisations to financially aid the educational program and the production of specific performances. Material & selected donations are shown above.

The Charity also benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with the Charities SORP, the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

RIDING LIGHTS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**2 Donations, Gifts and legacies****(Continued)**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Tax reliefs and credits receivable for core activities				
Gift Aid	19,400	-	19,400	34,742
Theatre Tax Relief	15,945	-	15,945	13,451
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	49,158
Coronavirus support grants	6,000	-	6,000	51,450
Apprentice scheme	1,000	-	1,000	-
	<u>42,345</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,345</u>	<u>148,801</u>

3 Charitable activities

	Performances 2022 £	Summer school and educational projects 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Performances 2021 £	Summer school and educational projects 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Ticket Sales	29,449	30,539	59,988	42,892	7,914	50,806
Hire of Theatre Space	5,084	-	5,084	795	-	795
Theatre School & Child Memberships	-	-	-	-	2,733	2,733
	<u>34,533</u>	<u>30,539</u>	<u>65,072</u>	<u>43,687</u>	<u>10,647</u>	<u>54,334</u>

4 Activities to generate funds including trading operations

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Merchandise & Performance Night Income	<u>1,529</u>	<u>457</u>

RIDING LIGHTS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**5 Investments**

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable	35	32

6 Raising funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Staging fundraising events	1,743	-
Staff costs	8,300	9,322
	<u>10,043</u>	<u>9,322</u>
Fundraising and publicity	10,043	9,322
	<u>10,043</u>	<u>9,322</u>

RIDING LIGHTS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**7 Charitable activities**

	Theatrical activities 2022 £	Educational and Summer School activities 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Theatrical activities 2021 £	Educational and Summer School activities 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	45,990	4,400	50,390	45,440	-	45,440
Depreciation and impairment	7,701	-	7,701	7,957	-	7,957
Production costs	68,872	27,659	96,531	40,611	7,963	48,574
Property and Venue costs	12,661	-	12,661	13,079	-	13,079
Insurance	14,660	-	14,660	13,879	-	13,879
Marketing & Promotion	17,736	902	18,638	8,692	-	8,692
Travel & Subsistence	11,160	603	11,763	1,495	-	1,495
Property Maintenance	2,851	-	2,851	5,115	-	5,115
	<u>181,631</u>	<u>33,564</u>	<u>215,195</u>	<u>136,268</u>	<u>7,963</u>	<u>144,231</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	139,290	24,580	163,870	116,169	20,000	136,169
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	12,772	2,255	15,027	11,976	750	12,726
	<u>333,693</u>	<u>60,399</u>	<u>394,092</u>	<u>264,413</u>	<u>28,713</u>	<u>293,126</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	325,992	60,399	386,391	256,456	28,713	285,169
Restricted funds	7,701	-	7,701	7,957	-	7,957
	<u>333,693</u>	<u>60,399</u>	<u>394,092</u>	<u>264,413</u>	<u>28,713</u>	<u>293,126</u>

RIDING LIGHTS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**8 Support costs**

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	111,870	4,000	115,870	101,855	2,951	104,806
Depreciation	4,855	-	4,855	4,436	-	4,436
Storage costs	15,119	-	15,119	809	-	809
Vehicle costs	9,593	-	9,593	6,692	-	6,692
Printing & Stationery	4,030	-	4,030	2,082	-	2,082
Postage	2,460	-	2,460	3,324	-	3,324
Computer & IT costs	6,189	-	6,189	6,698	-	6,698
Bank & Creditcard charges	2,164	-	2,164	2,099	-	2,099
Telecommunications	2,676	-	2,676	2,340	-	2,340
Sundry Expenses	4,914	-	4,914	5,834	-	5,834
Audit fees	-	2,250	2,250	-	2,250	2,250
Accountancy	-	1,750	1,750	-	2,250	2,250
Legal and professional	-	1,157	1,157	-	-	-
Bookkeeping	-	5,870	5,870	-	5,275	5,275
	<u>163,870</u>	<u>15,027</u>	<u>178,897</u>	<u>136,169</u>	<u>12,726</u>	<u>148,895</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	<u>163,870</u>	<u>15,027</u>	<u>178,897</u>	<u>136,169</u>	<u>12,726</u>	<u>148,895</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiner of £2,250 (2021- £2,250) for independent examination and £1,750 (2021- £2,250) for other services.

9 Trustees

An exception has been granted by the Charity Commission allowing certain trustees & directors to receive remuneration, on a commercial basis, for the roles they perform as follows:

P Burbridge

Salary £31,000 (2021- £31,000)

Pension contributions £3,099 (2021- £3,099)

S Cavanagh

Salary £6,816 (2021- £6,816)

Pension contributions £804 (2021- £804)

B Burbridge

Salary £18,351 (2021- £8,164)

Pension contributions £363 (2021- £57)

The amount of remuneration paid to the individuals concerned is decided upon and approved by the board of trustees.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

9 Trustees

(Continued)

The following transactions were undertaken with Mr S Cavanagh, who is a trustee & director of the company:

Purchases of goods, services and reimbursement of expenses £nil (2021 - £nil).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2021 - £nil).

The following transactions were undertaken with Mr P A Burbridge, who is a director of the company:

Purchase of services & reimbursement of expenses £893 (2021 - £632).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2021 - £nil).

The following transactions were undertaken with Mrs B Burbridge, who is a director of the company:

Purchase of services & reimbursement of expenses £2,154 (2021 - £22).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2021 - £nil).

All transactions were undertaken under normal commercial terms and rates.

Trustees of the charity are covered by a 'Directors and Officers' liability policy.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	12	8
Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	160,006	145,542
Social security costs	6,847	9,654
Other pension costs	7,707	4,372
	174,560	159,568

The trust received £nil (2020 £49,158) from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to help pay its furloughed employees.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and on the basis of these financial statements no provision has been made for corporation tax.

RIDING LIGHTS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**12 Transfers**

Transfers between unrestricted and restricted funds represent the amounts received during the year for specific performances or projects which had been completed during the year. These restricted funds received for such projects are then deemed to be unrestricted.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Lighting and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2021	420,958	49,572	46,438	17,500	534,468
Additions	-	1,670	-	-	1,670
	<u>420,958</u>	<u>51,242</u>	<u>46,438</u>	<u>17,500</u>	<u>536,138</u>
At 31 August 2022	420,958	51,242	46,438	17,500	536,138
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 September 2021	182,256	38,903	43,385	9,850	274,394
Depreciation charged in the year	7,701	2,153	802	1,900	12,556
	<u>189,957</u>	<u>41,056</u>	<u>44,187</u>	<u>11,750</u>	<u>286,950</u>
At 31 August 2022	189,957	41,056	44,187	11,750	286,950
Carrying amount					
At 31 August 2022	<u>231,001</u>	<u>10,186</u>	<u>2,251</u>	<u>5,750</u>	<u>249,188</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>238,702</u>	<u>10,669</u>	<u>3,053</u>	<u>7,650</u>	<u>260,074</u>

An impairment review of the charity's fixed assets has been undertaken. The net realisable value of the assets concerned has been assessed by estimating their market value. Their value in use has been determined by evaluating present value of the future benefits expected to arise from the continued use of the assets concerned.

The board is satisfied that the values that have been assessed are greater than or equal to their net book values and as such no impairment adjustments are required.

14 Stocks

	2022 £	2021 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>

RIDING LIGHTS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**15 Debtors**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	3,506	7,037
Other debtors	21,907	26,386
Prepayments and accrued income	2,256	1,729
	<u>27,669</u>	<u>35,152</u>

16 Other creditors falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,182	4,506
Other creditors	504	-
Accruals and deferred income	12,016	11,801
	<u>14,702</u>	<u>16,307</u>

17 Retirement benefit schemes**Defined contribution schemes**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £7,707 (2021 - £4,372).

RIDING LIGHTS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022****18 Restricted funds**

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 September 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 September 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 August 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent Home Fund	30,320	-	-	(7,957)	22,363	-	(7,701)	14,662
Film Equipment	6,300	-	(6,300)	-	-	-	-	-
Films for Prisons	25,000	-	-	-	25,000	-	(25,000)	-
AI Commission	12,300	-	(4,000)	-	8,300	-	-	8,300
Fizzy Finn Finds his Feet	-	49,158	(49,158)	-	-	2,100	(2,100)	-
Welsh Tour	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
Maryland	-	-	-	-	-	800	(800)	-
Uneasy Sleeps	-	-	-	-	-	51,400	(51,400)	-
My Place	-	-	-	-	-	30,233	(30,233)	-
	<u>73,920</u>	<u>49,158</u>	<u>(59,458)</u>	<u>(7,957)</u>	<u>55,663</u>	<u>99,533</u>	<u>(117,234)</u>	<u>37,962</u>

During the course of the year ended 31 March 1998, the Riding Lights Trust began to raise funds in order to finance the acquisition and alteration of a freehold property that was suitable to be used as a theatre, office, store and rehearsal facility. A suitable property was acquired on 7 August 1998 in Friargate, York. The restricted fund was transferred as part of the overall assets and liabilities of the Riding Lights Trust when the company began to operate on 1 November 1998. The direct expenditure represents depreciation charged in respect of the freehold property. The entire depreciation charge has been allocated to the restricted fund.

Summer Theatre School Bursaries are given to award free places to individuals who have not previously attended summer school and who are not in full time work or full time education.

RL received funding from The Templeton Foundation to commission a new play on the subject of Artificial Intelligence. The first draft was received in early 2021. This may result in a theatre tour and/or film.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

18 Restricted funds

(Continued)

The Charity often receives donations and grants of a restricted nature, usually relating to specific dramatic productions. These are deemed to be restricted until expenditure in relation to the specific purpose takes place.

Transfers from restricted funds are made when funds received for restricted purposes are deemed unrestricted.

RIDING LIGHTS**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**19 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	234,526	14,662	249,188	237,711	22,363	260,074
Current assets/(liabilities)	318,400	23,300	341,700	348,260	33,300	381,560
	<u>552,926</u>	<u>37,962</u>	<u>590,888</u>	<u>585,971</u>	<u>55,663</u>	<u>641,634</u>

20 Related party transactions

Other than those reported in note 9. There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021- none).

RIDING LIGHTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1070142

Accounts

Charity registration number 1070142

Company registration number 03573945 (England and Wales)

RIDING LIGHTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

RIDING LIGHTS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr A P N Dunn Mr A J Bradley Mrs B C G Burbridge Mr P A Burbridge Mr S M H Cavanagh Mr J C Emmett Mr M J Hands Miss S R Hoyland Mr D J Lampitt Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm
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Members	Mrs C Smith Miss J Henfrey Mr R Mapletoft Rev'd Dr B Quash Mr M Rance Mrs U Simpson Mr J M W Somerville Mr J Brown Mrs J Smyth Mrs R Jack
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Secretary	Mr A P N Dunn
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Charity number	1070142
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Company number	03573945
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Registered office	Friargate Theatre Lower Friargate York UK YO1 9SL
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Independent examiner	David Walker FCA 124 Acomb Road Holgate York YO24 4EY
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RIDING LIGHTS

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Notes to the financial statements	15 - 29

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's memorandum and articles of association dated 2 June 1998 as amended July 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are :

- to advance the education, public understanding and appreciation of the dramatic arts.
- to teach, train and encourage young artists and other members of the public in the dramatic arts.
- to explore, principally through the dramatic arts, the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching. There has been no change in these during the year.

The charity has the general aim of providing and presenting performances which are of educational, cultural and religious value to the community.

The main objectives for the year continued to be the promotion and fostering of artistic knowledge and appreciation of the dramatic arts, and the exploration of the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

Strategies for achieving the objectives of the charity continues to be the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The trustees consider that the charity is a public benefit entity.

Details of the significant activities of the charity during the year are as follows:

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Riding Lights Productions

The Selfish Giant – filmed initially for Christmas, download for schools and others

Online Youth Theatre 14-18

Jailhouse Joy – set of films for UK prisons, broadcast through WayOut TV

Christmas Online - filmed content made available for download

Breaking Day – a filmed passion play, green screen, zoom format, filmed remotely in lockdown

Spring Harvest – short films and in person in Harrogate

Members Day online

Pericles, Prince of Tyre – filmed with green screen in Friargate Theatre for York International Shakespeare Festival

Summer Theatre School – online Shakespeare

Commission of play in partnership with Scientists in Congregations – The Uneasy Sleeps of Max Maxwell

Cancelled and Postponed Productions due to Covid 19

York Minster Carol Service with St Michael le Belfrey

Riding Lights Roughshod

The charity's Roughshod Company, which is primarily staffed by volunteer actors and actresses offering performances at no charge, did not operate during the year.

Educational and Youth Work

Riding Lights Education works with both young people and adults to offer theatrical opportunities for the York community and beyond. The work includes a broad spectrum of drama workshops as well as full scale productions. Since 2000, with the purchase of Friargate Theatre and the creation of the education department Riding Lights has continued to partner with both primary and secondary schools to deliver workshops and support teachers across the curriculum.

Summer Theatre School

After 59 people applied to attend in person, it became clear that it would not be possible to sustain the Summer School activities in the event of a Covid case onsite. Consequently the Riding Lights Summer Theatre School was delivered online for the second time owing to the pandemic. Over 20 people resigned their place, leaving us with just over 30 online. It was a productive and creative week, carefully managed to protect the participants from the exhaustion of long hours on zoom. The possibility of an online course, alongside the in person courses, will be considered next year.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021***

Use of Volunteers

Riding Lights is widely supported by many people across the country who help by providing a wide range of valuable resources, particularly when Riding Lights visits local communities. We are particularly grateful for the generous provision of accommodation and hospitality made to our acting companies as well as to those who organise performances of our work in their area.

Riding Lights has not been able to tour this year but hopes that this practical support and provision will continue after the pandemic.

The educational department also benefits from the assistance of volunteers, who provide valuable experience to those individuals taking part.

Riding Lights has maintained good relationships with those volunteers who hope to return when sessions are in person.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021*

Achievements and performance

Riding Lights Productions

The Anchor Foundation gave permission for the remaining £4,200 to be reallocated to filming content for prison broadcast networks. A sequence of 20 minutes of filmed Christmas material, Jailhouse Joy, was accepted for prison broadcasts by WayOut TV who repeated the broadcast and reported wide appreciation for the content. They have invited Riding Lights to offer further content as it becomes available.

The Selfish Giant was filmed in Friargate Theatre. Promoted across the country to schools and libraries and churches, it was warmly welcomed, particularly by schools. This enabled Riding Lights to reach a much wider audience than traditional touring. Further consideration will be given to the possibility of filming work to widen impact in the future.

The Spring Harvest organisation invited Riding Lights to join their morning Big Start sessions in person and to film new content. The company is growing skills in filming and editing which enables some of this work to be done in house, with consequent savings in expenditure. The Spring Harvest Content was also available online with thousands of views across the UK and beyond, thereby extending reach way beyond the normal audience of a touring theatre company.

Christmas Online is an ongoing resource of filmed content for churches to download for us in services and other events. This is a slow but steady income stream with increased uptake in the autumn. It is a useful way of continuing to offer content through social media and thereby maintaining public profile.

Breaking Day by Les Ellison should have been a staged passion play. When it became clear that touring would not be possible, the play was adapted for film and reconceived as a zoom type play. This enabled remote filming with 3 actors working in Covid secure spaces. Riding Lights provided each performer with green screen, costume, lighting. Actors filmed themselves while being watched and directed via zoom. Content was uploaded for editing and the addition of set, music and all post editing requirements. This sold well to churches who were struggling to find suitable remote activities for Easter and Good Friday in particular.

Members Day online attracted over 70 people and allowed the company to interact with more people than might have been expected to come to York for an in person event. There may be a case for including an online element in future.

Following the success of All's Well at the previous York International Shakespeare Festival, it was clear that Riding Lights was well placed to make another contribution. The Festival went online and Pericles, Prince of Tyre was filmed in Friargate Theatre. Seating was removed from the Theatre and replaced with a giant green screen and film crew. Rather than doubling up the cast, as is the norm for RL, we were able to offer work to 21 actors who came in to shoot their scenes and left. This reduced the risk of Covid infection and cast and crew remained Covid free throughout. The experiment was successful in terms of reviews but resulted in a notable financial loss. However, the film is available for download and will be promoted in future. This will be particularly suitable for educational establishments and Shakespeare Festivals both within and beyond the UK. A strategic plan will be drawn up to effect that.

The Uneasy Sleeps of Max Maxwell by Rich Hasnip, commissioned in partnership with Scientists in Congregations for The Templeton Foundation will tour in Spring 2023.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021*

Educational Programme

The Covid pandemic had a devastating effect on work with young people. Children who were already spending long hours learning on zoom were not inclined to look for other online activities. Nonetheless, Riding Lights offered an online youth theatre which attracted a number of young people from further afield who wanted to continue to make theatre and engage with a wider circle of young people. This culminated in an entertaining online performance and proved helpful to those who took part but was not financially sustainable in the long term.

There is extensive youth theatre provision in the city and the competition includes York Theatre Royal which appeals to parents who are looking for an understandable kind of cachet. The loss of teaching income from the Minster School and the low numbers of participants in youth theatre has led to a reluctant decision to close down those youth theatres on the basis that they are not financially viable in the long term. If circumstances change, then this might be worth revisiting since Riding Lights has a long history of excellent youth theatre and skilled practitioners.

Online is not a suitable forum for our young people with additional needs so Acting Up! was disbanded until further notice. The company was not in receipt of funding for Acting Up! at that time. Riding Lights kept in touch with the young people and their families and it was clear that the loss of Acting Up! was immensely disappointing to all concerned. Every effort will be made to make reconvene that work when the

Unable to tour to schools, the decision was taken to film the previous year's christmas show. The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde, adapted for Riding Lights by Jonathan Boustead, proved a huge hit with schools struggling with the impact of Covid. Schools were given a long window of dates in which to watch the show, offering the opportunity for live zoom interaction with the giants after viewing, very popular, as well as links to send to children who were marooned in their own homes and could watch there.

The planned wellbeing workshops in junior schools, funded by The Westhill Foundation had to be cancelled. The Westhill Foundation will be approached to seek permission to move that ring-fenced funding to another related school project in the following year.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Financial review

Riding Lights aims to cover all its costs through a mixture of the regular donated income received from Membership and irregular income from one-off donations as well as earned income from projects and productions. The Company aims to ensure that the core costs of operating Riding Lights (Administration, Friargate Theatre, Company Vehicles, Staff etc.) are broadly covered by regular and one-off giving. Any shortfall is met by profit from projects and productions. This surplus is intended principally to support new productions, which is essential if the Company is to invest in and remain creatively active. Riding Lights costs are kept to a minimum while also ensuring that staff are paid, as a bare minimum, in accordance with the recommendations of the Living Wage Foundation to which the company is affiliated.

As at 31 August 2021 unrestricted reserves stood at £ 585,971 (2020 £ 500,257)

Despite the pandemic, regular income has remained steady. We continue to seek increased Membership which enables us to predict regular giving. As a consequence of not touring during the pandemic, there has been no increase in Membership since March 2020. Many Members have increased their giving during this season or sent additional one-off gifts, for which we are grateful. Regular fundraising continues alongside grant applications.

The government furlough scheme has covered a significant percentage of staff salaries, making it possible to retain the whole staff without redundancy or reducing salaries. The decision, taken last year, to pay staff at 100% whatever the furlough rate, was continued in this year while furlough was available. The Company view continued to be that staff members on relatively low salaries would find it difficult to take any substantial cut in income.

Riding Lights has benefited from a reduction in business rates and the government furlough scheme. During the first lockdown, the majority of the team took furlough. The Company Administrator and a part-time Office Assistant were retained to ensure the continued running of the company.

Members of the team undertook significant training during furlough to adapt their skills to filmmaking and digital output. The team was un-furloughed for sprint periods of delivery for projects, enabling the company to make film during the first part of the pandemic. This was vital to maintaining our Membership, partner venues and audiences. The adaptation of the furlough scheme to flexible-furlough from mid-summer onwards further benefited the company, allowing work and training to continue side by side.

Irregular income including external funding, grants, donations and partnerships are crucial as a support for the whole organisation.

The Board's current strategy is to:

- Increase regular income by finding more members
- Encourage all members to consider their level of contribution.
- Seek additional funding from and partnerships with other organisations to support our work.
- Ensure all projects are more profitable wherever possible.
- Refine the management of the core organisation to ensure we are as efficient as possible.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to six month's fixed costs expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The company's memorandum and articles of association give the charity the power to make any investment which the trustees think fit. At the present time no such investments are held.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021*

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Plans for future periods

Plans for the Future

Forward planning has improved as the company has learnt to work within the constraints of the pandemic and the most unpredictable elements of its impact. A number of postponed projects may now be possible and careful planning has begun.

Fizzy Finn Finds His Feet by Jonathan Boustead - play about mental wellbeing for primary schools to be filmed and to tour, autumn 2021

York Minster Carol Service in partnership with St Michael le Belfrey

Spring Harvest – in person or online

Members Day 2022

Revolving Doors – film for prison broadcast

Occasional one-off performances, Kaleidoscope

Events at Friargate Theatre

Hires of Friargate Theatre

Revamp of website

Tour of My Place – Spring 2022

Summer Theatre School August 2022

The Welsh Tour – Autumn 2022

Tour of The Uneasy Sleeps of Max Maxwell Spring 2023

Ambition remains to re-mount All's Well That Ends Well (2019) for a European Summer Tour and revive the partnership with York Walls for a Youth Theatre project and Primary School tour.

Staffing Changes

Cultural change has been a significant driver in changing work patterns. The impact of long Covid on one of the creative associates has been significant for her as well as affecting the quantity of work she has been able to deliver. This continues to improve. Bethan Gibb-Reid, company administrator left in the summer of 2021 and attempts to recruit her replacement were unsuccessful. Bernadette Burbridge has reprised her previous role and has been supported by Rob Gooch in that.

Current note May 10 2022

Two new members of staff have joined the office team, Ruth Gould and Rachel Sanders. It is hoped that together they will take on the wider administration of the company with Bernadette providing temporary support from September.

Rob Gooch is leaving Riding Lights on 1st July 2022. Recruitment is under way but it should be acknowledged that this is a very difficult role to fill.

Paul Burbridge plans to leave in Easter 2023 by which time it is hoped that the creative team will have expanded to bring more experience into the company.

The plan is to create a collective rather than a company with a top down structure. This is in keeping with the original company structure and seems appropriate to those involved, in the short term, to establish a new company.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021*

Structure, governance and management

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 23rd June 1998 and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 2nd June 1998.

It was acknowledged by the Trustees that the charitable objects, while technically accurate, no longer articulated the ethos of the company's work. Over twenty years the specific language has developed inferences of proselytising that is not consistent with the work and that is easily misunderstood. This has been identified as a specific block to some sources of funding. A motion was passed to agree a rewording of the charity's third article. The charitable objects were amended in accordance with the Charity Commission guidelines in July 2019. The third article now reads:

- to explore, principally through the dramatic arts, the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

The company began to operate on 1 November 1998 when the assets and liabilities of Riding Lights Trust (a registered charity) and Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited with the exception of its stock of merchandise were transferred to the company. The Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited then changed its name to Riding Lights (Trading) Limited. Riding Lights (Trading) Limited was dissolved on 16 December 2008.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A P N Dunn
Mr A J Bradley
Mrs B C G Burbridge
Mr P A Burbridge
Mr S M H Cavanagh
Mr J C Emmett
Mr M J Hands
Miss S R Hoyland
Mr D J Lampitt
Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm

All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Board has the power to appoint additional trustees as it considers fit to do so.

In accordance with the provisions of the company's Articles of Association any newly appointed trustees shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and shall not be taken into account in determining the board members who are to retire by rotation at the meeting. If not reappointed at such Annual General Meeting, they shall vacate office at the meeting thereof.

In accordance with these provisions Martin Hands, Antony Dunn and Paul Burbridge retire from office by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021*

Qualifying third party indemnity provisions

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a board member may otherwise be entitled, every board member or other officer or auditor of the Charity shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Charity against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Charity, and against all costs, charges, losses, expenses or liabilities incurred by him in the execution and discharge of his duties or in relation thereto.

The trustees have complied with the duty imposed upon them by Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission including the guidance issued in respect of public benefit.

The trustees meet regularly to manage the charity's affairs and delegate the day-to-day running of the charity's activities to its executive and artistic directors and administrative staff.

Riding Lights is a theatre company with a Christian ethos and it is important that Trustees who join the Board share the Company's beliefs and objectives.

Potential new Trustees are identified from amongst the long-term, active supporters of Riding Lights. The Board seeks to maintain a balance of knowledge and experience relevant to particular aspects of the Company's activities; for example: Finance, Personnel, Education, etc.

Potential Trustees are invited by the Chairman to think and pray about their possible deeper involvement with the Company. Those who accept are invited to attend a Board meeting to see what goes on and how the Board operates. Once they have formally decided to accept the invitation, they are encouraged to attend as many of the meetings as possible. Inevitably not everyone can attend every meeting. Meeting dates are agreed a year in advance, with some six meetings each year. Minutes and review notes are circulated to all members of the Board on a regular basis.

There is no formal training programme for new trustees, but they are all selected from individuals who have supported or worked with Riding Lights in different capacities in the past. They are therefore already familiar with the broad outlines of the company's activities. Initially they work alongside more experienced members of the Board on sub-committees or in exploring specific issues.

A number of the charity's trustees invoiced the charity for various fees and expenses, the details of which are disclosed in note 10.

Promoting the success of the company

Note 21 sets out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund by fund basis.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs B C G Burbridge
Director & Trustee

26 May 2022

RIDING LIGHTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RIDING LIGHTS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Riding Lights (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

David Walker FCA

124 Acomb Road
Holgate
York
YO24 4EY

Dated: 26 May 2022

RIDING LIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
	Notes				
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations, Gifts and legacies	2	265,924	49,158	315,082	560,163
Charitable activities	3	54,334	-	54,334	38,043
Activities to generate funds including trading operations	4	457	-	457	4,291
Investments	5	32	-	32	36
Total income		320,747	49,158	369,905	602,533
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Raising funds	6	9,322	-	9,322	10,444
Charitable activities	7	285,169	7,957	293,126	333,141
Total expenditure		294,491	7,957	302,448	343,585
Net incoming resources before transfers		26,256	41,201	67,457	258,948
Gross transfers between funds	13	59,458	(59,458)	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		85,714	(18,257)	67,457	258,948
Fund balances at 1 September 2020		500,257	73,920	574,177	315,229
Fund balances at 31 August 2021		585,971	55,663	641,634	574,177

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

RIDING LIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
	Notes			
<u>Income from:</u>				
Donations, Gifts and legacies	2	466,833	93,330	560,163
Charitable activities	3	38,043	-	38,043
Activities to generate funds including trading operations	4	4,291	-	4,291
Investments	5	36	-	36
Total income		509,203	93,330	602,533
<u>Expenditure on:</u>				
Raising funds	6	10,444	-	10,444
Charitable activities	7	323,144	9,997	333,141
Total expenditure		333,588	9,997	343,585
Net incoming resources before transfers		175,615	83,333	258,948
Gross transfers between funds	13	47,690	(47,690)	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		223,305	35,643	258,948
Fund balances at 1 September 2019		276,952	38,277	315,229
Fund balances at 31 August 2020		500,257	73,920	574,177

RIDING LIGHTS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		260,074		253,165
Current assets					
Stocks	15	500		500	
Debtors	16	35,152		74,291	
Cash at bank and in hand		374,669		269,812	
		<u>410,321</u>		<u>344,603</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Loans and overdrafts	17	-		2,665	
Taxation and social security		12,454		1,960	
Other creditors	18	16,307		18,966	
		<u>28,761</u>		<u>23,591</u>	
Net current assets			381,560		321,012
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>641,634</u>		<u>574,177</u>
			=====		=====
Income funds					
Restricted funds	20	55,663		73,920	
Unrestricted funds		585,971		500,257	
		<u>641,634</u>		<u>574,177</u>	
			=====		=====

RIDING LIGHTS

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2021.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 26 May 2022

Mrs B C G Burbridge
Trustee

Mr J C Emmett
Trustee

Company Registration No. 03573945

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Riding Lights is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Friargate Theatre, Lower Friargate, York, YO1 9SL, UK.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document dated 2 June 1998, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The company has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular expense or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose.

Where monies are received as a contribution towards the general costs of a specific performance or project, the money is held as restricted funds until such a time that the nominated performance or project has finished. When the performance or project has finished the monies are transferred into unrestricted funds.

All other income funds are unrestricted unless designated by the trustees.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant which specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

Incoming resources from charitable activities comprises of income from ticket sales, memberships, theatrical services and hire of theatre space. Income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Trust.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Straight line over 50 years - allocated against restricted funds
Lighting and equipment	Straight line over 10 years
Fixtures and fittings	Straight line over 5 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line over 5 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.13 Creditors and provisions

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

2 Donations, Gifts and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	25,913	-	25,913	294,084
Legacies receivable	-	-	-	20,610
Gift Aid & Theatre Tax Relief	99,643	49,158	148,801	93,038
Memberships	140,368	-	140,368	152,431
	<u>265,924</u>	<u>49,158</u>	<u>315,082</u>	<u>560,163</u>
For the year ended 31 August 2020	<u>466,833</u>	<u>93,330</u>		<u>560,163</u>
Donations and gifts				
Anchor Foundation	-	-	-	9,200
More	10,000	-	10,000	-
Templeton Foundation	-	-	-	12,300
Macauley	-	-	-	10,000
Feofees of St Michael Le Belfry	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Umi Commercial Ltd	3,000	-	3,000	-
Dr Bayly	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Emmett	-	-	-	1,000
Hebron Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
Anonymous	2,000	-	2,000	177,040
Other	4,913	-	4,913	79,544
	<u>25,913</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,913</u>	<u>294,084</u>

Where income has been specifically restricted to a future performance by the donor, this income is not deferred but held as a restricted fund.

The company receives donations from various organisations to financially aid the educational program and the production of specific performances. Material & selected donations are shown above.

The Charity also benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with the Charities SORP, the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

2 Donations, Gifts and legacies

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Legacies receivable				
Copeland Estate	-	-	-	20,610
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,610</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,610</u>
Tax reliefs and credits receivable for core activities				
Gift Aid	34,742	-	34,742	23,177
Theatre Tax Relief	13,451	-	13,451	31,371
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	49,158	49,158	38,490
Coronavirus support grants	51,450	-	51,450	-
	<u>99,643</u>	<u>49,158</u>	<u>148,801</u>	<u>93,038</u>
	<u>99,643</u>	<u>49,158</u>	<u>148,801</u>	<u>93,038</u>

3 Charitable activities

	Performances	Summer school and educational projects	Total 2021	Performances	Summer school and educational projects	Total 2020
	2021	2021		2020	2020	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ticket Sales	42,892	7,914	50,806	22,879	5,654	28,533
Hire of Theatre Space	795	-	795	4,066	-	4,066
Theatre School & Child Memberships	-	2,733	2,733	-	5,444	5,444
	<u>43,687</u>	<u>10,647</u>	<u>54,334</u>	<u>26,945</u>	<u>11,098</u>	<u>38,043</u>
	<u>43,687</u>	<u>10,647</u>	<u>54,334</u>	<u>26,945</u>	<u>11,098</u>	<u>38,043</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

4 Activities to generate funds including trading operations

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Fundraising events	-	480
Merchandise & Performance Night Income	457	3,232
Ticket Agency	-	579
	<u>457</u>	<u>4,291</u>

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest receivable	<u>32</u>	<u>36</u>

6 Raising funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Staging fundraising events	-	861
Other fundraising costs	-	165
Staff costs	9,322	9,232
	<u>9,322</u>	<u>10,258</u>
Fundraising and publicity		
	<u>9,322</u>	<u>10,258</u>
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Merchandise	-	186
	<u>9,322</u>	<u>10,444</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

7 Charitable activities

	Theatrical activities	Educational and Summer School activities	Total 2021	Theatrical activities	Educational and Summer School activities	Total 2020
	2021 £	2021 £	£	2020 £	2020 £	£
Staff costs	45,440	-	45,440	39,417	15,374	54,791
Depreciation and impairment	7,957	-	7,957	7,957	-	7,957
Production costs	40,611	7,963	48,574	35,039	11,832	46,871
Property and Venue costs	13,079	-	13,079	13,935	-	13,935
Insurance	13,879	-	13,879	15,269	-	15,269
Marketing & Promotion	8,692	-	8,692	4,024	-	4,024
Travel & Subsistence	1,495	-	1,495	927	35	962
Property Maintenance	5,115	-	5,115	9,806	-	9,806
	<u>136,268</u>	<u>7,963</u>	<u>144,231</u>	<u>126,374</u>	<u>27,241</u>	<u>153,615</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	-	-	-	-	2,040	2,040
Share of support costs (see note 9)	116,169	20,000	136,169	154,748	8,145	162,893
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	11,976	750	12,726	13,864	729	14,593
	<u>264,413</u>	<u>28,713</u>	<u>293,126</u>	<u>294,986</u>	<u>38,155</u>	<u>333,141</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	256,456	28,713	285,169	287,029	36,115	323,144
Restricted funds	7,957	-	7,957	7,957	2,040	9,997
	<u>264,413</u>	<u>28,713</u>	<u>293,126</u>	<u>294,986</u>	<u>38,155</u>	<u>333,141</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

8 Grants payable

Educational
and Summer
School
activities

2020
£

Grants to institutions:

Grants to individuals

2,040

2,040

Theatrical activities

Bursaries to artists to assist performance and tutoring.

Educational and Summer School activities

Children's assisted places to attend summer school.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

9 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2020 £
Staff costs	101,855	2,951	104,806	111,224	2,665	113,889
Depreciation	4,436	-	4,436	3,804	-	3,804
Storage costs	809	-	809	12,052	-	12,052
Vehicle costs	6,692	-	6,692	12,208	-	12,208
Printing & Stationery	2,082	-	2,082	3,195	-	3,195
Postage	3,324	-	3,324	4,996	-	4,996
Computer & IT costs	6,698	-	6,698	5,004	-	5,004
Ticket Office costs	-	-	-	1,182	-	1,182
Bank & Creditcard charges	2,099	-	2,099	1,967	-	1,967
Telecommunications	2,340	-	2,340	3,116	-	3,116
Sundry Expenses	5,834	-	5,834	4,145	-	4,145
Audit fees	-	2,250	2,250	-	2,250	2,250
Accountancy	-	2,250	2,250	-	4,750	4,750
Health & Safety	-	-	-	-	224	224
Bookkeeping	-	5,275	5,275	-	4,704	4,704
	<u>136,169</u>	<u>12,726</u>	<u>148,895</u>	<u>162,893</u>	<u>14,593</u>	<u>177,486</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	<u>136,169</u>	<u>12,726</u>	<u>148,895</u>	<u>162,893</u>	<u>14,593</u>	<u>177,486</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiner of £2,250 (2020- £2,250) for independent examination and £2,250 (2020- £4,750) for other services.

10 Trustees

An exception has been granted by the Charity Commission allowing certain trustees & directors to receive remuneration, on a commercial basis, for the roles they perform as follows:

P Burbridge
Salary £31,000 (2020- £30,196)
Pension contributions £3,565 (2020- £3,565)

S Cavanagh
Salary £6,816 (2020- £6,497)
Pension contributions £804 (2020- £804)

B Burbridge
Salary £8,164 (2020- £6,766)
Pension contributions £nil (2020- £nil)

The amount of remuneration paid to the individuals concerned is decided upon and approved by the board of trustees.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

10 Trustees

(Continued)

The following transactions were undertaken with Mr S Cavanagh, who is a trustee & director of the company:

Purchases of goods, services and reimbursement of expenses £nil (2020 - £nil).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2020 - £nil).

The following transactions were undertaken with Mr P A Burbridge, who is a director of the company:

Purchase of services & reimbursement of expenses £632 (2020 - £1,644).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2020 - £nil).

The following transactions were undertaken with Mrs B Burbridge, who is a director of the company:

Purchase of services & reimbursement of expenses £22 (2020 - £829).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2020 - £nil).

All transactions were undertaken under normal commercial terms and rates.

Trustees of the charity are covered by a 'Directors and Officers' liability policy.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
	8	8
	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
Employment costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	145,542	162,342
Social security costs	9,654	8,075
Other pension costs	4,372	7,495
	<u>159,568</u>	<u>177,912</u>

No employees received benefits of more than £60,000.

The trust received £49,158 (2020 £38,490) from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to help pay its furloughed employees.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

12 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and on the basis of these financial statements no provision has been made for corporation tax.

13 Transfers

Transfers between unrestricted and restricted funds represent the amounts received during the year for specific performances or projects which had been completed during the year. These restricted funds received for such projects are then deemed to be unrestricted.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Lighting and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2020	420,958	40,490	42,818	24,945	529,211
Additions	-	9,082	3,620	9,500	22,202
Disposals	-	-	-	(16,945)	(16,945)
At 31 August 2021	420,958	49,572	46,438	17,500	534,468
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 September 2020	174,299	36,414	41,828	23,505	276,046
Depreciation charged in the year	7,957	2,489	1,557	390	12,393
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-	(14,045)	(14,045)
At 31 August 2021	182,256	38,903	43,385	9,850	274,394
Carrying amount					
At 31 August 2021	238,702	10,669	3,053	7,650	260,074
At 31 August 2020	246,659	4,076	990	1,440	253,165

An impairment review of the charity's fixed assets has been undertaken. The net realisable value of the assets concerned has been assessed by estimating their market value. Their value in use has been determined by evaluating present value of the future benefits expected to arise from the continued use of the assets concerned.

The board is satisfied that the values that have been assessed are greater than or equal to their net book values and as such no impairment adjustments are required.

15 Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	500	500

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

16 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	7,037	9,867
Other debtors	26,386	62,274
Prepayments and accrued income	1,729	2,150
	<u>35,152</u>	<u>74,291</u>

17 Loans and overdrafts

	2021 £	2020 £
Bank overdrafts	-	2,665
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,665</u>
Payable within one year	-	2,665
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,665</u>

18 Other creditors falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	4,506	5,980
Other creditors	-	811
Accruals and deferred income	11,801	12,175
	<u>16,307</u>	<u>18,966</u>

19 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £4,372 (2020 - £7,495).

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 September 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 September 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent Home Fund	38,277	-	-	(7,957)	30,320	-	-	(7,957)	22,363
Kaleidoscope Prisons Work Tour	-	9,200	(9,200)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Film Equipment	-	6,300	-	-	6,300	-	(6,300)	-	-
Films for Prisons	-	25,000	-	-	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
AI Commission	-	12,300	-	-	12,300	-	(4,000)	-	8,300
Summer School Places	-	2,040	(2,040)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	38,490	(38,490)	-	-	49,158	(49,158)	-	-
	<u>38,277</u>	<u>93,330</u>	<u>(49,730)</u>	<u>(7,957)</u>	<u>73,920</u>	<u>49,158</u>	<u>(59,458)</u>	<u>(7,957)</u>	<u>55,663</u>

During the course of the year ended 31 March 1998, the Riding Lights Trust began to raise funds in order to finance the acquisition and alteration of a freehold property that was suitable to be used as a theatre, office, store and rehearsal facility. A suitable property was acquired on 7 August 1998 in Friargate, York. The restricted fund was transferred as part of the overall assets and liabilities of the Riding Lights Trust when the company began to operate on 1 November 1998. The direct expenditure represents depreciation charged in respect of the freehold property. The entire depreciation charge has been allocated to the restricted fund.

Summer Theatre School Bursaries are given to award free places to individuals who have not previously attended summer school and who are not in full time work or full time education.

The Kaleidoscope Tour was funded by The Anchor Foundation to re-rehearse and adapt the show to go into prisons. The company was able to tour in January and February but the latter part of the tour was cancelled.

RL received funding from The Templeton Foundation to commission a new play on the subject of Artificial Intelligence. The first draft was received in early 2021. This may result in a theatre tour and/or film.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

20 Restricted funds

(Continued)

The Charity often receives donations and grants of a restricted nature, usually relating to specific dramatic productions. These are deemed to be restricted until expenditure in relation to the specific purpose takes place.

Transfers from restricted funds are made when funds received for restricted purposes are deemed unrestricted.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	237,711	22,363	260,074	222,845	30,320	253,165
Current assets/ (liabilities)	348,260	33,300	381,560	277,412	43,600	321,012
	<u>585,971</u>	<u>55,663</u>	<u>641,634</u>	<u>500,257</u>	<u>73,920</u>	<u>574,177</u>

22 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2021 £	2020 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>65,409</u>	<u>68,760</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

England & Wales - Charity number 1070142

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1070142

Company Registration No. 03573945 (England and Wales)

RIDING LIGHTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

RIDING LIGHTS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mr A P N Dunn
Mr A J Bradley
Mrs B C G Burbridge
Mr P A Burbridge
Mr S M H Cavanagh
Mr J C Emmett
Mr M J Hands
Miss S R Hoyland
Mr D J Lampitt
Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm

Members

Mrs C Smith
Miss J Henfrey
Mr R Mapletoft
Rev'd Dr B Quash
Mr M Rance
Mrs U Simpson
Mr J M W Somerville
Mr J Brown
Mrs J Smyth
Mrs R Jack

Secretary

Mr A P N Dunn

Charity number

1070142

Company number

03573945

Registered office

Friargate Theatre
Lower Friargate
York
UK
YO1 9SL

Independent examiner

David Walker FCA
124 Acomb Road
Holgate
York
YO24 4EY

RIDING LIGHTS

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RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's memorandum and articles of association dated 2 June 1998 as amended July 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are :

- to advance the education, public understanding and appreciation of the dramatic arts.
- to teach, train and encourage young artists and other members of the public in the dramatic arts.
- to explore, principally through the dramatic arts, the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are the staging of performances and workshops at the Friargate Theatre, the annual summer school and working within the Christian Church, schools and other areas of the community presenting high quality drama and direct teaching. There has been no change in these during the year.

The charity has the general aim of providing and presenting performances which are of educational, cultural and religious value to the community.

The main objectives for the year continued to be the promotion and fostering of artistic knowledge and appreciation of the dramatic arts, and the exploration of the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

Strategies for achieving the objectives of the charity continues to be the production of theatrical performances, drama workshops and direct teaching.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The trustees consider that the charity is a public benefit entity.

Details of the significant activities of the charity during the year are as follows:

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Riding Lights Productions

The Kaleidoscope Tour - Sept-Dec 2019
The Selfish Giant – Nov-Dec 2019
Carol Service in York Minster – Dec 2019
Rumours of Polar Bears – Senior Youth Theatre show – Dec 2019
The Kaleidoscope Tour – Jan-Feb 2020
The Narrow Road – March – April 2020 (cancelled after one performance)
Video Vaults and Colour Radio – March – June 2020
Spring Harvest Home – March-April 2020
Kaleidoscope Filming (prep May 2020)
Members Day Online – June 2020
Premier Radio – July 2020
Summer Theatre School Online – July - August 2020
Charles Spurgeon Audio Tapes – Summer 2020

Cancelled and Postponed Productions due to Covid 19

Al is in Wonderland Junior Youth Theatre – April 2020 (Cancelled)
The Kaleidoscope Tour leg 3 – May-June 2020 (Cancelled)
Acting Up show – Summer 2020 (Cancelled)
Alls Well That Ends Well – European Tour Summer 2020 (Postponed)
Wall Stories – Primary School Assembly show with Friends of York Walls – Summer 2020 (Postponed)
Youth Theatre site-specific show with Friends of York Walls – July 2020 (Postponed)
Big Yorkshire Youth Theatre Festival – July 2020 (Cancelled)
Around the World in 80 Days – Minster School – July 2020 (Cancelled)
Fantastic Acts – July 2020 (Cancelled)
Bloom Festival Monologues – May 2020 (Cancelled)

Riding Lights Roughshod

The charity's Roughshod Company which is primarily staffed by volunteer actors and actresses offering performances at no charge did not operate during the year.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Educational and Youth Work

Riding Lights Education works with both young people and adults to offer theatrical opportunities for the York community and beyond. The work includes a broad spectrum of drama workshops as well as full scale productions. Since 2000, with the purchase of Friargate Theatre and the creation of the education department Riding Lights has continued to partner with both primary and secondary schools to deliver workshops and support teachers across the curriculum.

Four youth theatre courses are run during each term of the year. Some courses are entirely skills-based, others lead to productions mounted at Friargate Theatre.

The courses are as follows:

School years 7 - 9 (JYT)

School years 10 upwards (SYT)

Acting Up! (age 14-18)

Acting Up! (age 18-25)

Acting Up! is the only Youth Theatre provision in York for young people with additional needs. In August 2019 - March 2020 Riding Lights did not receive funding to support the groups and covered the costs in-house. A staff member raised over £1,000 towards the ongoing costs through a sponsored half-marathon. Attempts to secure longer term funding have not been successful.

From September 2019 to February 2020, curriculum drama teaching at The Minster School was suspended following a change in leadership at the school. After-school clubs and the Minster Youth Theatre remained, but it represented a real loss in income for our education department.

The annual school production was planned for performances in Friargate Theatre. Rehearsals in class time resumed in February 2020 only to be suspended due to the lockdown in March 2020. The Minster School closed permanently in Summer 2020 as a consequence of Covid19.

An expansion of Education work in schools in the region was planned for the Spring and Summer of 2020, in part to cover the loss of the Minster School teaching income. An R&D project plan was developed to create a series of workshops for primary children covering transition and emotional resilience, which has been offered partial funding by The Westhill Foundation.

All sessions were suspended in March 2020, with three of the four annual productions cancelled. The Big Yorkshire Youth Theatre Festival was also cancelled.

Abi Oscroft, the full-time Youth Theatre Practitioner left Riding Lights in September 2020. Online sessions have resumed since September 2020, led by a freelance practitioner and the Riding Lights Creative Associates.

The department benefits from the assistance of volunteers, who provide valuable experience to those individuals taking part.

Details of the significant activities planned during the twelve months were as follows:

Rumours Of Polar Bears – Senior Youth Theatre production

Al Is In Wonderland – Junior Youth Theatre production (Cancelled)

Planned Acting up! production (Cancelled)

Around The World In 80 Days – Minster School (Cancelled)

Summer Theatre School

The Riding Lights Summer Theatre School was delivered online for the first time owing to the pandemic. There were 53 participants. This was significantly fewer than would normally be expected for a residential course. Nonetheless the capacity for online was at maximum. The company delivered an innovative and technically challenging set of performances. Many important lessons were learned for future work

An anonymous donor has continued to fund free places for people who are not in full time work or education, and special dispensation was given to allow funding of partial or full bursaries for several young people whose incomes were affected by the pandemic. The week culminated in an online evening festival of theatre in which all participants shared the work they had created during the week.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Use of Volunteers

Riding Lights is widely supported by many people across the country who help by providing a wide range of valuable resources, particularly when Riding Lights visits local communities. We are particularly grateful for the generous provision of accommodation and hospitality made to our acting companies as well as to those who organise performances of our work in their area.

The educational department also benefits from the assistance of volunteers, who provide valuable experience to those individuals taking part.

Achievements and performance

Riding Lights Productions

The Kaleidoscope Tour was funded by The Anchor Foundation to re-rehearse and adapt the show to go into prisons. The company was able to tour in January and February but the latter part of the tour was cancelled. £5,000 of the grant was spent on this leg of the tour. In March 2021, The Anchor Foundation gave permission for the remaining £4,200 to be reallocated to filming content for prison broadcast networks.

The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde was adapted for stage by Jon Boustead. It toured junior schools, primarily in North Yorkshire throughout December, including public performances at Friargate Theatre.

The St Michael le Belfrey annual Carol Service always attracts a large congregation. This year the service was live streamed via Facebook. Over 1,000 people attended.

A new production of The Narrow Road by Paul Birch was booked for a national tour. The tour was cancelled after one performance in York.

The Spring Harvest organisation proceeded online. Riding Lights had already filmed some content for the theme song with other performers. Subsequently, the Company filmed sketches and readings in a socially distanced manner.

A decision was made to make archive content available free online as a resource to the wider church. Video Vaults and Colour Radio were launched on social media and promoted by Premier Radio.

Educational Programme

Riding Lights Youth Theatre and Education department has continued to teach theatre skills both in the community and in schools. Riding Lights Junior and Senior Youth Theatre have weekly sessions for approximately 40 young people. Acting Up! Youth Theatre Practitioner engages with 22 young people who have additional needs and disabilities.

As a consequence of the pandemic all RL educational work was suspended from March 2020 until the Autumn.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Financial review

Riding Lights aims to cover all its costs through a mixture of the regular donated income received from Membership and irregular income from one-off donations as well as earned income from projects and productions. The Company aims to ensure that the core costs of operating Riding Lights (Administration, Friargate Theatre, Company Vehicles, Staff etc.) are broadly covered by regular and one-off giving. Any shortfall is met by profit from projects and productions. This surplus is intended principally to support new productions, which is essential if the Company is to invest in and remain creatively active. Riding Lights costs are kept to a minimum while also ensuring that staff are paid, as a bare minimum, in accordance with the recommendations of the Living Wage Foundation to which the company is affiliated.

Despite the pandemic, regular income has remained steady. We continue to seek increased Membership which enables us to predict regular giving. As a consequence of not touring during the pandemic, there has been no increase in Membership since March 2020. Many Members have increased their giving during this season or sent additional one-off gifts, for which we are grateful. Regular fundraising continues alongside grant applications.

The government furlough scheme has covered a significant percentage of staff salaries, making it possible to retain the whole staff without redundancy or reducing salaries. The decision was taken to pay staff at 100% of their usual income despite the insecurities of the future. The company made up the additional 20%, taking the view that staff members who are on relatively low salaries would find it difficult to take a 20% cut in income.

Riding Lights has benefited from a reduction in business rates and the government furlough scheme. During the first lockdown, the majority of the team took furlough. The Company Administrator and a part-time Office Assistant were retained to ensure the continued running of the company.

Members of the team undertook significant training during furlough to adapt their skills to filmmaking and digital output. The team was un-furloughed for sprint periods of delivery for projects, enabling the company to make film during the first part of the pandemic. This was vital to maintaining our Membership, partner venues and audiences. The adaptation of the furlough scheme to flexible-furlough from mid-summer onwards further benefited the company, allowing work and training to continue side by side.

Irregular income including external funding, grants, donations and partnerships are crucial as a support for the whole organisation. During this period significant one-off, anonymous donations were made to support the company. £100,000 was given to provide a production fund for a large national tour. The gift has not been restricted but the company has designated £70,000 which is the anticipated cost of the tour. A further gift of £25,000 was given to fund film making for prison broadcast networks. A further large, unrestricted gift arrived the following day which would enable the purchase of kit and training to develop the film work. Prison work within the Kaleidoscope Tour was supported by The Anchor Foundation. Riding Lights has also benefited from one-off legacy gifts.

The Board's current strategy is to:

- Increase regular income by finding more members and encouraging all members to consider their level of contribution.
- Seek additional funding from and partnerships with other organisations to support our work.
- Ensure all projects are more profitable wherever possible.
- Refine the management of the core organisation to ensure we are as efficient as possible.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's fixed costs expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The company's memorandum and articles of association give the charity the power to make any investment which the trustees think fit. At the present time no such investments are held.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Plans for the Future

Forward-planning has been severely disrupted by the pandemic. Adaptations to some projects have been possible, while others remain postponed until regular touring can resume.

Autumn 2020 - Youth Theatre online sessions begin.

Winter 2020 - The Selfish Giant – Oscar Wilde adapted by Jon Boustead – theatre on film for primary schools and families in the UK, with accompanying creative resources.

Winter 2020 - Publish for download and hard copy - Add Drama to Christmas online - Sketch collection as well as a Christmas film for Prison use.

Jan 2021 - Begin work on AI project for Templeton Foundation. Possible delivery of tour in Spring 2022.

February - April 2021 Breaking Day – a lockdown Passion Play for church groups and individuals in the UK.

April 2021 – Spring Harvest Home – online sketches and bible readings for main sessions.

May 2021 – Theatre-on-film adaptation of Pericles, Prince of Tyre for York International Shakespeare Festival

Spring/Summer 2021 – Filming for Prisons (short films for different priority groups).

Summer 2021 – Launch Riding Lights new website and branding.

Summer/Autumn 2021 Phased return of Acting Up!, Youth Theatres and re-opening of the building.

August 2021 - Riding Lights Summer Theatre School, at Harrogate Ladies' College and online.

Autumn 2021 - My Place – partnership with Home For Good – national tour (postponed from Autumn 2020).

Autumn – School show/tour/film.

Winter 2022 – AI – show/tour/film.

Ambition remains to re-mount All's Well That Ends Well (2019) for a European Summer Tour and revive the partnership with York Walls for a Youth Theatre project and Primary School tour.

Increasing costs and cultural change continue to be significant drivers in leading the Riding Lights Board to review its pattern of work. Over the course of the year several members of staff have left to pursue further education and the team is very small. It will need to expand by one or two people in the coming year to carry the work that is anticipated.

Bernadette Burbridge continues to mentor the company administrator and provide financial oversight. Artistic Director Paul Burbridge is expected to reduce working hours during 2021, while continuing to mentor for a limited time and to oversee the creative development of a number of projects.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Structure, governance and management

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 23rd June 1998 and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 2nd June 1998.

It was acknowledged by the Trustees that the charitable objects, while technically accurate, no longer articulated the ethos of the company's work. Over twenty years the specific language has developed inferences of proselytising that is not consistent with the work and that is easily misunderstood. This has been identified as a specific block to some sources of funding. A motion was passed to agree a rewording of the charity's third article. The charitable objects were amended in accordance with the Charity Commission guidelines in July 2019. The third article now reads:

- to explore, principally through the dramatic arts, the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary life and its potential to effect positive change.

The company began to operate on 1 November 1998 when the assets and liabilities of Riding Lights Trust (a registered charity) and Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited with the exception of its stock of merchandise were transferred to the company. The Riding Lights Theatre Company Limited then changed its name to Riding Lights (Trading) Limited. Riding Lights (Trading) Limited was dissolved on 16 December 2008.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A P N Dunn
Mr A J Bradley
Mrs B C G Burbridge
Mr P A Burbridge
Mr S M H Cavanagh
Mr J C Emmett
Mr M J Hands
Miss S R Hoyland
Mr D J Lampitt
Mrs Y P L Morley-Chisholm

All directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and there are no other trustees. The Board has the power to appoint additional trustees as it considers fit to do so.

In accordance with the provisions of the company's Articles of Association any newly appointed trustees shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and shall not be taken into account in determining the board members who are to retire by rotation at the meeting. If not reappointed at such Annual General Meeting, they shall vacate office at the meeting thereof.

In accordance with these provisions David Lampitt, Andrew Bradley, Susie Hoyland and Yvonne Morley-Chisholm retire from office by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a board member may otherwise be entitled, every board member or other officer or auditor of the Charity shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Charity against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Charity, and against all costs, charges, losses, expenses or liabilities incurred by him in the execution and discharge of his duties or in relation thereto.

RIDING LIGHTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The trustees have complied with the duty imposed upon them by Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission including the guidance issued in respect of public benefit.

The trustees meet regularly to manage the charity's affairs and delegate the day-to-day running of the charity's activities to its executive and artistic directors and administrative staff.

Riding Lights is a theatre company with a Christian ethos and it is important that Trustees who join the Board share the Company's beliefs and objectives.

Potential new Trustees are identified from amongst the long-term, active supporters of Riding Lights. The Board seeks to maintain a balance of knowledge and experience relevant to particular aspects of the Company's activities; for example: Finance, Personnel, Education, etc.

Potential Trustees are invited by the Chairman to think and pray about their possible deeper involvement with the Company. Those who accept are invited to attend a Board meeting to see what goes on and how the Board operates. Once they have formally decided to accept the invitation, they are encouraged to attend as many of the meetings as possible. Inevitably not everyone can attend every meeting. Meeting dates are agreed a year in advance, with some six meetings each year. Minutes and review notes are circulated to all members of the Board on a regular basis.

There is no formal training programme for new trustees, but they are all selected from individuals who have supported or worked with Riding Lights in different capacities in the past. They are therefore already familiar with the broad outlines of the company's activities. Initially they work alongside more experienced members of the Board on sub-committees or in exploring specific issues.

A number of the charity's trustees invoiced the charity for various fees and expenses, the details of which are disclosed in note 10.

Asset cover for funds

Note 21 sets out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund by fund basis.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mrs B C G Burbridge

Director & Trustee

Dated: 27 April 2021

RIDING LIGHTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF RIDING LIGHTS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Riding Lights (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

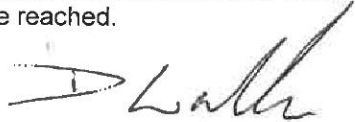
Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



David Walker FCA

124 Acomb Road
Holgate
York
YO24 4EY

Dated: 27 April 2021

RIDING LIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
	Notes				
<u>Income from:</u>					
Donations, Gifts and legacies	2	466,833	93,330	560,163	274,048
Charitable activities	3	38,043	-	38,043	114,698
Activities to generate funds including trading operations	4	4,291	-	4,291	15,022
Investments	5	36	-	36	24
Total income		509,203	93,330	602,533	403,792
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Raising funds	6	10,444	-	10,444	17,380
Charitable activities	7	323,144	9,997	333,141	427,925
Total resources expended		333,588	9,997	343,585	445,305
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		175,615	83,333	258,948	(41,513)
Gross transfers between funds	13	47,690	(47,690)	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		223,305	35,643	258,948	(41,513)
Fund balances at 1 September 2019		276,952	38,277	315,229	356,742
Fund balances at 31 August 2020		500,257	73,920	574,177	315,229

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

RIDING LIGHTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Prior financial year

		Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
	Notes			
<u>Income from:</u>				
Donations, Gifts and legacies	2	264,373	9,675	274,048
Charitable activities	3	114,698	-	114,698
Activities to generate funds including trading operations	4	15,022	-	15,022
Investments	5	24	-	24
Total income		394,117	9,675	403,792
<u>Expenditure on:</u>				
Raising funds	6	17,380	-	17,380
Charitable activities	7	417,268	10,657	427,925
Total resources expended		434,648	10,657	445,305
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		(40,531)	(982)	(41,513)
Gross transfers between funds	13	11,655	(11,655)	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		(28,876)	(12,637)	(41,513)
Fund balances at 1 September 2018		305,828	50,914	356,742
Fund balances at 31 August 2019		276,952	38,277	315,229

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

RIDING LIGHTS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		253,165		264,926
Current assets					
Stocks	15	500		500	
Debtors	16	74,291		64,844	
Cash at bank and in hand		269,812		40,281	
		<u>344,603</u>		<u>105,625</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Loans and overdrafts	17	2,665		-	
Taxation and social security		1,960		6,333	
Other creditors	18	18,966		48,989	
		<u>23,591</u>		<u>55,322</u>	
Net current assets			321,012		50,303
Total assets less current liabilities			574,177		315,229
			<u><u>574,177</u></u>		<u><u>315,229</u></u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	20		73,920		38,277
Unrestricted funds			500,257		276,952
			<u>574,177</u>		<u>315,229</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2020.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 27 April 2021



Mrs B C G Burbridge
Trustee



Mr J C Emmett
Trustee

Company Registration No. 03573945

RIDING LIGHTS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	23		226,830		8,216
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(576)	
Investment income received		36		24	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			36		(552)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			226,866		7,664
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			40,281		32,617
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			267,147		40,281
Relating to:					
Cash at bank and in hand			269,812		40,281
Bank overdrafts included in creditors payable within one year			(2,665)		-

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Riding Lights is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Friargate Theatre, Lower Friargate, York, YO1 9SL, UK.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document dated 2 June 1998, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

The company has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent on a particular expense or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose.

Where monies are received as a contribution towards the general costs of a specific performance or project, the money is held as restricted funds until such a time that the nominated performance or project has finished. When the performance or project has finished the monies are transferred into unrestricted funds.

All other income funds are unrestricted unless designated by the trustees.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant which specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

Incoming resources from charitable activities comprises of income from ticket sales, memberships, theatrical services and hire of theatre space. Income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Trust.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	Straight line over 50 years - allocated against restricted funds
Lighting and equipment	Straight line over 10 years
Fixtures and fittings	Straight line over 5 years
Motor vehicles	Straight line over 5 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.13 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

2 Donations, Gifts and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	239,244	54,840	294,084	46,078
Legacies receivable	20,610	-	20,610	-
Gift Aid & Theatre Tax Relief	54,548	38,490	93,038	77,437
Memberships	152,431	-	152,431	150,533
	<u>466,833</u>	<u>93,330</u>	<u>560,163</u>	<u>274,048</u>
For the year ended 31 August 2019	<u>264,373</u>	<u>9,675</u>		<u>274,048</u>
Donations and gifts				
Anchor Foundation	-	9,200	9,200	-
Templeton Foundation	-	12,300	12,300	-
Macauley	10,000	-	10,000	5,000
Feofees of St Michael Le Belfry	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Explore York Library	-	-	-	5,775
Dr Bayly	2,000	-	2,000	-
Emmett	1,000	-	1,000	-
Anonymous	175,000	2,040	177,040	2,700
Other	48,244	31,300	79,544	29,603
	<u>239,244</u>	<u>54,840</u>	<u>294,084</u>	<u>46,078</u>

Where income has been specifically restricted to a future performance by the donor, this income is not deferred but held as a restricted fund.

The company receives donations from various organisations to financially aid the educational program and the production of specific performances. Material & selected donations are shown above.

The Charity also benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with the Charities SORP, the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

2 Donations, Gifts and legacies

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Legacies receivable				
Copeland Estate	20,610	-	20,610	-
	<u>20,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,610</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>20,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,610</u>	<u>-</u>
Tax reliefs and credits receivable for core activities				
Gift Aid	23,177	-	23,177	34,654
Theatre Tax Relief	31,371	-	31,371	42,783
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	38,490	38,490	-
	<u>54,548</u>	<u>38,490</u>	<u>93,038</u>	<u>77,437</u>

3 Charitable activities

	Performances 2020 £	Summer school and educational projects 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Performances 2019 £	Summer school and educational projects 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Ticket Sales	22,879	5,654	28,533	35,643	49,937	85,580
Providing Theatrical Services	-	-	-	-	14,925	14,925
Hire of Theatre Space	4,066	-	4,066	4,561	-	4,561
Theatre School & Child Memberships	-	5,444	5,444	-	9,632	9,632
	<u>26,945</u>	<u>11,098</u>	<u>38,043</u>	<u>40,204</u>	<u>74,494</u>	<u>114,698</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

4 Activities to generate funds including trading operations

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2020	2019
	£	£
Fundraising events	480	944
Merchandise & Performance Night Income	3,232	8,941
Ticket Agency	579	5,137
Activities to generate funds including trading operations	4,291	15,022

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2020	2019
	£	£
Interest receivable	36	24

6 Raising funds

	2020	2019
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Staging fundraising events	861	3,965
Other fundraising costs	165	1,480
Staff costs	9,232	11,481
Fundraising and publicity	10,258	16,926
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Merchandise	186	454
	10,444	17,380

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

7 Charitable activities

	Theatrical activities	Educational and Summer School activities	Total 2020	Theatrical activities	Educational and Summer School activities	Total 2019
	2020	2020		2019	2019	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	39,417	15,374	54,791	36,156	17,362	53,518
Depreciation and impairment	7,957	-	7,957	10,179	-	10,179
Production costs	35,039	11,832	46,871	78,532	13,417	91,949
Property and Venue costs	13,935	-	13,935	18,911	35,999	54,910
Insurance	15,269	-	15,269	10,876	4,660	15,536
Marketing & Promotion	4,024	-	4,024	6,865	-	6,865
Travel & Subsistence	927	35	962	4,368	965	5,333
Property Maintenance	9,806	-	9,806	7,902	-	7,902
	<u>126,374</u>	<u>27,241</u>	<u>153,615</u>	<u>173,789</u>	<u>72,403</u>	<u>246,192</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	-	2,040	2,040	-	2,700	2,700
Share of support costs (see note 9)	154,748	8,145	162,893	158,287	8,331	166,618
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	13,864	729	14,593	11,795	620	12,415
	<u>294,986</u>	<u>38,155</u>	<u>333,141</u>	<u>343,871</u>	<u>84,054</u>	<u>427,925</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	287,029	36,115	323,144	335,914	81,354	417,268
Restricted funds	7,957	2,040	9,997	7,957	2,700	10,657
	<u>294,986</u>	<u>38,155</u>	<u>333,141</u>	<u>343,871</u>	<u>84,054</u>	<u>427,925</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

8 Grants payable

	Educational and Summer School activities	Educational and Summer School activities
	2020 £	2019 £
Grants to institutions:		
Grants to individuals (5 grants) (2019 - 5)	2,040	2,700
	<u>2,040</u>	<u>2,700</u>

Theatrical activities

Bursaries to artists to assist performance and tutoring.

Educational and Summer School activities

Children's assisted places to attend summer school.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2020	Support costs	Governance costs	2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	111,224	2,665	113,889	113,689	2,891	116,580
Depreciation	3,804	-	3,804	2,461	-	2,461
Storage costs	12,052	-	12,052	11,766	-	11,766
Vehicle costs	12,208	-	12,208	11,832	-	11,832
Printing & Stationery	3,195	-	3,195	4,309	-	4,309
Postage	4,996	-	4,996	4,459	-	4,459
Computer & IT costs	5,004	-	5,004	6,335	-	6,335
Ticket Office costs	1,182	-	1,182	1,441	-	1,441
Bank & Creditcard charges	1,967	-	1,967	2,420	-	2,420
Telecommunications	3,116	-	3,116	2,749	-	2,749
Sundry Expenses	4,145	-	4,145	5,157	-	5,157
Audit fees	-	2,250	2,250	-	2,250	2,250
Accountancy	-	4,750	4,750	-	2,694	2,694
Legal and professional	-	-	-	-	176	176
Health & Safety	-	224	224	-	311	311
Bookkeeping	-	4,704	4,704	-	4,093	4,093
	<u>162,893</u>	<u>14,593</u>	<u>177,486</u>	<u>166,618</u>	<u>12,415</u>	<u>179,033</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	<u>162,893</u>	<u>14,593</u>	<u>177,486</u>	<u>166,618</u>	<u>12,415</u>	<u>179,033</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiner of £2,250 (2019- £2,250) for independent examination and £4,750 (2019- £2,694) for other services.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

10 Trustees

An exception has been granted by the Charity Commission allowing certain trustees & directors to receive remuneration, on a commercial basis, for the roles they perform as follows:

P Burbridge

Salary £30,196 (2019- £30,196)

Pension contributions £3,565 (2019- £3,565)

S Cavanagh

Salary £6,497 (2019- £7,301)

Pension contributions £804 (2019- £804)

B Burbridge

Salary £6,766 (2019- £23,746)

Pension contributions £nil (2019- £nil)

The amount of remuneration paid to the individuals concerned is decided upon and approved by the board of trustees.

The following transactions were undertaken with Mr S Cavanagh, who is a trustee & director of the company:

Purchases of goods, services and reimbursement of expenses £nil (2019 - £3,041).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2019 - £nil).

The following transactions were undertaken with Mr P A Burbridge, who is a director of the company:

Purchase of services & reimbursement of expenses £1,644 (2019 - £1,168).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2019 - £nil).

The following transactions were undertaken with Mrs B Burbridge, who is a director of the company:

Purchase of services & reimbursement of expenses £829 (2019 - £918).

Amounts owed at year end £nil (2019 - £nil).

All transactions were undertaken under normal commercial terms and rates.

Trustees of the charity are covered by a 'Directors and Officers' liability policy.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
	8	9
	=====	=====
Employment costs	2020 £	2019 £

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

11 Employees

(Continued)

Wages and salaries	162,342	167,975
Social security costs	8,075	8,507
Other pension costs	7,495	5,097
	<u>177,912</u>	<u>181,579</u>

No employees received benefits of more than £60,000.

The trust received £38,490 from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to help pay its furloughed employees.

12 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and on the basis of these financial statements no provision has been made for corporation tax.

13 Transfers

Transfers between unrestricted and restricted funds represent the amounts received during the year for specific performances or projects which had been completed during the year. These restricted funds received for such projects are then deemed to be unrestricted.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Lighting and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 September 2019	420,958	40,490	42,818	24,946	529,212
At 31 August 2020	<u>420,958</u>	<u>40,490</u>	<u>42,818</u>	<u>24,946</u>	<u>529,212</u>
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 September 2019	166,342	34,833	40,995	22,116	264,286
Depreciation charged in the year	<u>7,957</u>	<u>1,581</u>	<u>833</u>	<u>1,390</u>	<u>11,761</u>
At 31 August 2020	<u>174,299</u>	<u>36,414</u>	<u>41,828</u>	<u>23,506</u>	<u>276,047</u>
Carrying amount					
At 31 August 2020	<u>246,659</u>	<u>4,076</u>	<u>990</u>	<u>1,440</u>	<u>253,165</u>
At 31 August 2019	<u>254,616</u>	<u>5,657</u>	<u>1,823</u>	<u>2,830</u>	<u>264,926</u>

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

14 Tangible fixed assets

(Continued)

An impairment review of the charity's fixed assets has been undertaken. The net realisable value of the assets concerned has been assessed by estimating their market value. Their value in use has been determined by evaluating present value of the future benefits expected to arise from the continued use of the assets concerned.

The board is satisfied that the values that have been assessed are greater than or equal to their net book values and as such no impairment adjustments are required.

15 Stocks

	2020 £	2019 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	500	500

16 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	9,867	7,434
Other debtors	62,274	53,146
Prepayments and accrued income	2,150	4,264
	74,291	64,844

17 Loans and overdrafts

	2020 £	2019 £
Bank overdrafts	2,665	-
Payable within one year	2,665	-

18 Other creditors falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	5,980	41,978
Other creditors	811	627
Accruals and deferred income	12,175	6,384
	18,966	48,989

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

19 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £7,495 (2019 - £5,097).

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Movement in funds		Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 August 2020 £
		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
Permanent Home Fund	46,234	-	(7,957)	38,277	-	-	30,320
Kaleidoscope Prisons Work Tour	4,680	5,775	(10,455)	-	9,200	(9,200)	-
Film Equipment	-	500	(500)	-	6,300	-	6,300
Films for Prisons	-	2,700	(2,700)	-	25,000	-	25,000
AI Commission	-	700	(700)	-	12,300	-	12,300
Summer School Places	-	-	-	-	2,040	(2,040)	-
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	-	38,490	(38,490)	-
	50,914	9,675	(22,312)	38,277	93,330	(49,730)	73,920

During the course of the year ended 31 March 1998, the Riding Lights Trust began to raise funds in order to finance the acquisition and alteration of a freehold property that was suitable to be used as a theatre, office, store and rehearsal facility. A suitable property was acquired on 7 August 1998 in Friargate, York. The restricted fund was transferred as part of the overall assets and liabilities of the Riding Lights Trust when the company began to operate on 1 November 1998. The direct expenditure represents depreciation charged in respect of the freehold property. The entire depreciation charge has been allocated to the restricted fund.

Summer Theatre School Bursaries are given to award free places to individuals who have not previously attended summer school and who are not in full time work or full time education.

The Kaleidoscope Tour was funded by The Anchor Foundation to re-rehearse and adapt the show to go into prisons. The company was able to tour in January and February but the latter part of the tour was cancelled.

RL received funding from The Templeton Foundation to commission a new play on the subject of Artificial Intelligence. The first draft was received in early 2021. This may result in a theatre tour and/or film.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

20 Restricted funds

(Continued)

The Charity often receives donations and grants of a restricted nature, usually relating to specific dramatic productions. These are deemed to be restricted until expenditure in relation to the specific purpose takes place.

Transfers from restricted funds are made when funds received for restricted purposes are deemed unrestricted.

RIDING LIGHTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	222,845	30,320	253,165	226,649	38,277	264,926
Current assets/ (liabilities)	277,412	43,600	321,012	50,303	-	50,303
	<u>500,257</u>	<u>73,920</u>	<u>574,177</u>	<u>276,952</u>	<u>38,277</u>	<u>315,229</u>

22 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2020 £	2019 £
Aggregate compensation	68,760	78,780

23 Cash generated from operations

	2020 £	2019 £
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	258,948	(41,513)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(36)	(24)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	11,761	12,640
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(9,447)	5,188
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(34,396)	31,925
Cash generated from operations	<u>226,830</u>	<u>8,216</u>

24 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.