

# MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1162014

## Details

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**Other names** MHDS

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2015-06-05

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Harborough Theatre  
Church Square  
Market Harborough  
LE16 7NB

**Phone** 01858463673

**Email** [info@harboroughtheatre.com](mailto:info@harboroughtheatre.com)

**Website** [www.harboroughtheatre.com](http://www.harboroughtheatre.com)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO FOSTER AND PROMOTE THE MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENT, DEVELOPMENT, STUDY AND PRACTICE OF DRAMATIC ART, IN ALL ITS FORMS AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF THE DISTRICT OF MARKET HARBOROUGH AND ELSEWHERE (FOR FURTHER DESCRIPTION, SEE CONSTITUTION)

**Activities:** Owns and operates a theatre on an almost entirely amateur basis. Operates a membership scheme. Selects, produces and presents a season of publically performed plays each year. Provides opportunities to develop theatrical skills. Hires out space to other groups for dramatic productions and other community activities.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Leicestershire
- Northamptonshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£143,240	£137,441	-	-
2024-07-31	£145,865	£141,278	-	-
2023-07-31	£128,898	£112,354	-	-
2022-07-31	£85,406	£105,779	-	-
2021-07-31	£25,039	£34,361	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anthony William Ruscoe		2023-09-01
Barbara Lloyd		2023-11-29
Chris Raymakers		2022-06-01
Jan Ethalfrida Wilson		2025-08-01
Jill Anne Moore		2025-08-01
John Mark Waller		2020-11-11
Lynda Lioba Jaycocks		2025-08-01
Maxine Jane Kempster		2017-08-16
Paul Barrass		2024-05-01
Susan Lesley Waller		2020-11-11

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1162014

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# Accounts

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**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2025**

**berry accountants ltd**

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
BOWDEN HOUSE  
36 NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
LE16 9HE**

**Market Harborough Drama Society (MHDS)**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity no 1162014**  
**Trustees' Annual report for the year ending July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.**

The Trustees of Market Harborough Drama Society after a very successful year, are pleased to present this annual report to its members, customers, and the people of Market Harborough, for the 2024-25 season.

**Objectives and activities**

Market Harborough Drama Society ("MHDS" or "The Society") is a charity whose purposes are "to foster and promote the maintenance, improvement, development, study and practice of dramatic art in all its forms among the inhabitants of the district of Market Harborough and elsewhere".

It advances these purposes by:

- selecting, directing, staging, and performing a full season of plays each year.
- maintaining a working theatre containing a 118-seat auditorium, and a 50-seat studio, with full theatre equipment, and making these available, together with supporting services, for hire for public performances.
- providing bar and refreshment services in support of public performances in the theatre.
- making the theatre lounge and other accommodation available for hire to community groups.
- operating a membership scheme including a members' box office, a regular newsletter, and social events.
- encouraging local talent and providing some modest bursaries to support promising young actors.

Public benefit is provided by:

- membership available to all, at modest subscriptions.
- a wide variety of public performances in addition to the Society's own dramatic productions, with ticket prices kept low by reliance on volunteers to run the Society and staff its activities.
- provision of high-quality facilities to community groups at low cost, with special rates for appropriate regular users.
- provision of a defibrillator in the theatre for use by patrons.

Harborough Theatre is also home to:

- **Harborough Cinema**, Market Harborough's only cinema providing regular showings of both classic and modern films plus broadcasts from the National Theatre & Royal Opera House in London, the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, and English National Ballet etc.
- **Parsnips Youth Theatre**, a thriving independent organisation that runs classes for 75 students at the Theatre.
- **The Harborough Arts Society** with a programme of monthly lectures.
- **"Ha-Ha Harborough"**. Stand-up comedy nights.
- **The Young at Heart Group** – a monthly discussion meeting for older people held in the theatre lounge.
- **Musical Memory Box** – a singing group for people with dementia.

and we also hosted:

- Regular Saturday fund raising coffee mornings by local charities and community groups; and a variety of other meetings and events.
- And a series of social events for both members and visitors.

MHDS is a member of the Little Theatre Guild, a valuable source of theatrical information and advice, and we will be hosting the Central Region's annual conference in September 2025.

## **Achievements and Successes**

Harborough Theatre has enjoyed an exceptionally successful year with ticket sales to all eight shows selling well and with three complete sell outs and audience feedback has also been positive.

Harborough Theatre continued to help local charities to raise awareness of their specific causes by hosting gala nights and other fundraising events.

Following our consultant's advice for improvements we have continued making Health & Safety improvements.

We continue to receive commendations for the high standard in which our building is maintained, a tribute to our Premises Manager.

Our part-time paid administrator has greatly increased the Theatre's visibility in the town, as he interacts with the public both personally and through the website and social media. He has also hosted theatre volunteers on his regular Harborough FM show to promote our shows and activities.

We held refresher training for all Front of House and Bar Volunteer teams. We also ran Basic Acting Training sessions for Actors that were very popular.

All Society members have the opportunity to be involved in acting, directing, designing, building and painting sets, designing and operating sound, lighting, and special effects, stage managing, making and sourcing costumes and props, designing editing and publishing programmes, publicity material, the web site and producing 'Backstage' the members newsletter.

We are fortunate to have many volunteers willing to take on short term tasks, but like most voluntary organisations we depend heavily on a few for the essential coordinating, administrative and managerial roles.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

MHDS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered number 1162014, whose governing document is its Constitution as a membership organisation, adopted in May 2015 and amended in November 2017, December 2021 and April 2025.

The address of the Theatre is:

Harborough Theatre  
Church Square  
Market Harborough  
LE16 7NB

The Society's principal professional advisers are:

Bankers	Lloyds Bank
Solicitors	Wartnaby Hefford, 44 High Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AH.
Independent Examiner	Berry Accountants Ltd, 36 Northampton Road, Market Harborough. LE16 9HE

The Trustees for the 2024/25 season were:

Name	Position
Barbara Lloyd	Chair
Rita Kimmett	Secretary
John Waller	Treasurer
Paul Barrass	Dama Officer
Chris Raymakers	Membership Secretary
Maxine Kempster	Health & Safety and lettings
Tony Ruscoe	Marketing, website and social media
Lynne Scannell	Without portfolio
Sue Waller	Without Portfolio

The Board of Trustees is confirmed annually at the Spring General Meeting and takes office on the following 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

During the year to 31 July 2025, no Trustee received payment, except for reimbursement of minor expenditure incurred on behalf of the Society.

### Financial Report

Financial Accounts, attached, are prepared according to Charity Accounting rules and are intended to comply with FRS 102.

MHDS is not required to have a full audit but engages the services of an Independent Examiner to examine and report on its financial accounts. The Independent Examiner's report confirms that the accounts, together with this annual report, follow the Charity Commissions SORP guidelines (as amended) and satisfy the requirements of Charity law.

MHDS follows the conventions of accrual accounting to make year-on-year comparisons easier, and to give a truer picture of the financial position at the end of the financial year.

The Society's balance sheet does not include the value of its principal asset, the theatre building, because it is effectively inalienable. Furthermore, the Society owns a quantity of equipment and furnishings to support its theatrical productions, but no value is shown for these because physical assets are written off in the year of purchase.

The Society has continued to manage its finances in accordance with its plans and procedures and has had a very satisfactory year achieving an operating profit of £17,744. Matters contributing to this result are:

- Continued high demand for tickets for the season of plays.
- Good bar profits.
- Continued revenue from lettings to local organisations and Harborough Cinema.
- Careful control of running costs.

The operating profit achieved has allowed the trustees to continue with enhancements to improve health and safety. After the cost of these improvements the resulting net profit of £5,799 has been added to reserves.

At 31 July 2025 the Society's reserves stood at £93,540 of which £65,000 was designated for contingencies. The Trustees consider reserves to be adequate for the theatre to continue to operate safely and to provide resilience and sustainability.

The cash position remains strong. At 31 July 2025 cash at banks and in hand amounted to £111,657. Cash was invested in various current and deposit accounts to provide a balance between financial return and flexibility.

The Society's financial position remains strong allowing the Trustees and members to look forward with confidence.

Signed Barbara Lloyd  
Chair of Trustees

Date 8/9/25

Signed Jim Hamer  
Treasurer & Trustee

Date 8/9/25

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2025**

	<b>Total Funds 2024/25 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2023/24 £</b>
<b>Income from:</b>		
Subscriptions	8,187	6,555
Donations	2,510	1,571
Charitable Activities	130,059	135,758
Investments	<u>2,484</u>	<u>1,981</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>143,240</b>	<b>145,865</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
Charitable Activities	137,021	140,858
Governance	<u>420</u>	<u>420</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>137,441</b>	<b>141,278</b>
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>	<b><u>5,799</u></b>	<b><u>4,587</u></b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Balances brought forward	87,741	83,154
Balances carried forward	<u>93,540</u>	<u>87,741</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	111,657	112,439
Stock	911	1,126
Debtors and Prepayments	<u>10,833</u>	<u>8,546</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>123,401</b>	<b>122,111</b>
Less Creditors and Accruals	<u>29,861</u>	<u>34,370</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u>93,540</u></b>	<b><u>87,741</u></b>
Note: Independent Examiner's Fee	<u>420</u>	<u>420</u>

Note that except for sponsorship of next season's brochure, which was simple reimbursement of the printing costs, no donations for specified purposes were received during 2024/25. Therefore no Restricted Fund is shown.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF  
MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 July 2025, which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
  - to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under
- section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

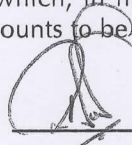
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:-

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



MRS R WALDEN FCCA  
BERRY ACCOUNTANTS LTD  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
BOWDEN HOUSE  
36 NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
LE16 9HE

Dated: 8 September 2025.

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 JULY 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	1,284	1,200
Current Accounts	28,470	20,704
Savings Accounts	81,903	90,535
Value of Bar Stock	911	1,126
Prepayments:-		
Scripts and Licences for next season	6,006	5,245
Other Debtors and Prepayments	3,884	2,720
Debtors	943	581
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>123,401</b>	<b>122,111</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Income received for next season:		
Season Tickets	15,180	15,130
Subscriptions	785	640
Theatre Hire	2,037	735
Creditors	5,175	1,095
Accruals	6,684	6,770
Provision for Health and Safety Enhancements	-	10,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>29,861</b>	<b>34,370</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>93,540</b>	<b>87,741</b>
 <b>Consisting of:</b>		
General Fund	28,540	37,741
Designated for Contingencies	65,000	50,000
	<b>93,540</b>	<b>87,741</b>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Net Income from Activities</b>			
Membership and Fundraising	1	7,742	6,009
Putting on Plays	3	53,945	57,536
Theatre Hire and Visiting Productions		23,175	26,065
Bar, Coffee and Ice Cream		19,790	19,722
		<u>104,652</u>	<u>109,332</u>
<b>Less: Cost of Overheads</b>			
Running the Theatre	2	57,313	48,483
Administration	4	29,595	28,097
		<u>17,744</u>	<u>32,752</u>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>			
Less: Improvements	5	11,945	26,809
Bursaries for Parsnips		-	1,356
		<u>5,799</u>	<u>4,587</u>
<b>Total Profit for the Year</b>			
		<u><u>5,799</u></u>	<u><u>4,587</u></u>

**NOTE 1: Membership and Fundraising**

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions (including Gift Aid)	8,187	6,555
Donations	2,510	1,571
Fundraising	18	86
<b>Total</b>	<u>10,715</u>	<u>8,212</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Membership Admin	102	110
Newsletter	2,871	2,093
	<u>7,742</u>	<u>6,009</u>

**NOTE 2: Running the Theatre**

	2025 £	2024 £
Rates and Utilities	13,741	11,547
Cleaning and Waste Removal	25,139	21,921
Maintenance and Repairs	18,433	14,745
Sundries	-	270
<b>Total</b>	<u>57,313</u>	<u>48,483</u>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2025**

**NOTE 3: Contribution of Plays**

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Season Tickets	16,580	16,490
Tickets	51,909	54,109
Programmes (net)	342	491
<b>Total</b>	<u>68,831</u>	<u>71,090</u>
<b>Costs</b>		
Scripts/Licences	5,418	6,010
Sets	3,334	1,410
Costumes	2,942	2,690
Props	1,432	1,627
Sound and Lighting Equipment	940	345
Rehearsals	129	197
Other	691	1,275
	<u>14,886</u>	<u>13,554</u>
<b>Contribution</b>	<u><u>53,945</u></u>	<u><u>57,536</u></u>

**NOTE 4: Administration of the Society**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Insurance	4,388	3,887
Legal and Professional Fees	-	(241)
Independent Inspection of Accounts	420	420
LTC	133	125
Sundries	2,258	2,574
Administration Salaries	19,458	18,347
Health and Safety	4,306	3,661
Bank and Card Reader Charges	1,116	1,305
Less Investment Income	2,484	1,981
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>29,595</u></u>	<u><u>28,097</u></u>

**NOTE 5: Improvements and Development**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Various	5,590	-
New Stage Lights	-	8,650
Health and Safety Enhancements	6,355	18,159
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>11,945</u></u>	<u><u>26,809</u></u>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1162014

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# Accounts

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**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2024**

**berry accountants ltd**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
BOWDEN HOUSE  
36 NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
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**Market Harborough Drama Society (MHDS)**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity no 1162014**  
**Trustees' Annual report for the year ending July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.**

The Trustees of Market Harborough Drama Society after a very successful year, are pleased to present this annual report to its members, customers, and the people of Market Harborough, for the 2023-24 season.

**Objectives and activities**

Market Harborough Drama Society ("MHDS" or "The Society") is a charity whose purposes are "to foster and promote the maintenance, improvement, development, study and practice of dramatic art in all its forms among the inhabitants of the district of Market Harborough and elsewhere".

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- selecting, directing, staging, and performing a full season of plays each year.
- maintaining a working theatre containing a 118-seat auditorium, and a 50-seat studio, with full theatre equipment, and making these available, together with supporting services, for hire for public performances.
- providing bar and refreshment services in support of public performances in the theatre.
- making the theatre lounge and other accommodation available for hire to community groups.
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- encouraging local talent and providing some modest bursaries to support promising young actors.

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- provision of high-quality facilities to community groups at low cost, with special rates for appropriate regular users.
- provision of a defibrillator in the theatre for use by patrons.

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- **Harborough Cinema**, Market Harborough's only cinema providing regular showings of both classic and modern films plus broadcasts from the National Theatre & Royal Opera House in London, the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, and Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow etc.
- **Parsnips Youth Theatre**, a thriving independent organisation that runs classes for 75 students at the Theatre.
- **The Harborough Arts Society** with a programme of monthly lectures.
- **"Ha-Ha Harborough"**. Stand-up comedy nights.
- **The Young at Heart Group** – a monthly discussion meeting for older people held in the theatre lounge.
- **Musical Memory Box** – a singing group for people with dementia.

and we also hosted:

- Regular Saturday fund raising coffee mornings by local charities and community groups; and a variety of other meetings and events.
- And a series of social events for both members and visitors.

MHDS is a member of the Little Theatre Guild, a valuable source of theatrical information and advice.

## **Achievements and Successes**

Harborough Theatre has enjoyed an exceptionally successful year with ticket sales to all eight shows selling well and with three complete sell outs and audience feedback has also been positive.

Harborough Theatre continued to help local charities to raise awareness of their specific causes by hosting gala nights and other fundraising events.

The trustees appointed Dowling Compliance Ltd to act as the Society's Competent Authority for Health and Safety. Following their recommendations for improvements we have carried out a number of enhancements to the property.

We continue to receive commendations for the high standard in which our building is maintained, a tribute to our Premises Manager. Our volunteers also redecorated the theatre Lounge to make it more appealing to theatre audiences.

Our part-time paid administrator has greatly increased the Theatre's visibility in the town, as he interacts with the public both personally and through the website and social media. He has also hosted theatre volunteers on his regular Harborough FM show to promote our shows and activities.

We held refresher training for all Front of House and Bar Volunteer teams. We also ran Basic Acting Training sessions for Actors that were very popular.

All Society members have the opportunity to be involved in acting, directing, designing, building and painting sets, designing and operating sound, lighting, and special effects, stage managing, making and sourcing costumes and props, designing editing and publishing programmes, publicity material, the web site and producing 'Backstage' the members newsletter.

We are fortunate to have many volunteers willing to take on short term tasks, but like most voluntary organisations we depend heavily on a few for the essential coordinating, administrative and managerial roles.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

MHDS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered number 1162014, whose governing document is its Constitution as a membership organisation, adopted in May 2015 and amended in November 2017 and December 2021.

The address of the Theatre is:

Harborough Theatre  
Church Square  
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LE16 7NB

The Society's principal professional advisers are:

Bankers	Lloyds Bank
Solicitors	Wartnaby Hefford, 44 High Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AH.
Independent Examiner	Berry Accountants Ltd, 36 Northampton Road, Market Harborough. LE16 9HE

The Trustees for the 2023/24 season were:

Name	Position	Notes
Hazel Cook	Chair	Resigned - September 2023
Barbara LLOYD	Chair	Appointed - 29/11/2023
Rita Kimmett	Secretary	
John Waller	Treasurer	
Sue Waller	Dama Officer	
Chris Raymakers	Membership Secretary	
Maxine Kempster	Health & Safety and lettings	
Anne Clayton		Resigned - September 2023
Tony Ruscoe	Marketing, website and social media	Appointed - 1 /9 /2023
Lynne Scannell	Without portfolio	

The Board of Trustees is confirmed annually at the Spring General Meeting and takes office on the following 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

During the year to 31 July 2024, no Trustee received payment, except for reimbursement of minor expenditure incurred on behalf of the Society.

### Financial Report

Financial Accounts, attached, are prepared according to Charity Accounting rules and are intended to comply with FRS 102.

MHDS is not required to have a full audit but engages the services of an Independent Examiner to examine and report on its financial accounts. The Independent Examiner's report confirms that the accounts, together with this annual report, follow the Charity Commissions SORP guidelines (as amended) and satisfy the requirements of Charity law.

MHDS follows the conventions of accrual accounting to make year-on-year comparisons easier, and to give a truer picture of the financial position at the end of the financial year.

The Society's balance sheet does not include the value of its principal asset, the theatre building, because it is effectively inalienable. Furthermore, the Society owns a quantity of equipment and furnishings to support its theatrical productions, but no value is shown for these because physical assets are written off in the year of purchase.

The Society has continued to manage its finances in accordance with its plans and procedures and has had a very satisfactory year achieving an operating profit of £32,752. Matters contributing to this result are:

- High demand for tickets for the season of plays.
- An increase in letting income from Harborough Cinema and new hirers.
- Careful control of running costs.

The operating profit achieved has allowed the trustees to improve stage lighting and make property enhancements to improve health and safety. After the cost of these improvements the resulting net profit of £4,587 has been added to reserves.

At 31 July 2024 the Society's reserves stood at £87,741 of which £50,000 was designated for contingencies. The Trustees consider reserves to be adequate for the theatre to operate safely.

The cash position remains strong. At 31 July 2024 cash at banks and in hand amounted to £112,439. Cash was invested in various current and deposit accounts to provide a balance between financial return and flexibility.

The Society's financial position is strong allowing the Trustees and members to look forward with confidence.

Signed Barbara Lloyd  
Chair of Trustees

Date 8/10/2024

Signed JM Walker  
Treasurer & Trustee

Date 8/10/2024

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2024**

	<b>Total Funds 2023/24 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2022/23 £</b>
<b>Income from:</b>		
Subscriptions	6,555	6,458
Donations	1,571	2,358
Charitable Activities	135,758	127,673
Legacy	-	10,000
Investments	1,981	496
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>145,865</u>	<u>146,985</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
Charitable Activities	140,858	130,021
Governance	420	420
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>141,278</u>	<u>130,441</u>
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>	<u>4,587</u>	<u>16,544</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Balances brought forward	83,154	66,610
Balances carried forward	<u>87,741</u>	<u>83,154</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	112,439	96,183
Stock	1,126	910
Debtors and Prepayments	8,546	9,429
Total Current Assets	<u>122,111</u>	<u>106,522</u>
Less Creditors and Accruals	<u>34,370</u>	<u>23,368</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>87,741</u>	<u>83,154</u>
Note: Independent Examiner's Fee	<u>420</u>	<u>420</u>

Note that except for sponsorship of next season's brochure, which was simple reimbursement of the printing costs, no donations for specified purposes were received during 2023/24. Therefore no Restricted Fund is shown.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF  
MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 July 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
  - to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under
- section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**


My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:-
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



MRS R WALDEN FCCA  
BERRY ACCOUNTANTS LTD  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
BOWDEN HOUSE  
36 NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
LE16 9HE

Dated: 9 October 2024.

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 JULY 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	1,200	1,386
Current Accounts	20,704	44,374
Savings Accounts	90,535	50,423
Value of Bar Stock	1,126	910
Prepayments:-		
Scripts and Licences for next season	5,245	5,755
Other payments in advance	2,720	1,400
Debtors	581	2,274
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>122,111</u>	<u>106,522</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Income received for next season:		
Season Tickets	15,130	12,385
Subscriptions	640	725
Theatre Hire	735	906
Creditors	1,095	1,078
Accruals	6,770	8,274
Provision for Health and Safety Enhancements	10,000	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>34,370</u>	<u>23,368</u>
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>	 <u><u>87,741</u></u>	 <u><u>83,154</u></u>
 <b>Consisting of:</b>		
General Fund	37,741	33,154
Designated for Contingencies	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
	<u><u>87,741</u></u>	<u><u>83,154</u></u>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Net Income from Activities</b>			
Membership and Fundraising	1	6,009	6,256
Putting on Plays	3	57,536	54,274
Theatre Hire and Visiting Productions		26,065	23,537
Bar, Coffee and Ice Cream		19,722	18,107
		<u>109,332</u>	<u>102,174</u>
<b>Less: Cost of Overheads</b>			
Running the Theatre	2	48,483	51,525
Administration	4	28,097	28,960
		<u>32,752</u>	<u>21,689</u>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>			
Less: Improvements	5	26,809	15,145
Bursaries for Parsnips		1,356	-
Add: Legacy		-	10,000
<b>Total Deficit for the Year</b>		<u><u>4,587</u></u>	<u><u>16,544</u></u>

**NOTE 1: Membership and Fundraising**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions (including Gift Aid)	6,555	6,458
Donations	1,571	2,358
Fundraising	86	311
<b>Total</b>	<u>8,212</u>	<u>9,127</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Membership Admin	110	107
Newsletter	2,093	2,764
	<u>6,009</u>	<u>6,256</u>

**NOTE 2: Running the Theatre**

	2024 £	2023 £
Rates and Utilities	11,547	12,905
Cleaning and Waste Removal	21,921	20,506
Maintenance and Repairs	14,745	16,904
Sundries	270	1,210
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>48,483</u></u>	<u><u>51,525</u></u>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2024**

**NOTE 3: Contribution of Plays**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Season Tickets	16,490	16,149
Tickets	54,109	51,272
Programmes (net)	491	210
<b>Total</b>	<u>71,090</u>	<u>67,631</u>
<b>Costs</b>		
Scripts/Licences	6,010	4,949
Sets	1,410	1,871
Costumes	2,690	2,018
Props	1,627	1,317
Sound and Lighting Equipment	345	1,555
Rehearsals	197	313
Other	1,275	850
Summer School	-	484
	<u>13,554</u>	<u>13,357</u>
<b>Contribution</b>	<u><u>57,536</u></u>	<u><u>54,274</u></u>

**NOTE 4: Administration of the Society**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Insurance	3,887	3,810
Legal and Professional Fees	(241)	3,815
Independent Inspection of Accounts	420	420
LTG	125	209
Sundries	2,574	3,019
Administration Salaries	18,347	17,197
Health and Safety	3,661	986
Bank and Card Reader Charges	1,305	-
Less Investment Income	1,981	496
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>28,097</u></u>	<u><u>28,960</u></u>

**NOTE 5: Improvements and Development**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Various	-	15,145
New Stage Lights	8,650	-
Health and Safety Enhancements	18,159	-
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>26,809</u></u>	<u><u>15,145</u></u>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1162014

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# Accounts

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**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2023**

**berry accountants ltd**

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
BOWDEN HOUSE  
36 NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
LE16 9HE**

**Market Harborough Drama Society (MHDS)**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity no 1162014**  
**Trustees' Annual report for the year ending July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

The Trustees of Market Harborough Drama Society are pleased to present this annual report to its members, customers, and the people of Market Harborough, for the 2022-23 season.

Harborough Theatre has enjoyed an exceptionally successful year with ticket sales to all eight shows selling well and with four complete sell outs. Audience feedback has also been very positive, with four shows including a studio production gaining 5 \* reviews. We also gained from an increase in lettings income due to an increase in film screenings undertaken by Harborough Cinema following the installation of a new digital projector which allows more recent blockbusters and National Theatre/Royal Opera House productions to be shown in the theatre's main auditorium.

We ran our second week-long Summer School for students aged between 8 and 18. Places were subsidised by the theatre and sold at £75 per place (around half that charged for similar schemes in the area). We also provided free places for children in receipt of free school meals although take up was not as high as we would have liked. The reaction from both students and parents was extremely positive with both the professional drama teachers and staff being praised for producing two high-quality shows at the end of a hugely enjoyable and valuable week of drama-based activities.

Various improvements were made to the building in line with recommendations made by its professional advisors including the purchase of a new Evac Chair to allow the safe evacuation of all visitors to the theatre. In addition, we invested c£13k in improvements to the stage. This has resulted in the creation of extra storage beneath the stage and a new access hatch as well as a complete resurfacing of the area to eliminate distracting squeaks during performances.

We also improved our training for all Front of House and Bar Volunteer teams and produced new Guidance for the Drama Committee and Backstage Crew/Teams. We have also introduced Basic Acting Training for Actors – these are heavily subsidised to non-members (£5 per session) and free to members.

We also carried Strategic Review Consultation and began collecting audience feedback and acting on the information gleaned, for example, introducing regular inter-departmental Operations Meetings and pre-production meetings to promote collaboration and the sharing of knowledge between teams.

As part of our 90th Anniversary celebrations we introduced a new annual event to thank all our volunteers and ran a yearlong exhibition showcasing the work of the theatre over the years. We also piloted our first show at Arts Fresco a hugely successful Arts Council funded event attracting large crowds to Market Harborough and a useful platform for promoting the theatre to the local and wider regional community.

We have recruited a new Patron for the society. Youssef Kerkour is a BAFTA nominated professional actor who has kindly agreed to help by offering workshops to MHDS members. He will be attending our Open Day in September and talking about his work with the RSC.

The trustees undertook a review of its Risk Management systems and introduced a new Corporate Risk Register which will be reviewed regularly alongside its regular reviews of its other policies including the Finance Manual, Data Protection, Diversity and Equality, Safeguarding, Data Protection and the Code of Conduct.

Due to changes in Trustee responsibilities Hazel Cook became the Chair. Lindsey Wolstencroft and Barbara Lloyd stood down as a trustees and Tony Ruscoe joined as a trustee without portfolio.

Our objectives remain unaltered.

### **Objectives and activities**

Market Harborough Drama Society ("MHDS" or "The Society") is a charity whose purposes are "to foster and promote the maintenance, improvement, development, study and practice of dramatic art in all its forms among the inhabitants of the district of Market Harborough and elsewhere".

It advances these purposes by:

- selecting, directing, staging, and performing a full season of plays each year.
- maintaining a working theatre containing a 118-seat auditorium, and a 50-seat studio, with full theatre equipment, and making these available, together with supporting services, for hire for public performances
- providing bar and refreshment services in support of public performances in the theatre
- making the theatre lounge and other accommodation available for hire to community groups
- operating a membership scheme including a members' box office, a regular newsletter, and social events.
- encouraging local talent and providing some modest bursaries to support promising young actors and technicians where training fees may be unaffordable.
- this year we have also subsidised the delivery of a Summer School for local children.

Public benefit is provided by:

- membership available to all, at modest subscriptions which may be waived at the discretion of the Trustees.
- a wide variety of public performances in addition to the Society's own dramatic productions, with ticket prices kept low by reliance on volunteers to run the Society and staff its activities.
- provision of high-quality facilities to community groups at low cost, with special rates for appropriate regular users.
- provision of a defibrillator in the theatre for use by patrons and the general public. Local shop keepers and the church have been provided with keys to the building for use in the event of an emergency.

Harborough Theatre is also home to:

- **Harborough Cinema formerly Octagon Films**, Market Harborough's only cinema providing regular showings of both classic and modern films plus broadcasts from the National Theatre & Royal Opera House in London, the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, and Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow etc.
- **Parsnips Youth Theatre** that continues to thrive. It is an independent organisation that runs classes for 75 students at the Theatre and a further 95 students across Leicestershire and Rutland. It runs 8 classes in all. Each class performs an annual show with 5 classes performing at Harborough Theatre. All students are treated as associate members of the Society and are encouraged to audition for suitable parts in main house productions.
- **The Harborough Arts Society's** with a programme of monthly lectures and study days plus regular art classes held in the theatre lounge.
- **"Ha-Ha Harborough"**. Monthly stand-up comedy nights.

- **The Young at Heart Group** – a monthly discussion meeting for older people held in the theatre lounge.
- **Musical Memory Box** – a singing group for people with dementia.

and we also hosted:

- Regular Saturday fund raising coffee mornings by local charities and community groups; and a variety of other meetings and events.
- And a series of social events for both members and visitors.

MHDS is a member of the Little Theatre Guild, a valuable source of theatrical information and advice.

### **Achievements and Successes**

Harborough Theatre was recognised by Harborough District Council as an important part of the Cultural Quarter and has agreed to work with the Theatre and other stakeholders to improve the visibility of the arts in the town.

Harborough Theatre helped local charities to raise awareness of their specific causes by hosting gala nights and other fundraising events – in total over £7500 was put back into the community in the last year alone.

Harborough Theatre has welcomed over 12,500 visitors to the theatre this year and has reached another record membership high (+450). NB this figure fluctuates seasonally but there has been a steady upward trend over the last two – three years and we now have an active volunteer base of plus 200 people.

We continue to receive commendations for the high standard in which our building is maintained, a tribute to our Premises Manager. Our volunteers also redecorated the theatre Lounge to make it more appealing to theatre audiences.

Our part-time paid administrator has greatly increased the Theatre's visibility in the town, as he interacts with the public both personally and through the website and social media. He has also hosted theatre volunteers on his regular Harborough FM show to promote our shows and activities.

We have a continuing programme of reviewing and improving the way in which we present the Theatre to the community, including a well-attended annual Open Day with tours and demonstrations of our craft.

All Society members have the opportunity to be involved in acting, directing, designing, building and painting sets, designing and operating sound, lighting, and special effects, stage managing, making and sourcing costumes and props, designing editing and publishing programmes, publicity material, the web site and producing 'Backstage' the members quarterly newsletter. In addition, there have been regular emailed newsletters and both our AGM in November and Spring General Meeting in April allowed members to contribute to the ongoing development of the organisation.

We are fortunate to have many volunteers willing to take on short term tasks, but like most voluntary organisations we depend heavily on a few for the essential coordinating, administrative and managerial roles. A new Board of Trustees was approved at the SGM which took place in May and will take office on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

We carefully limit what we do to avoid over stretching our volunteers and, while not ruling out other art forms such as music, focus primarily on the dramatic events for which our theatre is best suited.

### **Governance and Administration**

MHDS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered number 1162014, whose governing document is its Constitution as a membership organisation, adopted in May 2015 and amended in November 2017.

The Society's principal professional advisers are:

- Bankers: Lloyd's Bank  
CAF bank
- Solicitors: Wartnaby Hefford, 44 High Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AH.
- Independent Examiner: Berry Accountants Ltd, 36 Northampton Road, Market Harborough. LE16 9HE

The Trustees elected at the November 2022 AGM for the 2022-23 season, were: Hazel Cook (Chair), Rita Kimmet (Secretary), John Waller (Treasurer), Sue Waller (Drama Officer), Chris Raymakers (Membership Secretary), Maxine Kempster, Anne Clayton, Barbara Lloyd, Lindsey Wolstoncroft.

### **Future Plans**

Although we are grateful that our show audiences have continued to support us and that we have been very successful in recruiting new members, we remain cautious about the possible impact of the cost-of-living crisis on people's desire for live theatre.

We are an ambitious organisation and have often had to wrestle with the problems of success, namely having more ideas and opportunities than our volunteers are capable of handling, and often larger audiences than we could accommodate. Whilst it would be tempting to outsource more of our activities, we are conscious of our future sustainability and therefore are careful only to undertake projects that we have the resources to sustain. As such, we continue to look at ideas for improving the theatre through the Strategic Review process and associated feasibility studies to inform the development of our five-year plan.

We will also continue to work on the way we promote ourselves within the community, ranging from improved external signage, use of social media, and selecting drama that will interest and attract new people to the theatre. Inevitably this will mean occasionally including plays that challenge as well as simply entertain our audiences.

### **Financial Report**

Financial Accounts, attached, are prepared according to Charity Accounting rules and are intended to comply with FRS 102.

MHDS follows the conventions of accrual accounting to make year-on-year comparisons easier, and to give a truer picture of the financial position at the end of the financial year.

The Society's balance sheet does not include the value of its principal asset, the theatre building, because it is effectively inalienable. Furthermore, the Society owns a quantity of equipment and furnishings to support its theatrical productions, but no value is shown for these because physical assets are written off in the year of purchase.

The Society has continued to manage its finances in accordance with its plans and procedures and has had a very satisfactory year achieving a surplus of income over expenditure of £16,544. Matters contributing to this result are:

- The Trustees decision to increase ticket prices together with high demand for tickets for the season of plays.
- An increase in letting income from Harborough Cinema.
- A generous legacy of £10,000.
- The above partially offset by increased utility charges and general cost inflation.

The improved income has allowed the Trustees to make improvements to the theatre costing £15,145.

During the year to 31 July 2023, no Trustee received payment, except for reimbursement of minor expenditure incurred on behalf of the Society. Except for the direct sponsorship of our seasonal publicity brochure, no income was received for a designated purpose. All fundraising and donations were intended for the general purposes of the Society. Therefore no Restricted Fund is shown in the accounts.

MHDS is not required to have a full audit but the services of an Independent Examiner to examine and report on its financial accounts. The Independent Examiner's report confirms that the accounts, together with this annual report, follow the Charity Commissions SORP guidelines (as amended) and satisfy the requirements of Charity law.

Due to good management and a generous bequest the Drama Society is in a strong financial position and its financial reserves have recovered to pre-Covid shut down levels. The Trustees consider current reserves are sufficient for the theatre to operate safely and with due consideration of its members and the general public.

Signed   
Chair of Trustees

Date 3/10/23

Signed   
Treasurer & Trustee

Date 3/10/23

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2023**

	<b>Total Funds 2022/23 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2021/22 £</b>
<b>Income from:</b>		
Subscriptions	6,458	5,367
Donations	2,358	2,374
Charitable Activities	127,673	89,933
Grants	-	2,667
Legacy	10,000	-
Investments	496	161
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>146,985</b>	<b>100,502</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
Charitable Activities	130,021	120,455
Governance	420	420
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>130,441</b>	<b>120,875</b>
 <b>Net Movement in funds</b>	<b>16,544</b>	<b>(20,373)</b>
 <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Balances brought forward	66,610	86,983
Balances carried forward	<b>83,154</b>	<b>66,610</b>
 <b>Represented by:</b>		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	96,183	91,924
Stock	910	735
Debtors and Prepayments	9,429	7,906
Total Current Assets	<b>106,522</b>	<b>100,565</b>
Less Creditors and Accruals	<b>23,368</b>	<b>33,955</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>83,154</b>	<b>66,610</b>
 Note: Independent Examiner's Fee	<b>420</b>	<b>420</b>

Note that except for sponsorship of next season's brochure, which was simple reimbursement of the printing costs, no donations for specified purposes were received during 2022/23. Therefore no Restricted Fund is shown.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF  
MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 July 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 6.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
  - to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under
  - section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:-

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

MRS R WALDEN FCCA  
BERRY ACCOUNTANTS LTD  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
BOWDEN HOUSE  
36 NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
LE16 9HE

Dated: 3 October 2023.

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 JULY 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	1,386	1,370
Current Accounts	44,374	62,008
Savings Accounts	50,423	28,546
Value of Bar Stock	910	735
Prepayments:-		
Scripts and Licences for next season	5,755	4,694
Other payments in advance	1,400	1,105
Debtors	2,274	2,107
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>106,522</b>	<b>100,565</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Income received for next season:		
Season Tickets	12,385	11,815
Subscriptions	725	640
Theatre Hire	906	406
Creditors	1,078	1,061
Accruals	8,274	4,033
Provision for Electrical Upgrade	-	16,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>23,368</b>	<b>33,955</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>83,154</b>	<b>66,610</b>
 <b>Consisting of:</b>		
General Fund	33,154	16,610
Designated for Contingencies	50,000	50,000
	<b>83,154</b>	<b>66,610</b>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Net Income from Activities</b>			
Membership and Fundraising	1	6,256	5,264
Putting on Plays	3	54,274	28,606
Theatre Hire and Visiting Productions		23,537	15,542
Bar, Coffee and Ice Cream		<u>18,107</u>	<u>10,627</u>
		102,174	60,039
<b>Less: Cost of Overheads</b>			
Running the Theatre	2	51,525	38,870
Administration	4	<u>28,960</u>	<u>21,759</u>
		21,689	(590)
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>			
Less: Improvements	5	15,145	3,276
Quinquennial Survey		-	3,174
Provision for Electrical Upgrade		-	16,000
Add: Grant received HDC		-	2,667
Legacy		<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Deficit for the Year</b>		<u><u>16,544</u></u>	<u><u>(20,373)</u></u>

**NOTE 1: Membership and Fundraising**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions (including Gift Aid)	6,458	5,367
Donations	2,358	2,374
Fundraising	<u>311</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total</b>	9,127	7,741
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Membership Admin	107	619
Newsletter	<u>2,764</u>	<u>1,858</u>
	<u>6,256</u>	<u>5,264</u>

**NOTE 2: Running the Theatre**

	2023 £	2022 £
Rates and Utilities	12,905	9,490
Cleaning and Waste Removal	20,506	17,195
Maintenance and Repairs	16,904	10,695
Sundries	<u>1,210</u>	<u>1,490</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>51,525</u></u>	<u><u>38,870</u></u>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2023**

**NOTE 3: Contribution of Plays**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Season Tickets	16,149	13,499
Tickets	51,272	35,151
Programmes (net)	210	124
<b>Total</b>	<u>67,631</u>	<u>48,774</u>
<b>Costs</b>		
Scripts/Licences	4,949	6,040
Sets	1,871	3,456
Costumes	2,018	2,371
Props	1,317	2,184
Sound and Lighting Equipment	1,555	1,203
Rehearsals	313	281
Publicity Ticketing and Adjudication	768	3,595
Training and Competition	82	1,093
Summer school	484	(55)
	<u>13,357</u>	<u>20,168</u>
<b>Contribution</b>	<u>54,274</u>	<u>28,606</u>

**NOTE 4: Administration of the Society**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Insurance	3,810	3,785
Legal and Professional Fees	3,815	1,124
Audit	420	420
LTG	209	898
Sundries	4,005	2,062
Admin Salaries less Furlough Receipts	17,197	13,631
Less Investment Income	496	161
<b>Total</b>	<u>28,960</u>	<u>21,759</u>

**NOTE 5: Improvements and Development**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Various	15,145	3,276

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1162014

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# Accounts

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**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2023**

**berry accountants ltd**

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
BOWDEN HOUSE  
36 NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
LE16 9HE**

**Market Harborough Drama Society (MHDS)**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity no 1162014**  
**Trustees' Annual report for the year ending July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

The Trustees of Market Harborough Drama Society are pleased to present this annual report to its members, customers, and the people of Market Harborough, for the 2022-23 season.

Harborough Theatre has enjoyed an exceptionally successful year with ticket sales to all eight shows selling well and with four complete sell outs. Audience feedback has also been very positive, with four shows including a studio production gaining 5 \* reviews. We also gained from an increase in lettings income due to an increase in film screenings undertaken by Harborough Cinema following the installation of a new digital projector which allows more recent blockbusters and National Theatre/Royal Opera House productions to be shown in the theatre's main auditorium.

We ran our second week-long Summer School for students aged between 8 and 18. Places were subsidised by the theatre and sold at £75 per place (around half that charged for similar schemes in the area). We also provided free places for children in receipt of free school meals although take up was not as high as we would have liked. The reaction from both students and parents was extremely positive with both the professional drama teachers and staff being praised for producing two high-quality shows at the end of a hugely enjoyable and valuable week of drama-based activities.

Various improvements were made to the building in line with recommendations made by its professional advisors including the purchase of a new Evac Chair to allow the safe evacuation of all visitors to the theatre. In addition, we invested c£13k in improvements to the stage. This has resulted in the creation of extra storage beneath the stage and a new access hatch as well as a complete resurfacing of the area to eliminate distracting squeaks during performances.

We also improved our training for all Front of House and Bar Volunteer teams and produced new Guidance for the Drama Committee and Backstage Crew/Teams. We have also introduced Basic Acting Training for Actors – these are heavily subsidised to non-members (£5 per session) and free to members.

We also carried Strategic Review Consultation and began collecting audience feedback and acting on the information gleaned, for example, introducing regular inter-departmental Operations Meetings and pre-production meetings to promote collaboration and the sharing of knowledge between teams.

As part of our 90th Anniversary celebrations we introduced a new annual event to thank all our volunteers and ran a yearlong exhibition showcasing the work of the theatre over the years. We also piloted our first show at Arts Fresco a hugely successful Arts Council funded event attracting large crowds to Market Harborough and a useful platform for promoting the theatre to the local and wider regional community.

We have recruited a new Patron for the society. Youssef Kerkour is a BAFTA nominated professional actor who has kindly agreed to help by offering workshops to MHDS members. He will be attending our Open Day in September and talking about his work with the RSC.

The trustees undertook a review of its Risk Management systems and introduced a new Corporate Risk Register which will be reviewed regularly alongside its regular reviews of its other policies including the Finance Manual, Data Protection, Diversity and Equality, Safeguarding, Data Protection and the Code of Conduct.

Due to changes in Trustee responsibilities Hazel Cook became the Chair. Lindsey Wolstencroft and Barbara Lloyd stood down as a trustees and Tony Ruscoe joined as a trustee without portfolio.

Our objectives remain unaltered.

### **Objectives and activities**

Market Harborough Drama Society ("MHDS" or "The Society") is a charity whose purposes are "to foster and promote the maintenance, improvement, development, study and practice of dramatic art in all its forms among the inhabitants of the district of Market Harborough and elsewhere".

It advances these purposes by:

- selecting, directing, staging, and performing a full season of plays each year.
- maintaining a working theatre containing a 118-seat auditorium, and a 50-seat studio, with full theatre equipment, and making these available, together with supporting services, for hire for public performances
- providing bar and refreshment services in support of public performances in the theatre
- making the theatre lounge and other accommodation available for hire to community groups
- operating a membership scheme including a members' box office, a regular newsletter, and social events.
- encouraging local talent and providing some modest bursaries to support promising young actors and technicians where training fees may be unaffordable.
- this year we have also subsidised the delivery of a Summer School for local children.

Public benefit is provided by:

- membership available to all, at modest subscriptions which may be waived at the discretion of the Trustees.
- a wide variety of public performances in addition to the Society's own dramatic productions, with ticket prices kept low by reliance on volunteers to run the Society and staff its activities.
- provision of high-quality facilities to community groups at low cost, with special rates for appropriate regular users.
- provision of a defibrillator in the theatre for use by patrons and the general public. Local shop keepers and the church have been provided with keys to the building for use in the event of an emergency.

Harborough Theatre is also home to:

- **Harborough Cinema formerly Octagon Films**, Market Harborough's only cinema providing regular showings of both classic and modern films plus broadcasts from the National Theatre & Royal Opera House in London, the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, and Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow etc.
- **Parsnips Youth Theatre** that continues to thrive. It is an independent organisation that runs classes for 75 students at the Theatre and a further 95 students across Leicestershire and Rutland. It runs 8 classes in all. Each class performs an annual show with 5 classes performing at Harborough Theatre. All students are treated as associate members of the Society and are encouraged to audition for suitable parts in main house productions.
- **The Harborough Arts Society's** with a programme of monthly lectures and study days plus regular art classes held in the theatre lounge.
- **"Ha-Ha Harborough"**. Monthly stand-up comedy nights.

- **The Young at Heart Group** – a monthly discussion meeting for older people held in the theatre lounge.
- **Musical Memory Box** – a singing group for people with dementia.

and we also hosted:

- Regular Saturday fund raising coffee mornings by local charities and community groups; and a variety of other meetings and events.
- And a series of social events for both members and visitors.

MHDS is a member of the Little Theatre Guild, a valuable source of theatrical information and advice.

### **Achievements and Successes**

Harborough Theatre was recognised by Harborough District Council as an important part of the Cultural Quarter and has agreed to work with the Theatre and other stakeholders to improve the visibility of the arts in the town.

Harborough Theatre helped local charities to raise awareness of their specific causes by hosting gala nights and other fundraising events – in total over £7500 was put back into the community in the last year alone.

Harborough Theatre has welcomed over 12,500 visitors to the theatre this year and has reached another record membership high (+450). NB this figure fluctuates seasonally but there has been a steady upward trend over the last two – three years and we now have an active volunteer base of plus 200 people.

We continue to receive commendations for the high standard in which our building is maintained, a tribute to our Premises Manager. Our volunteers also redecorated the theatre Lounge to make it more appealing to theatre audiences.

Our part-time paid administrator has greatly increased the Theatre's visibility in the town, as he interacts with the public both personally and through the website and social media. He has also hosted theatre volunteers on his regular Harborough FM show to promote our shows and activities.

We have a continuing programme of reviewing and improving the way in which we present the Theatre to the community, including a well-attended annual Open Day with tours and demonstrations of our craft.

All Society members have the opportunity to be involved in acting, directing, designing, building and painting sets, designing and operating sound, lighting, and special effects, stage managing, making and sourcing costumes and props, designing editing and publishing programmes, publicity material, the web site and producing 'Backstage' the members quarterly newsletter. In addition, there have been regular emailed newsletters and both our AGM in November and Spring General Meeting in April allowed members to contribute to the ongoing development of the organisation.

We are fortunate to have many volunteers willing to take on short term tasks, but like most voluntary organisations we depend heavily on a few for the essential coordinating, administrative and managerial roles. A new Board of Trustees was approved at the SGM which took place in May and will take office on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

We carefully limit what we do to avoid over stretching our volunteers and, while not ruling out other art forms such as music, focus primarily on the dramatic events for which our theatre is best suited.

### **Governance and Administration**

MHDS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered number 1162014, whose governing document is its Constitution as a membership organisation, adopted in May 2015 and amended in November 2017.

The Society's principal professional advisers are:

- Bankers: Lloyd's Bank  
CAF bank
- Solicitors: Wartnaby Hefford, 44 High Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AH.
- Independent Examiner: Berry Accountants Ltd, 36 Northampton Road, Market Harborough. LE16 9HE

The Trustees elected at the November 2022 AGM for the 2022-23 season, were: Hazel Cook (Chair), Rita Kimmet (Secretary), John Waller (Treasurer), Sue Waller (Drama Officer), Chris Raymakers (Membership Secretary), Maxine Kempster, Anne Clayton, Barbara Lloyd, Lindsey Wolstoncroft.

### **Future Plans**

Although we are grateful that our show audiences have continued to support us and that we have been very successful in recruiting new members, we remain cautious about the possible impact of the cost-of-living crisis on people's desire for live theatre.

We are an ambitious organisation and have often had to wrestle with the problems of success, namely having more ideas and opportunities than our volunteers are capable of handling, and often larger audiences than we could accommodate. Whilst it would be tempting to outsource more of our activities, we are conscious of our future sustainability and therefore are careful only to undertake projects that we have the resources to sustain. As such, we continue to look at ideas for improving the theatre through the Strategic Review process and associated feasibility studies to inform the development of our five-year plan.

We will also continue to work on the way we promote ourselves within the community, ranging from improved external signage, use of social media, and selecting drama that will interest and attract new people to the theatre. Inevitably this will mean occasionally including plays that challenge as well as simply entertain our audiences.

### **Financial Report**

Financial Accounts, attached, are prepared according to Charity Accounting rules and are intended to comply with FRS 102.

MHDS follows the conventions of accrual accounting to make year-on-year comparisons easier, and to give a truer picture of the financial position at the end of the financial year.

The Society's balance sheet does not include the value of its principal asset, the theatre building, because it is effectively inalienable. Furthermore, the Society owns a quantity of equipment and furnishings to support its theatrical productions, but no value is shown for these because physical assets are written off in the year of purchase.

The Society has continued to manage its finances in accordance with its plans and procedures and has had a very satisfactory year achieving a surplus of income over expenditure of £16,544. Matters contributing to this result are:

- The Trustees decision to increase ticket prices together with high demand for tickets for the season of plays.
- An increase in letting income from Harborough Cinema.
- A generous legacy of £10,000.
- The above partially offset by increased utility charges and general cost inflation.

The improved income has allowed the Trustees to make improvements to the theatre costing £15,145.

During the year to 31 July 2023, no Trustee received payment, except for reimbursement of minor expenditure incurred on behalf of the Society. Except for the direct sponsorship of our seasonal publicity brochure, no income was received for a designated purpose. All fundraising and donations were intended for the general purposes of the Society. Therefore no Restricted Fund is shown in the accounts.

MHDS is not required to have a full audit but the services of an Independent Examiner to examine and report on its financial accounts. The Independent Examiner's report confirms that the accounts, together with this annual report, follow the Charity Commissions SORP guidelines (as amended) and satisfy the requirements of Charity law.

Due to good management and a generous bequest the Drama Society is in a strong financial position and its financial reserves have recovered to pre-Covid shut down levels. The Trustees consider current reserves are sufficient for the theatre to operate safely and with due consideration of its members and the general public.

Signed   
Chair of Trustees

Date 3/10/23

Signed   
Treasurer & Trustee

Date 3/10/23

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2023**

	<b>Total Funds 2022/23 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2021/22 £</b>
<b>Income from:</b>		
Subscriptions	6,458	5,367
Donations	2,358	2,374
Charitable Activities	127,673	89,933
Grants	-	2,667
Legacy	10,000	-
Investments	496	161
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>146,985</u>	<u>100,502</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
Charitable Activities	130,021	120,455
Governance	420	420
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>130,441</u>	<u>120,875</u>
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>	<u>16,544</u>	<u>(20,373)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Balances brought forward	66,610	86,983
Balances carried forward	<u>83,154</u>	<u>66,610</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	96,183	91,924
Stock	910	735
Debtors and Prepayments	9,429	7,906
Total Current Assets	<u>106,522</u>	<u>100,565</u>
Less Creditors and Accruals	<u>23,368</u>	<u>33,955</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>83,154</u>	<u>66,610</u>
 Note: Independent Examiner's Fee	 <u>420</u>	 <u>420</u>

Note that except for sponsorship of next season's brochure, which was simple reimbursement of the printing costs, no donations for specified purposes were received during 2022/23. Therefore no Restricted Fund is shown.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF  
MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 July 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 6.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
  - to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under
  - section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:-

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

MRS R WALDEN FCCA  
BERRY ACCOUNTANTS LTD  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
BOWDEN HOUSE  
36 NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
LE16 9HE

Dated: 3 October 2023.

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 JULY 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	1,386	1,370
Current Accounts	44,374	62,008
Savings Accounts	50,423	28,546
Value of Bar Stock	910	735
Prepayments:-		
Scripts and Licences for next season	5,755	4,694
Other payments in advance	1,400	1,105
Debtors	2,274	2,107
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>106,522</b>	<b>100,565</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Income received for next season:		
Season Tickets	12,385	11,815
Subscriptions	725	640
Theatre Hire	906	406
Creditors	1,078	1,061
Accruals	8,274	4,033
Provision for Electrical Upgrade	-	16,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>23,368</b>	<b>33,955</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>83,154</b>	<b>66,610</b>
 <b>Consisting of:</b>		
General Fund	33,154	16,610
Designated for Contingencies	50,000	50,000
	<b>83,154</b>	<b>66,610</b>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Net Income from Activities</b>			
Membership and Fundraising	1	6,256	5,264
Putting on Plays	3	54,274	28,606
Theatre Hire and Visiting Productions		23,537	15,542
Bar, Coffee and Ice Cream		<u>18,107</u>	<u>10,627</u>
		102,174	60,039
<b>Less: Cost of Overheads</b>			
Running the Theatre	2	51,525	38,870
Administration	4	<u>28,960</u>	<u>21,759</u>
		21,689	(590)
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>			
Less: Improvements	5	15,145	3,276
Quinquennial Survey		-	3,174
Provision for Electrical Upgrade		-	16,000
Add: Grant received HDC		-	2,667
Legacy		<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Deficit for the Year</b>		<u><u>16,544</u></u>	<u><u>(20,373)</u></u>

**NOTE 1: Membership and Fundraising**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions (including Gift Aid)	6,458	5,367
Donations	2,358	2,374
Fundraising	<u>311</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total</b>	9,127	7,741
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Membership Admin	107	619
Newsletter	<u>2,764</u>	<u>1,858</u>
	<u><u>6,256</u></u>	<u><u>5,264</u></u>

**NOTE 2: Running the Theatre**

	2023 £	2022 £
Rates and Utilities	12,905	9,490
Cleaning and Waste Removal	20,506	17,195
Maintenance and Repairs	16,904	10,695
Sundries	<u>1,210</u>	<u>1,490</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>51,525</u></u>	<u><u>38,870</u></u>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2023**

**NOTE 3: Contribution of Plays**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Season Tickets	16,149	13,499
Tickets	51,272	35,151
Programmes (net)	210	124
<b>Total</b>	<u>67,631</u>	<u>48,774</u>
 <b>Costs</b>		
Scripts/Licences	4,949	6,040
Sets	1,871	3,456
Costumes	2,018	2,371
Props	1,317	2,184
Sound and Lighting Equipment	1,555	1,203
Rehearsals	313	281
Publicity Ticketing and Adjudication	768	3,595
Training and Competition	82	1,093
Summer school	484	(55)
	<u>13,357</u>	<u>20,168</u>
 <b>Contribution</b>	<u><u>54,274</u></u>	<u><u>28,606</u></u>

**NOTE 4: Administration of the Society**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Insurance	3,810	3,785
Legal and Professional Fees	3,815	1,124
Audit	420	420
LTG	209	898
Sundries	4,005	2,062
Admin Salaries less Furlough Receipts	17,197	13,631
Less Investment Income	496	161
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>28,960</u></u>	<u><u>21,759</u></u>

**NOTE 5: Improvements and Development**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Various	15,145	3,276
	<u><u>15,145</u></u>	<u><u>3,276</u></u>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1162014

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# Accounts

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**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY (MHDS)**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity no 1162014**  
**Trustees' Annual report for the year ending 31 July 2021**

**Market Harborough Drama Society (MHDS)**  
**Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity no 1162014**  
**Trustees' Annual report for the year ending July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

I am pleased to present this, the annual report of the Trustees of the Market Harborough Drama Society to its members, customers, and the people of Market Harborough, for the 2020-21 season.

John Foreman  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Market Harborough Drama Society

**In the light of the Covid 19 Pandemic the report for this year is highly unusual in that the theatre was closed for the full year apart from some maintenance works and regular Zoom meetings to ensure we would be able to reopen as soon as realistically possible.**

**Some planning meetings took place towards the end of the financial year and providing the situation does not worsen, we expect to reopen in September with a full season of 7 full length plays plus at least one studio play.**

**Parsnips (our Youth Group) have resumed with reduced class numbers and hope to be back to normal after the school holidays.**

**Due to good management in previous years the Drama Society remains in a strong financial position and is prepared to re-open at the earliest possible opportunity, commensurate with the safety of its members and the public.**

**Our objectives remain unaltered.**

### **Objectives and activities**

Market Harborough Drama Society ("MHDS" or "The Society") is a charity whose purposes are "to foster and promote the maintenance, improvement, development, study and practice of dramatic art in all its forms among the inhabitants of the district of Market Harborough and elsewhere".

It advances these purposes by:

- selecting, directing, staging, and performing a full season of plays each year
- maintaining a working theatre containing a 118-seat auditorium, and a 50-seat studio, with full theatre equipment, and making these available, together with supporting services, for hire for public performances
- providing bar and refreshment services in support of public performances in the theatre
- making the theatre lounge and other accommodation available for hire to community groups
- operating a membership scheme including a members' box office, a regular newsletter, and social events.
- Encouraging local youth talent and providing some modest bursaries to support promising young actors and technicians where training fees may be unaffordable.

Public benefit is provided by

- membership available to all, at modest subscriptions which may be waived at the discretion of the Trustees

- a wide variety of public performances in addition to the Society's own dramatic productions, with ticket prices kept low by reliance on volunteers to run the Society and staff its activities
- provision of high-quality facilities to community groups at low cost, with special rates for appropriate regular users.

Harborough Theatre is also home to:

- **Octagon Films**, Market Harborough's only Cinema. plan a regular showing of both classic and modern films plus broadcasts from the National Theatre & Royal Opera House in London, the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, and Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow, and the first of a new series of film shows for "Nurturing Mums"
- **Parsnips Youth Theatre** will resume a programme of three youth classes each week culminating in three 3-night main-stage performances specially written with, and performed by, the students.
- **The Harborough Arts Society's** programme of monthly lectures and study days plus regular art classes held in the theatre lounge will resume in September
- **"Ha-Ha Harborough"**. Monthly stand-up comedy nights will resume a little later in the season.
- **The Young at Heart Group** – a monthly discussion meeting for older people held in the theatre lounge also plan to resume.

and we expect to host

- 2 plays by visiting companies.
- Regular Saturday fund raising coffee mornings by local charities and community groups; and a variety of other meetings and events.
- And a series of social events for both members and visitors.

MHDS is a member of the Little Theatre Guild, a valuable source of theatrical information and advice and hosted a two-day seminar attended by the LTG Management Committee.

### **Achievements and Successes.**

In the past year we continued to improve our house management by updating our Front of House procedures to support the safety and comfort of our patrons. Continuing our programme to develop our technical facilities, we completed the installation the final phase of our new LED stage lights, a new sound desk and an improved communication system to allow Front of House and backstage personnel to be in constant contact with each other.

We also invested further in the building by having a new stage door installed to improve the security of the building. We continue to receive commendations for the high standard in which our building is maintained, a tribute to our Premises Manager.

The appointment (in 2018) of a part-time paid administrator combining the roles of Publicity Officer, Bar Manager, Box Office Manager and Bookkeeper, with an office looking on to Church Square, has greatly increased the Theatre's visibility in the town, as he interacts with the public both personally and through the website and social media.

Despite having been closed for 18 months the membership stands at just under 400 members.

We have a continuing programme of reviewing and improving the way in which we present the Theatre to the community, including a well-attended annual Open Day with tours and demonstrations of our craft.

Parsnips Youth Theatre continues to thrive with over 70 local youngsters taking part in (term-time) classes each week. In addition, there are approximately 50 additional students at two outlying classes in the town. All are treated as associate members of the Society and are encouraged to audition for suitable parts in main house productions.

The success of the Youth Group can be seen in the quality performances of those young people taking part in main house productions, and a number each year go on to study drama at University or Drama Colleges. Bursaries are available to any who need financial assistance.

The planned two weeks of subsidised 'Summer School' had to be postponed until 2022 due to Covid 19 – but will (hopefully) take place.

All Society members have the opportunity to be involved in acting, directing, designing, building and painting sets, designing and operating sound, lighting, and special effects, stage managing, making and sourcing costumes and props, designing editing and publishing programmes, publicity material, the web site and producing 'Backstage' the members quarterly newsletter. In addition there have been regular emailed newsletters and both our AGM in November and Spring General Meeting in May took place via Zoom.

In addition, our members produced an on line 'Radio Play' and carried out all the other management and administrative functions necessary for what is a significant small business.

However, we recognise that we are at the limit of what can be done within our premises, and as such our emphasis now is on quality rather than quantity – although many aspects are under consideration – or were, prior to the pandemic causing disruption.

We are fortunate to have many volunteers willing to take on short term tasks, but like most voluntary organisations we depend heavily on a few for the essential coordinating, administrative and managerial roles.

We carefully limit what we do to avoid over stretching our volunteers and, while not ruling out other art forms such as music, focus primarily on the dramatic events for which our theatre is best suited.

Having said that we organised a 'What We Did in Lockdown' Exhibition of members artistic achievements in July, which was well attended and the work submitted was excellent.

### **Governance and Administration**

MHDS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered number 1162014, whose governing document is its Constitution as a membership organisation, adopted in May 2015 and amended in November 2017.

The Society's principal professional advisers are

- Bankers: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent. ME13 4JQ
- Solicitors: Wartnaby Hefford, 44 High Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AH;
- Independent Examiner: Berry Accountants Ltd, 36 Northampton Road, Market Harborough. LE16 9HE

The Trustees for the 2020-21 season, were: John Foreman (Chairman), Alison Platts (Secretary), Beth Smith (Treasurer), Arthur Aldrich, Jan Cross, Judith Farr, Maxine Kempster, Barbara Lloyd, and Alan Window.

Beth Smith resigned early in the year and was replaced by John Waller and both Arthur Aldrich and Judith Farr resigned due to ill health during the year. With meaningful elections impossible due to the pandemic the Trustees invited Lindsey Wolstencroft to replace Arthur Aldrich and Christine Jack to join the board until such time as elections can take place. Barbara Lloyd also stepped down as Drama Officer with Sue Waller taking her place – but Barbara agreed to remain as a Trustee.

We, therefore have a full complement for this season but will ensure that a proposal is put to the members at our November AGM to resume elections for the 2022-3 season.

### **Future Plans**

We have plans in place to reopen in September and also contingency plans should closure be forced upon us again.

We are fully aware that it may take some time after re-opening for audiences to feel confident about sitting in a crowded theatre

In recent years we have had to wrestle with the problems of success, namely having more ideas and opportunities than were capable of handling, and often larger audiences than we could accommodate.

Whether this will continue in the coming season remains to be seen but we are well prepared to make difficult decisions as and when they arise.

We will also continue to work on the way we promote ourselves to the community, ranging from improved external signage, use of social media, and selecting drama that will interest and attract new people to the theatre. Inevitably this will mean occasionally including plays that challenge our audiences.

Our ticket prices are some of the lowest in comparable venues and we have sanctioned a small increase to balance the books, but our reserves and low overheads mean that we remain in a sound position.

Before the pandemic we were actively looking at ways of increasing our charitable efforts beyond the theatre, and this will continue when things return to something like normal.

We will also continue to develop and update our technical equipment, and we will look for new ways to streamline our basic administration, using modern office technology. That will specifically focus on the training and deployment of our volunteers, and on the health and safety of both volunteers and patrons.

### **Financial Report**

Financial Accounts, attached, are prepared according to Charity Accounting rules and are intended to comply with FRS 102.

MHDS follows the conventions of accrual accounting to make year-on-year comparisons easier, and to give a truer picture of the financial position at the end of the financial year.

The Society's balance sheet does not include the value of its principal asset, the theatre building, because it is effectively inalienable. Furthermore, the Society owns a quantity of equipment and

furnishings to support its theatrical productions, but no value is shown for these because physical assets are written down in the year of purchase.

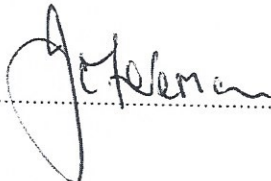
The Society has continued, as far as possible, to manage its finances in accordance with its plans and procedures despite the Covid-19 pandemic that had a significant impact:

- All our normal sources of income were removed by the Government required closure of the theatre. Expenses were carefully managed but an operating deficit of £21,726 was incurred.
- The operating deficit was largely offset by the receipt of £19,003 from various National Business Support Grants for which the Society qualified.
- Our employed Administrator was put on flexible furlough for most of the year and we were able to top-up the Government furlough payments to maintain his full salary.
- Improvements to our technical facilities continued and the costs of £6,599 were in line with budgets.
- The overall deficit for the year of £9,322 has reduced reserves but largely represents the cost of improving technical facilities for the future.

The Society has come through a difficult year in a strong financial position with reserves of £86,983 and a strong cash position.

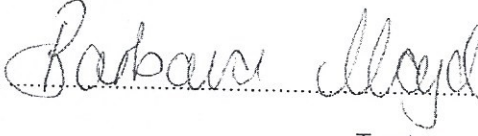
During the year to 31 July 2021, no Trustee received payment, except for reimbursement of minor expenditure incurred on behalf of the Society. Except for the direct sponsorship of our seasonal publicity brochure, no income was received for a designated purpose. All fundraising and donations were intended for the general purposes of the Society. Therefore no Restricted Fund is shown in the accounts.

MHDS is not required to have a full audit but the services of an Independent Examiner to examine and report on its financial accounts. The Independent Examiner's report confirms that the accounts, together with this annual report, follow the Charity Commissions SORP guidelines (as amended) and satisfy the requirements of Charity law.

Signed  .....

Trustee

Date 7.10/21 .....

Signed  .....

Trustee

Date 7/10/21 .....

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2021**

	Total Funds 2020/21 £	Total Funds 2019/20 £
<b>Income from:</b>		
Subscriptions	-	4,919
Donations	2,797	2,181
Fundraising Activities	228	2,193
Charitable Activities	2,659	48,617
Grants	19,003	10,000
Investments	352	740
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>25,039</u>	<u>68,650</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>		
Fundraising	-	1,523
Charitable Activities	33,941	75,171
Governance	420	420
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>34,361</u>	<u>77,114</u>
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>	<u>(9,322)</u>	<u>(8,464)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Balances brought forward	96,305	104,769
Balances carried forward	<u>86,983</u>	<u>96,305</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Cash at Bank and in hand	88,296	99,378
Stock	388	793
Debtors and Prepayments	9,553	5,391
Total Current Assets	<u>98,237</u>	<u>105,562</u>
Less Creditors and Accruals	<u>11,254</u>	<u>9,257</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>86,983</u>	<u>96,305</u>
Note: Independent Examiner's Fee	<u>420</u>	<u>420</u>

Note that except for sponsorship of next season's brochure which was simple reimbursement of the printing costs, no donations for specified purposes were received during 2020/21. Therefore no Restricted Fund is shown.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF  
MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 5 April 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 6.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
  - to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under
- section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the Accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:-

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

MRS R WALDEN FCCA  
BERRY ACCOUNTANTS LTD  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
BOWDEN HOUSE  
36 NORTHAMPTON ROAD  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
LE16 9HE

Dated: 11 October 2021

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 JULY 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	1,375	1,400
Current Accounts	58,532	59,874
Savings Accounts	28,389	38,104
Value of Bar Stock	388	793
Prepayments:-		
Scripts and Licences for next season	5,744	2,626
Other payments in advance	1,115	1,768
Debtors	<u>2,694</u>	<u>997</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>98,237</u>	<u>105,562</u>
 <b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Income received for next season:		
Season Tickets	6,802	-
Subscriptions	707	-
Theatre Hire	55	891
Creditors	2,250	7,259
Accruals	<u>1,440</u>	<u>1,107</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>11,254</u>	<u>9,257</u>
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>	 <u><u>86,983</u></u>	 <u><u>96,305</u></u>
 <b>Consisting of:</b>		
General Fund	36,983	46,305
Designated for Contingencies	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
	<u><u>86,983</u></u>	<u><u>96,305</u></u>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Net Income from Activities</b>			
Membership and Fundraising	1	2,866	4,441
Putting on plays	3	549	16,050
Theatre Hire and Visiting productions		995	12,906
Bar, Coffee and Ice Cream		<u>(359)</u>	<u>7,903</u>
		4,051	41,300
<b>Less: Cost of Overheads</b>			
Running the Theatre	2	17,671	30,804
Administration	4	<u>8,106</u>	<u>13,232</u>
		(21,726)	(2,736)
<b>Operating Deficit</b>			
Less Improvements	5	6,599	15,728
Add: Grant received HDC		<u>19,003</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<b>Total Deficit for the Year</b>		<u><u>(9,322)</u></u>	<u><u>(8,464)</u></u>

**NOTE 1: Membership and Fundraising**

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions (including Gift Aid)	-	4,919
Donations	2,797	2,181
Fundraising	227	(221)
Raffles	-	891
<b>Total</b>	<u>3,024</u>	<u>7,770</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Membership Admin	144	1,292
Newsletter	14	2,037
	<u>2,866</u>	<u>4,441</u>

**NOTE 2: Running the Theatre**

	2021 £	2020 £
Rates and Utilities	4,098	8,441
Cleaning and Waste Removal	2,415	10,803
Maintenance and Repairs	9,321	9,559
Sundries	<u>1,837</u>	<u>2,001</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>17,671</u></u>	<u><u>30,804</u></u>

**MARKET HARBOROUGH DRAMA SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2021**

**NOTE 3: Contribution of Plays**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Season Tickets	-	9,082
Tickets	-	20,488
Programmes (net)	-	61
Costume Hire/Sales	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,631</u>
<b>Costs</b>		
Scripts/Licences	(1,498)	5,596
Sets	118	2,014
Costumes	-	1,717
Props	-	1,864
Rehearsals	-	24
Publicity Ticketing and Adjudication	595	1,964
Training and Comp	236	402
	<u>(549)</u>	<u>13,581</u>
<b>Contribution</b>	<u>(549)</u>	<u>16,050</u>

**NOTE 4: Administration of the Society**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Insurance	2,846	3,595
Legal and Professional Fees	-	-
Audit	420	420
LTC	70	70
Sundries	230	1,308
Admin Salaries less Furlough Receipts	4,892	8,579
Less Investment Income	352	740
<b>Total</b>	<u>8,106</u>	<u>13,232</u>

**NOTE 5: Improvements and Development**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Various	<u>6,599</u>	<u>15,728</u>