

CHAIR'S REPORT 2026

From where I stand it seems as though it has been quite a busy year and yet I remain unconvinced that we have made sufficient progress in developing the use of The Old School in the way we all imagined in the early days. If we going to be able to fully justify all the hard work put into developing the building then we will have to do a better job in creating leader led activities and a programme of wide appeal and community support. Despite our frequent calls for more people to be involved we continue to suffer from the modern malaise that organisations such as ours are facing , the length and breadth of the country, a lack of willingness for some people to take some responsibility and volunteer.

Having said that we do have a core of those that do make a major contribution to our work for which we are most grateful. Those volunteers are much valued and appreciated for their work , maintaining Lover Green, cleaning, decorating and maintaining the main building, running the Darling Cafe and pop-up Post Office, the Valentine Team and the general running and management of the Trust. In addition the regular hiring of the building for fitness and yoga classes gives us the type of activity and income that we are looking for. There must, however, be more and once again the call is out for people to come forward and get involved.

This year will see the start of two activities of note. The Theatre Club will begin, hopefully in April when we will be arranging broadcasts from the National Theatre. If that is successful then we will to broadcast some ballet and opera in due course. We will like to create a club atmosphere for these events so your help and ideas would be welcome.

A couple of months ago a group of 14 interested people came together with the aim of creating a Valentine Tapestry of note, depicting the early history of Valentine celebrations though the ages culminating in the Lover Valentine Post. There is great enthusiasm in this Tapestry Team and , in time it might lead to a crafting group operating from the Old School in its own right.

Each year the one event that has become our signature and most supported event is the Valentine Post. It has reached parts of the world we would never have thought possible and this year attracted more people to the Darling Cafe than ever before. The Darling Cafe has become a much loved and strong brand with a highly recognisable livery. This year we were lucky enough to find ourselves a talented young person who has considerable experience in social media. Her input to online posts has been a game changer for us and I know this is only the start. Having done some research on the topic it appears that Lover's involvement with the Valentine card stamping goes back over 50 years. It is for that reason that we are now considering a major PR campaign to celebrate that fact for next year.

The building, as yet is unfinished. The last major phase will be the creation of a new entrance and sitting area. The Board of Trustees is wrestling with various options and although we already have planning permission the costs of around £150, 000 is proving to be difficult. At this stage we hold onto the vision of what is needed and remain committed to finding the right solution. Waiting for a kind benefactor or altruistic sponsor could be a long wait so the graft to find sufficient funds continues for the moment. It is hoped that we might be able to display plans of the current thinking for you to see at the AGM.

This year we have lost a few of our members and our deepest sympathies go out to the bereaved families and friends. It is these moments that we are reminded that nothing can be taken for granted and why it is vital that the Trust and its membership continues to grow in the years to come. Strong community organisations underpin public life in this country and it is rural communities that are often forgotten.

ENDS

Lover Community Trust - Accounts for the year to 31st December
(Receipts and Payments Format)

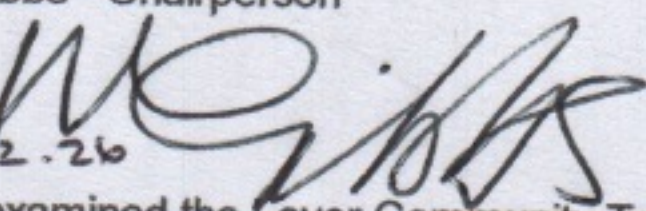
Year to 31 Dec. 2024 £		Year to 31 Dec. 2025 £	
Receipts			
415.00	Membership	490.00	
1337.60	Donations	3570.00	
23.95	Reward schemes	15.14	
8422.97	Fundraising	10637.01	Note 2
6112.00	Hire fees	8669.50	
0.00	Grants	0.00	
607.19	Gift Aid	425.20	
167.00	Other	684.44	
<u>17085.71</u>	Total receipts	<u>24491.29</u>	
Payments			
12408.38	Refurbishment costs	4746.27	Note 3
1295.86	Insurance	1347.88	
1036.52	Equipment purchase / maintenance	470.26	
539.81	Electricity	590.76	
1611.19	Gas	1405.24	
466.95	Phone / broadband	518.70	
609.92	Water rates	892.42	
501.56	Repairs and maintenance	370.67	
433.94	Cleaning	551.18	
184.95	Marketing / advertising	150.00	
103.33	Admin. / office costs	85.58	
223.23	Memberships and licences	240.69	
1800.63	Lover Green expenditure	1554.64	
8220.00	Lover Green - replacement mower	0.00	
74.24	Other / sundry	56.58	
<u>29510.51</u>	Total payments	<u>12980.87</u>	
<u>-12424.80</u>	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u>11510.42</u>	
44829.41	Balance brought forward	32404.61	
<u>32404.61</u>	Balance carried forward	<u>43915.03</u>	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2025

32352.05	Cash at bank	43892.03
52.56	Petty Cash	23.00
0.00	PayPal Balance	0.00
120000.00	Buildings	120000.00
27370.00	Equipment and other fixed assets	27370.00
	Debtors	
<u>138459.41</u>	Net assets	<u>191285.03</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 17th JANUARY 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Nick Gibbs - Chairperson

Date: 03.02.26 

I have examined the Lover Community Trust Receipts and Payments accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the period ending 31st December 2025. To the best of my knowledge and belief, and in accordance with the information given to me, they have been properly prepared from the accounting records of the charity and are in agreement with them.

Examiner: AMANDA GARNETT 1-GQUT

Date: 11/2/26

P.T.O

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

1. These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
2. Fundraising is shown net of expenses and consists of:

	Net Income £
Valentine's Post	8450.37
Pop Up Café	2186.64
Total	10637.01

3. Refurbishment work in 2025 consisted of:

	£
Theatre Project	3387.84
Sundries	1358.43
Total	4746.27

4. Movements in restricted and designated funds were as follows:

Restricted funds

There are currently no restricted funds

Designated funds

Total		Lover Green		LCT	Refurbishment
		Mower	Fencing	Boiler	Reserve
£		Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund
11500.00	Balance b/f	1000.00	2000.00	7000.00	1500.00
0.00	Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000.00	Transfers	1000.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00
<u>13500.00</u>	Balance c/f	<u>2000.00</u>	<u>2000.00</u>	<u>8000.00</u>	<u>1500.00</u>

- (1) The mower fund is a sinking fund over 10 years to replace the mower at a cost of £10 000.
- (2) The fencing fund is a sinking fund of £2000 over 10 years for replacement fencing
The balance now stands at £2000 and so there is no addition this year.
- (3) The boiler fund is a sinking fund over 10 years to replace the boiler at a cost of £10000.
- (4) The Refurbishment Reserve Fund is intended to meet any unexpected large expenses not covered by insurance.
It is set at a level such that that the aggregate of restricted and designated funds remains above £10 000, with a minimum level of £1500