

WANTAGE LITERARY FESTIVAL

England & Wales · Charity number 1165315

Details

Other names	WANTAGE (NOT JUST) BETJEMAN LITERARY FESTIVAL
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-01-26
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	12 Brookside Headington Oxford OX3 7PJ
Phone	07979512104
Email	festivaldirector@wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk
Website	http://www.wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk/

Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF THE ARTS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY THE PROMOTION OF LITERATURE, LANGUAGE AND THE ARTS IN PARTICULAR THROUGH A LITERARY FESTIVAL IN WANTAGE AND SUCH OTHER ACTIVITIES AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: The promotion of the arts, advancement of education for the benefit of the public by the promotion of literature, language and the arts in particular through a literary festival in Wantage, Oxfordshire.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£42,776	£31,665	-	-
2024-03-31	£39,917	£34,947	-	-
2023-03-31	£33,214	£17,377	-	-
2022-03-31	£771	£5,822	-	-
2021-03-31	£967	£10,379	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BENJAMIN WILLIAM DREYER		2015-01-01
GEOFFREY STEPHEN WILLIAMS B.SC.HONS		2016-01-01
Hannah Spivey		2022-07-06
JENNIFER HANNABY		2015-12-14
Nicola Jane Hanna		2023-02-06
Valery Rose		2017-07-11

Accounts

Festival Report for 2024

We had another tremendous festival in 2024. In total we had 32 events in the week of the festival as well as several events outside the Festival week. As always there was a real breadth to the events that we put on, appealing to a wide range of interests in the local community. Some of the speakers were those who have supported us before such as Pam Ayers, Larry Lamb and Max Hastings, as well as an array of new speakers. As with previous festivals we also held events for children. We had Iszi Lawrence for our primary school events and Marcus Brigstocke for the Sir Christopher Ricks Lecture given in conjunction with King Alfreds, the local secondary school.

A big new development in 2024 was the events we held outside the festival week. This included some talks, such as Graeme Hall, writing competitions for school children, Tea and Cake, Quiz Night and The Big Read with Tom Hindle. This again emphasises how much the Festival brings to the local community.

The success of the Festival is reflected in the Finances. We ended the year almost £10,000 ahead of the previous year. We are a not-for-profit charity, so this additional money will be reinvested back into the 2025 programme.

The whole event would not be possible without our splendid Festival Director, Judith Knight, and the wonderful team of volunteers. We are very grateful to them all. They all put in a huge amount of effort and are constantly evolving the festival and what it delivers. The Wantage community is lucky to have them!

Ben Dreyer
Chairman of the Trustees
Wantage Literary Festival

Wantage Literary Festival 2024-2025

Receipts and Payments for Year ended 31st March 2025

Registered Charity 1165315

	2024-2025	2023-2024
Receipts	£	£
Net Ticket Sales	30,806.67	£ 23,386.63
Donations, Grants & Sponsorship	10,014.79	£ 13,058.01
Fundraising Events	658.14	£ 2,141.94
Book Sales Commission	600.00	£ 535.00
There's A Monster Merchandise	-	£ 725.55
Café	595.98	£ -
Floats	100.00	£ 70.00
Total Receipts for the Year	42,775.58	£ 39,917.13
Payments		
Salary Festival Director	£ 12,113.19	£ 10,911.51
HMRC	£ 315.00	£ 928.12
Team Welfare	£ 259.02	£ 325.97
Bank Charges	£ 81.00	£ 115.83
Speakers' fees and expenses	£ 8,063.06	£ 10,193.68
Venue costs	£ 3,710.87	£ 5,806.79
First Aid Training	-	£ 399.60
Insurance	£ 567.08	£ 501.50
Miscellaneous	£ 851.18	£ 1,218.01
Website Costs:		
Seven Design	£ 936.00	£ 936.00
CD Associates	£ 128.40	£ 128.40
Hosting		
Advertising and Marketing (including leaflet design and printing)	£ 2,831.68	£ 2,432.45
Refreshments - café and green room	£ 153.56	£ 80.93
Schools Programme books, donation and bursary	£ 540.00	
VOWHDC - The Beacon - Deposit	£ 961.00	£ 756.00
Wantage Methodist Church Deposit	-	£ 50.00
The Comrades Club - Hire and Cleaning	£ 110.00	-
Ticket Refunds	£ 44.00	£ 162.00
Total Payments for the Year	£ 31,665.04	£ 34,946.79
Surplus of Receipts over Payments	<u>£ 11,110.54</u>	<u>£ 4,970.34</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2025

Funds in hand as at 31st March 2024	£ 43,888.09	£ 38,917.75
Surplus of Receipts over Payments	£ 11,110.54	£ 4,970.34
Balance at Barclays as at 31st March 2025	<u>£ 54,998.63</u>	<u>£43,888.09</u>

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees Charity Name
Wantage Literary Festival

On accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025 **Charity no (if any)** 1165315

Set out on pages 3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

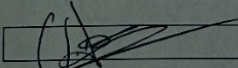
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: 

Date: 30th May 2025

Name: CLÉMENT JOHN DAVIES

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): RETIRED JP, FCA

Address: 64 CHARLTON ROAD, WANTAGE, OXON OX12 8HG

Accounts

Festival Report for 2023

In 2023 we returned to a full scale festival with 28 events, after the scaled down, post-Covid, 2022 Festival. We were delighted that it was very successful. We sold nearly 2000 tickets across a wide range of events, with consistently positive feedback. A key feature of the Festival is the variety of events, as we look to appeal to cross section of the local community. The first act of the Festival, on Super-Saturday, was Will Gompertz, the art critic, followed by Beth O'Leary, the popular romance novelist, immediately demonstrating our range. We had children's events such as well as poetry from speaker Mary Jean Chan. All in all a real feast for the people of Wantage.

Financially the Festival was also a success, even though one of our larger acts was unable to attend due to health reasons. We finished the Festival with a modest profit, returning our end of year cash position to pre-Covid levels. The only note for us is that sponsorship is getting increasing harder to get, a reflection of the financial pressures people and companies are feeling at the moment.

Our Festival Director, Vicki Luker, was unfortunately unable to perform her usual role due to complications from surgery. Our thanks go to Judith Knight and the team of volunteers who did an amazing job running the event seamlessly in her absence. A tremendous achievement.

Ben Dreyer
Chairman of the Trustees
Wantage Literary Festival

Wantage Literary Festival 2023-2024

Receipts and Payments for Year ended 31st March 2024

Registered Charity 1165315

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Receipts	£	£
Net Ticket Sales	£ 23,386.63	£ 19,402.60
Donations, Grants & Sponsorship	£ 13,058.01	£ 11,041.26
Fundraising Events	£ 2,141.94	£ 2,770.02
Book Sales Commission	£ 535.00	-
There's A Monster Merchandise	£ 725.55	-
Float	£ 70.00	-
Total Receipts for the Year	£ 39,917.13	£ 33,213.88
Payments		
Salary Festival Director	£ 10,911.51	£ 8,187.00
HMRC	£ 928.12	-
Team Welfare	£ 325.97	£ 500.84
Bank Charges	£ 115.83	£ 107.33
Speakers' fees and expenses	£ 10,193.68	£ 2,007.58
Venue costs	£ 5,806.79	£ 2,378.74
First Aid Training	£ 399.60	-
Insurance	£ 501.50	£ 456.00
Miscellaneous	£ 1,218.01	£ 861.69
Website Costs:		
Seven Design	£ 936.00	£ 936.00
CD Associates	£ 128.40	£ 122.40
Hosting		
Advertising and Marketing (including leaflet design and printing)	£ 2,432.45	£ 656.55
Refreshments	£ 80.93	£ 138.50
VOWHDC - The Beacon - Deposit 2024	£ 756.00	£ 1,023.79
Wantage Methodist Church - Deposit 2024	£ 50.00	-
Ticket Refunds	£ 162.00	-
Total Payments for the Year	£ 34,946.79	£ 17,376.62
Surplus of Receipts over Payments	<u>£ 4,970.34</u>	<u>£ 15,837.26</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2024

Funds in hand as at 31st March 2023	£ 38,917.75	£ 23,080.49
Surplus of Receipts over Payments	£ 4,970.34	£ 15,837.26
Balance at Barclays as at 31st March 2024	<u>£ 43,888.09</u>	<u>£ 38,917.75</u>



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Wantage Literary Festival

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st March 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1165315

Set out on pages

3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2024

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date: 30th May 2024

Name:

CLEMENT JOHN DAVIES

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

RETIRED JP, FCA

Address:

64 CHARLTON ROAD, WANTAGE, OXON OX12 8HG

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Wantage Literary Festival

On accounts for the year ended

31st March 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1165315

Set out on pages

3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date: 25TH APRIL 2023

Name:

CLEMENT JOHN DAVIES

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

RETIRED JP, FCA

Address:

64 CHARLTON ROAD, WANTAGE, OXON OX12 8HG

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE

Receipts and Payments for Year ended 31st March 2023

Registered Charity 1165315

	2022-2023	2021-2022
Receipts	£	£
Net Ticket Sales	£19,402.60	£0.00
Donations Grants and Sponsorship	£11,041.26	£770.70
Fundraising Events	£2,770.02	
Total Receipts for the Year	£33,213.88	£770.70
Payments		
Salary Festival Director	£8,187.00	£4,035.02
Team Welfare	£500.84	£99.50
Bank Charges	£107.33	£98.50
Speakers' fees and expenses	£2,007.58	£0.00
Venue costs	£2,378.74	£0.00
First Aid Training	£0.00	£0.00
Insurance	£456.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£861.89	£93.60
Website Costs:		
Seven Design	£936.00	£936.00
CD Associates	£122.40	
Hosting		£122.40
GoCardless/Enthuse.com		£263.89
Zoom		£172.68
Advertising and Marketing (including leaflet design and printing)	£656.55	
Refreshments	£138.50	
VOWHDC - The Beacon - Deposit 2023	£1,023.79	
Total Payments for the Year	£17,376.62	£5,821.59
Surplus (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments	<u>£15,837.26</u>	<u>-£5,050.89</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2023

Funds in hand at 5th April 2022	£23,080.49	£28,131.38
Surplus (Deficit) of Receipts over Payments	£15,837.26	-£5,050.89
Balance at Barclays as at 31st March 2023	£38,917.75	<u>£23,080.49</u>

Accounts

In 2021 we again had to cancel the Festival, which was a great disappointment. This was driven by safety concerns, for both our visitors and our supporting staff, in light of the Covid pandemic. We looked at several options but in addition to our safety concerns they also presented too much financial risk with the strong possibility of either cancellations or reduced visitor numbers.

Although our cash balance has been reduced through the pandemic, we remain in a relatively strong financial position as we start 2022.

The main news is that we are aiming to run the Festival in 2022, so planning has started to support this. It will be a scaled back event, managing the risk of putting it on, but we are confident that we can start to re-build our finances. One element we will not be able to put on is the school's programme. This is due to both our financial situation and also the pressure schools are under as they recover from the impact of the Covid pandemic.

We are hoping that in 2023 we will be in a position to expand our programme.

Ben Dreyer
Chairman of the Trustees

Statement of Accounts for Wantage Literary Festival 2021-2022
Registered Charity 1165315

2020-2021			
Income		£	£
	Ticket Sales		0.00
	Grants and Sponsorship		966.64
			966.64
Expenditure			
	Salary Festival Director	8697.30	
	Advertising	88.00	
	Team Welfare	86.40	
	Banking	59.92	
	Authors, Events & Speakers	0.00	
	Venue Costs	0.00	
	First Aid training	0.00	
	Insurance	0.00	
	Misc	0.00	
	Website Costs:		
	<i>Seven Design</i>	936.00	
	<i>Hosting</i>	80.40	
	<i>GoCardless</i>	239.90	
	<i>Zoom</i>	172.68	
	<i>Event books</i>	18.19	
			10378.79
	Loss		-9412.15
	Funds in hand at 30th March 2020		37543.53
	Balance at Barclays as of 5th April 2021		<u>28131.38</u>

2021-2022			
Income		£	£
	Ticket Sales		0.00
	Sponsorship and Donations		770.70
			770.70
Expenditure			
	Salary Festival Director	4035.02	
	Team Welfare	99.50	
	Banking	98.50	
	Authors, Events & Speakers	0.00	
	Venue Costs	0.00	
	First Aid Training	0.00	
	Insurance	0.00	
	Misc	93.60	
	Website Costs:		
	<i>Seven Design</i>	936.00	
	<i>Hosting</i>	122.40	
	<i>GoCardless/Enthuse.com</i>	263.89	
	<i>Zoom</i>	172.68	
			5,821.59
	Loss		-5050.89
	Funds in hand at 5th April 2021		28131.38
	Balance at Barclays as at 5th April 2022		<u>23080.49</u>

Accounts

In 2021 we again had to cancel the Festival, which was a great disappointment. This was driven by safety concerns, for both our visitors and our supporting staff, in light of the Covid pandemic. We looked at several options but in addition to our safety concerns they also presented too much financial risk with the strong possibility of either cancellations or reduced visitor numbers.

Although our cash balance has been reduced through the pandemic, we remain in a relatively strong financial position as we start 2022, assuming we are able to hold a festival in 2022.

Our Festival Director, Vicki Luker, stepped down from her role. Vicki has been a tremendous asset to the Festival during her tenure, taking it from strength to strength. Vicki will join the Board of Trustees. We have been lucky enough to recruit a new Festival Director, Victoria Lympus. Victoria lives in Wantage and has a publishing background which is ideal for the role.

Ben Dreyer
Chairman of the Trustees

Statement of Accounts for Wantage Literary Festival 2020-2021

Registered Charity 1165315

	2019	2020
Income	£	£
Ticket Sales	23,540.37	
Grants and Sponsorship	<u>7,688.09</u>	
		31,228.46
Expenditure		
Salary Festival Director	8,325.20	
Advertising	3,931.79	
Team Welfare	380.46	
Banking	103.54	
Authors, Events & Speakers	7,843.19	
Venue Costs	3,737.42	
First Aid training	336.00	
Insurance	280.00	
Schools Programme	1,824.33	
Misc.	29.39	
Website	1,045.20	
Stationary	25.44	
Festival Asset - Laptop	549.95	
		<u>28,411.91</u>
Surplus		<u>2,816.55</u>
Funds in hand at 4th April 2019		<u>34,726.98</u>
Balance at Barclays as of 30th March 2020		<u>37,543.53</u>

	2020	2021
Income	£	£
Ticket Sales	-	
Grants and Sponsorship	<u>966.64</u>	
		966.64
Expenditure		
Salary Festival Director	8,697.30	
Advertising	88.00	
Team Welfare	86.40	
Banking	59.92	
Authors, Events & Speakers	-	
Venue Costs	-	
First Aid training	-	
Insurance	-	
Misc.	-	
Website Costs:		
<i>Seven Design</i>	936.00	
<i>Hosting</i>	80.40	
<i>GoCardles</i>	239.90	
<i>Zoom</i>	172.68	
<i>Event books</i>	18.19	
		<u>10,378.79</u>
Loss		<u>- 9,412.15</u>
Funds in hand at 30th March 2020		<u>37,543.53</u>
Balance at Barclays as of 5th April 2021		<u>28,131.38</u>

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Asset 1.	Laptop	Purchased 2019-2020
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