

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

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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