

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").

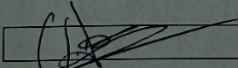
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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: CLEMENT JOHN DAVIES

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

RETIRED JP, FCA

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