

COMPANY OF FRIENDS

England & Wales · Charity number 1172644

Details

Other names	COMPANY OF FRIENDS THEATRE
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2017-04-19
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	54 Navigation Wharf Liverpool L3 4DN
Phone	07425136082
Email	admin@companyoffriends.org.uk
Website	companyoffriends.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY WORKING WITH PEOPLE IN MERSEYSIDE WHO HAVE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AS A RESULT OF THEIR LEARNING DIFFICULTIES TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF SUCH PEOPLE AND ASSIST THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY, IN PARTICULAR (BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING) BY:(3.1) THE PRACTISE AND PERFORMANCE OF THEATRE, ART, MUSIC AND MOVEMENT THERAPY,(3.2) PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING VISITS TO ART INSTITUTIONS,(3.3) RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES AFFECTING PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, BOTH GENERALLY AND IN RELATION TO THEIR SOCIAL EXCLUSION,(3.4) PROVIDING WORKSHOPS, FORUMS AND GENERAL SUPPORT, AND PROVIDING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES.

Activities: COMPANY OF FRIENDS is a theatre company for adults with learning disabilities. Our activities include drama workshops, improvisation and scripted performance. We liaise with other theatre companies and organisations catering for adults with learning 0001

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Recreation
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- Liverpool City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£6,926	£6,154	-	-
2024-04-05	£10,379	£14,822	-	-
2023-04-05	£11,624	£4,119	-	-
2022-04-06	£2,764	£4,475	-	-
2021-04-06	£2,792	£2,061	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PAUL LAFFERTY	Chair	2017-03-03
ALAN WARDLE		2017-03-03
Sheila Rand		2020-10-01

COMPANY OF FRIENDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1172644

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date			
From	06	04	2024	To	05	04	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

The Black-E	
1 Great George Street	
Liverpool	
Postcode	L1 5EW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Alan Wardle			
2	Paul Lafferty			
3	Sheila Rand			
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19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by the existing Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people in Merseyside who have learning difficulties, who are socially excluded as a result of their learning difficulties and to relieve the needs of such people and assist them to integrate into society.

Main activities include

The practise and performance of theatre, art, music and movement therapy,

Providing educational opportunities including visits to art institutions,

Raising public awareness of the issues affecting people with learning difficulties, both generally and in relation to their social exclusion,

Providing workshops, forums and general support, and providing recreational facilities and opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

What we do

Drama is an established method for promoting self-confidence and a sense of belonging and sharing experiences. It breaks the cycle of isolation, brings people together and presents them with challenges they can solve collaboratively. Company of Friends supports its members through the practise and performance of theatre, art, music and movement therapy.

Since 2016, Company of Friends Theatre has staged many productions (at the Black-E), including 'Dr Who and the Unknown Dimension', 'Macbeth', 'Our Will', 'Hamlet', 'Sherlock Holmes and the Wolfman', 'The Tempest' and 'Nothing to be Done', based on Samuel Becket's work. Also, we have collaborated with LIPA to stage 'The Red and Black', a factual production, involving the Spanish Civil War and some Liverpool Sailors, performed at LIPA and the Anglican Cathedral, and more recently, 'The Tam O'Shanter Project, performed at Bidston, The Wirral. Victoria Victorious, on the streets of New Brighton. 'More than a Club' at Tranmere Rovers Football Club. Our latest collaboration with LIPA, 'Penny Lane Peoples', was performed with 6 other groups, at the Penny Lane Community Centre.

After much consideration and consultation, 'Company B', was born in May 2022. This activity group is seen as a stepping-stone, to the main group. Commitment is more relaxed, with drama activity taking a secondary role, with the focus being on confidence, communication, collaboration, focus and fun. Currently, 6 members are involved, with hopefully more to come.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Accountability

Our members direct the work our Charity undertakes. The volunteers support the members in achieving this. Initially, discussions with the entire group take place. Members will give suggestions as to what they would like to do next. This can range from 'Hamlet' to 'Sherlock Holmes and the Wolfman'. Scripts are written, amended and then rehearsed. Before, finally 'Company of Friends' presents a production to a paying public.

Equal Opportunities

Company of Friends recognises that it is essential to provide to all persons without discrimination. Though we support members predominantly with Downs Syndrome, all our members are treated equally without discrimination. Our members have a range of capacities, which does necessitate achieving a 'good fit' with the individual's ability and the requirements of their involvement.

Company of Friends promotes engagement with other local communities for the development of shared projects. Current projects being undertaken include collaboration with LIPA, Mencap and Liverpool Adult Social Services

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**Productions**

For the main group, members of 'Company of Friends', began development and rehearsal of 'Murder most Haunted', early 2024.

As always, we challenge our members, to further refine their skills, with the dramas we undertake. This latest play, does exactly that, with members taking on multiple roles, and with the added challenge, of strong emotional expression. A public performance was held at the 'Black-E', our base theatre, later that year, and was well received.

Company B, continues to grow in members and their skills. Working collaboratively, they have improved in many areas, including communication, memory, confidence and focus. Especially impressive is the emotion they bring to the characters they portray, a real sign of acting maturity.

Again, Company of Friends began collaborating in Easter, with the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA), on a shared production, with 6 other groups. The project 'Penny Lane Peoples', was presented to an audience of several hundred at the 'Penny Lane Community Centre'.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Company of Friends does not have a Reserves Policy

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The main expenditures for 'Company of Friends' and 'Company B' are 3 fold. Payments to project facilitators, administration and payment for office and rehearsal space.

Over recent years, we have secured grants from 'The Arts Council', 'The Lottery', the 'Community Impact Fund', Jack's supermarket, 'Elizabeth Rathbone Trust', 'John Moores Foundation', 'Eleanor Rathbone Trust' and 'The Merseyside Lieutenancy'

When no funding has been secured, we rely on the minimal subscription we charge our members, £4 a session (4 hours), to keep operational.

At times, we have been fortunate that facilitators, administration and hire space has been donated, either for free, or for a token amount.

Section F

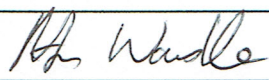
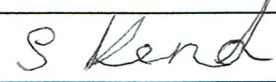
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Alan Wardle	Sheila Rand
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee/Secretary	Trustee
Date	03/02/2026	



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	06/04/2024	To	05/04/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	360	-	-	360	360
Subscriptions	1,525	-	-	1,525	1,510
Received Dance	240	-	-	240	29
Eleanor Rathbone Grant		3,000	-	3,000	-
Elizabeth Rathbone Grant		1,656	-	1,656	-
Lottery Grant					8,280
Members TenPin contribution	40			40	140
Members Meal Contribution	105			105	60
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,270	4,656	-	6,926	10,379
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,270	4,656	-	6,926	10,379
A3 Payments					
Administration	1,020		-	1,020	720
Web Site	359	-	-	359	441
Black-E Rental Hire		-	-	-	110
Facillitator Dance Payment	240				
Members Tenpin Bowling	129	-	-	129	408
Members Meals	174	-	-	174	120
IT Computer Drives	67			67	
Productions Cost	17			17	82
Sets/Prop Costs	4	-	-	4	170
Training Materials	24	-	-	24	19
Stationary, Ink, stamps & expenses	22			22	62
Facillitator Payments		4,080		4,080	12,480
Audio Equipment					210
Tea/Coffee/Milk	18			18	48
Last year missed £48 , Tea and Coffee					
Sub total	2,074	4,080	-	6,154	14,870
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,074	4,080	-	6,154	14,870
Net of receipts/(payments)	196	576	-	772	- 4,491
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	- 284	4,080	-	3,796	3,844
Cash funds this year end	- 88	4,656	-	4,568	60

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	148	4,656	-
	Cash	60	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	88	4,656	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

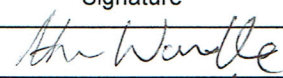
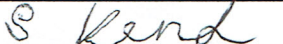
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alan Wardle	03/02/2026
	Sheila Rand	03/02/2026

COMPANY OF FRIENDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1172644

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date			
From	06	04	2023	To	05	04	2024

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Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

The Black-E	
1 Great George Street	
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Postcode	L1 5EW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
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Company of Friends promotes engagement with other local communities for the development of shared projects. Current projects being undertaken include collaboration with LIPA, Mencap and Liverpool Adult Social Services

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**Productions**

For the main group, members of 'Company of Friends', began development and rehearsal of 'What Ho! Uncle Vanya', early 2023. This has been their most demanding work to date, being a melding of Chekhov and PG Woodhouse, with some Russian elements of the play, being exceptionally challenging. A public performance were held at the 'Black-E', our base theatre, later that year, and was well received.

Company B, has continued to grow and flourish. A previously written drama 'The Cinnamon Roll', was considered ideal, for a first taste of drama, and has proved ideal, for this new cohort, to develop confidence with collaboration. Public performances are imminent.

As usual, Company of Friends began collaborating in Easter, with the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA) in Easter, in co-operation with 2 other drama groups, each presenting their own work, as part of a main performance, which on this occasion was presented in the Main Theatre, at the Black-E, to an audience of several hundred.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Company of Friends does not have a Reserves Policy

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
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Over recent years, we have secured grants from 'The Arts Council', 'The Lottery', the 'Community Impact Fund', Jack's supermarket, 'Elizabeth Rathbone Trust', 'John Moores Foundation' and 'Eleanor Rathbone Trust'

When no funding has been secured, we rely on the minimal subscription we charge our members, £4 a session (4 hours), to keep operational.

At times, we have been fortunate that facilitators, administration and hire space has been donated, either for free, or for a token amount.

Section F


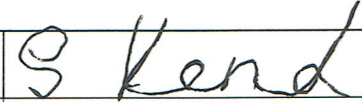
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Alan Wardle	Sheila Rand
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee/Secretary	Trustee

Date 24/02/2025



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	06/04/2023	To	05/04/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	360	-	-	360	1,660
Subscriptions	1,510	-	-	1,510	1,474
Other Payments	29	-	-	29	
Lottery Grant					8,280
Black-E Contributions (light Desk)					210
John Moores Foundation Grant		8,280		8,280	
Members Theatre contributions	140			140	
Members Meal Contributions	60			60	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,099	8,280	-	10,379	11,624
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,099	8,280	-	10,379	11,624
A3 Payments					
Administration	720		-	720	1,760
Web Site	441	-	-	441	503
Black-E Rental Hire	110	-	-	110	440
Members Theatre Tickets	408	-	-	408	358
Members Meals	120	-	-	120	355
Black-E Payment (light Desk)					210
Audio Expenses					30
Productions	82			82	115
Sets/Prop Costs	170	-	-	170	248
Training Materials	19	-	-	19	31
Stationary, Ink, stamps & expenses	62			62	69
Facilitator Payments		12,480		12,480	
Audio Equipment	210			210	
Tea/Coffee/Milk	48			48	
Sub total	2,342	12,480	-	14,822	4,119
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,342	12,480	-	14,822	4,119
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 243	- 4,200	-	- 4,443	7,505
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	7	8,280	-	8,287	314
Cash funds this year end	- 236	4,080	-	3,844	7,819

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	242	4,080	-
	Cash	6	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	236	4,080	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

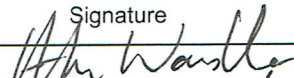

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alan Wardle	04/02/2025
	Sheila Rand	04/02/2025

COMPANY OF FRIENDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1172644

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date		
	07	04	2022	05	04	2023
From				To		

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

The Black-E
1 Great George Street
Liverpool
Postcode <input type="text" value="L1 5EW"/>

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Alan Wardle			
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <i>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</i>	Constitution
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- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people in Merseyside who have learning difficulties, who are socially excluded as a result of their learning difficulties and to relieve the needs of such people and assist them to integrate into society.

Main activities include

The practise and performance of theatre, art, music and movement therapy,

Providing educational opportunities including visits to art institutions,

Raising public awareness of the issues affecting people with learning difficulties, both generally and in relation to their social exclusion,

Providing workshops, forums and general support, and providing recreational facilities and opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

What we do

Drama is an established method for promoting self-confidence and a sense of belonging and sharing experiences. It breaks the cycle of isolation, brings people together and presents them with challenges they can solve collaboratively. Company of Friends supports its members through the practise and performance of theatre, art, music and movement therapy.

Since 2016, Company of Friends Theatre has staged many productions (at the Black-E), including 'Dr Who and the Unknown Dimension', 'Macbeth', 'Our Will', 'Hamlet', 'Sherlock Holmes and the Wolfman', 'The Tempest' and 'Nothing to be Done', based on Samuel Becket's work. Also, we have collaborated with LIPA to stage 'The Red and Black', a factual production, involving the Spanish Civil War and some Liverpool Sailors, performed at LIPA and the Anglican Cathedral, and more recently, 'The Tam O'Shanter Project, performed at Bidston, The Wirral. Victoria Victorious, on the streets of New Brighton. And our latest collaboration with LIPA, 'More than a Club' at Tanmere Rovers Football Club.

After much consideration and consultation, 'Company B', was born in May 2022. This activity group is seen as a stepping-stone, to the main group. Commitment is more relaxed, with drama activity taking a secondary role, with the focus being on confidence, communication, collaboration, focus and fun. Currently, 6 members are involved, with hopefully more to come.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Accountability

Our members direct the work our Charity undertakes. The volunteers support the members in achieving this. Initially, discussions with the entire group take place. Members will give suggestions as to what they would like to do next. This can range from 'Hamlet' to 'Sherlock Holmes and the Wolfman'. Scripts are written, amended and then rehearsed. Before, finally 'Company of Friends' presents a production to a paying public.

Equal Opportunities

Company of Friends recognises that it is essential to provide to all persons without discrimination. Though we support members predominantly with Downs Syndrome, all our members are treated equally without discrimination. Our members have a range of capacities, which does necessitate achieving a 'good fit' with the individual's ability and the requirements of their involvement.

Company of Friends promotes engagement with other local communities for the development of shared projects. Current projects being undertaken include collaboration with LIPA, Mencap and Liverpool Adult Social Services

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**Productions**

As previously mentioned, our new group 'Company B', which began May 2022, is proving very successful, with currently 6 members. The focus is developing confidence and communication skills. Though nothing formal has been decided yet, several drama productions are being considered, as a first taster for these new to acting.

Continuing with our current project, 'The Tempest', was further refined throughout 2022, with several public performances, being held at 'The-Black-E', in late December, to well attended audiences.

In March 2023, Company of Friends (CoF) began its annual collaboration with LIPA. And for this year, was set in, and about Tranmere Rovers Football Club. In total 10 other groups were involved with 'More Than a Club', a promenade performance. Around 150, performed to an audience to many hundreds, in the grounds of the football club.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Company of Friends does not have a Reserves Policy

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The main expenditures for 'Company of Friends', are 3 fold. Payments to project facilitators, administration and payment for office and rehearsal space.

Over recent years, we have secured grants from 'The Arts Council', 'The Lottery', the 'Community Impact Fund', Jack's supermarket and 'Elizabeth Rathbone Trust'

When no funding has been secured, we rely on the minimal subscription we charge our members, £4 a session (4 hours), to keep operational.



At times, we have been fortunate that facilitators, administration and hire space has been donated, either for free, or for a token charge.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Alan Wardle	Sheila Rand
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee/Secretary	Trustee

Date 18/01/2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Company of Friends

1172644

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

07/04/2022

To

05/04/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	1,660	-	-	1,660	360
Subscriptions	1,474	-	-	1,474	1,404
Lottery Grant	-	8,280	-	8,280	-
Black-E Contributions (light Desk)	210	-	-	210	-
Elizabeth Rathbone Grant	-	-	-	-	1,000
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,344	8,280	-	11,624	2,764
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,344	8,280	-	11,624	2,764
A3 Payments					
Administration	1,760	-	-	1,760	3,090
Web Site	503	-	-	503	524
Black-E Rental Hire	440	-	-	440	-
Members Theatre Contribution	358	-	-	358	-
Members Meal Contribution	355	-	-	355	142
Black-E Payment (light Desk)	210	-	-	210	-
Audio Expenses	30	-	-	30	-
Productions	115	-	-	115	100
Sets/Prop Costs	248	-	-	248	482
Training Materials	31	-	-	31	134
Stationary, Ink, stamps & expenses	69	-	-	69	3
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,119	-	-	4,119	4,475
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,119	-	-	4,119	4,475
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 775	8,280	-	7,505	- 1,711
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	314	-	-	314	-
Cash funds this year end	7	8,280	-	7,819	- 1,711

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	- 461	8,280	-
	Cash	468	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	7	8,280	-
	<small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>			

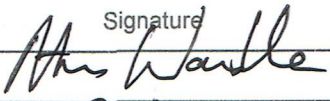

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alan Wardle	18/01/2024
	Sheila Rand	18/01/2024

COMPANY OF FRIENDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1172644

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date			
From	07	04	2021	To	06	04	2022

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Company of Friends
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1172644
Charity's principal address	The Black-E 1 Great George Street Liverpool Postcode L1 5EW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Alan Wardle			
2	Paul Lafferty			
3	Sheila Rand			
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <i>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</i>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <i>(eg. trust, association, company)</i>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods <i>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</i>	Appointed by the existing Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people in Merseyside who have learning difficulties, who are socially excluded as a result of their learning difficulties and to relieve the needs of such people and assist them to integrate into society.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Main activities include

The practise and performance of theatre, art, music and movement therapy,

Providing educational opportunities including visits to art institutions,

Raising public awareness of the issues affecting people with learning difficulties, both generally and in relation to their social exclusion,

Providing workshops, forums and general support, and providing recreational facilities and opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

What we do

Drama is an established method for promoting self-confidence and a sense of belonging and sharing experiences. It breaks the cycle of isolation, brings people together and presents them with challenges they can solve collaboratively. Company of Friends supports its members through the practise and performance of theatre, art, music and movement therapy.

Since 2016, Company of Friends Theatre has staged many productions (at the Black-E), including 'Dr Who and the Unknown Dimension', 'Macbeth', 'Our Will', 'Hamlet', 'Sherlock Holmes and the Wolfman' and 'Nothing to be Done', based on Samuel Becket's work. Also, we have collaborated with LIPA to stage 'The Red and Black', a factual production, involving the Spanish Civil War and some Liverpool Sailors, performed at LIPA and the Anglican Cathedral, and more recently, 'The Tam O'Shanter Project, performed at Bidston, The Wirral. And Victoria Victorious, on the streets of New Brighton.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Accountability

Our members direct the work our Charity undertakes. The volunteers support the members in achieving this. Initially, discussions with the entire group take place. Members will give suggestions as to what they would like to do next. This can range from 'Hamlet' to 'Sherlock Holmes and the Wolfman'. Scripts are written, amended and then rehearsed. Before, finally 'Company of Friends' presents a production to a paying public.

Equal Opportunities

Company of Friends recognises that it is essential to provide to all persons without discrimination. Though we support members predominantly with Downs Syndrome, all our members are treated equally without discrimination. Our members have a range of capacities, which does necessitate achieving a 'good fit' with the individual's ability and the requirements of their involvement.

Company of Friends promotes engagement with other local communities for the development of shared projects. Current projects being undertaken include collaboration with LIPA, Mencap and Liverpool Adult Social Services

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**Productions**

This current period (2021-2022), began to see a return to normal working, after the COVID lockdown ended in July 2021.

Following on from the successful 'Sherlock Holmes and the Wolfman' production. A return to Shakespeare was envisaged with a 'Company of Friends', take on 'The Tempest'.

After much development, and many rehearsals, the Tempest was ready for a public performance, which took place at the 'Chamber Theatre', The Black-E, in December 2021, to a well attended (around 100), and well-received audience.

In March 2022, Company of Friends (CoF) began its annual collaboration with LIPA. And for this year, was set in, and about New Brighton. In total, 8 other groups were involved in the production 'Victoria Victorious'. Total performers, around 100, performed to many hundreds, on the streets of New Brighton.

With regard the development and skills of Company of Friends Members, through the participation of drama. An expert fundraiser, suggested the families of CoF, should evaluate their members improvements in confidence, communication and focus, over the last 12 months.

The Family feedback was excellent, with all Members skills increasing, in all areas. This evidence-based information is invaluable for promoting our Charity, to Grant Funders, as one that works, and achieves results.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Company of Friends does not have a Reserves Policy

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The main expenditures for 'Company of Friends', are 3 fold. Payments to project facilitators, administration and payment for office and rehearsal space.

Over recent years, we have secured grants from 'The Arts Council', 'The Lottery', the 'Community Impact Fund', Jack's supermarket and 'Elizabeth Rathbone Trust'

When no funding has been secured, we rely on the minimal subscription we charge our members, £4 a session (4 hours), to keep operational.

At times, we have been fortunate that facilitators, administration and hire space has been donated, either for free, or for a token charge.

Section F

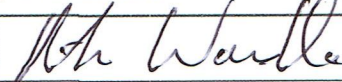
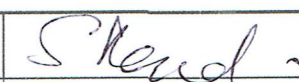
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Alan Wardle	Sheila Rand
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee/Secretary	Trustee
Date	31/01/2023	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Company of Friends

1172644

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

07/04/2021

To

06/04/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions	1,404	-	-	1,404	312
Donations	360	-	-	360	480
Community Impact Fund Grant	-	-	-	-	1,500
Jacks Grant	-	-	-	-	500
Elizabeth Rathbone Grant	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,764	1,000	-	2,764	2,792
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,764	1,000	-	2,764	2,792
A3 Payments					
Administration	570	2,520	-	3,090	1,280
Web Site	524	-	-	524	363
Training LCVS	-	-	-	-	180
Rental Hire	-	-	-	-	179
Stationary and Ink	3	-	-	3	49
Productions	100	-	-	100	10
Training Materials	134	-	-	134	-
Hospitality	142	-	-	142	-
Sets/Props	482	-	-	482	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,955	2,520	-	4,475	2,061
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,955	2,520	-	4,475	2,061
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 191	- 1,520	-	- 1,711	731
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	505	1,520	-	2,025	-
Cash funds this year end	314	-	-	314	731

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	261		-
	Cash	53	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	314	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

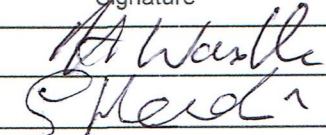
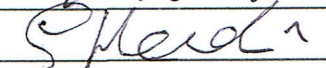
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alan Wardle	31/01/2023
	Sheila Rand	31/01/2023

COMPANY OF FRIENDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1172644

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date			
06	04	2020	06	04	2021
From			To		

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Company of Friends

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1172644

Charity's principal address

The Black-E
 1 Great George Street
 Liverpool
 Postcode L1 5EW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Alan Wardle			
2	Paul Lafferty			
3	Sheila Rand			
4				
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <i>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</i>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <i>(eg. trust, association, company)</i>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods <i>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</i>	Appointed by the existing Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

--

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people in Merseyside who have learning difficulties, who are socially excluded as a result of their learning difficulties and to relieve the needs of such people and assist them to integrate into society.

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Main activities include

The practise and performance of theatre, art, music and movement therapy,

Providing educational opportunities including visits to art institutions,

Raising public awareness of the issues affecting people with learning difficulties, both generally and in relation to their social exclusion,

Providing workshops, forums and general support, and providing recreational facilities and opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

What we do

Drama is an established method for promoting self-confidence and a sense of belonging and sharing experiences. It breaks the cycle of isolation, brings people together and presents them with challenges they can solve collaboratively. Company of Friends supports its members through the practise and performance of theatre, art, music and movement therapy.

Since 2016, Company of Friends Theatre has staged many productions (at the Black-E), including 'Dr Who and the Unknown Dimension', 'Macbeth', 'Our Will', 'Hamlet', 'Sherlock Holmes and the Wolfman' and 'Nothing to be Done', based on Samuel Becket's work. Also, we have collaborated with LIPA to stage 'The Red and Black', a factual production, involving the Spanish Civil War and some Liverpool Sailors, performed at LIPA and the Anglican Cathedral, and more recently, 'The Tam O'Shanter Project, performed at Bidston, The Wirral.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Accountability

Our members direct the work our Charity undertakes. The volunteers support the members in achieving this. Initially, discussions with the entire group take place. Members will give suggestions as to what they would like to do next. This can range from 'Hamlet' to 'Sherlock Holmes and the Wolfman'. Scripts are written, amended and then rehearsed. Before, finally 'Company of Friends' presents a production to a paying public.

Equal Opportunities

Company of Friends recognises that it is essential to provide to all persons without discrimination. Though we support members predominantly with Downs Syndrome, all our members are treated equally without discrimination. Our members have a range of capacities, which does necessitate achieving a 'good fit' with the individual's ability and the requirements of their involvement.

Company of Friends promotes engagement with other local communities for the development of shared projects. Current projects being undertaken include collaboration with LIPA, Mencap and Liverpool Adult Social Services

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**Productions**

This current period (2020-2021), has been exceptionally challenging for 'Company of Friends' through the Covid 19 pandemic. Several of our members/volunteers contracted the virus, with one requiring hospital support, and still have long term Covid issues.

Our base of operations 'The Black-E', was in lockdown for the whole of this period. Consequently, we had to come up with alternative solutions, to allow our work, to continue.

Returning once again to the Lark Lane Community Centre (LLCC), rehearsals for the 'Sherlock Holmes and the Wolfman', resumed.

In December 2020, we performed a public performance, at the Centre, and were very well received, by the audience of 65. But, due to further Covid restrictions, rehearsals at the Centre were further curtailed.

So, exploring other avenues, we engaged with Teleconferencing, using Zoom, for members' engagement. This was partly successful, in that our members were challenged into learning new skills, but possibly too ambitious. Zoom takes a certain amount of discipline, and for adults with learning difficulties, this is exceptionally so.

Annually, we collaborate with LIPA on a combined project, and for this year 'The Tam O'Shanter Project', was begun.

This involves collaboration with many other community groups, on a promenade theatre production, where the audience move from place to place during the performance.

Thankfully, the LLCC was again available, enabling both Company of Friends and LIPA to continue rehearsals. The completed production was performed in May 2021, at The Tam O'Shanter farm, and was deemed a great success, with an audience of many hundreds.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Company of Friends does not have a Reserves Policy

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The main expenditures for 'Company of Friends', are 3 fold. Payments to project facilitators, administration and payment for office and rehearsal space.

Over recent years, we have secured grants from 'The Arts Council', 'The Lottery', the 'Community Impact Fund' and Jack's supermarket

When no funding has been secured, we rely on the minimal subscription we charge our members, £4 a session (4 hours), to keep operational.

At times, we have been fortunate that facilitators, administration and hire space has been donated, either for free, or for a token charge.

Section F

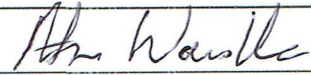

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Alan Wardle	Sheila Rand
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee/Secretary	Trustee

Date 30/01/2022