



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date

07 04 2022

Period end date

05 04 2023

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				
5				
6				
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10				
11				
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13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
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. 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

## Section D

## Achievements and performance



**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)

*Alan Wardle*

*S Rand*

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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
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
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>3,344</b>	<b>8,280</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,624</b>	<b>2,764</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>3,344</b>	<b>8,280</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,624</b>	<b>2,764</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
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
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>4,119</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,119</b>	<b>4,475</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>4,119</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,119</b>	<b>4,475</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 775</b>	<b>8,280</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,505</b>	<b>- 1,711</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8,280</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,819</b>	<b>- 1,711</b>

## 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	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8,280</b>	<b>-</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				

[illegible]

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

[illegible]

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

Date of approval

Alan Wardle  
Sheila Rand

18/01/2024

18/01/2024