

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date			
	06	04	2023		05	04	2024
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				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
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)

--

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.

--

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**

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);
- 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' 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


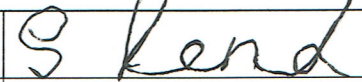
Other optional information

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



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Company of Friends	1172644
--------------------	---------

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	06/04/2023	To	05/04/2024
---------------------	------------	----	------------

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

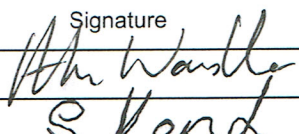

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

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

	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