



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

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|------|-------------------|----|------|----|-----------------|----|------|
| | Period start date | | | | Period end date | | |
| | 06 | 04 | 2024 | | 05 | 04 | 2025 |
| 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 | | | |
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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 |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| | |

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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

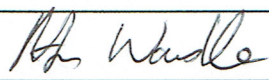
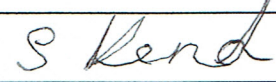
Other optional information

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

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 |
| Facilitator 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 |
| Facilitator 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 |

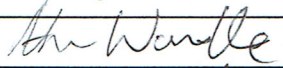
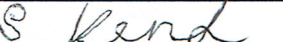
| | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets | | - | - |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

| | 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 | 03/02/2026 |
|  | Sheila Rand | 03/02/2026 |