

Charity registration number 1178159 (England and Wales)

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Andrew Fox-Hutchings	
	Susan Elliott	
	Raymond Bengree	
	Margaret Bennett	
	Teresa Nunez	
	Peter Russell	
	Christopher Evans	
	Malcolm Gledhill	
	Alison Knott	
	Marian Lovell	
	Jane Barth	
	Patricia Cameron	
	Anthony Wheatcroft	
	Mark Newman	
	Lexie Fox-Hutchings	
	Jennifer Bazley	(Appointed 16 July 2025)
Charity number (England and Wales)	1178159	
Principal address	The Little Theatre Gloucester Street Chester Cheshire CH1 3HR	
Independent examiner	Xeinadin North West Limited First Floor, The Foundation Herons Way Chester Business Park Chester Cheshire CH4 9GB	

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

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CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)".

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects are to develop public appreciation of the Arts of Drama and to promote the advancement and improvement of general education in relation to all aspects of such Arts.

Significant activities:

- Our main activity is the presentation of six full length auditorium plays over the season to run for 7 nights each. Plus, three 3-night productions in the Salisbury Studio
- Social evenings for Members/Supporters include play and poetry readings, quiz nights, showcases, etc.
- Hire of space to other cultural groups.

Volunteers

The Charity is run entirely by volunteers who are needed for each production not only for the acting, directing and back-stage activities but also to provide Front of House Management, serving refreshments, running the bar, and ensuring that we comply with health and safety regulations.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

CLT performed 6 full length plays in the auditorium which reflected a wide range of genres from Shakespeare to a contemporary take on on-line dating which was written by one of our members. We also performed three new plays, all written by members, in the studio.

Hiring/Visiting Groups: CLT hosted two visiting companies this season, Against The Grain and White Cobra

Development: Work on the new public entrance has been completed and has been well received by patrons. There are no major building developments planned for the near future.

Conclusion: While CLT's diverse programme of plays for the season is reflected in the reduction in income from charitable activities, the Trustees are committed to maintaining a variety of productions which will appeal to a broad audience.

Financial review

Reserves policy

All funds are unrestricted with net loss in the year of £13,222 (2024: net expenditure £76,101) and resulting total funds of £975,313 (2024: £988,535). At 31 July 2025 cash at bank and in hand totalled £166,838 (2024: £192,020) and tangible fixed assets had a carrying value of £801,613 (2024: £785,986).

The Treasurer has carried out a review of the Charity's finances has concluded that the Charity has the ability to continue to pay the maintenance bills this season (2025/2026) from reserves and there will be continuing regular reviews of the finances to ensure the Charity remains solvent.

The trustees has assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. There is a safeguarding policy in place and DBS checks are carried out as appropriate. The Trustees have also drawn up and agreed Health & Safety policy. They are aware of and comply with local licensing requirements, and attend courses when relevant, e.g., on fundraising, improving publicity for the charity, etc. Trustees and Members give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

Plans for future periods

There are currently no plans for further building developments but should any further projects be identified they will be subject to review by the Trustees

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered from 30 April 2018, being operational from 01 August 2018 with assets transferred from the previous charity Chester Theatre Club.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Andrew Fox-Hutchings

Susan Elliott

Raymond Bengree

Margaret Bennett

Teresa Nunez

Peter Russell

Christopher Evans

Malcolm Gledhill

Alison Knott

Marian Lovell

Jane Barth

Patricia Cameron

Anthony Wheatcroft

Mark Newman

Lexie Fox-Hutchings

Jennifer Bazley

(Appointed 16 July 2025)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Members of the charity pay an annual subscription and elect the Committee of Trustees at the AGM.

Following the 2016 AGM the membership approved that though all Trustees should be re-elected annually, the positions of Chair and ordinary Trustee members may hold the same post for four consecutive years, (subject to re-election) rising to a maximum of five years for the Chair if no suitable replacement is available. The Treasurer, subject to annual re-election, may continue in office at the discretion of the Trustee Committee. All other officers, subject to annual re-election, may continue in office for ten consecutive years but shall then not be eligible to seek re-election to the same position until twelve months have elapsed.

At July 2025 Chester Little Theatre had 72 (2024: 75) Members and 43 (2024: 48) Supporters.

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

Committee

The current General Committee is made up of:

Chair: Teresa Nunez

Treasurer: Marian Lovell

Box Office: Jennifer Bazley

Artistic Director: Andrew Fox-Hutchings

Stage Director: Vacant

Marketing Manager: Lexie Fox-Hutchings

Membership Secretary: Teresa Nunez

Secretary: Susan Elliott

House Manager: Malcolm Gledhill

Bar Manager: Raymond Bengree

Chief Stage Manager: Patricia Cameron

Technical Director: Christopher Evans

Wardrobe Supervisor: Peter Russell

General Committee Members:

Margaret Bennett, Anthony Wheatcroft, Mark Newman, Jane Barth and Alison Knott

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Marian Lovell

Trustees

23 March 2026

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Chester Little Theatre (the charity) for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Caroline Blake FCCA

Xeinadin North West Limited

First Floor, The Foundation
Herons Way
Chester Business Park
Chester
Cheshire
CH4 9GB
23 March 2026

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	3	8,978	5,023
Charitable activities	4	43,553	55,008
Other trading activities	5	14,722	18,669
Investments	6	1,725	2,278
Total income		<u>68,978</u>	<u>80,978</u>
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	7	6,410	8,644
Charitable activities	8	75,790	67,457
Total expenditure		<u>82,200</u>	<u>76,101</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		(13,222)	4,877
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 August 2024		<u>988,535</u>	<u>983,658</u>
Fund balances at 31 July 2025		<u>975,313</u>	<u>988,535</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 JULY 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		801,611		785,986
Current assets					
Stocks	13	1,028		1,185	
Debtors	14	10,898		13,201	
Cash at bank and in hand		166,838		205,299	
		<u>178,764</u>		<u>219,685</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(5,062)</u>		<u>(17,136)</u>	
Net current assets			173,702		202,549
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>975,313</u>		<u>988,535</u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	16		975,313		988,535
			<u>975,313</u>		<u>988,535</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 23 March 2026

Marian Lovell
Trustees

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Chester Little Theatre is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered with the charity commission in England and Wales. The registered office is The Little Theatre, Gloucester Street, Chester, Cheshire CH1 3HR.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Property	Nil
Property improvements	15% reducing balance
Plant and equipment	15% reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	15% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements

Determining residual values and useful economic lives of plant and equipment

The charity depreciates tangible assets over their estimated useful lives based on historic performance. The actual lives can vary. Judgement is applied also in the residual values of assets. When determining the residual value the trustees aim to assess the amount that the asset would currently obtain if the asset were disposed using market prices where possible.

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	4,157	1,480
Membership fees	4,821	3,543
	<u>8,978</u>	<u>5,023</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Production and running costs		
Box office	42,334	53,881
Programmes	624	751
Sundry income	595	376
	<u>43,553</u>	<u>55,008</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Bar sales	13,471	16,975
Refreshments	1,251	1,694
	<u>14,722</u>	<u>18,669</u>
Other trading activities		

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	1,725	2,278

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Raffle expenses	88	174
Bar purchases	6,197	8,237
Refreshments	125	233
	<u>6,410</u>	<u>8,644</u>

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Production and running costs 2025 £	Production and running costs 2024 £
Direct costs		
Depreciation and impairment	28,261	27,955
Insurance	5,996	5,492
Light, heat & water	5,513	10,208
Telephone	477	475
Post, stationary & admin	245	669
Print & publicity	5,231	3,884
Production expenses	9,855	9,395
Repairs & maintenance	17,299	7,003
Licences	514	204
Sundry expenses	855	700
Independent Examiner's fees	1,544	1,472
	<u>75,790</u>	<u>67,457</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	<u>75,790</u>	<u>67,457</u>

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

Key management personnel are not remunerated.

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Property £	Property improvements £	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 August 2024	600,000	322,050	1,067	41,890	965,007
Additions	-	42,892	-	995	43,887
At 31 July 2025	600,000	364,942	1,067	42,885	1,008,894
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 August 2024	-	160,340	665	18,017	179,022
Depreciation charged in the year	-	24,417	60	3,784	28,261
At 31 July 2025	-	184,757	725	21,801	207,283
Carrying amount					
At 31 July 2025	600,000	180,185	342	21,084	801,611
At 31 July 2024	600,000	161,711	402	23,873	785,986

13 Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	1,028	1,185

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	2	5,999
Prepayments and accrued income	10,896	7,202
	<u>10,898</u>	<u>13,201</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	3,135	3,325
Accruals and deferred income	1,927	13,811
	<u>5,062</u>	<u>17,136</u>

Deferred income represents income received in advance of the forthcoming financial year for performance. All deferred income is expected to be recognised in the 2026 financial year and all deferred income at 31 July 2024 has been recognised in the 2025 financial year.

16 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 August 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 July 2025 £
General funds	<u>988,535</u>	<u>68,978</u>	<u>(82,200)</u>	<u>975,313</u>
Previous year:	At 1 August 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 July 2024 £
General funds	<u>983,658</u>	<u>80,978</u>	<u>(76,101)</u>	<u>988,535</u>

CHESTER LITTLE THEATRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
At 31 July 2025:	
Tangible assets	801,611
Current assets/(liabilities)	173,702
	<hr/>
	975,313
	<hr/>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
At 31 July 2024:	
Tangible assets	785,986
Current assets/(liabilities)	202,549
	<hr/>
	988,535
	<hr/>

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).