

Irchester Players Charitable Incorporated Organisation



Registered Charity Number 1178179

Annual Report April 2024 – March 2025

Trustees' Foreword

It is our pleasure to foreword the 2024/2025 Annual Report of Irchester Players on behalf of the Committee and Members.

This is Irchester Players sixth Annual Report as a registered charity operating in England. However, it is in fact the organisation's 47th year of existence, and over those years, a rich tradition of bringing theatre to the communities of East Northamptonshire and the Parish of Irchester has been created. In our fifth year as a charity, we have thankfully been fully active again and have been able to create and perform various shows including bringing back our annual pantomime and fundraising events.

In the year 2024/2025, we have successfully carried on the charities work. This was completed with our first fundraising event, '*Murder Inn*' the first licensed play we have staged since 2017. Our Youth Division then took to the stage in their third Youth only production '*Matilda JR*', a one hour condensed performance of the west end hit '*Matilda the Musical*'. Following this we staged our second fundraising performance of the year '*A Stagey Spooktacular*', another one-night musical concert showcasing all Halloween and spooky songs from stage and screen. Then to conclude we performed our annual pantomime, which for this year was '*Cinderella*'. We have also taken part in some community events including 'Party in the Park' to mention one.

In the last year, our governance has had some changes due to executive members having to think about their wellbeing. There have been some quick handovers and the charity has been able to carry on its work and function to its best capacity as we did before.

This Report documents key information about Irchester Players administration and governance; it highlights our activities and achievements over 2024/2025 that we were able to go ahead with. We also look to the future, as we set out our plans for next year.

Our financial accounts have been independently reviewed and are submitted alongside this Report.



Alex McKenzie
Trustee



Ali Everitt
Trustee



Freya Jolley
Trustee



Emma Ellson
Trustee



Chloe Ellson
Trustee

Administration and Governance

Registered Name: Irchester Players Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registration No: 1178179

Registered address: 2 Bradshaw Way, Irchester, NN29 7DP

Committee 2023-2024

The Committee Officers noted below have either continued in their current position or have been elected onto the committee via recruitment during the 2023 AGM held on the 19th April 2023.

Position	Officer
Chief Executive Officer (Trustee)	Alex McKenzie
Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Trustee)	Ali Everitt
Chief Financial Officer (Trustee)	Christopher Taylor
Business Manager (Trustee)	Emma Ellson
Secretary (Trustee)	Chloe Ellson
Non-Executive	Anthony Curson
Non-Executive	Freya Jolley
Non-Executive	Laura Cousins

Committee 2024-2025

The Committee Officers noted below have either continued in their current position or have been elected onto the committee via recruitment during the 2024 AGM held on the 10th April 2024.

Position	Officer
Chief Executive Officer (Trustee)	Alex McKenzie
Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Trustee)	Ali Everitt
Chief Financial Officer (Trustee)	Chloe Ellson
Business Manager (Trustee)	Emma Ellson
Secretary (Trustee)	Freya Jolley
Non-Executive	Anthony Curson
Non-Executive	Christopher Taylor
Non-Executive	Ben Miles

Objectives and Activities

Irchester Players has three charitable objectives these are:

- (1) To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of dramatics, dance and music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.
- (2) To advance education for the public benefit of young people in Northamptonshire and the neighbouring counties of England seeking an education or career in the dramatic arts, dance or music through the provision of financial assistance, informal training and teaching, and the opportunity to practice and develop the craft of dramatic arts, dance or musical theatre.
- (3) To provide for recreation and other leisure time activities for the young people resident in the Parish of Irchester in the interests of social welfare to develop their physical and mental capabilities and health that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved.

The Committee and membership of the charity have undertaken a number of activities that have sought to realise these objectives, these include those noted below.

Objective One

This objective was met throughout 2024-2025 thanks to our successful Youth group. During this time the youth group had an extensive waiting list and a range of new members who joined throughout the year when we held admission periods. The Youth Division took to the stage and performed their very own Youth only show '*Matilda JR*'. Once again, a huge milestone was achieved for the Youth division and allowed everyone to have their own starring role rather than being involved in a show as a minor role being overlooked at times by the adults. Following this, the Youth division took part in our Annual Pantomime of '*Cinderella*', as well as undertaking various activities of singing, dancing and acting during each weekly session, leading up to the shows. The Youth Division continues to thrive in the parish.

Our main group of members were able to put on '*Murder Inn*' and '*A Stagey Spooktacular*'. These were a one-night licensed play and a concert with a live band performed to the parish and surrounding areas of Irchester with very different themes. Once again, these events allowed the main group members to showcase their fantastic talents in a range of skills and also brought in some ticket revenue to keep the charity financially stable.

Objective Two

Our Youth Division continued to meet weekly throughout term time allowing us to meet our second charitable objective.

The members of Irchester Players Youth were able to continue to learn new skills and develop old ones during our weekly session leading to the shows they starred in throughout the financial year. For the third time, the Youth Division took to the stage and performed a Junior Musical. These are condensed versions of full scale shows which can only be performed by under 18's, perfect for our Youth Division. This year they performed '*Matilda JR*'. This allowed the Youth division to take on all the main parts and ensemble parts throughout. Through the direction of the Youth team, this show was a huge success and allowed everyone a chance in the spotlight. Following this, our Youth Division then took to the stage to be part of our annual pantomime, '*Cinderella*'. This was performed in February 2025 and had a very successful turn out. Once again, our Youth division was a standout in the performance and all our audience members commented on how well our Youth division have done. Our performances continue to get glowing reviews from NODA as well.

Objective Three

This objective was achieved once again through our Youth division which was able to meet every week during term time.

The arts-based youth group, targets the youth of Irchester with the aim of providing them with a leisure time activity that will develop them as individuals whilst teaching them core skills in performing arts.

The youth group has in excess of 25 members, the majority of which live within the parish of Irchester, and also has an extensive waiting list of others wishing to be involved. We continued to take on Youth members during any admission periods that we can and some Youth members have now also transferred into our main adult group and continued enjoying what they do as well as advancing their skills and talents.

The members were able to take part in the third Youth only production '*Matilda JR*'. The Youth group were then able to take to the stage to be part of '*Cinderella*'. We also continued to support well-being and mental health at these times through the activities that we operated both in person.

Achievements

There have been a number of notable achievements made by Irchester Players this year, these include:

- The Youth Division have staged and performed their own Youth only production '*Matilda JR*'
- Two successful fundraising events, one licensed play called '*Murder Inn*' and a one night concert with live band known as '*A Stagey Spooktacular*'.
- A successful annual pantomime '*Cinderella*' including the entire membership.
- Continuing to upgrade to our storage and thinking about the workload and well-being of our governance.
- Continue to expand in our membership through both the adult group and Youth division.
- Some fantastic NODA reviews from our independent reviewer.
- Some successful community events undertaken, including performing at Party in the Park and fundraising money at the same event.

Plans for 2025/2026

Event One: Fundraising Event – Big Dick Whittington (An Adult Pantomime)

Event Two: Aladdin JR – Youth only performance

Event Three: Fundraising Event – Roles Reversed

Event Four: Annual Pantomime – Treasure Island.

We will continue to run Irchester Players Youth throughout 2025-2026 during term time only.

Additional fundraising events will be planned, depending upon what is being completed in the local area. In addition, the charity may undertake additional events, organise socials and other activities throughout the year, as well as applying for external grants to support work undertaken.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Irchester Players Charitable Incorporated Organisation

On accounts for the
period ended

31st March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1178179

Set out on pages

1-2 of the Receipts and Payments Statement (CC16a)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended **31/03/2025**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

S Patel

Date:

20/02/2026

Name:

Sanjay Patel

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (ACMA)

Address:

AIMS Accountants for Business

17 Mileway Gardens, Headington,

Oxford, OX3 7XH

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from

01/04/2024

To

31/03/2025

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					
Membership	4,072	-	-	4,072	3,597
Let's Groove Tonight		-	-	-	917
High School Musical JR		-	-	-	1,670
A Musical Journey Through Time				-	1,394
Christmas With Irchester Players				-	23
Aladdin				-	7,276
Uniform	433			433	597
Murder Inn	1,394			1,394	
Matilda	1,340			1,340	
Stagey Spooktacular	1,254			1,254	
Cinderella	6,866			6,866	
Front of House - Murder Inn	228			228	
Front of House - Matilda	63	-	-	63	-
Front of House - Stagey Spooktacular	246	-	-	246	-
Front of House - Cinderella	1,140			1,140	-
Community Events	462	-	-	462	2
Grants and donations	1,050	-	-	1,050	3,450
Fundraising		-	-	-	28
Other	197			197	84
Interest	33	-	-	33	29
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	18,778	-	-	18,778	19,067
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	18,778	-	-	18,778	19,067
A3 Payments					
Insurance		-	-	-	892
Memberships	2,028	-	-	2,028	135
IT and website programmes	803	-	-	803	2,527
Hall hire	4,456	-	-	4,456	3,327
Players Youth Licensing		-	-	-	214
Uniform	635	-	-	635	674
Box Office	387			387	51
Let's Groove Tonight				-	493
High School Musical JR				-	51
A Musical Journey Through Time				-	687
Christmas With Irchester Players				-	119
Aladdin				-	3,235
Murder Inn	558			558	-
Matilda	529			529	-
Stagey Spooktacular	359			359	-
Cinderella	1,975			1,975	-
Socials	92	-	-	92	280
Licenses	1,364	-	-	1,364	708
General equipment and maintance	2,691	-	-	2,691	207
Office sundries	468	-	-	468	47
Other	287			287	13
Set Paint	402	-	-	402	-
Compliance	507	-	-	507	320
Marketing	146	-	-	146	-
Rushden Storage	3,324			3,324	3,258
Sub total	21,010	-	-	21,010	17,238
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,010	-	-	21,010	17,238
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,231	-	-	- 2,231	1,829
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,414	-	-	6,414	4,584
Cash funds this year end	4,182	-	-	4,182	6,414

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			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	-	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval