

TAUNTON THESPIANS

England & Wales · Charity number 1189940

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-06-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Taunton Thespians
The Place
Wilfred Road
Taunton
TA1 1TB

Phone 01823 412862

Email treasurer@tauntonthespians.org.uk

Website www.tauntonthespians.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF GENERAL EDUCATION IN RELATION TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE ART OF DRAMA AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF SUCH ART. 2. OR FOR SUCH CHARITABLE OBJECTS OR PURPOSES AS THE COMMITTEE SHALL IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION THINK FIT.

Activities: Production of plays and the promotion of play & poetry readings. Workshops and lectures aimed at developing interest and skills in all aspects of drama and stage craft.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Recreation
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£54,582	£48,997	-	-
2024-08-31	£41,091	£42,071	-	-
2023-08-31	£42,592	£35,614	-	-
2022-08-31	£45,704	£38,929	-	-
2021-08-31	£25,378	£11,972	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alastair John Robert MacLeod		2024-10-22
Bridget Sarah Flett		2023-10-22
Elizabeth Sarah Knighton		2024-11-27
Jo-Anne Case		2023-10-10
Karen Diane Bolton		2024-10-22
Lynn Kitson		2023-10-22
MARK RICHARD BOLDEN DAWSON		2024-10-22
NICOLA DAWSON		2020-03-03
Peter Kitson		2025-11-12
Rene Kilner		2022-10-10
Suzanne Guppy		2024-10-22

TAUNTON THESPIANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1189940

Accounts

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

Registered Charity No. 1189940

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD

1st SEPTEMBER 2024 to 31st AUGUST 2025

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Chairman's Report to the AGM of Taunton Thespians 22/10/2024

Good evening and welcome to The Place for this year's AGM. Very many thanks to everyone who came along in October. This is my report as Taunton Thespians' Chair for the 2024/25 season.

Firstly a reminder of the TT's CIO objectives:

- 1) To promote the advancement and improvement of general education in relation to all aspects of the art of drama and the development for public appreciation of such art.
- 2) Such charitable objects or purposes that the Trustees shall in their discretion think fit.

A year ago, at the 2024 AGM, I expressed my hopes for the year ahead in three words: Communication, Companionship and Crowd-pleasing shows.

Before we review the past twelve months I would like to say a very big thank you to the members of the 2024/25 Committee. Could the Committee members please stand and be recognised?

Committee activities

Firstly I must recognise **Dona Bullion** who started the year as Social Officer but had to stand down due to personal commitments. Many thanks to Dona for her work on the Committee and her continuing contribution as Wardrobe Mistress and warden of The Place.

Suzanne Guppy has been busy as the Secretary, dealing with correspondence, administration and taking the minute at Committee meetings. And Suzanne has also taken part in outreach by delivering Shakespeare workshops at a local school and – most recently – taking part in the Thespians entry in Taunton Carnival. In fact she danced the whole way round.

Bridget Flett has been the Membership Officer, keeping the records on MemberMojo, providing information to potential new members, sending out the regular update emails and producing the excellent TT Times, four times a year. Bridget has also assisted with outreach through the Dressing Up Tent at Taunton Together and has been involved with productions.

Karen Bolton has been maintaining the website and keeping our presence up on all the socials as well as dealing with enquiries and performing in shows. Well done for your Pheobe Rees nomination for "The Mirror Crack'd".

Lynn Kitson leads the Marketing and Publicity sub committee with responsibility for fliers, posters, billboards and other marketing tools. Plus making sure that we hit the printing deadlines for venues often months before we hold auditions. Lynn started with acting roles but she has taken on the technical challenge of running sound for a couple of shows.

Jo Case started the year as our Productions Officer but has had to stand down due to work commitments. We valued her vision, wisdom and imagination plus her insistence on being ambitious and striving for the highest standards.

Mark Dawson started the year on Committee as a Committee member without portfolio but soon offered to assist Jo with forward planning for productions and took on the role when Jo had to step back. And Mark has also been busy with producing shows, identifying tour venues, running play readings, helping with the dressing up tent and driving the van for the tour. To say nothing of his epic round Somerset missions to position the billboards. Fifteen for the summer tour alone!

Alastair MacLeod joined the Committee at the last AGM and has contributed to all the discussions. Continuing the theme of trying new things, Alastair shared the role of Tour Manager for the first time in July for "A Midsummer Night's Dream". And will be flexing his directorial muscles for the first time by taking on our entry in the Somerset Fellowship of Drama One Act play festival next March.

clear out of two skips worth of excess stuff, installation of improved heating in the Green Room and the purchase of exciting new sound and lighting equipment. But the biggest change is the installation of our lovely new kitchen! Next **Lizzie Knighton** was coopted onto the Committee into the Social role and has delivered a run of great activities including the excellent Ding Dong Christmas Party last December, the hilarious May Madness Quiz and very popular workshops covering topics such as Stage Management (February) and Lighting and Sound (April). The latter attracted 30 people from across 6 groups and societies. And Lizzie coordinated the Thespians entry in October in the Taunton Carnival and build our own little cart.

Rob Smith has been our Treasurer for five years now. This is the classic example of the background committee role without which the society could not function. As well as keeping a very firm eye on budgets and expenditure, Rob has developed a skill for identifying grant opportunities, as you will see from the Finance report to follow. Rob is standing down from the Committee from now. His calm guidance – and sense of humour – will be missed from the Committee table, but he is still going to be around and has volunteered to be assistant director on our March Tacchi production.

Let's review the last 12 months against my three three words and matters discussed at the last AGM.

Firstly "Crowd-pleasing shows"

November 2024 – Dracula at the Brewhouse

This stunning production, directed by Jo Case, continued our run of producing original scripts. The brand-new adaptation, by a former Thespian Jasmine Otley, was bold and ambitious and challenging. But it is good to push ourselves from time to time. Jo's production was full of technical challenges from the impressive set to the use of the vomitorium, the music and even the final snow drop. But the actors and crew rose to the occasion and audiences were very, very impressed. We even had people in the audience dressed as vampires!

Talking of pushing the envelope, I took on a personal challenge and stepped out of my comfort zone to be DSM and ended up operating sound as well. Frankly, I was terrified all the way through the technical rehearsal but with much calm advice, help and support from Chris Alexander at the Brewhouse and Lizzie Knighton (Stage Manager) and the unflappable Claire Knighton (Lights), I soon was able to relax and had a pleasure of watching the show every night. My take-away? Don't be afraid to try a new role in a production. There is plenty of help available and you might find something new to enjoy.

Jo's production won recognition in the NODA South West Awards and is still attracting attention. We have been contacted by the Brewhouse: they were so impressed by the show that it has inspired them to create a murder mystery set at a production of Dracula. And they have asked to borrow our costumes and props and even some of the actors for next January.

March 2025 – The Mirror Crack'd" at the Tacchi Morris

Well done to Sue Meredith, Martin Jevon and team for a very entertaining production of Agatha Christie's "A Mirror Crack'd". This attracted large and appreciative audiences at the Tacchi Morris in mid-March. This was a new script and we think we are among the first amateur groups to perform this adaptation. It is great to see the Thespians tackling new scripts and fresh approaches. The play included old favourites characters such as Miss Marple and Inspector Craddock but the script is a very modern re-telling of the story. I was very impressed with Sue and Martin's innovative use of video clips in the style of old Pathe news reels to introduce the acts and the great way that they and the cast handled the multiple flashbacks in the simple but flexible set.

It was great to see Sue and Martin for involving new, young actors and congratulations to Imalya Warnasuriya and Lily MacNiece for their nominations in the Phoebe Rees under 21 category. And congratulations to Alison Jenkinson and Karen Bolton for their acting nominations too

And well done to Lorna Evans as stage manager. The lamp drop effect made the audience members jump every night!

March 2025 – Rats at the County Drama Festival

Only a week later, Charlie Warren and his team represented the Thespians at the County Drama Festival at the Warehouse Theatre in Ilminster with "Rats" by Pheobe Rees. We were disappointed not to win through to the next round but the adjudicator gave very positive feedback about the play and we were delighted that Suzanne Guppy won the "Champagne Moment" award. This was for a lovely comic piece involving a table and a broom. Many thanks to all Thespians who supported the play both at Ilminster and for the dress rehearsal at The Place. This was Charlie's debut as a director for the Thespian and I very much look forward to seeing Charlie's next production.

July 2025 – A Midsummer Night's Dream – on tour

Huge congratulations to Bob Corwin and his team for a very successful tour of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in July. The weather was very kind to us and over 900 people came to see the show, with several venues selling out!

Every production runs on teamwork and comradery, but this goes double for the tour. Director Bob set the tone early with his very clear vision and enthusiastic leadership. Like Jo, Sue and Martin, in the other shows this season, Bob was successful in attracting talented new young actors. But at the same time he had a wealth of very experienced and creative older members who helped make the production such a magical experience. How many other pastimes can include such an age range of participants?

Congrats to Bob and team for a Rose Bowl nomination and three Phoebe Rees nominations and to Rob Adam, Alan Coles, Phil Turnley, Zoe Hudson, Gregg Cook and Harriet Thomas for their acting nominations.

Communication and Companionship

At last year's AGM, we had some really good discussions about aspects of the society. I took away five topics for the incoming committee to consider:

- a) Longer lead-in times and more information for Members about events, Committee discussions etc. Committee committed to issue the TT Times four times a year. In April we introduced a monthly email directly after the committee meeting to flag upcoming events. And we circulated a membership survey in the summer. Results will be shared later in this meeting. I'd be interested to hear in the discussions afterward if these have made a difference and what else could be tried.
- b) Build up our pool of people with technical skills. On-going project- thanks to Lizzie for running stage management and lighting workshops. We have had people running sound for the first time and have three members working together to design the lighting for "The Woman In White." More workshops planned.
- c) Succession planning for Vice Presidents, role description and appointment process. Thanks to Ron Roberts, have agreed a role description and process in line with our society rules.
- d) Consider outreach opportunities. Have suggested several activities but have had limited support from membership. Well done Suzanne for work with school. The Dressing Up tents at the Taunton Together event and the Carnival were successful but could have done with a few more members to help.
- e) Increase in annual subscription. The summer survey showed support for a modest increase. You will have the opportunity to voting on the amount shortly.

General reflections.

In summary, we have had another busy and productive year. Four productions, improvements to The Place, social and outreach activities. We are clearly meeting out charitable objectives.

Looking ahead,

Fingers crossed for all our members who have been nominated in the Rose Bowl completions for the awards night this weekend. Congratulations to our friends at Street Theatre and @2K who have recently completed very successful productions. The close links and camaraderie flow within and between local groups and the Somerset drama scene is all the stronger for it.

The 2025/6 season is underway with "The Woman In White" recently performed at the Brewhouse Theatre. Congratulations to Director Emma Vicarage, Producer Mark Dawson and their team for a beautiful and moving production.

You will find information about the 2025/6 season productions on your chairs and I invite and encourage everyone to think about how they could get involved. As our VP Ron Roberts would say: it might be by taking on an acting or production role, it might be by offering to help with programme selling or set painting or delivering billboards. Or it might be by getting up a party of friends and neighbours to come and see the shows.

Looking further ahead, as mentioned in the September TT Times, 2027/28 will be the Thespians 100th season so please start thinking about how we could mark that special milestone. For previous special anniversaries, we have held dinner dances and parties, hired the Brewhouse for a variety evening involving other local societies, created an anniversary logo etc. Let's really push the boat out and celebrate the 100th season! the 2026/7 season will be the Thespians centenary year.

My suggestion for three words for the new season? How about Innovation, Imagination and Involvement?
Thank you.



Nicola Dawson
26th November 2025

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

I report on the Financial Statements of the charity The Taunton Thespians (Charity No. 800217) for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025, which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective Responsibilities of General Committee and Examiner

The charity's committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's committee consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act"), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- s examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- s to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- s to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the General Committee concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - s to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - s to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 15th September 2025

Edward Coton LTCL AFA/MIPA
TaxAssist Accountants
24 Bridge Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 1UB

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2025</u>		<u>2024</u>	
		12 Months		12 Months	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	2		223,576		218,847
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank - Treasurers Current Account		9,622		11,226	
- Business Bank Interest Account		31,670		19,969	
- John Meikle Legacy Account		1,835		6,967	
- Social/Warden Account		45		114	
- PayPal Wallet		175		112	
- Redwood Account		30,099		29,046	
Petty Cash held		74		83	
Bar stocks at cost		49		155	
Prepayments					
Future Shows		1,209		3,526	
Accrued Income					
Prepaid Subscriptions		(351)		(420)	
Prepaid donations					
Future Shows				(6)	
		74,428		70,772	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year					
Matthews Electrical		(503)			
Kitchchen Installation		(2,500)			
Barrington Court Dragons Venue				(275)	
Independent Examiner		(280)		(268)	
SW Heritage				(106)	
Debtors					
Ticket Source Dragons				186	
XCS (printer)		20			
		20		186	
Net Current Assets			71,165		70,309
Net Assets			294,741		289,156
Funds (all unrestricted)					
	3				
General Reserve			71,165		70,309
Capital Reserve			223,576		218,847
Development Fund			0		0
			294,741		289,156

Approved by the General Committee on ??? October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:-

Nicola Dawson - Chairman

Robert Smith - Treasurer



The notes on pages 8 and 9 form part of these Accounts.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	2025		2024	
	12 Months		12 Months	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Income from stage productions		38,429		27,272
Subscriptions		1,104		1,065
Interest received		1,320		1,432
Club activities		701		1,254
Wardrobe & Equipment Hire		328		787
Donations		1,094		125
Letting Income		6,406		6,171
Gift Aid Received		188		170
Theatre Tax Relief		5,012		2,816
Total Incoming Resources		54,582		41,091
Resources Expended				
Expenditure on stage productions	31,121		26,137	
Club activities	581		1,305	
Cost of premises				
- Rates and water	231		256	
- Repairs and improvements	9,429		6,882	
- Safety and security	918		1,548	
- Heat and light	1,395		1,352	
- Insurance	1,262		1,202	
Warden's Honorarium	300		325	
Postage, stationery	0		0	
Subscriptions and Licences	863		948	
Printing	372		233	
Sundry expenses	459		655	
Marketing	25		0	
Clothing sales	25		32	
Independent Examiners Fee	280		268	
Other Professional Fees (re Theatre Tax Relief)	720		420	
Depreciation	953		427	
PayPal Charges	35		52	
Sumup Charges	31		27	
Write-offs	0		0	
Total Resources Expended		48,997		42,071
Net Ingoing/(Outgoing) Resources		5,585		(980)
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward		289,155		290,135
Revaluation of Freehold Land & Buildings		0		0
Accumulated Funds Carried Forward		294,741		289,155
(Note rounding error on total)				

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1. **Accounting Policies**

General

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Fixed Assets

Individual fixed assets costing £80 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided at the following rates, based on the estimated useful life of the fixed assets and their anticipated residual value:-

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line to 31/08/22
	From 2022-23 financial year changed to revaluation on recommendation of independent examiner. Subsequently adjusted every 5 years.
Technical equipment	10% reducing balance
Office equipment	10% reducing balance

2. **Fixed Assets**

	<u>Freehold</u> <u>Land &</u> <u>Buildings</u> £	<u>Technical</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Office</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
<u>Cost</u>				
At 31 August 2024	215,000	10,316	59	225,375
Additions	0	5,142	540	5,681
Revaluation	0	0	0	0
Write-offs	0	0	0	0
At 31 August 2025	215,000	15,458	599	231,056
<u>Depreciation</u>				
At 31 August 2024	0	6,469	59	6,528
Charge for the year	0	899	54	953
At 31 August 2025	0	7,368	113	7,481
<u>Net Book Value</u>				
At 31 August 2025	215,000	8,090	486	223,576
At 31 August 2024	215,000	3,847	0	218,847

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

3. **Funds (all unrestricted)**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Capital</u>	
	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
At 1 September 2024	70,309	218,847	289,156
Transfers	(5,681)	5,681	0
Net ingoing/(outgoings) for the year	5,585	0	5,585
Adjustments - Depreciation	953	(953)	0
Adjustments - Revaluation	0	0	0
At 31 August 2025	71,165	223,576	294,741

* Note rounding error on General Reserve total

The Capital Reserve represents profits which have accrued to the charity from the past sales of freehold land and buildings of £116,943 and from a bequest from a former member of £2,000. This was reduced by £19,174 in 2013 and was subsequently reduced each year to reflect the amount of tangible fixed assets after depreciaton.

From the 2022-23 financial year, the land and buildings have been valued on a revaluation basis.

The General Reserve now shows, fairly, the true amount of Current Assets, (including the John Meikle bequest of £10,000, less expenditure on the Green Room and Kitchen).

TAUNTON THESPIANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1189940

Accounts

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

Registered Charity No. 1189940

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD

1st SEPTEMBER 2023 to 31st AUGUST 2024

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Chairman's Report to the AGM of Taunton Thespians 22/10/2024

Good evening and welcome to The Place for this year's AGM

Firstly a reminder of the TT's CIO objectives:

- 1) To promote the advancement and improvement of general education in relation to all aspects of the art of drama and the development of public appreciation of such art.
- 2) Such charitable objects or purposes that the Trustees shall in their discretion think fit.

At last year's AGM, I summarised my hopes and aims for the year ahead as Fun, Friendship and Fabulous Shows.

Before we look back at how we did, I would like to say grateful thanks to the outgoing Committee members several of whom were new to the Committee this year.

Committee activities

Firstly I must recognise Sue Meredith and Nikki Hale who started the year but had to step down last autumn due to personal commitments. Thanks to them for their hard work.

We were glad to welcome Karen Bolton who has stepped in as Webmaster and continues to do great things with the social media and the website as well as helping with social events. Thanks also to Suzanne Guppy who has stepped in as Secretary.

Rene Kilner has led the Building and Technical subcommittee. Their focus is always to protect and improve The Place which is our biggest non-human asset. Focus has been improvements to The Place. You can see their work in the new Green Room and the car park protection. This safeguards our source of income from letting parking spaces to the NHS. They also do the invisible but important work of ensuring that fire extinguishers are maintained, the alarm system works, walls are mended. Plans are in hand to improve the kitchen and loos and storage.

Karen Downs has been member of the Building and Technical subcommittee and keeper of the keys.

Peter Kitson has also been a stalwart of the Building and Technical subcommittee plus set building and upgrading equipment.

Lynn Kitson leads the Marketing & Publicity Sub Committee. Work for her subcommittee never stops as they are thinking at least one, often two shows ahead

Jo Case as Productions lead has brought loads of ideas and inspiration and is currently hard at work on our November production as well as planning ahead

Bridget Flett has done a great job as our Membership Officer. The excellent TT Times is in her safe hands and she also looks after the ordering of TT branded clothing. Available via Member mojo!

Dona Bullion and her subcommittee have delivered a programme of excellent and varied social events and workshops from the ever-popular Ding Dong Christmas Party to the summer garden party to the hilarious improvisation workshop.

Rob Smith continues to look after our money, keep us on the financial straight and narrow and find great sources of grant funding.

Let's review that last 12 months against the aims.

Fun and Friendship

Since this time last year, we have enjoyed social events including a Ceilidh with excellent scotch broth supper, the Ding Dong (for newer members – that's our traditional name for the Christmas party), a hilarious Lyrical Slam (thanks Steve Mercer), a skittles evening, a fighting workshop a lovely Garden Party (thanks to Lynda and Alan Coles for their kind hospitality) and only last week, a hilarious improv evening led by Pedro Meredith. I have not laughed so much in months!

And we've had some fun – and some challenging – play readings. Always popular.

There is also the friendships developed by taking part in our productions. As our VP Ron Roberts has often said, it takes 20 people behind the scenes to put one actor on the stage. Being in a production is a great way to make new friends, reconnect with old ones and make memories. And can be a real bonding experience. (Especially the Tour – as I'm sure that everyone who was at the Street performance of Here Be Dragons in the rain will agree!). But there are inevitably moments of sadness when valued friends are no longer with us. Only last month, we had the loss of dear John Cunningham. John, with Vin his wife, joined the Thespians in 2014 and from the start were a powerhouse couple. John's knowledge of theatre and performance was wide and he was very

generous in sharing his skills particularly on the technical side, including running workshops on lighting design. Even though he has struggling with illness, he has helped us this season by mentoring our novice sound operators and advising Martin Jevon and me on music for Sherlock. John's interests were many and varied – a much loved part of the Brewhouse Team and in the world of archery competitions.

Can I ask that we all stand for a minute to pay our respects to John Cunningham. Thank you.

On with the show. And what shows they have been.

Fabulous Shows

November 2023 – Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily

I can't say too much about the November production as I was one of the Directors with Martin Jevon. But we had an amazing cast and great technical team. And the audience seemed to enjoy it!

March 2024 – Star Quality at the Tachhi Morris

Very well done to Sue Meredith and team for a strong production that was very received by the audience. Everyone enjoyed the witty dialogue and imaginative staging.

March 2024 – County Drama Festival – The Door

We talked last year about bringing on new, young directors. congratulations to Tyler Curry and "The Door" team for winning three awards at the County Drama Festival. Acting awards for Marie Fletcher and Charlie plus the Hope Cup for the production.

The play narrowly missed selection to the next round but I'm sure that everyone who saw it will long remember the powerful messages about justice and tolerance.

July 2024 Here Be Dragons written and directed by Lorna Evans

The only word is Wow. What a spectacle! Lorna Evans and team delivered another high-energy, colourful, fun filled production that played to very enthusiastic audiences. There were so many brilliant characters and magic moments that it feels wrong to pick out any individual scenes. But I have to confess to having particular fondness for the Wassail Scene, the Hinky Punks and the pesky Pixies! And Treasurer Rob says that the show made a surplus so well done everyone.

And finally, here are some general reflections.

TT Times – very well received. Thanks to Bridget as editor and all the contributors.

But I've had some feedback from members that they've like more information. Including longer lead-in times and advance notice for events. I will agree that some of the notifications to members has been a bit last minute dot com. Many members are busy people and it would help them to have plenty of advance notice of events from play reading to auditions to workshop to social events etc. (not just for members who work full time – the retired members seem even more busy!) I take responsibility for this. On reflection, I think I have got too involved with shows and have not put as much time into forward planning as I should have. I recommend that the new Committee puts some thought into forward information for Members. Will be interested in feedback for members later about how you would like to be kept in touch.

Shortage of people with technical skills. Very well done to members who have stepped forward to operate sound and lights for the seasons' show. But we do need to build up our pool of technical people. I have reached out to some of our neighbouring societies to work with us on this and you will have seen my piece in the most recent TT times about taster workshops for sound and lights.

Huge thanks to Blake Drama for the very generous long term loan of the new laptop and Qlab software.

Again, I'd to recommend to the new Committee that they contribute with the plans for running technical familiarisation events and workshops. Another area where we have not been as active as previous years in the area of outreach. By outreach, I mean things like.....Third recommendation to the new Committee is that they look at opportunities for outreach. And explore options with members.

So in, summary, we have had a busy year, with three main productions, one act, loads of social events, play readings and workshops. I hope that each of you found something to enjoy and to be proud of over the last year.

My suggestion for three words for the new season? How about Communication, Companionship and Crowd-pleasing shows?

Thank you.

Nicola Dawson

22nd October 2024

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

I report on the Financial Statements of the charity The Taunton Thespians (Charity No. 800217) for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective Responsibilities of General Committee and Examiner

The charity's committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's committee consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act"), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ♦ examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- ♦ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- ♦ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the General Committee concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - ♦ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - ♦ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 11th October 2024

Edward Coton LTCL AFA/MIPA
TaxAssist Accountants
24 Bridge Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 1UB

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
		12 Months		12 Months	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	2		218,847		218,441
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank - Treasurers Current Account		11,226		10,422	
- Business Bank Interest Account		19,969		19,719	
- John Meikle Legacy Account		6,967		10,050	
- Social Account		114		0	
- PayPal Wallet		112		48	
- Redwood Account		29,046		27,993	
Petty Cash held		83		106	
Bar stocks at cost		155		67	
Prepayments					
Future Shows		3,526		3,967	
Accrued Income					
Prepaid Subscriptions		-420		-408	
Prepaid donations				-49	
Future Shows		-6		0	
		70,772		71,916	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year					
Fyne Court 1001 Venue				-410	
Barrington Court Dragons Venue		-275			
Independent Examiner		-268		-263	
SW Heritage		-106			
Debtors					
Ticket Source Dragons		186			
NT MAAN Fyne Court Ticket Sales				450	
Net Current Assets			70,309		71,694
Net Assets			289,155		290,135
Funds (all unrestricted)					
Funds (all unrestricted)	3				
General Reserve			70,309		71,694
Capital Reserve			218,847		218,441
Development Fund			0		0
			289,155		290,135

Approved by the General Committee on 22 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:-

Suzanne Guppy - Secretary

Suzanne Guppy

Robert Smith - Treasurer

R D Smith

The notes on pages 7 and 8 form part of these Accounts.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	2024		2023	
	12 Months		12 Months	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Income from stage productions		27,272		30,331
Subscriptions		1,065		951
Interest received		1,432		914
Club activities		1,254		1,014
Wardrobe & Equipment Hire		787		430
Donations		125		109
Letting Income		6,171		5,993
Gift Aid Received		170		129
Theatre Tax Relief		2,816		2,722
Other (John Meikle bequest)				
Total Incoming Resources		41,091		42,592
Resources Expended				
Expenditure on stage productions	26,137		25,732	
Club activities	1,305		1,148	
Cost of premises		256		463
- Rates and water				463
- Repairs and improvements		6,882		2,355
- Safety and security		1,548		1,055
- Heat and light		1,352		1,051
- Insurance		1,202		1,111
Warden's Honorarium	325		300	
Postage, stationery, advertising and telephone	0		-4	
Subscriptions and donations	948		843	
Printing	233			
Sundry expenses	655		410	
Marketing	0		74	
Clothing sales	32		-43	
Independent Examiners Fee	268		263	
Other Professional Fees (re Theatre Tax Relief)	420		408	
Depreciation	427		383	
PayPal Charges	52		46	
Sumup Charges	27		20	
Write-offs	0		0	
Total Resources Expended		42,071		35,614
Net Ingoing/(Outgoing) Resources		-980		6,978
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward		290,135		150,641
Revaluation of Freehold Land & Buildings		0		132,516
Accumulated Funds Carried Forward		289,155		290,135

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. **Accounting Policies**

General

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Fixed Assets

Individual fixed assets costing £80 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided at the following rates, based on the estimated useful life of the fixed assets and their anticipated residual value:-

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line to 31/08/22
From 2022-23 financial year changed to revaluation on recommendation of independent examiner. Subsequently adjusted every 5 years.	
Technical equipment	10% reducing balance
Office equipment	10% reducing balance

2. **Fixed Assets**

	<u>Freehold</u> <u>Land &</u> <u>Buildings</u> £	<u>Technical</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Office</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
<u>Cost</u>				
At 31 August 2023	215,000	9,483	59	224,542
Additions	0	833	0	833
Revaluation	0	0	0	0
Write-offs	0	0	0	0
At 31 August 2024	215,000	10,316	59	225,375
<u>Depreciation</u>				
At 31 August 2023	0	6,042	59	6,101
Charge for the year	0	427	0	427
At 31 August 2024	0	6,469	59	6,528
<u>Net Book Value</u>				
At 31 August 2024	215,000	3,847	0	218,847
At 31 August 2023	215,000	3,441	0	218,441

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

3. **Funds (all unrestricted)**

	<u>General</u> <u>Reserve</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
At 1 September 2023	71,694	218,441	290,135
Transfers	-833	833	0
Net ingoing/(outgoings) for the year	-980	0	-980
Adjustments - Depreciation	427	-427	0
Adjustments - Revaluation	0	0	0
At 31 August 2024	70,309	218,847	289,155

* Note rounding error on General Reserve total

The Capital Reserve represents profits which have accrued to the charity from the past sales of freehold land and buildings of £116,943 and from a bequest from a former member of £2,000. This was reduced by £19,174 in 2013 and was subsequently reduced each year to reflect the amount of tangible fixed assets after depreciation.

From the 2022-23 financial year, the land and buildings have been valued on a revaluation basis.

The General Reserve now shows, fairly, the true amount of Current Assets, (including the John Meikle bequest of £10,000, less expenditure on the Green Room).

TAUNTON THESPIANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1189940

Accounts

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

Registered Charity No. 1189940

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD

1st SEPTEMBER 2022 to 31st AUGUST 2023

Page 1	Cover
Page 2-3	Chairman's Report
Page 4	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 5	Balance Sheet
Page 6	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 7-8	Notes to the Accounts



THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

Chairman's Report to the AGM of Taunton Thespians 9/10/2023

When we sat here 12 months ago we elected a full 11-person committee for the first time in a while. I think that, in my report for that AGM, I commented about how committees can be quite fluid in nature, and so it was – to a degree – this year. Ray Court took on Productions last year, but stepped back from it in February. I've been managing the role since that point. I'd like to thank Ray and the other nine committee members for all of the considerable amount of work they've done over the last year. Now I think that it's my turn to step down and make way for someone else. When times like this come about there are, inevitably, gaps that open up. Thankfully, we are in a position of having nominees for all roles except publicity, but publicity is obviously a very important function and so I'm mentioning it now in the hope that people here can consider whether it is something they feel that they can contribute and put themselves forward for when it comes to the election of the committee.

One of the first things I'd like to talk about is something about which I'm sure some of you have some questions. We were very fortunate to receive a generous bequest from our late President, John Meikle. After a consultation period a recommendation report was submitted by a group headed by VP Ron Roberts, which proposed using the bequest to make significant improvements to the Green Room. The committee agreed with the suggestions, but wanted to go further in remodelling the whole west side of the building, something we realised would require very substantial *additional funding but which we felt was a worthwhile ambition, given that it would compliment the Green Room modifications*. To further these aims we identified that work would have to be carried out in a particular sequence so that earlier work was not damaged by, or caused hinderance to, later work. One of the immediate requirements involved the movement of some of the internal walls. Nothing affecting the structural integrity of the building, but an it of the show, and I was very proud of what director Rachel Buttell was able to mould that into at the Brewhouse last November. ly sensible, both in terms of price and, especially, timescale. It was not for the want of trying but was, frequently, for the want of builders who would actually show up at an agreed time. After a sustained period of this kind of experience we have now decided to modify our ambitions and work on each of the areas involved: Green Room, toilets and kitchen, separately. I'm sorry that we haven't been able to deliver what we had originally hoped, but that is not to say that our revised plans will give you anything less than substantial improvements over the existing arrangements. Tackling each area separately means that one is no longer dependent upon the other and so *we have now been able to actually progress some of the individual elements, starting with the suspended ceiling in the Green Room which, I'm told, is scheduled for later this year. I'll be watching to see how this plays out.*

I do, however, feel very lucky to be able to say, in my final report, that ALL of our productions over the last year have made it into the black, have made a surplus, even if, in one case, it is by the narrowest of margins. Well in advance of every production we set out a genre pattern to cover the period ahead. This is to ensure that we never become trapped in a position whereby we offer the same type of fare to our audiences over and over again and that we keep flexing our dramatic muscles. The genre for last autumn was set as 'drama'. Now drama is never an easy sell, nor is it easy to find the right play. We have to find something worthy, not only that the director actually wants to direct, but also that suits our audience and our abilities. We read quite a few dramas in the lead up to that one, *but none quite fitted the bill until we read Pride and Prejudice, and then our way forward was clear*. The launch event for that play had a very pleasing response in terms of new, young actors who wanted to be a part of the show, and I was very proud of what director Rachel Buttell was able to mould that into at the Brewhouse last November.

Comedy, on the other hand, is not only a Thespian strength, it is also a particular forte for Ray Court, so that, when we decided upon comedy for our spring show at the Tacchi Morris, Ray was an obvious choice for director. Ray's preference for the Derek Benfield script Flying Feathers is perhaps not so surprising when one realises how many times he's put it forward for the summer play readings. Play readings ahead of play selection is a very useful tool, especially for comedy, where readers live reactions to scripts whilst reading them is an excellent indicator, and the feedback for Flying Feathers confirmed it for our choice. The further confirmation of the audience reactions during the run both validated the method of choice and filled Ray's wish of just wanting to make people laugh.

When Bob Corwin told me that he wanted to produce a play about the gay scene in 1950s New Orleans I wasn't quite sure what to make of it. Bob, however, was quite sure, and certain that this was what he wanted to take to the County Drama Festival in 2023. As producer, I watched as this one-act play took shape under his direction, until I too was convinced that this was a powerful piece of drama. I still think that we produced something worthy of the County Shield that evening, and so I suppose that I will just have to agree to disagree with that particular adjudicator.

The Taunton Thespian summer tour has become a firm staple of our programme with twenty tours completed prior to this season. Much Ado About Nothing became our 21st tour, our 10th Shakespeare tour and Michael Gilbert's 5th stint at tour direction. It is a substantial undertaking. Everything about it is substantial, from the set – which has to survive being unloaded, assembled, disassembled and reloaded at least 10 times – to the dizzying number and complexity of the costumes and the sheer mileage covered by all concerned. The weather, as we found a couple of times this year, can also have its say. In the event we were forced inside only twice, although there were other close candidates for moving indoors. In the end well over 700 people saw a superb display of acting at its finest.

It is very easy for me to stand here and say that everything we've done this year has been great, but I do genuinely mean everything that I've said. What adds to those words are the multiple awards nominations we've had for each of our main productions – every single one. A total of 16 nominations for the Phoebe Rees awards and four nominations for the Rose Bowl awards tells me that we are producing quality theatre and presenting not only outstanding actors but top drawer backstage contributions across a range of roles and functions. For any awards that we win, well, that's icing on the cake. The fact that good performances or contributions have been acknowledged by nomination should alone tell us we are making good choices. The very best of luck to all those concerned.

But I've always seen this society as far more than a 'machine' for churning out productions. It doesn't seem to matter whether we're doing something social, but practical, like a play reading, or something just for fun, like the treasure hunt and barbecue but people turn up, in numbers, for the events we put on, and there has been no shortage of those in the last year. Since the last AGM we have held 16 play readings, the Christmas Ding Dong, a 'lyrical slam' (and I do hope that there will be another), Fab Feb Frolics, an Royal Shakespeare Company (no less) acting workshop, a skittle evening, a treasure hunt and barbecue, a directing workshop and an in-house performance. We've also taken part in the Taunton Carnival and the 10 Parishes Festival. I love also that visitors, many of whom subsequently decide to join us, consistently talk about how friendly and welcoming the society is.

To all of you I say – please keep this up. I'm extremely proud of everything we've done this year.

Thank you

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

I report on the Financial Statements of the charity The Taunton Thespians (Charity No. 800217) for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective Responsibilities of General Committee and Examiner

The charity's committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's committee consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act"), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ♦ examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- ♦ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- ♦ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the General Committee concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - ♦ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - ♦ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 2nd October 2023

Edward Coton LTCL AFA/MIPA
TaxAssist Accountants
24 Bridge Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 1UB

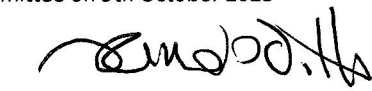
THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
		12 Months		12 Months	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	2		218,441		86,308
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank - Treasurers Current Account		10,422		5,433	
- Business Bank Interest Account		19,719		29,618	
- John Meikle Legacy Account		10,050		0	
- PayPal Wallet		48		410	
- Redwood Account		27,993		27,231	
Petty Cash held		106		105	
Bar stocks at cost		67		179	
Prepayments					
Future Shows		3,967		2,459	
Accrued Income					
Prepaid Subscriptions		-408		-462	
Prepaid donations		-49		-53	
Future Shows		0		-36	
		<u>71,916</u>		<u>64,883</u>	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year					
Fyne Court 1001 Venue		-410		-300	
Independent Examiner		-263		-250	
Debtors					
NT MAAN Fyne Court Ticket Sales		<u>450</u>		<u>0</u>	
Net Current Assets			71,694		64,333
Net Assets			<u>290,135</u>		<u>150,641</u>
Funds (all unrestricted)					
	3				
General Reserve			71,694		64,333
Capital Reserve			218,441		86,308
Development Fund			0		0
			<u>290,135</u>		<u>150,641</u>

Approved by the General Committee on 9th October 2023

and signed on their behalf by:-

Sue Meredith - Secretary



Robert Smith - Treasurer



The notes on pages 7 and 8 form part of these Accounts.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	2023		2022	
	12 Months		12 Months	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Income from stage productions		30,331		25,121
Subscriptions		951		882
Interest received		914		234
Club activities		1,014		719
Wardrobe & Equipment Hire		430		183
Donations		109		74
Letting Income		5,993		5,705
Gift Aid Received		129		120
Government Covid grants				2,667
Theatre Tax Relief		2,722		
Other (John Meikle bequest)				10,000
Total Incoming Resources		42,592		45,704
Resources Expended				
Expenditure on stage productions	25,732		28,210	
Club activities	1,148		704	
Cost of premises		463		659
- Rates and water				659
- Repairs and improvements		2,355		2,130
- Safety and security		1,055		260
- Heat and light		1,051		742
- Insurance		1,111		1,005
Warden's Honorarium	300		300	
Postage, stationery, advertising and telephone	-4		5	
Subscriptions and donations	843		517	
Sundry expenses	410		515	
Marketing	74		239	
Clothing sales	-43		-3	
Independent Examiners Fee	263		250	
Other Professional Fees (re Theatre Tax Relief)	408		0	
Depreciation	383		3,339	
PayPal Charges	46		31	
Sumup Charges	20		25	
Write-offs	0		0	
Total Resources Expended		35,614		38,929
Net Ingoing/(Outgoing) Resources		6,978		6,775
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward		150,641		143,866
Revaluation of Freehold Land & Buildings		132,516		0
Accumulated Funds Carried Forward		290,135		150,641

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. **Accounting Policies**

General

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Fixed Assets

Individual fixed assets costing £80 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided at the following rates, based on the estimated useful life of the fixed assets and their anticipated residual value:-

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line to 31/08/22
From 2022-23 financial year changed to revaluation on recommendation of independent examiner.	
Technical equipment	10% reducing balance
Office equipment	10% reducing balance

2. **Fixed Assets**

	<u>Freehold</u> <u>Land &</u> <u>Buildings</u> £	<u>Technical</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Office</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
<u>Cost</u>				
At 31 August 2022	145,716	9,483	59	155,258
Additions	0	0	0	0
Revaluation	69,284	0	0	69,284
Write-offs	0	0	0	0
At 31 August 2022	215,000	9,483	59	224,542
<u>Depreciation</u>				
At 31 August 2022	63,231	5,659	59	68,949
Charge for the year	-63,231	383	0	-62,848
At 31 August 2023	0	6,042	59	6,101
<u>Net Book Value</u>				
At 31 August 2023 *	215,000	3,441	0	218,441
At 31 August 2022	82,484	3,824	0	86,309

* Initial cost minus total depreciation shows rounding error of £1

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

3. **Funds (all unrestricted)**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	
	£	£	£
At 1 September 2022	64,333	86,308	150,641
Transfers	0	0	0
Net ingoing/(outgoings) for the year	6,978	0	6,978
Adjustments - Depreciation	383	-383	0
Adjustments - Revaluation	0	132,516	132,516
At 31 August 2023	71,694	218,441	290,135

The Capital Reserve represents profits which have accrued to the charity from the past sales of freehold land and buildings of £116,943 and from a bequest from a former member of £2,000. This was reduced by £19,174 in 2013 and was subsequently reduced each year to reflect the amount of tangible fixed assets after depreciaton.

From the 2022-23 financial year, the land and buildings have been valued on a revaluation basis.

The General Reserve now shows, fairly, the true amount of Current Assets, including the John Meikle bequest of £10,000.



TAUNTON THESPIANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1189940

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **01/09/2021** Period start date To **31/08/2022**
Period end date

Charity name: **Taunton Thespians**

Charity registration number: **1189940**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>(1) To promote the advancement and improvement of general education in relation to all aspects of the art of drama and the development of public appreciation of such art.</p> <p>(2) Such charitable objects or purposes that the Trustees shall in their discretion think fit.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Performing plays, holding open days, play readings, social activities.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Guidance has been followed.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>6 performances of 'The Hollow' at Taunton Brewhouse. 6 performances of 'Holiday Snap' at Taunton Brewhouse. 10 performances of 'Tales from 1001 Nights' at outdoor locations across Somerset.</p> <p>All providing opportunities to develop skills and experience in acting, directing, stage management, lighting, sound, props, costumes, set building and other stage-related crafts. All providing the public with a broad gamut of drama.</p> <p>Multiple public outreach and multiple social events</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	

Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	While productions overall showed a loss for the year, the financial position remains sound.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We hold reserves to cover maintenance and improvement of our premises, and potential losses on productions.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£64,333 in general reserves, £86,308 in capital reserves (principally representing the depreciated value of our premises)
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

--	--	--

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	CIO constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Election at AGM.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Taunton Thespians
Other name the charity uses	n/a
Registered charity number	1189940

Charity's principal address	The Place Wilfred Road Taunton TA1 1TB

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	Mark Dawson	Chairman		AGM
2	Sue Meredith	Secretary	From 10/10/2022	AGM
3	Robert Smith	Treasurer		AGM
4	Nicola Hale	Webmaster		AGM
5	Nicola Dawson	Marketing & Publicity		AGM
6	Elizabeth Knighton	Membership		AGM
7	Raymond Court	Productions	From 10/10/2022	AGM
8	Dona Bullion	Social Secretary	From 10/10/2022	AGM
9	Rene Kilner	Building & Technical	From 10/10/2022	AGM
10	Karen Downes			AGM
11	Peter Kitson		From 10/10/2022	AGM
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees - names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	n/a
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

Other optional information



--

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
---	--

Full name(s)

Mark Dawson	Robert Smith
-------------	--------------

Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chairman	Treasurer
----------	-----------

Date

19 October 2022

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

Registered Charity No. 1189940

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD

1st SEPTEMBER 2021 to 31st AUGUST 2022

Page 1	Cover
Page 2-3	Chairman's Report
Page 4	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 5	Balance Sheet
Page 6	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 7-8	Notes to the Accounts

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

Chairman's Report to the AGM of Taunton Thespians 10/10/2022

Over the past 12 months the committee has been, like the committees in so many previous years, somewhat fluid in nature. We gained one member during the year, in Rene Kilner, whom we co-opted into a pro-tem Buildings & Technical role, before losing another, Lorna Evans, who resigned as Secretary. To both of them and the other six committee members who have worked on your behalf over the last full year I offer my sincere thanks.

Since the last AGM we have lost another Thespian in Andrew Williams. Andrew's passing was, I think, a shock to us all. He had been a committee member, who also loved to act. But he was equally ready to step in either behind the scenes or front of house. From frantic bellhop in *Lend Me A Tenor* to dapper guest in *Murder On The Nile* Andrew could cover a spectrum of roles, and I think he relished them all. I'd like to pause for a short while so that we can remember him.

[30 second pause] Thank you

When I stood here last year I spoke about how we were starting to surface from the crisis of Coronavirus and lockdown. In the spirit of emerging into the sunlight after a prolonged period of darkness, I talked about how it seemed that people were ready to re-engage with society again. That emergence was, without doubt, a slow and prolonged affair for some. The fact that some of the upper age brackets in society (which make up a core demographic for us) may have been more cautious about placing themselves back into so-called 'normality' meant that last November's Agatha Christie murder mystery *The Hollow*, far from making the strong surplus that past experience suggested it would, actually made a loss. The show itself received extremely positive reviews and resulted in a Rosebowl acting nomination.

By the time that we got to March I think that effect had mellowed, to a degree, but by then we had something new to contend with and something no less unexpected. Hearing about conflict around the world is not so different, but has not, in my lifetime, had so profound an effect on our way of life as has had the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It seemed to start, very quickly, with fuel prices, which went from high to stupid in nothing flat. That, and the tail-end of Corona-caution, conspired to see another staple of the historical assurance in our repertoire take a hit; comedies and farces are a key Thespian strength, and *Holiday Snap* fits absolutely into that niche, but again we were thwarted and suffered another loss. Despite that, yet again complimentary reviews followed, and another Rosebowl acting nomination.

The Summer Tour is a very different kettle of fish. The logistics of taking a show to 10 different locations in 10 days are very much ramped up compared to a theatre production, but the costs are somewhat lower. Add into this formula a production which takes originality to new heights, some inspirational work behind the scenes and eye-catching publicity. The stunning venues we had lined up and the beautiful weather we were granted tipped the whole balance in our favour and gave us our first show of the year in the black. A deservedly admiring review and three Rosebowl nominations was a just reward.

It is my sense that we have not performed any worse over the last 12 months than we have in past times; we are still doing what we do particularly well. We are simply doing it in a depressed and withdrawn environment. This presents us with some interesting and difficult choices. I spoke last year about how one option might be to pull up the drawbridge and essentially become a social group until things returned to how they used to be. The problem, as I see it, with that choice is that we will fade from the collective public consciousness, and from their recognition. Our audience will move on. The other choice is to continue to put ourselves out there. We have a strong principle of *aiming to provide the people of Taunton (and, I hope, much further afield) with a broad gamut of drama* and this has been a guiding factor in what we have done. The risk, in a social atmosphere of worry and concern at rising prices everywhere, is that more well-executed shows will follow the same path. It's a tough choice, but one that we are not able avoid. I feel very strongly that if we are able to manage our resources intelligently and creatively the option of risking losses with continuing productions can be mitigated and is far preferred to the eventual oblivion of the drawbridge route, and if I continue as Chairman this is the path I would choose to follow.

Of course, whilst the social side of our activities shouldn't become the only thing we do, it should, naturally, play a role equally as important as any other. The past year has seen a wealth of social events. There have been no fewer than 18 play readings since we sat here a year ago, together with * a Christmas party, * a race night, * a treasure hunt, * a barbecue and * a quiz night, amongst others. In addition we have held an Open Day here at The Place and taken part in the Somerset Live and Pride event at Vivary Park, both as part of our outreach program, and both of which fostered further interest in the society and valuable channels to communication with the community.

In a very real way, our Society is still as strong and as vibrant as it has ever been.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

I report on the Financial Statements of the charity The Taunton Thespians (Charity No. 800217) for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2022, which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective Responsibilities of General Committee and Examiner

The charity's committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's committee consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act"), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ♦ examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- ♦ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- ♦ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the General Committee concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - ♦ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - ♦ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

4th October 2022

Edward Coton LTCL AFA/MIPA
TaxAssist Accountants
24 Bridge Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 1UB

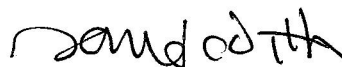
THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
		12 Months		12 Months	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	2		86,308		89,648
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank - Treasurers Current Account		5,433		2,200	
- Business Bank Interest Account		29,618		22,615	
- CAF Deposit Account		0		20,000	
- PayPal Wallet		410		0	
- Redwood Account		27,231		10,004	
Petty Cash held		105		105	
Bar stocks at cost		179		267	
Prepayments					
- Future Shows		2,459		244	
Accrued Income					
- Prepaid Subscriptions		-462		-549	
- Prepaid donations		-53		-46	
- Future Shows		-36		-136	
- Clothing orders		0		-48	
		<u>64,883</u>		<u>54,656</u>	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within					
One Year					
Fyne Court 1001 Venue Rates		-300		-300	
Independent Examiner		-250		-240	
Debtors		<u>0</u>		<u>102</u>	
Net Current Assets			64,333		54,218
Net Assets			<u>150,641</u>		<u>143,866</u>
Funds (all unrestricted)					
	3				
General Reserve			64,333		54,218
Capital Reserve			86,308		89,648
Development Fund			0		0
			<u>150,641</u>		<u>143,866</u>

Approved by the General Committee on 10th October 2022

and signed on their behalf by:-

Sue Meredith



Robert Smith - Treasurer



The notes on pages 7 and 8 form part of these Accounts.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	2022		2021	
	12 Months		12 Months	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Income from stage productions		25,121		0
Subscriptions		882		588
Interest received		234		155
Club activities		719		26
Wardrobe & Equipment Hire		183		127
Donations		74		64
Letting Income		5,705		5,547
Gift Aid Received		120		217
Government Covid grants		2,667		18,654
Other (John Meikle bequest)		10,000		0
Total Incoming Resources		45,704		25,378
Resources Expended				
Expenditure on stage productions	28,210		0	
Club activities	704		369	
Cost of premises				
- Rates and water	659		632	
- Repairs and improvements	2,130		3,703	
- Safety and security	260		260	
- Heat and light	742		431	
- Insurance	1,005		954	
Warden's Honorarium	300		300	
Postage, stationery, advertising and telephone	5		30	
Subscriptions and donations	517		365	
Sundry expenses	515		217	
Marketing	239		448	
Clothing sales	-3		0	
Independent Examiners Fee	250		240	
Other Professional Fees	0		635	
Depreciation	3,339		3,386	
PayPal Charges	31		2	
Sumup Charges	25			
Write-offs	0		0	
Total Resources Expended		38,929		11,972
Net Ingoing/(Outgoing) Resources		6,775		13,406
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward		143,866		130,460
Accumulated Funds Carried Forward		150,641		143,866

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. Accounting Policies

General

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Fixed Assets

Individual fixed assets costing £50 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided at the following rates, based on the estimated useful life of the fixed assets and their anticipated residual value:-

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Technical equipment	10% reducing balance
Office equipment	10% reducing balance

2. Fixed Assets

	<u>Freehold</u> <u>Land &</u> <u>Buildings</u> £	<u>Technical</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Office</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
<u>Cost</u>				
At 31 August 2021	145,716	9,483	59	155,258
Additions	0	0	0	0
Write-offs	0	0	0	0
At 31 August 2022	145,716	9,483	59	155,258
<u>Depreciation</u>				
At 31 August 2021	60,317	5,234	59	65,610
Charge for the year	2,914	425	0	3,339
At 31 August 2022	63,231	5,659	59	68,949
<u>Net Book Value</u>				
At 31 August 2022 *	82,484	3,824	0	86,308
At 31 August 2021	85,399	4,249	0	89,648

* Figure for Land & Buildings adjusted by £1 to compensate for rounding errors.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

3. **Funds (all unrestricted)**

	<u>General</u> <u>Reserve</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
At 1 September 2021	54,218	89,648	143,866
Transfers	0	0	0
Net ingoing/(outgoings) for the year	6,775	0	6,775
Adjustments - Depreciation	3,339	-3,339	0
At 31 August 2022 *	64,333	86,308	150,641

The Capital Reserve represents profits which have accrued to the charity from the past sales of freehold land and buildings of £116,943 and from a bequest from a former member of £2,000. This was reduced by £19,174 in 2013 and has subsequently been reduced each year to reflect the amount of tangible fixed assets after depreciation.

The General Reserve now shows, fairly, the true amount of Current Assets, including the John Meikle bequest of £10,000.

* General Reserve adjusted up by £1, Capital Reserve down by £1 to compensate for rounding.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

Registered Charity No. 1189940

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD

1st SEPTEMBER 2021 to 31st AUGUST 2022

Page 1	Cover
Page 2-3	Chairman's Report
Page 4	Independent Examiner's Report
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THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

Chairman's Report to the AGM of Taunton Thespians 10/10/2022

Over the past 12 months the committee has been, like the committees in so many previous years, somewhat fluid in nature. We gained one member during the year, in Rene Kilner, whom we co-opted into a pro-tem Buildings & Technical role, before losing another, Lorna Evans, who resigned as Secretary. To both of them and the other six committee members who have worked on your behalf over the last full year I offer my sincere thanks.

Since the last AGM we have lost another Thespian in Andrew Williams. Andrew's passing was, I think, a shock to us all. He had been a committee member, who also loved to act. But he was equally ready to step in either behind the scenes or front of house. From frantic bellhop in *Lend Me A Tenor* to dapper guest in *Murder On The Nile* Andrew could cover a spectrum of roles, and I think he relished them all. I'd like to pause for a short while so that we can remember him.

[30 second pause] Thank you

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In a very real way, our Society is still as strong and as vibrant as it has ever been.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

I report on the Financial Statements of the charity The Taunton Thespians (Charity No. 800217) for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2022, which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective Responsibilities of General Committee and Examiner

The charity's committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's committee consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act"), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ♦ examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- ♦ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- ♦ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the General Committee concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - ♦ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - ♦ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

4th October 2022

Edward Coton LTCL AFA/MIPA
TaxAssist Accountants
24 Bridge Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 1UB

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
		12 Months		12 Months	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	2		86,308		89,648
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank - Treasurers Current Account		5,433		2,200	
- Business Bank Interest Account		29,618		22,615	
- CAF Deposit Account		0		20,000	
- PayPal Wallet		410		0	
- Redwood Account		27,231		10,004	
Petty Cash held		105		105	
Bar stocks at cost		179		267	
Prepayments					
- Future Shows		2,459		244	
Accrued Income					
- Prepaid Subscriptions		-462		-549	
- Prepaid donations		-53		-46	
- Future Shows		-36		-136	
- Clothing orders		0		-48	
		<u>64,883</u>		<u>54,656</u>	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within					
One Year					
Fyne Court 1001 Venue Rates		-300		-300	
Independent Examiner		-250		-240	
Debtors		<u>0</u>		<u>102</u>	
Net Current Assets			64,333		54,218
Net Assets			<u>150,641</u>		<u>143,866</u>
Funds (all unrestricted)					
	3				
General Reserve			64,333		54,218
Capital Reserve			86,308		89,648
Development Fund			0		0
			<u>150,641</u>		<u>143,866</u>

Approved by the General Committee on 10th October 2022

and signed on their behalf by:-

Sue Meredith



Robert Smith - Treasurer



The notes on pages 7 and 8 form part of these Accounts.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	2022		2021	
	12 Months		12 Months	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Income from stage productions		25,121		0
Subscriptions		882		588
Interest received		234		155
Club activities		719		26
Wardrobe & Equipment Hire		183		127
Donations		74		64
Letting Income		5,705		5,547
Gift Aid Received		120		217
Government Covid grants		2,667		18,654
Other (John Meikle bequest)		10,000		0
Total Incoming Resources		45,704		25,378
Resources Expended				
Expenditure on stage productions	28,210		0	
Club activities	704		369	
Cost of premises				
- Rates and water	659		632	
- Repairs and improvements	2,130		3,703	
- Safety and security	260		260	
- Heat and light	742		431	
- Insurance	1,005		954	
Warden's Honorarium	300		300	
Postage, stationery, advertising and telephone	5		30	
Subscriptions and donations	517		365	
Sundry expenses	515		217	
Marketing	239		448	
Clothing sales	-3		0	
Independent Examiners Fee	250		240	
Other Professional Fees	0		635	
Depreciation	3,339		3,386	
PayPal Charges	31		2	
Sumup Charges	25			
Write-offs	0		0	
Total Resources Expended		38,929		11,972
Net Ingoing/(Outgoing) Resources		6,775		13,406
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward		143,866		130,460
Accumulated Funds Carried Forward		150,641		143,866

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. Accounting Policies

General

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Fixed Assets

Individual fixed assets costing £50 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided at the following rates, based on the estimated useful life of the fixed assets and their anticipated residual value:-

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Technical equipment	10% reducing balance
Office equipment	10% reducing balance

2. Fixed Assets

	<u>Freehold</u> <u>Land &</u> <u>Buildings</u> £	<u>Technical</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Office</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
<u>Cost</u>				
At 31 August 2021	145,716	9,483	59	155,258
Additions	0	0	0	0
Write-offs	0	0	0	0
At 31 August 2022	145,716	9,483	59	155,258
<u>Depreciation</u>				
At 31 August 2021	60,317	5,234	59	65,610
Charge for the year	2,914	425	0	3,339
At 31 August 2022	63,231	5,659	59	68,949
<u>Net Book Value</u>				
At 31 August 2022 *	82,484	3,824	0	86,308
At 31 August 2021	85,399	4,249	0	89,648

* Figure for Land & Buildings adjusted by £1 to compensate for rounding errors.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

3. **Funds (all unrestricted)**

	<u>General</u> <u>Reserve</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
At 1 September 2021	54,218	89,648	143,866
Transfers	0	0	0
Net ingoing/(outgoings) for the year	6,775	0	6,775
Adjustments - Depreciation	3,339	-3,339	0
At 31 August 2022 *	64,333	86,308	150,641

The Capital Reserve represents profits which have accrued to the charity from the past sales of freehold land and buildings of £116,943 and from a bequest from a former member of £2,000. This was reduced by £19,174 in 2013 and has subsequently been reduced each year to reflect the amount of tangible fixed assets after depreciation.

The General Reserve now shows, fairly, the true amount of Current Assets, including the John Meikle bequest of £10,000.

* General Reserve adjusted up by £1, Capital Reserve down by £1 to compensate for rounding.

TAUNTON THESPIANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1189940

Accounts

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

Registered Charity No. 1189940

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD

1st SEPTEMBER 2020 to 31st AUGUST 2021

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THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

Chairman's Report to the AGM of Taunton Thespians 11/10/2021

My thanks to all of the other eight members of the committee who started with the last AGM. That said the effective size of the committee shrank, at least for the last six months, from nine to seven people, when Andy and Jane Busby moved out of the area to be closer to family. My special thanks therefore to the other six remaining committee members for picking up the slack and keeping us going. They have worked tirelessly to make sure that all of the jobs necessary to us have been completed.

*There have been a couple of losses to the society over the last twelve months. Notably our previous President, John Meikle, who was the figurehead of our society for as long as I can remember. John's contribution to the Thespians, over many decades, is eclipsed only by his contribution to Taunton. He reached the impressive age of 97 and cast a long shadow and I am grateful for everything he did for us. Mike Leach, on the other hand, was taken from us far too early. Mike played a great many roles for us over the years, and I'm fairly sure that the one he most relished was as Jaques in *As You Like It*. Mike was also a fiercely intelligent person, to such an extent that if there was a quiz (the subject was almost irrelevant) you were either on Mike's team, or you didn't win. I'd like to pause for a short while so that we can remember these two Thespians.*

Thank you

On the face of it you might be forgiven for thinking that, with the entire country in lockdown and all venues closed, there isn't a lot to report. Well, of course, there haven't been any live performances at all, which is unheard of in Thespian history. When the first lockdown started I think many of us thought that, as all-embracing as it was, we would all wait it out for a few months and then it would be done and we could get back to normal. How wrong that thought was. And so, to begin with, we all just battened down the hatches and very little was done in the way of communicating and socialising online. As time marched on, and it became obvious that we were in it for a longer haul, so the advent of digital Thespians grew and we began to do all of the society-type events over Zoom until, in July, we were finally able to meet up again. In fact, in the 12 months since the last AGM we have held a total of 14 play readings, held two quizzes, had two talks by guests, had a digital Christmas party, attended Taunton Live, held an open day and had a member's barbecue. We even posted a show, of sorts, onto YouTube with a rendition of one of the Arabian Nights Tales.

The thirst for social contact was brought home to us at the Taunton Live event. What was clear was that the people there were ready, eager even, to start face to face contact again. It is, perhaps, understandable, given just how serious the previous 18 months have been, that there are some who are hesitant, but, it seems to me, that there are many, many more who ready for a return to normality. With that in mind we have set out a path ahead.

*It will come as no great surprise that we are starting off by playing to our strengths with, firstly, an Agatha Christie play: *The Hollow*, followed by comedy in the form of a farce called *Holiday Snap*. These have been carefully chosen to not only help us show ourselves at our best, but also to give our audiences some light-hearted relief after so long without any live theatre. The plays that we choose to produce, and how we choose to present them to the public are important decisions, to be sure, but they are not so important, I think, as the decision to actually **DO** them. We could, maybe, sit and worry about whether we will have big enough audiences. Maybe we will and maybe we won't, and maybe, if we allowed that to dictate our actions, I might be standing here in a year's time telling you that we still hadn't put on any shows. Instead, we will do what we do: be a drama society.*

The program over the next 12 months is not just about those two Brewhouse shows. In addition we have lined up reintroductions for our Mummings group, under the leadership of Dona Bullion, who are doing their thing in January, our County Drama Festival participation with the denied 2020 entry finally being given its chance in March next year and, by no means least, the Thespians Summer Tour in July. We already have about half of the venues lined up. We also have more play readings coming very soon and more social events

My last message to you all is this: enjoy your society, take part in what it has to offer, but. Above all, have fun.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE TAUNTON THESPIANS

I report on the Financial Statements of the charity The Taunton Thespians (Charity No. 800217) for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective Responsibilities of General Committee and Examiner

The charity's committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's committee consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act"), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- ♦ examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- ♦ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- ♦ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the General Committee concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - ♦ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - ♦ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Edward Coton LTCL AFA/MIPA
TaxAssist Accountants
24 Bridge Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 1UB

6th October 2021

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
		12 Months		12 Months	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	2		89,648		93,034
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank - Treasurers Current Account			2,200		801
- Business Bank Interest Account			22,615		16,613
- CAF Deposit Account			20,000		20,000
- PayPal Wallet			0		
- Redwood Account			10,004		
Petty Cash held			105		115
Bar stocks at cost			267		149
Prepayments					
- Future Shows			244		8
- Repairs & Improvements			0		0
- Business Rates			0		268
Accrued Income					
- Prepaid Subscriptions			-549		-348
- Prepaid donations			-46		-28
- Future Shows			-136		
- Clothing orders			-48		0
			54,656		37,578
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within					
One Year					
Rates (estimate)			(300)		(152)
Independent Examiner			-240		0
Debtors			102		0
Net Current Assets			54,218		37,426
Net Assets			143,866		130,460
Funds (all unrestricted)					
	3				
General Reserve			54,218		37,426
Capital Reserve			89,648		93,034
Development Fund			0		0
			143,866		130,460

Approved by the General Committee on 11th October 2021

and signed on their behalf by:-

Lorna Evans - Secretary



Robert Smith - Treasurer



The notes on pages 7 and 8 form part of these Accounts.

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	2021		2020	
	12 Months		12 Months	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Income from stage productions		0		22,778
Subscriptions		588		959
Interest received		155		166
Club activities		26		1,496
Wardrobe & Equipment Hire		127		607
Donations		64		199
Letting Income		5,547		4,139
Gift Aid Received		217		238
Government Covid grants		18,654		0
Other		0		0
Total Incoming Resources		25,378		30,582
Resources Expended				
Expenditure on stage productions		0		22,473
Club activities		369		1,066
Cost of premises		632		709
- Rates and water				917
- Repairs and improvements		3,703		332
- Safety and security		260		1,065
- Heat and light		431		894
- Insurance		954		
Warden's Honorarium		300		300
Postage, stationery, advertising and telephone		30		27
Subscriptions and donations		365		648
Sundry expenses		217		368
Marketing		448		221
Clothing sales		0		0
Independent Examiners Fee		240		0
Other Professional Fees		635		0
Depreciation		3,386		3,438
PayPal Charges		2		0
Write-offs		0		0
Total Resources Expended		11,972		32,458
Net Ingoing/(Outgoing) Resources		13,406		(1,876)
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward		130,460		132,336
Accumulated Funds Carried Forward		143,866		130,460

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. **Accounting Policies**

General

These Accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Fixed Assets

Individual fixed assets costing £50 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided at the following rates, based on the estimated useful life of the fixed assets and their anticipated residual value:-

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Technical equipment	10% reducing balance
Office equipment	10% reducing balance

2. **Fixed Assets**

	<u>Freehold</u> <u>Land &</u> <u>Buildings</u> £	<u>Technical</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Office</u> <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
<u>Cost</u>				
At 31 August 2020	145,716	9,483	59	155,258
Additions	0	0	0	0
Write-offs	0	0	0	0
At 31 August 2021	145,716	9,483	59	155,258
<u>Depreciation</u>				
At 31 August 2020	57,403	4,762	59	62,224
Charge for the year	2,914	472	0	3,386
At 31 August 2021	60,317	5,234	59	65,610
<u>Net Book Value</u>				
At 31 August 2021	85,399	4,249	0	89,648
At 31 August 2020	88,313	4,721	0	93,034

THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

3. **Funds (all unrestricted)**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Capital</u>	
	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
At 1 September 2020	37,426	93,034	130,460
Transfers	0	0	0
Net ingoing/(outgoings) for the year	13,646	0	13,646
Adjustments - Depreciation	3,386	-3,386	0
At 31 August 2021	54,458	89,648	144,106

The Capital Reserve represents profits which have accrued to the charity from the past sales of freehold land and buildings of £116,943 and from a bequest from a former member of £2,000. This was reduced by £19,174 in 2013 and has subsequently been reduced each year to reflect the amount of tangible fixed assets after depreciation.

The General Reserve now shows, fairly, the true amount of Current Assets.