



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

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	(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.
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		

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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)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information



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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Mark Dawson	Robert Smith
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Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chairman	Treasurer
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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

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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 to 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

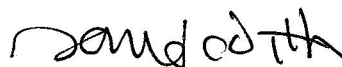
THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	<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	
		64,883		54,656	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within					
One Year Fyne Court 1001 Venue		-300			
Rates				-300	
Independent Examiner		-250		-240	
Debtors		0		102	
Net Current Assets			64,333		54,218
Net Assets			150,641		143,866
Funds (all unrestricted)	3				
General Reserve			64,333		54,218
Capital Reserve			86,308		89,648
Development Fund			0		0
			150,641		143,866

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 12 Months £ £	2021 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	<u>145,716</u>	<u>9,483</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>155,258</u>
<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	<u>63,231</u>	<u>5,659</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>68,949</u>
<u>Net Book Value</u>				
At 31 August 2022 *	<u>82,484</u>	<u>3,824</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>86,308</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>85,399</u>	<u>4,249</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>89,648</u>

* 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>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>£</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

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

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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

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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

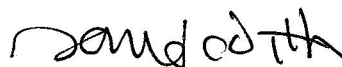
THE TAUNTON THESPIANS
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	<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	
		64,883		54,656	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within					
One Year					
Fyne Court 1001 Venue Rates		-300		-300	
Independent Examiner		-250		-240	
Debtors		0		102	
Net Current Assets			64,333		54,218
Net Assets			150,641		143,866
Funds (all unrestricted)	3				
General Reserve			64,333		54,218
Capital Reserve			86,308		89,648
Development Fund			0		0
			150,641		143,866

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 12 Months £ £	2021 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>Technical</u>		<u>Office</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Land &</u>		<u>Equipment</u>		<u>Equipment</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Buildings</u>		<u>Equipment</u>		<u>Equipment</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>		<u>£</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>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>£</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</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.