

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, re-connect 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> 12 Months £ £	<u>2023</u> 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
		<u>70,772</u>	<u>71,916</u>
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
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net Current Assets		70,309	71,694
Net Assets		<u>289,155</u>	<u>290,135</u>
Funds (all unrestricted)	3		
General Reserve		70,309	71,694
Capital Reserve		218,847	218,441
Development Fund		0	0
		<u>289,155</u>	<u>290,135</u>

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 12 Months £ £	2023 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 - Rates and water	256	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>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Reserve</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 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).