

CIO REGISTERED NUMBER: CE024993 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1193643 (England)

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025
for

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

TRUSTEES

David Neil Harvey (Chairman)
Jon Lindsay Harrison (Secretary)
Frederick George Johnson (Treasurer)
Andrew Charles Simpson
Christopher Mark Sluman
Hannah Victoria Smith
Armeet Panesar
Harry Benjamin Brown
Heloise Rosemarie Anderson
Peter Richard James Dawton

SECRETARY

Jon Lindsay Harrison

REGISTERED OFFICE

1b Sunnyhill Road
London
SW16 2UG

CIO REGISTERED NUMBER

CE024993 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

1193643 (England)

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

(A) TO PROTECT, PRESERVE AND RESTORE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF STREATHAM, OF SOUTH LONDON, AND OF THE NATION AT LARGE, THE BUILDING KNOWN AS STREATHAM HILL THEATRE AND SITUATED IN STREATHAM HILL, LONDON SW2, ITS HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL AND CONSTRUCTIONAL FEATURES, AND ITS ENVIRONS; AND

(B) TO PROMOTE, MAINTAIN, IMPROVE, ASSIST AND ADVANCE PUBLIC ACCESS, PARTICIPATION, APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE, DRAMA, THEATRE, POETRY, THE SPOKEN WORD, LITERATURE, MIME, CIRCUS, MAGIC, OPERA, MUSIC, DANCE, SINGING, ART, PHOTOGRAPHY AND CINEMATOGRAPHY;

Charitable Activities, Achievements and Performance

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31 March 2025. I have tried to pull together here the key points for the report year April 2024 to March 2025, and have added more to bring us up to date.

Our first objective [I paraphrase] is to save the Streatham Hill Theatre for the benefit of the community. We address this by campaigning to bring the theatre to the attention of the community and to relevant organisations, and to work with them to seek a way to achieve this, for example as an arts and cultural centre, centred around a large performance space.

We continue to work with a range of stakeholders, including Lambeth Council (officers, councillors and mayor), our local MP Steve Reed and his team, Theatres Trust, Streatham Society, Streatham Action, the newly formed Streatham Arts Community, and InStreatham business improvement district, to keep Streatham Hill Theatre, its condition and its potential in the forefront of their minds. We also keep a second tier of bodies up to date, including Historic England, who are responsible for listed buildings. Most of these organisations have joined our virtual Action Team, through which we coordinate activity.

We have continued to engage with IC Venues (International Creative Venues) led by established theatre practitioner Thom Southerland. They have said:

“Working with Lambeth Council (Regeneration), Theatres Trust, Historic England and Arts Council, a business plan was formulated which would see the full renovation and reopening of the theatre, working in partnership with first class architects, similar national large scale theatre owners and operators and international theatre producers.”

IC Venues and ourselves also try to engage with the building owners. Despite various attempts by various bodies, finally it was our new MP Steve Reed who facilitated a meeting with ourselves, Theatres Trust, Thom Southerland and Ruach. Ruach agreed to look again at Thom’s proposals and engage with him. We’ve not yet heard of any outcomes.

Ruach City Church bought the freehold of the building in July 2022 to relocate from their Brixton premises. Merkur’s lease has been modified to cover only the slot machine area and extended to 2038.

Ruach left the theatre empty for two years with some maintenance issues. However, when it became clear they would need to leave Brixton by the end of June 2024, they rushed to carry out works in the building to make it ready. It appears the works were done without permission (Lambeth and Theatres Trust are aware) but from what we know the heritage aspects of the building have not been affected. They seem to have addressed the water ingress in the basement and dealt with a pigeon problem. Other issues remain, and we understand they have now started work on the non-public areas.

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Ruach opened in Streatham on 30th June 2024, bringing their congregation in a march from Brixton. Concerns were raised about the lack of necessary health and safety inspections. Subsequently, there have been a couple of incidents, including electrical fires causing a shutdown, and another unexplained police/fire incident.

Ruach will need change of use, planning and listed building consent. Ruach also own a former listed cinema in Kilburn, which seems to be the model for how they will approach Streatham Hill. While we understand that they want to retain and restore the building, we are concerned that use for arts and performance, and community access, may be lost as at Kilburn.

Lambeth requested our vision for the theatre, which we provided – an always open venue, centred around commercial theatre, with other arts, food and beverage offerings and community access for arts, performance and events. Lambeth also facilitated a community meeting with Ruach, attended by ourselves, several other local organisations and practitioners, Theatres Trust and the MP's team. Attendees presented their community needs, but there was reluctance from Ruach to accept these. Regular such meetings were promised but not delivered.

Ruach's planning application was submitted, asking for change of use, but no building works. The application is contrary to several Lambeth and GLA policies. Ruach are promising community access, without much detail, but not commercial theatre use. We co-ordinated a response, objecting to the application, with support from Theatres Trust, GLA, Streatham Society, InStreatham, some local councillors, and many, many individuals. The application remains with Lambeth Planning officers, who will make a recommendation to the Planning Application Committee – several committee meetings have passed since the application; we await to hear the chosen date. We will have a chance to speak, and have been seeking planning and legal advice.

We continue to receive enquiries from organisations, including some major entertainment companies, wanting to use the theatre, e.g., for filming or shows. Obviously, we cannot oblige but we pass these enquiries onto the new owners to show the level of interest.

The Streatham Festival team approached Ruach through the auspices of local MP Steve Reed's office to ask for access to the theatre for this year's (Oct 2025) Streatham Festival. There was the possibility for a concert, a comedy event and guided tours. After a period of negotiations regarding content (Ruach wish to approve all content), costs and arrangements, only the tour is able to go ahead. Organised by our local open-access, volunteer-run, non-profit Streatham Theatre Company, there will be two free tours on Thursday 16th October. We suspect granting of limited access is part of Ruach's campaign for their planning application.

We are constantly adding more to our [website](#), which is the gateway to everything about the theatre and the campaign, including documents, photographs, and, through our Memories project, audio or video interviews with people who performed at or otherwise remember the theatre. These provide some great insight into the theatre's history, as do the various historic entries, some with photos and images, in our blog which goes back to 1912! This year we have added memories from a Mecca bingo manager, and a link to a video of the theatre made by urban explorers after the bingo moved out.

We have catalogued our archive of theatre programmes, donated by kind supporters (one as far away as Australia) – we welcome more donations. We would like to scan these and make them available online for you to read. We have been in touch with Lambeth Archives to discuss joining forces to bring our and their collections together virtually. This collaboration has also led to our patron Simon Callow supporting the Archives by reading from Lambeth's very own copies of Shakespeare Folios at a recent event. We have also visited the V&A archives to see their boxes of SHT materiel, which turn out to contain what looks like a full set of programmes and a few flyers. We are also getting requests from researchers looking for information about appearances by performers, which we can often help with information from our archives. We have also assisted Dunraven School students, and a French architecture student who has created a vision for SHT for her Master's Degree.

We have now added greeting cards to our merchandise, along with the John Cresswell book about the theatre...available online via the website.

Looking at our supporters, we now have 12 'famous name' patrons. Plus, we have 236 creative industry supporters, joining the 1521 supporters on our mailing list, together with around 90 supporter organisations and 1500 X (Twitter), 1400 Facebook, 1800 Instagram, and (new this year) 190 BlueSky followers.

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Friends and the campaign are run entirely by volunteers giving their time and experience for free – **I would like to thank them all** – and **appeal for others to join them in helping**, so as to spread the load over a wider number.

Of our volunteer charity Trustees, one third are required to stand down at this AGM but are eligible for re-election. We have also invited nominations for other Trustees to join the board. The election is later on the Agenda.

Our day-to-day campaign continues to be run by a separate but overlapping Steering Group. You can think of the Trustees as the board of directors, and the Steering Group as the management team.

We participate at events such as Streatham Kite Day, Lambeth History Fair, and Woodfield Pavilion to publicise our campaign. We have also given a presentation about the theatre and our campaign to the Cinema Theatres Association, Streatham Society and London Equity branches. I was recently interviewed on local radio station Riverside Radio, and had calls from Channel 4 and other media. Heart Streatham also features our campaign quite regularly. Local Norbury Knitters have recently created a knitted banner for us, which we will be displaying around the area.

Remember we have regular campaign meetings, held online, where you can get updates on the campaign, and contribute to planning. Please register for these at the website!

Plus, we regularly email out a newsletter to friends and the press, and post on social media – primarily X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, BlueSky and Instagram. Links to these are also on the website, or search for Streatham Hill Theatre or FoSHT.

Finally, can I say a big thank you to everyone who has helped with the campaign, giving time, pledging money and spreading the word! Give yourselves a big round of applause...

David Harvey, Chairman

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties. The public benefit of the Charity's activities is outlined under 'Objectives and Activities' above and 'Achievements and Performance' below.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Trustees consider it prudent to maintain unrestricted reserves at a level sufficient to enable the Charity, in the event that closure was inevitable, to gradually wind down the Charity over a year. The Trustees consider that the current level of reserves should be sufficient for this purpose.

Financial Position

The financial position of the Charity as at 31 March 2025 is considered to be satisfactory. Overall, the Trustees consider that, with the continuing support of those who support the Charity, both from a physical and a financial point of view, the Charity will be able to continue to meet its objectives and provide its core activities for the foreseeable future.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Charity is governed by its Constitution and is a Charitable Incorporated Organization defined by Part 11 of the Charities Act 2011. A charitable incorporated organization is a corporate body which is not a company incorporated under the Companies Acts; it is therefore not subject to company regulation.

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New Trustees are identified through local networks. They meet existing Trustees for informal discussion and interview and attend a board meeting as an observer; references are then obtained before appointment is confirmed by the Trustees. In the recruitment of new Trustees, the board has regard to the importance of widening membership among varying ethnic, age and socio-economic groups, while retaining the board's strong connection to the local community.

Organizational structure

The Charity is run by volunteers who meet on a quarterly basis to review progress of the Charity and all relevant projects, and to carry out strategic development planning.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Approved by order of the board of Trustees on 09/10/2025 and signed on its behalf by:



David Harvey - Trustee

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	31.3.25 Total funds	31.3.24 Total funds
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	556	0	556	826
Charitable activities				
 Other activities	195	-	195	220
TOTAL	751	0	751	1,046
 EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities*				
 Other activities:				
Other costs	631	0	631	695
TOTAL	631	0	631	695
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	120	0	120	351
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	4,289	0	4,289	3,938
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	4,409	0	4,409	4,289

The notes form part of these financial statements.

*There is no expenditure shown for Charitable Activities as they are carried out by volunteers using free or donated resources

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024

	Notes	31.3.25	31.3.24
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank		3,351	3,396
Stock		302	347
Debtors ⁺		576	546
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	0	0
NET CURRENT ASSETS		0	0
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		4,409	4,289
NET ASSETS		4,409	4,289
FUNDS	9		
Unrestricted funds		4,409	4,289
Restricted funds		0	0
		4,409	4,289

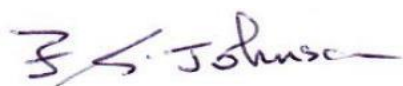
The Members have not required the Charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the Charity keeps accounting records and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year.

+ Debtors relate to Monies due from HMRC in respect of Gift Aid

The financial statements were approved by the board of Trustees on 09/10/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Fred Johnson - Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the Charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognized in the Statement of Financial Activities once the Charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably, generally upon receipt.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognized as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on a cash basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed Assets

Depreciation: The Charity does not have any assets at this time.

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.25	31.3.24
Accountancy	0	0

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 continued

4. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	0	0
Emoluments paid	0	0

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	31.3.25 Total funds	31.3.24 Total funds
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	556	0	556	826
Charitable activities				
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 EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities*				
 Other activities:				
Other costs	631	0	631	695
TOTAL	631	0	631	695
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	120	0	120	351
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	4,289	0	4,289	3,938
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	4,409	0	4,409	4,289

*There is no expenditure shown for Charitable Activities as they are carried out by volunteers using free or donated resources

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 continued

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	31.3.25	31.3.24
COST		
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	0	0
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	0	0
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 March 2025	0	0
At 31 March 2024	0	0

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
Accrued expenses	0	0

8. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	31.3.25 Total Funds	31.3.24 Total Funds
Current assets	4,409	0	4,409	4,289
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
	4,409	0	4,409	4,289

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 31.3.24	Net movement in funds	31.3.25
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	4,289	120	4,409
Restricted funds			
TOTAL FUNDS	4,289	120	4,409

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 continued

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – continued

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS, included in the above are as follows

Unrestricted funds

General fund

Restricted funds

TOTAL FUNDS

**Incoming
resources**

**Resources
expended**

Movement in
funds

751

631

120

751

631

120

Comparatives for movement in funds

At 31.3.23

**Net movement
in funds**

31.3.24

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Unrestricted funds

General fund

Restricted funds

TOTAL FUNDS

3,938

351

4,298

3,938

351

4,298

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS, included in the above are as follows

Unrestricted funds

General fund

Restricted funds

TOTAL FUNDS

**Incoming
resources**

**Resources
expended**

Movement in
funds

1,046

695

351

1,046

695

351

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 continued

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

This page does form part of the statutory financial statements

	31.3.25	31.3.24
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies	556	826
Charitable activities		
Other activities	135	220
Total incoming resources	751	1,046
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities*		
Wages	0	0
Rent	0	0
	0	0
Support costs		
Management		
Cleaning	-	0
Insurance	96	96
Telephone	0	0
Training	0	0
Marketing & printing	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
Sundries	127	149
IT Services	363	363
	608	608
Finance		
Bank charges	86	87
Governance costs		
Accountancy	0	0
Total resources expended	631	695
Net income/(expenditure)	120	351

*There is no expenditure shown for Charitable Activities as they are carried out by volunteers using free or donated resources