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## **Trustees Annual Report**

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**1 August 2024 – 31 July 2025**

## Document Control

**Author:** Chris Rees, Chair of the Trustees

**Version:** 1 – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Introduction

This report covers the period between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

This is the fourth year of the operation of Carlton Operatic Society CIO. The Constitution of the CIO demands that an AGM takes place no later than 15 months after the previous AGM; the date of that previous AGM was 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The annual accounts for the 2024-2025 season have been prepared, and have been independently examined; this report includes the examined accounts for discussion and approval at a general meeting, following which they will be submitted to the Charity Commission.

## Reference and Administrative details

**Name of the charity:** Carlton Operatic Society

**Other names which the charity uses:** none

**Charity registration number:** 1194116

**Address:** 1 Poppy Mews, Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 7EY

**Trustees during report period:** Christopher Rees (Chair & Business Manager), Anthony Lockett (Treasurer), Ella Greenwood (Administrator), Sarah Hill, Jennifer Chatten, Graham Ward, Helen Taylor (from 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025), Lindsey Jaycock (from 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025).

## Structure, governance and management

Carlton Operatic Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed with an 'association model' constitution.

Trustees for the charity are elected by the membership at the annual general meeting (AGM), for a period of up to three years, and are responsible for the management of the Society. They receive no remuneration for their role as trustees. Further trustees can be appointed as necessary to the board by trustees between AGMs, subject to those appointed trustees resigning at the next AGM. Trustees need not be members of the charity prior to their appointment or election.

The charity has no employees.

Independent Examiners: Karen Braithwaite, Denhams Accountancy and Taxation Services, 32 Seathwaite Close, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6SF

NODA: The Society is affiliated with the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, NODA House, 58-60 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2RZ.

## Objectives and activities

The object of the CIO is to promote and improve general education in relation to all aspects of the art of drama and musical theatrical performance for the public benefit.

This was an unusual season for the charity. In February 2024 we were approached by Nottingham Operatic Society (NOS) to collaborate on an amateur production of “Les Misérables”. The terms of the collaboration were essentially that we donate our May 2025 week at the Theatre Royal, and our members would get preferential treatment to take part in the show. After a considerable amount of discussion within the trustees and with NOS, we agreed to the collaboration. Our chair, Chris Rees, served on the panel for the auditions for the show, and some members of the charity took part in the production. However, our involvement was extremely limited, and COS has not benefitted financially from the production (but were also not responsible for the costs of producing it).

A private cinema screening of our 2024 production of “Kipps” was held, along with a Christmas concert, and some social events, in order to keep the membership engaged.

The “downtime” was used to put the charity in a significantly stronger financial position, as our registration as a CIO in 2021 has meant that we now qualify for Theatre Tax Relief, and we were able to submit backdated claims for both “Shrek” (2022) and “Kinky Boots” (2023) prior to the claim deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, and for “Kipps” (2024) following the closing of the accounts for 2023-2024. The resulting credits are reflected in these accounts.

Our production for the 2025-26 season, will be “Come From Away”. We anticipate that this will be a popular show for both members and audience members, and look forward to a busy and successful year.

The trustees of the Society have paid due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity has undertaken this year.

## Achievements and performance

The main achievement of the charity for the period in question has been the financial rebalancing of the charity. The successful applications for Theatre Tax Relief have dramatically improved the financial position of the charity, and will continue to provide support for such time as the government keeps the creative industries tax relief scheme in place.

A Christmas concert held in December 2024 was well received, although unfortunately bad weather on the evening of the performance (and tickets being sold on the door) reduced the size of the audience. The concert included a number of the children who had been involved in our previous 3 productions (Shrek, Kinky Boots and Kipps), and we donated a small sum to the Salvation Army who hosted the concert.

The collaborative production of Les Misérables with Nottingham Operatic Society provided for some of our members to be able to take part in a huge production – there were around 100 people in total in the cast, with a substantial number of those from COS.

Our production of Kipps in 2024 was also recognised at the 2025 NODA East Midlands Awards, winning Best Musical Production in Region 3, Outstanding Individual Performance, and the Hinks-Cole Trophy for overall Best Musical in the East Midlands. We had further nominations for Outstanding Individual Performance, Outstanding Youth Individual Performance, and Best Luxury Programme.

## Financial Review

During the 2024-25 period our expenditure totalled £3,370 and our income totalled £83,787.

We hold reserves of funds in order to ensure that we are able to continue to produce theatrical productions; we aim for those funds to be sufficient to allow for a very unsuccessful production to not reduce the funds available to the charity to the point at which it is not possible to produce further productions.

At the end of the 2024-25 financial period we are in the best financial position we have been in for over a decade. Advance payments have been made for our 2026 and 2027 shows. Our pricing structure for both of these shows has been revised, and our intention is that our shows should be aiming to cover all costs from ticket receipts, using the theatre tax relief only as a bonus.

We intend to continue to grow the finances to reach a completely secure position, and the trustees are satisfied that the reserves currently held allow us to continue with our planned productions for the foreseeable future.

## Exemptions from disclosure

Not applicable

## Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

None

## Financial accounts

See accompanying PDF "Carlton Accounts to 31 07 25.pdf"

**CARLTON OPERATIC SOCIETY  
UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025**

**Carlton Operatic Society**  
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**Carlton Operatic Society  
Accounts Approval Statement  
For The Year Ended 31 July 2025**

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I approve these unaudited accounts which comprise a Profit and Loss Account, Balance Sheet and related notes.  
I acknowledge my responsibility for the accounts including the provision of all the information and explanations necessary for the completion.

Signed

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Date

**Carlton Operatic Society**  
**Profit and Loss Account**  
**For The Year Ended 31 July 2025**

|                                                       | <b>2025</b> |          | <b>2024</b> |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
|                                                       | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b> | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b> |
| <b>Turnover</b>                                       |             |          |             |          |
| Sales                                                 |             | 3,378    |             | 64,104   |
|                                                       |             | <hr/>    |             | <hr/>    |
| <b>Cost of Sales</b>                                  |             |          |             |          |
| Show Expenses                                         | -           |          | 75,342      |          |
|                                                       |             |          |             |          |
| <b>GROSS PROFIT</b>                                   |             | 3,378    |             | (11,238) |
|                                                       |             |          |             |          |
| <b>Other Operating Income</b>                         |             |          |             |          |
| Other income - contributing to other operating income | 60          |          | -           |          |
|                                                       | <hr/>       |          | <hr/>       |          |
|                                                       |             | 60       |             | -        |
|                                                       |             | <hr/>    |             | <hr/>    |
|                                                       |             | 3,438    |             | (11,238) |
|                                                       |             | <hr/>    |             | <hr/>    |
| <b>Other Income</b>                                   |             |          |             |          |
| Bank interest receivable                              |             | 527      |             | 319      |
|                                                       |             | <hr/>    |             | <hr/>    |
|                                                       |             | 3,965    |             | (10,919) |
|                                                       |             |          |             |          |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                    |             |          |             |          |
| Rent                                                  | 240         |          | 2,110       |          |
| Computer software costs                               | 18          |          | -           |          |
| Insurance                                             | 1,943       |          | 2,213       |          |
| Advertising and marketing costs                       | -           |          | 5,962       |          |
| Telecommunications and data costs                     | -           |          | 43          |          |
| Professional fees                                     | 93          |          | 50          |          |
| Subscriptions                                         | 260         |          | 245         |          |
| Credit card charges                                   | -           |          | 1,446       |          |
| Charitable donations                                  | 70          |          | -           |          |
| Sundry expenses                                       | 746         |          | 5,245       |          |
|                                                       | <hr/>       |          | <hr/>       |          |
|                                                       |             | 3,370    |             | 17,314   |
|                                                       |             | <hr/>    |             | <hr/>    |
|                                                       |             | 595      |             | (28,233) |
|                                                       |             |          |             |          |
| <b>Other Operating and Exceptional Costs</b>          |             |          |             |          |
| PY theatre tax credits                                | (79,822)    |          | -           |          |
|                                                       | <hr/>       |          | <hr/>       |          |
|                                                       |             | (79,822) |             | -        |
|                                                       |             | <hr/>    |             | <hr/>    |
| <b>NET PROFIT</b>                                     |             | 80,417   |             | (28,233) |
|                                                       |             | <hr/>    |             | <hr/>    |

**Carlton Operatic Society**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As At 31 July 2025**

|                                              |       | 2025          |                      | 2024         |                       |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
|                                              | Notes | £             | £                    | £            | £                     |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                        |       |               |                      |              |                       |
| Trade debtors                                |       | -             |                      | 143          |                       |
| Cash at bank and in hand                     |       | 72,645        |                      | 5,546        |                       |
| Prepayments and accrued income               |       | 5,989         |                      | -            |                       |
|                                              |       | <u>78,634</u> |                      | <u>5,689</u> |                       |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                   |       |               |                      |              |                       |
| Bank loans under 1yr                         |       | -             |                      | 3,000        |                       |
| Trade creditors                              |       | -             |                      | 4,628        |                       |
| Other creditors                              |       | 156           |                      | -            |                       |
|                                              |       | <u>156</u>    |                      | <u>7,628</u> |                       |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>      |       |               | <u>78,478</u>        |              | <u>(1,939)</u>        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> |       |               | <u>78,478</u>        |              | <u>(1,939)</u>        |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                            |       |               | <u><u>78,478</u></u> |              | <u><u>(1,939)</u></u> |
| <b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>                       |       |               |                      |              |                       |
| Balance at 1 August 2024                     |       |               | (1,939)              |              | 26,294                |
| Profit/(Loss) for the period/year            |       |               | <u>80,417</u>        |              | <u>(28,233)</u>       |
| <b>Balance Carried Forward</b>               |       |               | <u><u>78,478</u></u> |              | <u><u>(1,939)</u></u> |

**Carlton Operatic Society  
Notes to the Accounts  
For The Year Ended 31 July 2025**

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**1. Accounting Policy**

These unaudited accounts have been completed in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice guidelines and provides sufficient and relevant information to enable completion of a tax return.



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

CARLTON OPERATIC SOCIETY

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 JULY 2025

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1194116

**Set out on pages**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

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

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

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

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

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

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

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

**Signed:**

K. Braithwaite

**Date:**

13/10/2025

**Name:**

KAREN BRAITHWAITE

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

NIA

**Address:**

37 DAMSON DRIVE, BARROW UPON SOAR,  
LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICS LE12 8YQ