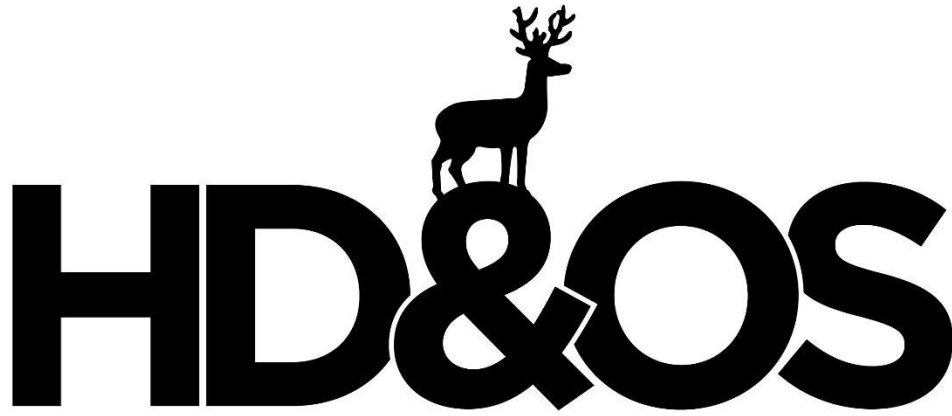




Hertford Dramatic and Operatic Society

Trustees' Report for 2024/2025 and Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2024

Contents

- 2025 AGM Agenda
- Minutes of the 2024 AGM
- Reports by Trustees on Society Activities
- Financial accounts for year ending 31st July 2024

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P M Lay'.

Mrs P M Lay
Honorary Secretary

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Mr C Bell
Chairman of Trustees

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**THE 106TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HERTFORD DRAMATIC AND
OPERATIC SOCIETY WILL BE HELD AT BENTLEY HOUSE ON TUESDAY 24TH
JUNE 2025 at 8.00pm**

AGENDA

1. To confirm and sign the minutes of the 105th Annual General Meeting.
2. Matters Arising
3. To consider the report of the Trustees and sub-committees
4. To consider the Treasurer's report.
5. To elect a President
6. To elect Vice-Presidents
7. To elect the following Officers:-
 - Hon. Secretary
 - Hon. Treasurer
 - Hon. Membership Secretary
 - Hon. Librarian and Recorder
 - Hon. Independent Examiner
8. To elect:-
 - The Trustees
 - Electrical Manager
 - Properties Manager
 - Wardrobe Manager
 - Workshop Manager
9. Report on Charity Commission discussions
10. Any other business

NOTE In accordance with Rule 20(c), candidates for election must be nominated by two members of the Society and nominations in writing must reach the Secretary, Pat Lay, 33 Hollybush Lane, Datchworth, Knebworth, Herts. SG3 6RE, by the 17th of June 2025. The consent of the candidate must be obtained before nomination and it is requested that such nominations should indicate the aspects of the Society in which the nominee is interested.

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HERTFORD DRAMATIC AND OPERATIC SOCIETY

PRESIDENT Sandra Rowley

PAST PRESIDENTS

Mr. P. Longmore OBE	1919/40	Mrs. D. Clark	1973	Mr. J. Fennell	2000
Mr. L. Purkiss Ginn	1945/47	Mr. F. T. B. Wills DFM	1974	Mrs. P. Steadman	2001
Mrs. W. S. Hoare	1948	Mrs. P. Sledge	1975	Mr. J. Dore	2002
Mr. P.H. Ilott	1949	Mr. G. V. Hale	1976	Mrs. P. Coyston	2003
Mrs. D. Burgess	1950	Mrs. S. Tomlin	1977	Mr. J. W. Roberts	2004
Mr. W. S. Hoare	1951	Mr. P. N. K. Wells	1978	Mrs. J. A. Laidler	2005
Mrs. P. H. Ilott	1952	Mrs. B. P. Redwood	1979	Mr. K. Morbey	2006
Mr. T. Barber	1953	Mr. J. Goodland	1980	Mrs. J. Barton	2007
Mr. W.A. L. Jackson	1954	Mrs. A. Wells	1981	Mr. G. Crossley	2008
Mrs. J. G. L. Evans	1955	Mr. P. J. Keogh	1982	Ms. M. J. Tomlin	2009
Mr. H. Wallis-Nichols	1956	Mrs. D. Game	1983	Mr. J. Laidler	2010
Mrs. A. G. Blakes	1957	Mr. S. Onyon	1984	Ms. S. Hantke	2011
Mr. E. A. Williams	1958	Mrs. M. Archer	1985	Mr. M. Budd	2012
Mrs. E. Fullager	1959	Mr. R. G. Archer	1986	Mrs. C. Nicholson	2013
Mr. E. L. Porteus	1960	Mrs. M. Hale	1987	Mr. G. Lay	2014
Mrs. E. Purkiss-Ginn JP	1961	Mr. L. Sledge	1988	Miss K. Ayres	2015
Mr. E. E. Ashman	1962	Miss J. Jolly	1989	Mr. N. Mayes	2016
Mr. G. W. Brighten	1963	Mr. R. Dapp	1990	Mrs. L. Burnett	2017
Mrs. A. M. Tidd	1964	Mrs. D. Keogh	1991	Mr. C. Bell	2018
Mr. M. V. Puleston	1965	Mr. N. Parry	1992	Mrs. P. Lay	2019/ 2020
Mrs. H. V. Mellows	1966	Miss. D. Ison	1993	Mr. N. Mayes	2021
Mrs. B. Wingate	1967	Mr. A. Coyston	1994	Miss L. Warrilow	2022
Mr. P. G. Tomlin	1968	Ms. S. Newland	1995	Mrs J. Markey	2023
Mrs. G. Wills	1969	Mr. M. K. Grewcock	1996		
Mr. N. A. Parker	1970	Mrs. J. Crossley	1997		
Mrs. Z. Driver MBE	1971	Mr. B. Bates	1998		
Mr. H. A. Westmore	1972	Mrs. S. Bennett	1999		

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Miss K Ayres	Mrs P Coyston	Ms S Hantke	Mr S Onyon
Mrs J Barton	Mr G Crossley		Mr J W Roberts
Mr C Bell	Mrs J Crossley		Mrs P Steadman
Mrs S Bennett	Mr J Dore	Mr G Lay	Ms M J Tomlin
Mr M Budd	Mr J Fennell	Mrs P Lay	Mrs S Tomlin
Mrs L Burnett	Mrs S Fennell	Mr N Mayes	Miss L Warrilow
Mr A Coyston	Mrs D Game	Mr K Morbey	Mrs A Wells
		Mrs C Nicholson	

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr J W Roberts	Mrs S Tomlin	Mr A Coyston	Mr S Onyon
	Mrs A Wells	Mrs P Coyston	Mr R Charville
Mrs D Game	Mrs P Steadman		Mrs J. Hopkins

MINUTES OF THE 105TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HERTFORD DRAMATIC AND OPERATIC SOCIETY HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH JUNE 2024 AT BENTLEY HOUSE

Attendees were:

Katerina Ayres Julia Barton Clive Barton Clive Bell Sue Barber Sue Bennett Liane Burnett Robert Charville	Andrew Coyston Penny Coyston Sally Fennell Sue Hantke Alan Hobbs Brenda Hobbs	Graham Lay Pat Lay Nik Mayes Steve Onyon Derek Palmer	Sandra Rowley Pat Steadman Mary-Jane Tomlin
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Apologies were received from:

Malcolm Budd Carol Charville Gordon Crossley Joan Crossley Richard Edgar Jerry Fennell	Anne Godwin Jim Markey Julie Markey Keith Morbey Jan Palmer-Sayer	Jenny Reynolds David Ronco Sally Tomlin Lynne Warrilow	
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The meeting is normally chaired by the President. Julie Markey, retiring President, was unable to attend the meeting, so the meeting was opened by the Hon Sec, Pat Lay, who welcomed everyone to the meeting and proposed Chair of Trustees and Vice-President, Clive Bell, to chair the meeting. All in favour, none against. Clive took the chair.

1. Minutes of 104th AGM

There were no amendments to the Minutes. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Sue Hantke, seconded by Julia Barton. The motion to adopt the minutes of the 104th AGM was carried.

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Report of the Trustees

The activities of the Society were summarized in the reports from the Chairman of Trustees and the sub-committees which had been circulated to members with the Agenda.

Julie Markey had sent in a report on her year as President, which was read to the meeting by the Chair.

Julie's Presidency had started with herself and Clive Bell being invited for a backstage tour of Hertford Theatre to view the progress of the redevelopment. It had been impressive though there was clearly still a lot of work to be done. As was now known, the building would be relaunched with the new name of BEAM, and the opening date had been pushed back to August. We had been having discussions with several of the local Green Party Councillors about ensuring the redevelopment was successful and that there would always be a place for Community performers there. We were very excited about our first show back there, *Shrek the Musical*, in October.

July had also seen our first Directors' and Social evening, an event we would be repeating on 6th July this year- Julie exhorted all present to attend. Also during July, she and Jim had had the pleasure of attending shows by Ware Musical Theatre and Shattered Windscreen. This had reminded her that we all love putting on performances, but we need an audience to make it a live show and it was therefore important that we try to support other societies when we can. The summer had also seen our daytime playreading group enjoying another morning in Pat Steadman's garden.

August had seen the first of a new venture - Children's workshops during school holidays. It had been very successful with 17 participants, and we had since run several more. She had had an interesting evening attending the Mayor's Art exhibition representing HD&OS and in September we had run another Open Mic evening in our Studio Theatre. We had also had a new photocopier installed thanks to the efforts of Graham Lay, and Penny and team had created a new set of drapes - both highly useful investments.

October had seen our run of *Stepping Out the Musical*, a show which she could confirm had been great fun to be in and which audiences had also loved. In November we had presented a very different show, *The Laramie Project*, which had won awards from both NODA and subsequently from the adjudicator when it was rerun as part of Hertford Theatre Week. Also in November, she had attended the Civic Remembrance Day Parade and Civic Service despite the pouring rain.

Then had come three popular social events - the Darts match in November, followed in December by Carol singing in Hertford Care Homes and a Christmas Open Mic night and social.

January had been time for our Panto, *Puss in Boots*. It had been great to see new members in this show and lots of new audience faces too who had thoroughly enjoyed it. In February there had also been much laughter in the Studio as we had presented three of John Finnemore's *Double Acts*. Two of these had then gone on to Welwyn Drama Festival, winning awards including one for Director Harry Harding.

March had seen us open the bar for an informal social evening, something we intend to do occasionally in order to give members an opportunity to meet.

The Studio had come alive with music and dance in May. *Six:Teen* edition had been a fabulous show presented by our young people with excellent creative and backstage support. Then we had had a busy time at Haileybury for Theatre Week. She and Jim had hosted various dignitaries and the event had had excellent houses. Another success!

The final show of her time as President had been *The Children*, a very thought-provoking play which also contained strong humour. It had been a super production with a striking set and lighting/soundscape.

On a sad note, in November we had heard of the death of Dorothy Keogh and Julie had attended her funeral where photos of some of her HD&OS activities had been displayed by the family. And at the end of her term of office we had learnt of the death a year previously of long-term member and friend to many in this room, Roy Archer. He and wife Margaret had been very popular members and were missed when they had moved to live nearer to their daughter.

That concluded her year in office as President and Julie wished to say how pleased and honoured she felt to have had the opportunity to represent the Society. She was so sorry not to be able to be at the meeting tonight to bring her year as President to a conclusion, but she wished to say thank you for having elected her to be President for the past year.

That concluded her remarks on the events of the year.

In advance of the meeting, the Secretary had not received any comments on the reports. There were no comments from the meeting on the reports. The Chair wished to draw the attention of the meeting to the section in Julie's report recording the death during the year of Dorothy Keogh and

Roy Archer. A minute's silence was observed to remember the enormous contribution both had made to the Society.

The adoption of the Trustees' report was proposed by Penny Coyston, seconded by Steve Onyon. The motion to adopt the Trustees' report was carried.

The President's Award

As her final act as President, Julie was to present the Zillah Driver President's award to a person or group of her choosing. Julie had sent in her nomination for the recipient of the award, which was read out to the meeting by Clive Bell, Chair.

The person Julie wished to nominate for the Zillah Driver President's Award this year was someone who worked tirelessly for the Society in a great many roles.

Over the years Julie had been a member, this person had quietly volunteered/stepped in/been persuaded to take on technical roles including sound, lighting and set building. He used his IT skills to design flyers, posters, etc and more widely to help the smooth running of the Society.

He had taken the lead role in the negotiations on the lease with Signature when they had taken over the building, spending many hours on getting the best possible outcome for the Society and he continued to liaise with them to keep our relationship cordial.

In recent years, he had taken over the incredibly important role of Treasurer, optimising the use of the new systems and recommending how best to invest our capital wisely. He ensured that we could maintain our Charity status and was constantly looking at ways to make the best use of our resources, in addition to helping our Membership secretary keep track of subscriptions and managing the Gift Aid. He also ran Ticketsource for us, which had been a great innovation for the Society, but also involved a lot of time and effort to set it up for shows and to manage ticket returns and exchanges.

He was one of the first ports of call for sorting out all manner of problems and was always ready to volunteer for raked seating or whatever else needed doing.

It was of course, Graham Lay, and in Julie's view Graham was an "unsung hero" who thoroughly deserved this award.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Secretary had not received any comments or questions on the accounts and Treasurer's report in advance of the meeting. Graham Lay made a few comments on his report. He expressed his thanks to David and Carly Cousins for their work in reviewing the accounts for submission to the Charity Commission. He also wished to thank everyone for their cooperation over the course of the year, especially those who submitted expense claims in a timely manner, which helped to keep the accounts straight. He further thanked all the Production Managers who had maintained such good focus on the cost side of productions, with nearly all running to budget. We had made approximately £10,000 profit on shows during the year which showed good discipline.

Graham apologised for having overlooked one key issue in his report, which was to express our gratitude for the substantial donation from the Mayor's charity fund. This showed on the income page for the year, where all but about £50 in the donation entry had come from the Mayor.

The balance sheet was driven almost entirely by investment. Since last year the value of our investments had improved a little, with between £11,000 and £12,000 coming from investment income, which covers about half of our running costs each year. The utilities were set to be around £10,000 again this coming year. On the subject of utilities, as many were aware, the changeover to a new supplier had been anything but smooth. Graham had spent a great deal of time trying to resolve the debated issues, for which we had received the sum of £70 in compensation.

Graham emphasised that, when we get back into the Hertford Theatre, now known as BEAM, we would be doing larger shows which would make considerable demands on our finances. He had been concerned about how we could manage the cash flow for such enterprises, initially around *Shrek – The Musical*, but he and Clive Bell had negotiated to have advanced payment against ticket sales which would help the cash flow.

The meeting expressed thanks to Graham for all his hard work on the accounts.

Adoption of the report and accounts was proposed by Andrew Coyston; seconded by Sue Bennett. The motion to adopt the accounts for the year ending 31st July 2023 was carried.

5. Election of President

At this point of the meeting, it was time for the retiring President to propose the next President. As Julie was unable to attend the meeting, she had sent the nomination in and this was duly read to the meeting by Clive Bell, Chair.

The first introduction to HD&OS for the person nominated as President had been at the 1993/1994 pantomime show of *Peter Pan* at the then Castle Hall theatre, where their then 3-year-old son had very attentively watched the show, but during the last scene had blurted out “we are back at the beginning again” much to the amusement of the lovely and sadly late Monica and Gordon Hale who had been sitting next to them. After the show the Hales had made themselves known and had suggested this person join the Society and there had begun a great affinity not only with Monica and Gordon but also with HD&OS, an affinity which had built up a family rapport with many members who were and would remain lifelong friends.

During this person’s now 30 years as a Society member, they had fulfilled many roles. Their first show had been the March 1994 production of *Chicago* and since then they had participated in many shows as principal, dancer and ensemble, both at Castle Hall/Hertford Theatre and in the studio at Bentley House. The list was too long to name them all but included *Bad Girls* and Showstopper cabarets. Offstage, this person had choreographed shows, undertaken dance workshops for adults and at one stage had been regularly running Sunday morning dance workshops for Young Idea.

On the subject of Young Idea, it was worth mentioning that this person’s children when growing up had been seen many a time sitting out front at a rehearsal, and they in turn had taken part in several Young Idea and adult shows. They still on occasion trod the boards.

This person had sat on audition panels and had been part of a pantomime committee. Other activities included being part of the hair and make-up team, props, general backstage handling, call person, dresser, runner, follow-spot and front of house meet-and-greet and programme-selling. Ever willing to promote the Society, they were happy to distribute leaflets whenever and wherever possible. They had also helped in Castle Hall/ Hertford Theatre Green Room serving refreshments and could be seen more recently at most shows behind the bar in Bentley House or at Hertford Theatre Week at Haileybury College. Ironically, one of the few departments this person had not been involved with was costumes and wardrobe, which was remarkable given the fact that, prior to joining the Society, they had worked for a good while in an office with our amazing wardrobe mistress Penny Coyston.

They were also part of the currently small but professionally-run dance classes on Saturday mornings here at Bentley house.

This person was passionate about musical theatre to the Nth degree but also had a great penchant for a good pantomime – they were renowned for playing animals and in particular a cat. If those present had not already guessed the identity of the proposed president for the forthcoming year those final few words were the biggest giveaway. It was Julie’s great pleasure to propose Sandra Rowley as President for the coming year, seconded by Mary-Jane Tomlin. The motion to elect Sandra Rowley as President for the coming year was carried.

Sandra was handed the Presidential badge of office by Clive Bell, Chair, and responded by saying how absolutely overwhelmed she had been to receive the phone call inviting her to be our President. She had never expected to be asked and was extremely proud, privileged and humbled to have been elected. She thanked Julie for all she had done for the Society over the past year in representing HD&OS and said that Julie would be a terrifying act to follow. She concluded by thanking everyone for electing her and hoped she would be able to do us proud.

6. Election of Vice Presidents

The election of the Vice Presidents as listed in the Report with the addition of Julie Markey, was proposed by Graham Lay, seconded by Kate Ayres. The motion to elect the Vice Presidents was carried.

7. Election of Officers

The following officers were willing to stand for re-election.

Hon. Secretary	Pat Lay. Proposed by Clive Bell, seconded by Julie Markey. Duly elected.
Hon. Treasurer	Graham Lay. Proposed by Penny Coyston, seconded by Lynne Warrilow. Duly elected.
Hon. Membership Secretary	Clive Barton was retiring as Membership Secretary. Anne Godwin had agreed to be nominated for this role. Proposed by Clive Barton, seconded by Pat Lay. Duly elected.
Hon. Librarian & Recorder	Penny Coyston. Proposed by Steve Onyon, seconded by Mary-Jane Tomlin. Duly elected.
Hon. Independent Examiners	David and Carly Cousins. Proposed by Graham Lay, seconded by Sue Barber. Duly elected.

Clive Bell, Chair, recorded a vote of thanks on behalf of the Trustees to Clive Barton for all his hard work over the past two years in streamlining the membership process.

8. Elections

8.1. Trustees

Steve Onyon, Mary-Jane Tomlin, Sue Barber and Penny Coyston had been elected for 2 years in 2023 and were prepared to continue as Trustees.

A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 7 more Trustees were needed to complete the committee. The following members were standing for re-election: Clive Bell and Nik Mayes, proposed by Louise Kirtley, seconded by Anne Godwin. One further member was standing for election: Julie Markey, proposed by Graham Lay, seconded by Mary-Jane Tomlin. All elected unanimously.

Normally, a vote would be needed as four Trustees would be elected for 2 years. As there were only three nominee, Clive Bell proposed that Julie Markey, Nik Mayes and himself should be elected to serve for two years. Seconded by Clive Barton, elected unanimously.

Lynne Warrilow and Louise Kirtley were retiring from the Trustees. Clive Bell, Chair, thanked them for all their hard work on behalf of the Trustees.

8.2. Election of Hon Managers

The following people were willing to stand for re-election:

Hon. Electrical Manager	Nik Mayes. Proposed by Graham Lay, seconded by Clive Barton. Duly elected.
Hon. Properties Manager	Lynne Warrilow. Proposed by Louise Kirtley, seconded by Sue Barber. Duly elected.
Hon. Wardrobe Manager	Penny Coyston. Proposed by Pat Lay, seconded by Anne Godwin. Duly elected.

Hon. Workshop Manager

Steve Onyon. Proposed by Nik Mayes, seconded by Julie Markey. Duly elected.

9. To consider an amendment to Rules 12, 15, 18 and 19

Graham Lay was proposing amendments to Rules 12, 15, 18 and 19, designed to bring the rules into alignment with the recommendation of the Charity Commission. Graham explained the changes to the meeting. With the amendments, Rules 12, 15 and 19 would make it necessary to elect only one Independent Examiner, instead of the two currently required. The change to Rule 18 changed the stipulation that one of the Examiners should not be a member, to the requirement that the single Examiner should be independent of the day-to-day running of the Society. This was in accordance with the recommendations of the Charity Commission. The rule changes were proposed by Graham Lay, seconded by Andrew Coyston. The motion to adopt the rule changes was carried.

10. Any Other Business

No prior notifications of items of Any Other Business had been sent to the Hon. Secretary.

10.1. Upcoming events:

Clive reminded people of the following upcoming events and dates for the diary:

The next monthly play-reading would be on Monday 1st July at 10.00am in Pat Steadman's garden. It was not certain whether Julie would be able to be present to run this, but was hoping to arrange for someone else to take over the running of it if she were unable to attend. Anyone interested should contact Pat Lay for details as these may change. All were welcome at these informal monthly sessions. Anyone wishing to join the regular monthly email listing should contact Julie Markey, or information was published in the newsletter each month.

On Saturday 6th July we would be holding another Directors' Evening and summer social at Bentley House when there would be the opportunity to hear the directors of forthcoming productions talking about their plans for the coming season, as well as the chance to chat to friends over a glass of Pimms.

A *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*-themed summer school for young people aged 8-15 would be run from Monday 5th to Friday 9th August at Bentley House. Sessions would run from 10.00am - 3.00pm and there was a 3-day option from Wednesday to Friday. This would be open to members and non-members. Tickets available on Ticketsource.

Our Autumn musical would see our return to the refurbished Hertford Theatre, now BEAM, with a spectacular production of *Shrek – The Musical* and would run from Wednesday 16th – Saturday 19th October. Tickets were on sale via Ticketsource.

Saturday 16th November was the date scheduled for the popular Backstage Darts Match, open to anyone who has helped backstage in any capacity.

The panto next year would be *Dick Whittington*, directed by John Hebden, also at BEAM from Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th January 2025. Full details of cast and characters were included in the June newsletter and could also be found on the website. The get-together would be held on Thursday 11th July with auditions the following Sunday (14th). There would be no rehearsals over the Christmas and New Year period.

10.2. Thanks to Steve Onyon and team

Penny Coyston recorded her thanks to Steve Onyon had the team who had installed the new door from the foyer into the committee room. The meeting endorsed this and thanked Steve, Malcolm Budd and Robert Charville for all their hard work and contribution to this project which had already made an enormous difference, especially during shows when the raked seating was erected.

Clive thanked everyone for their support and attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

The next meeting of the Trustees would be held on Wednesday 3rd July.

REPORTS FOR 2024-2025

Report from the Trustees for 2024-2025

Over the past twelve months HD&OS continued to perform shows at The Studio Theatre in Bentley House and made a return to the newly refurbished BEAM Theatre in Hertford. All HD&OS productions performed at both venues provided excellent entertainment for our audiences.

The main duties of the Trustees are:

- Ensuring that HD&OS is managed appropriately and solvent. The Trustees continue to minimise expenditure where possible yet remain consistent with the Society objectives for the quality of our shows.
- Ensuring that the charity complies with its own rules. There have been no issues for the Trustees to deal with.
- Over the past twelve months we had the pleasure of performing the youth production of *Six-Teen* in May 2024, *The Children* in June 2024, *Home, I'm Darling* in March 2025, *Double Acts* comprising *A Flock of Tigers* and *English for Pony Lovers* in April 2025 and the youth production of *We Will Rock You* in May 2025, all of which were performed at The Studio Theatre, Bentley House.
- Also during the past twelve months HD&OS returned to the big stage at BEAM Hertford initially with *Shrek the Musical* in October 2024 followed by the HD&OS Pantomime *Dick Whittington* in January 2025.
- Hertford Theatre Week took place during late May and early June 2024 and was presented by HD&OS at the Ayckbourn Theatre Haileybury College Hertford Heath.

The Trustees have also addressed some specific areas of concern for the benefit of the society:

- Since BEAM Hertford reopened after refurbishment HD&OS have maintained regular contact with the new BEAM team and in March 2025 three HD&OS Trustees met with the new BEAM Venue Director at BEAM and were provided with a guided tour of the complex. HD&OS extended a reciprocal invitation to the BEAM Venue Director for a tour of HD&OS Headquarters Bentley House which was duly accepted and took place at the beginning of May 2025. I am glad to report that the BEAM Venue Director was "blown away" by HD&OS Headquarters and the excellent facilities that we have.
- Communication between HD&OS and the Signature management team has been ongoing on a regular basis over the past twelve months.

It is my sad duty to report the death of Joan Laidler in September 2024, who was another long-standing HD&OS member and had been an active member of the Society from 1983 until 2022 and was President of the Society in 2005. Apart from performing Joan was also Wardrobe Mistress for HD&OS productions. Our condolences are extended to Joan's family.

I would like to thank all Trustees for their support and contribution during the year in fulfilling this essential role to maintain the Society's smooth operation.

Clive Bell
Chairman of Trustees

Membership Report 2024-25

Following handover of the Membership Secretary role, I have continued to use the self-written computer database created by the previous incumbent, to help manage membership subscriptions, membership details, and email addresses for newsletter distribution.

As reported at last year's AGM, this is a time-consuming process, as there is a lot of manual transcribing of information into the database from membership forms, financial reports, etc.

This has shown the need for a specifically designed online membership system. I intend this year to continue the work to identify a suitable system – including reaching out to other societies to see what they use, and what is commercially available.

At the March Away Day for Trustees and those on the Production Committee, it was decided to explore the membership fee structure, to see if there are opportunities to better align fees with the membership we have, and the challenges we face in the Society.

For example, whether to remove the Friends' fee altogether and allow everyone to stay on the Newsletter distribution list, introduce a reduced backstage only membership fee, remove membership fees and increase show fees instead etc. To this end, I will explore options and liaise with the Treasurer to model costs, and bring back to the membership at the right time for discussion.

As of 14th May 2025, HD&OS has **163 members** (32 Friends, 28 Juniors, 76 Members, 27 Seniors).

This compares to 157 Members in May 2024 (33 Friends, 19 Juniors, 70 Members, 32 Seniors, 3 in Full Time Education), and 108 Members in May 2023.

The numbers above exclude the 10 Life Members and the President.

Anne Godwin

HD&OS Membership Secretary 14th May 2025

Report from Hertford Theatre Week Committee 2024-25

Hertford Theatre Week 2024 took to the stage on Monday 27th May to Saturday 1st June at the Ayckbourn Theatre on the Haileybury campus.

The Mayor of Hertford, Councillor Rachel Carter, presented the Awards to the following teams:

Mercury Challenge Cup (Winner): **Hansard** - Barn Theatre Club

Ted Harden Rose Bowl (Runners-up): **Lilies on the Land** - White Cobra Productions

Roy Seammen Hart (Stage Presentation): **Hansard** - Barn Theatre Club

Tony Bentley Tankard (Adjudicators Award): **The Laramie Project** - Hertford Dramatic & Operatic Society

Freston Salver (Audience Award): **Hansard** - Barn Theatre Club

This was our third year at Haileybury, and the venue continued to work well for both audiences and competing teams despite the unseasonable weather for most of the week.

I would like to thank all the competing teams that took part in this year's festival, Councillor Rachel Carter, the Mayor of Hertford, for presenting the awards. and all the audience members that supported us at the very pleasant Ayckbourn Theatre on the Haileybury College campus. And, indeed, thanks to all the staff at Haileybury who made the festival so welcome on their site. It was great to have just about full houses all week for our 61st festival.

Thanks also to all the Hertford Theatre Week committee and all the team of volunteers who manned the bar, managed front-of-house, and crewed the week that made it all possible by giving their time and expertise.

We had a varied week of productions and our adjudicator, Walker Ewart OBE ADA, on his second visit to our festival, was both informative and entertaining with his adjudications of the competing performances and very complimentary about the festival.

It was a financially successful week with sold-out performances. The super-value Weekly tickets were just about all sold within a week of them going on sale.

We have been unable to secure a venue for Hertford Theatre Week 2025, so we do not have a festival this year, and unfortunately, at the time of writing this report, finding a venue for 2026 is also doubtful.

Steve Onyon

Chairman HTW Committee

Report from Production Committee 2024-25

The Production Committee has had a very busy year compiling the future Programme and staffing each show and event. At times this has felt too much for one group of people. There was also a feeling that we needed to clarify our aims and that it would be helpful to review the way that the Society is run.

In March an Away-Day took place with the Trustees and the Production Committee. Many topics were discussed including how we carry out our publicity. We are currently considering a different Committee structure which we hope will result in more focussed teams and enable more people to be involved in the running of the Society.

Julie Markey

Chair – Production Committee

The following reports are all under the remit of the Production committee

Drama Report 2024-25

First of all, due to the timing of the writing of the Annual Report, there is a certain amount of 'washing-up' to do from last season.

The Laramie Project, the heart-rending story of the brutal murder of student Matthew Shepard, was entered into Hertford Theatre week and was performed again on Wednesday 29th May at the Ayckbourn Theatre, Haileybury College. Unfortunately, one of the original cast (Freddie Taylor) was in the throes of A-levels at that time and had to withdraw, but we were delighted to welcome Adam Watt to the cast in his place, who turned in a superb performance. We were more than delighted to win the Adjudicator's award for the quality of the dialogue and speeches. This was especially meaningful as the play is put together from original testimonies and diary entries from the real people involved in that most tragic of events and it felt as though we were being given credit for doing them justice in our interpretations of their moving stories.

At the time of the last AGM, we had just put on *The Children* by Lucy Kirkwood, directed by Mel Powell. However, the Annual Report had to be completed before the production was performed, so to complete the picture, it was a very successful run with very good audience feedback. This three-hander, set in the wake of a nuclear incident, was a powerful study of responsibility, friendship, love and loyalty, with the horror of the situation in which the three friends find themselves neatly counterpoised against moments of great humour. The play was nominated for Best Play at the NODA Eastern Region Gala Awards luncheon.

Once again, we took a conscious decision not to put on a play in the Autumn, due to the immense amount of effort required to get *Shrek – The Musical* into BEAM. The next play in our season was, therefore, *Home, I'm Darling* by Laura Wade, directed by Anna Palmer and presented at the Studio Theatre in March 2025. This play, set in the modern day, centres around the household of a young couple who have chosen to live a 1950's lifestyle, so the set and costumes have to reflect this. Anna Palmer did a wonderful job, not only directing a lively, thought-provoking production, but also sourcing some very appropriate furniture and props. It played to full houses throughout the run and was a resounding success, both artistically and financially.

Following on from the success of *Home, I'm Darling*, we were fortunate to see a return of Harry Harding to direct two more of John Finnemore's *Double Acts* plays. This time the plays were *A Flock of Tigers* and *English for Pony Lovers*, two very different comedies which made for a wonderful evening's entertainment. *A Flock of Tigers* is set in a railway carriage on a train from Paddington to Oxford in 1934, when flamboyant American, Dolorosa, encounters the repressed English gentleman, Edmund, and persuades him to let go of his inhibitions enough to be able to play imaginative make-believe games with his young son. In *English for Pony Lovers*, a German lady, Elke, with a very particular reason for wanting to improve her English, meets a young English Northerner in a bar in Germany for a conversation lesson. All is not as it seems, and the lesson soon descends into comic misunderstanding. Audience feedback was very positive for this production and it, too, was a financial success. Both of these one-act plays were subsequently entered for the Welwyn Drama Festival at the end of May, and (STOP PRESS) enjoyed resounding success. *A Flock of Tigers* won the Welwyn Cup for best play, with *English for Pony-Lovers* coming second. Julie Markey and Stephen Deaville won the awards for best performance by an actress and best performance by an actor respectively, for their roles in *A Flock of Tigers*, and both Pat Lay and Dawn Travell were also among the nominees for best actress. Harry Harding took the Behrens-Steinfeld Trophy for the second year running for the director showing the most complete and imaginative approach, and last but by no means least, *A Flock of Tigers* won the audience appreciation award. An outstanding achievement all round and congratulations are due to all involved in these excellent plays.

That concludes our season for this year. Once again, there will not be a play in November, due to the effort required to put a big musical into BEAM again. We are hoping to put a play on in Stage 2 at BEAM in April, so that we can see how the venue works for us. Stage 2 did not open until early in 2025, so we have not, as yet, tried it out.

Monthly play readings, usually held on a Monday or Tuesday morning early in the month, have continued to prove popular and Julie Markey has found a wide range of interesting and thought-provoking plays for us to read, some proving more enjoyable than others! It is fun to have the opportunity to read plays which we would never consider for production, for one reason or another. This year started with an adaptation by Brian Burton of *Pride and Prejudice* in Pat Steadman's lovely garden, on one of the rare fine, warm days of the year. We went on to read such diverse offerings as: the darkly comic *The Cripple of Inishmaan* by Martin McDonagh; *The Other Boleyn Girl* by Mike Poulton, exploring Mary Boleyn's role in her family's fortunes around Henry VIII; the fascinating *Little Wars*, which centred on an imagined dinner party during the Second World War attended by writers such as Agatha Christie, Dorothy Parker and Gertrude Stein; and *The Hills of California* by Jez Butterworth, set in Blackpool in the hot, dry summer of 1976. For our Christmas meeting, kindly hosted by Julie and Jim Markey, we laughed our way through *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol*, a riotously funny, madcap romp through another of their disastrous productions. This brought back many memories of the time we put this on in the Studio Theatre. All of the plays provoke lively discussion and comment in the coffee breaks and our thanks to Julie for her time trawling through the shelves at the Performing Arts Library to find interesting plays for us to read. As well as being enjoyable for those who attend, this activity is a useful marketing tool as it is noticeable that the "playreaders" come themselves and bring friends and family to our shows.

We have had a few more people joining our backstage and tech teams during the year or helping out on a one-off basis. Putting shows on at BEAM has required some expertise with technology new to us and a lot of manpower for crewing and rigging/de-rigging. We always need more help, so please, if you or anyone you know is interested in becoming involved, please talk to one of the Trustees or Managers. Thank you for your support for our productions during the past year and please carry on buying those tickets!

Pat Lay

Operatic Report 2024-25

Shrek, our October musical at BEAM Hertford, was extremely popular from the outset with huge numbers coming to the get-togethers and auditions. The standard was incredibly high across the board, and we were not able to cast some very good people, such was the popularity of the show. By the time the show went into the theatre, we knew we had a slick, well-directed show which everyone involved really enjoyed being part of.

Shrek was the first large-scale musical to be presented at BEAM after reopening and inevitably there were some teething problems. Once these were resolved, the show proved to be a huge success artistically and was extremely well-received by our audiences. However, the production was a very expensive show to stage and despite excellent ticket sales, which would ordinarily have achieved a profit situation, we came in at just above break-even with some unforeseen costs coming into the mix post-production. Such was the success of *Shrek* that the production received two NODA Award nominations at the Gala Awards Luncheon in May 2025, both of which we won. The awards are 'Best Musical' and 'Best Production' in region 9 for the 2024 season. Well done to director Lorraine Bottomley, choreographer Sarah Comerford and everyone involved. What a great achievement for HD&OS!

Mary-Jane Tomlin

Children and Young People Report 2024-25

Annie Gaudencio has continued to manage the considerable amount of administration required to enable us to put on events for children and young people and we are most grateful to her for her efficient and knowledgeable handling of this. Parents of children in shows have been cooperative in getting chaperone licences, though the procedure for acquiring these is now lengthy and costly, so needs to be started well in advance of them being required – almost too far in advance for us to recruit parents after a show is cast. Trustees have acquired DBS checks in order to be able to help out with chaperoning duties and making up required adult-to-children ratios.

The very successful production of *Six-Teen*, produced last May in the Studio Theatre, was nominated for, and won, Best Youth Production at the NODA East Gala Awards Luncheon on May 11th 2025. Saphie Meischke also won a Young Performer of the Year award for her portrayal of Catherine of Aragon in that show. Congratulations to Saphie and all involved in that production, especially to Lorraine Bottomley who directed it.

In August, we ran a summer workshop themed around *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Numbers for this were just about enough to make it viable and it was obvious that organising events over the summer holidays presents difficulties in finding a time which suits everyone. We offered a 5-day or a 3-day option, which enabled more children to attend, but this meant that some children did not get the full benefit of all the classes and, in some cases, were not available for the final day of putting everything together. Also, it was not easy to get enough volunteers to cover the foyer, an essential role to ensure adequate safeguarding provision. Two further voice workshops planned for the end of August had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

Some children were involved in the production of *Shrek – The Musical* which took place in Stage 1 of BEAM in October. With slightly reduced backstage provision and an altered layout at BEAM since the redevelopment, it was difficult to ensure adequate safeguarding provision in dressing rooms, especially with such a large cast to be accommodated. This was also evident for our panto, *Dick Whittington*, which also took place in Stage 2 BEAM in January and which had a chorus of children playing the rats. However, it was good to be able to involve young people in our bigger shows once again and for them to have the experience of playing on the large stage.

In May we are putting on *We Will Rock You Young@Part* edition in the Studio Theatre, directed by Scott Welch. This will be after this report is written and before the AGM, so a full report on this will be in next year's Annual Report. It is fair to say that this production has been fraught with difficulties, starting with the extremely, even prohibitively, expensive resources provided by the licensing authority, which have proved disappointingly difficult to use. Scott has a mostly young and relatively inexperienced cast and his creative team have worked hard to develop the skills among the younger members. Filling technical roles has also proved challenging on this production, highlighting the need for recruitment of more backstage people.

Pat Lay

Panto Report 2024-25

Our Pantomime for this season was *Dick Whittington* performed on the main stage at BEAM in January. The script was written by Ian Greenwood who also assisted with the direction. Julie Markey took on the Director role at short notice as John Hebden was not able to continue after the auditions. Keith Willis was again Musical Director, and we welcomed a new Choreographer, Megan Hunter. Having secured a strong cast, we had some issues filling all the technical roles, but these were eventually resolved.

Audiences were very appreciative of our traditional offering, but it proved difficult to sell due to the timing and to the fact that it followed the long run of BEAM's own Panto during the festive season.

We have decided to produce our next Panto back in our own Studio Theatre. This will enable it to run during December 2025, and we hope this will prove popular.

Julie Markey

Social Events and Social Media Report 2024-25

Social Events

Our first event after last year's AGM was another Director's Open evening and summer social on Saturday 6th July, at which all the directors for planned shows were invited to give a short presentation. With the January panto back in BEAM, the evening contained a presentation on proposed costume and music. Some shows were already cast and/or in rehearsal, so for these it was a chance to advertise them and encourage people to buy tickets, whilst for others at the planning stage it was a chance to generate interest and explain the director's vision for the show. With Pimms being served, it proved another very convivial evening. This year's Director's evening is somewhat earlier on Sunday 8th June, so will be after the writing of this report but before the AGM. It will follow a similar format to the previous ones with Pimms being served once again.

16th November was our annual Backstage Darts Match, which proved yet again to be a thoroughly jolly and relaxed evening. After a supper of lasagne and salads, followed by fruit crumble and cream, the tense final was won for the second year running by Tony Barber, beating Sally Fennell by two legs to one.

The Christmas Social event had been rescheduled several times due to various conflicts with other events but finally took place on Monday 9th December. Due to it having to be on a midweek evening, it was an informal evening with the bar open and was open to members and Friends of the Society only. Mulled wine and mince pies were served and those present enjoyed the opportunity to chat to friends and to hear a review of the year's activities and a summary of the opportunities for involvement in the coming year from Julie Markey, Chair of the Production Committee. Despite the low-key nature of the event, it was much enjoyed by all who attended and was a very pleasant way to get us all into the Christmas spirit!

We have had fewer general social evenings throughout the year, when the bar has been open for people to drop in and chat to friends. There has been a lot going on at Bentley House and finding suitable free evenings has proved somewhat difficult.

We did manage to arrange a long-overdue Sociable Clean-up (if that can possibly count as a social event.....) in February. We have not had one since lockdown and it was lovely to see the cobwebs removed from the nooks and crannies in the foyer and bar area. Our lovely cleaner, John, does a fantastic job of day-to-day cleaning, but cannot possibly do any deep cleaning in the time he has available. We had waited until the work was completed on the new entrance to the committee room, so much of the work involved replacing all the files and paperwork on the shelves from the boxes stored temporarily in RR2. Because of all this extra work, we did not manage to clean RR1, RR2 or the balcony areas, so another clean-up will be organised at some point. Please keep an eye on the newsletter announcements and come along to help. Many hands really do make light work as well as jolly banter! We are hoping to install a door from the end of RR2 into the back stairwell, which will make it so much easier to do shows in the Studio Theatre with that access point. This will obviously cause some temporary disruption and mess, so we will probably leave a clean-up until this is completed, assuming that all permissions will be granted to enable that to go ahead.

It remains only for me to thank everyone who has supported the Society at our various functions throughout the year, whether by attending and buying a ticket, or by helping with all the jobs essential to putting on events of all kinds. Our calendar of social events has been somewhat reduced during this past year, so that is something we perhaps need to address for the coming year. Do keep an eye out for announcements of open-bar evenings which are vital for promoting links and fellowship within the Society. The events are always enjoyed by those who attend so please take the time to come along and support us during the coming year.

Social Media

Our Social media output was severely compromised early in the year, when Mary-Jane Tomlin's personal Facebook account was hacked and this infected our HD&OS account. A great deal of unsavoury material was posted on our page which led to us receiving a lot of complaints and comments.

Our grateful thanks go to William Lay who very kindly sorted out a new account for us and succeeded, after many attempts, in getting Meta to take down the old page. Our Facebook page is now administered from a business hub and Sarah Putz has taken over the posting of content for us. Everything goes through the admins and the hub, in order to avoid a repeat of the hacking.

Shows continue to be advertised on Facebook and Instagram and are put onto other local am-dram pages. We are trying to establish a programme of creating content from rehearsal photos and reels which can be posted at regular intervals as show date approaches. The hub has useful management and analysis tools which allow us to monitor engagement and to see which posts are most successful, which in turn allows us to tailor content and post at times when engagement is highest. Unfortunately, it does not allow us to see when engagement results in ticket sales. We have also tried a new venture this year, which was to pay Mr I Love Hertford to advertise our events on his page, which has a large following around Hertford. We were a little disappointed that we did not get the enthusiastic coverage we had hoped for, so have decided not to repeat that for the time being.

We were disappointed also in the advertising support we received from BEAM for our panto this year. Despite our many efforts at liaison and trying to find out the reasons, our artwork did not appear on the digital boards outside the theatre until the day their panto finished which was a little late to influence ticket sales in any meaningful degree. Our ticket sales were very low and resulted in a considerable loss for us. Visible advertising around the town does bring results as we know from talking to our audiences at Bentley House. We are grateful to Irons Dry Cleaners for their continued and valued support in allowing us to put our A0 board in their window to advertise up-coming shows.

Auditions and get-togethers continue to be advertised as widely as possible on all available social media sites. With great competition among local societies now for cast as well as technical support, we need to get ourselves out there and raise our profile as much as possible. Instagram interaction has been lower than hoped, though the number of followers has increased from 211 in May 2024 to 460 in May 2025, so still moving in a positive direction.

Shows with eye-catching costumes, providing good opportunities for photo-shoots, are always an easier sell on social media. *Home, I'm Darling*, for example, with its 1950s costume and hairstyles, coupled with a photo shoot with one of the cast's beautiful American classic cars, attracted a lot of views. Reels always attract people to click and watch for longer – the trick is always to get people to linger on the post rather than just scroll past, so it needs to be something immediately engaging, preferably with the ticket link easily visible.

We continue to try to provide some value for the membership fee in the form of events exclusively for fully paid-up members. As always, the difficulty lies in advertising this only to members, rather than all followers. Our Members and Friends page was originally intended to be exclusively for those who have paid a Member's or Friend's rate subscription, but followers invite friends to join, and the page has a lot of followers who are not paid-up members. It is impossible to prevent non-members joining, especially when they are invited to do so by other people already following.

Grateful thanks go to everyone who has worked on or helped with the social media promotion during the past year. Whilst many of our audience do not engage with social media sites and rely on more traditional methods of promotion, it is the main channel now for dissemination of information and is vital for promoting shows and encouraging ticket sales. If anyone has particular skills in the field of social media and would like to help in promoting the Society, we would be delighted to hear from you!

Pat Lay.

Bentley House Bar Report 2024-25

The bar has been open for in-house productions, social evenings, after-show parties and, when requested, rehearsals. The bar continues to make a small but steady profit. Due to inflation, we have had to implement a small price increase on certain items, but the bar still offers very competitive prices.

Thank you to all the members and friends who have helped behind the bar during the year, their help is much appreciated. If anyone is interested in helping on the bar for our forthcoming productions, please let me know.

Sally Newland - Acting Bar Manager

Treasurer's report – financial year 2023-2024

Our accounts for August 2023 to July 2024 (the financial year end) have been circulated to the membership for presentation at the AGM. The Society had an operating profit of £10.9k for the year and total funds recovered from £269.7k to £291k, close to the long-term historical value of about £300k.

All expenditure was supported by an Expense form or similar documentation which the Society's members have completed to confirm that they are valid and to ensure expenses are allocated correctly. Thanks are due to David Cousins for reviewing the accounts and declaring them satisfactory.

We have been able to present a number of productions during the year, and the accounts show outturn from the shows. Ticket sales were generally quite good and all showed a profit. Particularly noteworthy is that three musical shows, *Puss in Boots*, *Six-Teen* and *Stepping Out* all showed a profit despite the costs associated with musicals. My thanks go to all the production teams who did a good job of budgeting and managing costs.

The recovery of the balance sheet valuation has two primary drivers. Our investments valuation increased by £14k and the profits from shows supported a £5k increase in the cash balance in the bank account. Recently the Trustees agreed to switch our funds in Schroders from their Sustainable Multi Asset fund to their standard Multi Asset Fund which our analysis suggested would generate better performance. The switch was completed in March 2025.

There has been little change in the pattern of overhead costs for the Society. Total expenditure dropped from £25.7k to £23.6k driven almost entirely by a reduction in the cost of repairs and maintenance. Utility costs continue to be the largest cost element with electricity and gas costing £10.4k for the year.

The Society invested in new drapes for Rehearsal Room 1 and this capital purchase has been added to our assets. The net book value (undepreciated costs) now stands at £3.4k and depreciation on the foyer refurbishment will complete in FY24-25 leaving only the lighting bridge as the only significant asset to be depreciated.

FY24-25 will see a significant change to the financial profile as the refurbishment of Hertford Theatre (BEAM) completes. Our musical offering, *Shrek*, in October 2024 placed considerable demands on the Society's financial resources compounded by teething troubles in BEAM's processes which delayed settlement. I am confident though, that the Society has the financial resources to be able to manage the transition back to working with larger scale productions of this sort.

Graham Lay

Treasurer – HD&OS



Hertford Dramatic and		Hertford Dramatic and Operatic Society		271065		
Annual accounts for the period						
Period start date		01/08/2023	To	Period end date	31/07/2024	

Section A Statement of financial activities

Donations and Legacies	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds	
		£	£	£	£	£	
		F01	F02	F03	F04	F04	
Incoming Resources							
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	S01	4,912	-	-	4,912	11,988	See Note 1, Show Accounts See Note 2, Income See Note 5, Investments
Charitable activities	486	39,994	-	-	39,994	23,264	
Other trading activities	S03	4,864	-	-	4,864	3,252	
Investment income	S04	11,362	-	-	11,362	11,151	
	S05		-	-	-	-	
Other	S06		-	-	-	-	
Total	S07	61,132	-	-	61,132	49,654	
Resources expended (Note 3)							
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	S08	-	-	-	-	-	
Charitable activities	S09	26,542	-	-	26,542	16,246	See Note 1, Show Accounts
Separate material item of expense	S10	15,241	-	-	15,241	15,996	See Note 3, Bentley House costs
Other	S11	8,403	-	-	8,403	8,558	See note 3
Total	S12	50,186	-	-	50,186	40,800	
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)							
	S13	10,947	-	-	10,947	8,854	See Note 5, Investments
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	14,361	-	-	14,361	- 20,635	
Net income/(expenditure)	S15	25,307	-	-	25,307	- 11,781	
Extraordinary items							
	S16	-	-	-	-	-	
Transfers between funds							
	S17	-	-	-	-	-	
Other recognised gains/(losses):							
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	- 3,883	-	-	- 3,883	- 3,824	See Note 4, Fixed Assets
Other gains/(losses)	S19	55	-	-	55	1,049	Cash not previously not accounted for
Net movement in funds	S20	21,479	-	-	21,479	- 23,675	
Prior Year Adjustment							
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward	S21	269,704	-	-	269,704	308,877	
Total funds carried forward	S22	291,183	-	-	291,183	269,704	

Section B

Balance sheet

		Guidance Notes						Notes									
			Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Total last year										
			£	£	£	£	£										
			F01	F02	F03	F04	F05										
Fixed assets																	
Tangible assets		B02	3,395		-	3,395	5,673										
Investments		B04	238,140		-	238,140	223,780										
Total fixed assets		B05	241,536	-	-	241,536	229,452										
Current assets																	
Bar stock			-	848		848	722										
Presidents medals			-	420		420	420										
Prepayments		B08	9,981	-	-	9,981	2,497										
Cash at bank and in hand		B09	42,039	-	-	42,039	36,982										
Total current assets		B10	53,288	-	-	53,288	40,621										
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		B11	3,640	-	-	3,640	370										
Net current assets/(liabilities)		B12	49,648	-	-	49,648	40,252										
Total assets less current liabilities		B13	291,183	-	-	291,183	269,704										
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 20)		B14	-	-	-	-	-										
Provisions for liabilities		B15		-	-	-	-										
Total net assets or liabilities		B16	291,183	-	-	291,183	269,704										
Funds of the Charity																	
Endowment funds (Note 27)		B17	-			-	-										
Restricted income funds (Note 27)		B18		-		-	-										
Unrestricted funds		B19	291,183		-	291,183	269,704										
Revaluation reserve		B20	-			-	-										
Total funds		B21	291,183	-	-	291,183	269,704										
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		<table><tr><td>Signature</td><td>Print Name</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>GRD Lay</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							Signature	Print Name			GRD Lay				
Signature	Print Name																
	GRD Lay																

Section C Notes to the accounts

Note 1 Analysis of Shows

	Double Acts	HTW 2024	Laramie Project	Puss in Boots	Six	Stepping Out	The Children	Young Idea	Total
Income									
4160 - Other Income		1,166	250						1,416
4205 - Ticket Sales	2,859	6,371	2,689	7,168	5,620	6,778	2,029	3,672	37,187
4210 - Programme Sales		213				218			431
4225 - Canteen							16		16
4230 - Entry Fees		30							30
4300 - Show Fees					600	315			915
Total Income	2,859	7,780	2,939	7,168	6,220	7,312	2,044	3,672	39,994
Cost of Sales									
6005 - Hire of Venue	72	1,900	142		30			25	2,169
6010 - Staging		181	25	149	125	370	57		907
6020 - Lighting			60	1,002	452				1,513
6023 - Effects			270						270
6025 - Sound				7	6		2		15
6030 - Properties	6			60		31			97
6035 - Wardrobe			32	782	548	446	6		1,814
6040 - Musical Director				500	100	1,700			2,300
6043 - Music Arrangement				345					345
6045 - Orchestra				1,110					1,110
6049 - Choreographer					100				100
6050 - Director					150	1,000		600	1,750
6053 - Licenses		73		570					643
6055 - Royalties	660		360		972	828	408		3,228
6060 - Posters, Flyers; Printing	34	91	76	143	85	58	62		549
6063 - Programme Design & Print	90	137	35	120	135	115	77		709
6070 - Advertising		265							265
6080 - Scripts & Scores			114		733	773	89		1,708
6085 - Photographs	74		104	60	74	105	60		477
6090 - Rehearsal Pianists					100	175			275
6095 - Sundry Show Expenses	63	627	37		18	24			769
6100 - Adjudicator		1,170							1,170
6105 - Show - Secretarial		6			380			760	1,146
6120 - Show Hospitality		20							20
6125 - Team's Expenses		1,600							1,600
6130 - Awards		74							74
6140 Workshop cost								1,517	1,517
Total Cost of Sales	999	6,144	1,255	4,848	4,008	5,624	761	2,902	26,542
Total	1,860	1,635	1,684	2,320	2,212	1,688	1,283	770	13,452

Note 2

Analysis of income

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Analysis					
Donations and Legacies	Donations and gifts	272	-	272	8,508
	Gift Aid	-	-		
	Legacies	-	-		
	General grants provided by government/other charities	-	-		
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	4,640		4,640	3,480
	Donated goods, facilities and services				
	Other	-			
income	Total	4,912	-	4,912	11,988
Charitable activities:	Canteen	16		16	
	Entry Fees	30		30	25
	Show Fees	915		915	680
	Ticket sales	37,187		37,187	20,596
	Programme Sales	431	-	431	410
	Other	1,416	-	1,416	1,553
	Total	39,994	-	39,994	23,264
Other trading activities:		-	-	-	-
	Asset Hire	45	-	45	220
	Bar Income	3,879	-	3,879	1,898
	Other	940	-	940	1,133
	Total	4,864	-	4,864	3,252
Income from investments:	Interest income	-	-	-	-
	Dividend income	11,362	-	11,362	11,151
	Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-
	Total	11,362	-	11,362	11,151
TOTAL INCOME		61,132	-	61,132	49,654

Note 3

Analysis of expenditure

	Analysis	Total funds £	Prior year £
Bentley House	Building Repairs & Maintenance	2,117	3,751
	Cleaning and management	2,171	2,214
	Electricity	3,862	2,763
	Gas	6,535	6,460
	Telephone	380	351
	Rates (Non - Domestic)	177	457
	Water		
	Total	15,241	15,996
Other			
	Archive Expenses	102	109
	B.H. Refreshments	187	58
	Donations	50	90
	General Advertising	273	174
	Bar Expenses	108	185
	Insurances	2,403	2,302
	Miscellaneous Expenses	236	63
	Newsletter		
	Postage	77	
	Stationery	6	
	Printing		
	Total Newsletter	83	175
	PayPal	1	60
	Photocopying	1,381	1,944
	President's Expenses	51	100
	Social Events Expenses	163	134
	Software (QuickBooks)	518	446
	Sound/Lighting Repairs	654	2,236
	Stationery	42	-
	Subscriptions & Licences	770	383
	Trustee Expenses	52	
	Training		576
	Wardrobe Repairs		62
	Website	490	439
	Workshop Renewals	322	
	Workshop Repairs	516	180
	Total	8,403	9,717
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		23,644	25,713

Note 4

Tangible fixed assets

Acquisition and Depreciation

	Bar Equipment	Bentley House Boiler	Computer Hardware & software	Foyer	Furniture & Fittings	Lighting Bridge	Lighting Equipment	Drapes	Properties & Wardrobe	Tools & Plant	Total
Donations and Legacies											
Original Cost	87	5,357	3,478	42,513	40,893	10,561	60,355	344	6,595	31,660	201,842
Investments											
Additions								1,606			1,606
Cum. Dep. As @ 31/7/2023	87	5,357	3,478	39,265	40,893	8,569	59,922	344	6,681	31,660	192,194
Depreciation 2023/24	-	-		2,751		533	433	166			3,883
Cum. Dep. As @ 31/7/2024	87	5,357	3,478	42,016	40,893	9,103	60,355	509	6,681	31,660	200,138
Net Book value 31/7/23	-	-	-	3,248	-	1,992	433	-	-	-	5,673
Net Book value 31/7/24	-	-	-	497	-	1,458	-	1,440	-	-	3,395

Note 5

Investment assets

	Cash & cash equivalents	Listed investments	Investment properties
Carrying (fair) value at start of year	-	223,780	-
Add: additions to investments during period*	-		-
Less: disposals at carrying value	-	-	-
Less: impairments	-	-	-
Add: Reversal of impairments	-	-	-
Investment income	-	-	-
Gain/Loss on revaluation	-	14,360	-
Carrying (fair) value at end of year	-	238,140	

Holdings:

Charifund: 7361 units.

Blackrock Charities UK Bond Fund (income) 62735 units.

Schroder Charity Responsible Multi-Asset Fund, 18218.26 units.

valuation (from FT)

Column1	Column2	units	Price	Value
Charifund		7361	15.69	115474
Blackrock		62735	1.45	90966
Schroder		55064	0.58	31700
Total				238140

 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		Charity Name Hertford Dramatic and Operatic Society	
On accounts for the year ended		31 st July 2024	Charity no (if any) 271065
Set out on pages		1-7 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	
Responsibilities and basis of report		I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY. 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"). 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.	
Independent examiner's statement		I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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.	
Signed:		Date:	
[Signature]		6/11/24	
Name:		David Cousins	
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):		AAT and CIMA	
Address:		27 Martin Drive Hertford SG13 7TA	