

**Sewell Barn Theatre Trust Fund**  
**Registered Charity number 277724**  
**Year ended 31 August 2025**



**Charity name** The Sewell Barn Theatre Trust Fund  
**other names the charity is known by** Friends of the Sewell Barn Theatre (working name)  
Sewell Barn Theatre Society (working name)

**Charity's principal address** Sewell Barn Theatre  
Constitution Hill  
Norwich NR3 4BB

**Website** [www.sewellbarn.org](http://www.sewellbarn.org)

**Charity Trustees** Mrs June Gentle  
Mr Stephen Gidney  
Mr John Holden  
Mr Andrew Howard  
Mrs Waltraud Jarrold  
Mr Robert Little  
Ms Shelagh Maple  
Major Jonathan Redding

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Governing Document**

The Sewell Barn Theatre Trust Fund is constituted as an arts and music trust with the Charity Commission. under Charity number 277724. It is governed by a Trust Deed dated 26 February 1979.

### **Organisation Structure**

The Charity Trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity. The Trustees have made provision for the day to day management of the Theatre and the control of finance to be carried out by a Committee, in conjunction with the Trustees. Substantial expenditure on the fabric, furniture or fittings of the Theatre is subject to prior written approval by the Trustees

### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have assessed the risks the Charity faces and have implemented systems to mitigate these. The Trustees are satisfied that systems are in place or arrangements are in hand, to manage the risks that have been identified. In particular, insurance cover is in place and the finances are kept under regular review.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The Charity aims to advance the education of the pupils of the Sewell Park Academy (formerly Blyth Jex School) and of the inhabitants of Norwich and surrounding area in the arts by maintaining a theatre for the exhibition of plays, cinematograph films, concerts, meetings and lectures.

The Trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have complied with their duties as detailed in the Charities Act 2011 with regard to public benefit. Careful consideration has been given to the accessibility of the Charity to as wide a community as possible. Reduced price admission to all plays in the regular season is offered for concessions and students are offered a further discount for one performance of each play.

## Achievements and Performance - the 2024/25 season

*Grand Guignol*  
*Design for Living*

*After Electra*  
*Foxfinder*

*Richard II*  
*Charley's Aunt*

*The Clearing*

The season began with *Grand Guignol* curated and directed by Richard Hand, followed by *After Electra* by April de Angelis. Shakespeare's *Richard II* came after Christmas, followed by *The Clearing* by Helen Edmundson), *Design for Living* by Noel Coward and then *Foxfinder* by Dawn King. The season finished with *Charley's Aunt* by Brando Thomas. We also included a short run of *The Lives of Bosie* by John Wolfson.

An total of 90 seats were available for each performance in the main 7-show season and average attendance was an excellent 69% varying between 96.9% for *Charley's Aunt* and 45% for *Foxfinder*, making the season a success both artistically and financially, and all shows on or exceeding the budgeted average of 45%.

Up-to-date information about the Theatre is available on the website ([www.sewellbarn.org](http://www.sewellbarn.org)) and The Barn can be regularly followed on Facebook and Twitter.

## Financial Review

We were delighted to note that attendances were back to pre-Covid levels for the second successive season and while costs continued to rise, we continued with the new contract for considerably lower cost for utilities for the costume store. The surplus of £18,600 for the year was achieved by a combination of above-budget income and below-budget costs. Ticket sales came in at £21,000 above-budget with a corresponding increase in bar sales, there was a significant increase in the amount of interest on savings, and below-budget costs on production expenses and lower maintenance costs for the costume store all contributed. We were also able to spend £7,700 on technical upgrades to the lighting equipment.

We are delighted to acknowledge continued sponsorship from Norfolk Gin.

Routine technical 2025/26, although we anticipate that costs will continue to rise, we have held seat prices at last year's level. Income may be unpredictable for the year as the cost of living continues to escalate. We will be closely monitoring all income and expenditure, but especially the ongoing costs of utilities for the costume store. We are budgeting to break even on the season.

## Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc, Gentleman's Walk, Norwich

## Independent Examiner

Crispin de Boos  
The White House, Sandfield Lane, Eccles, Norwich NR16 2PB

## Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity Trustees

R Little (Chair)

*Robert Little*

date 23/10/25

Year ended 31 August 2025

## STATEMENT OF INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE

2023/24 actual		2024/25				CURRENT BUDGET
		restricted	designated	unrestricted	total	
	INCOME					<b>DRAFT</b>
39,084	Production income			42,699	42,699	26,850
10,822	Bar/ices income			13,506	13,506	7,000
579	Subscriptions			100	100	250
530	Costume & venue hire			50	50	100
1,298	Interest gross			1,093	1,093	700
-	Miscellaneous income			0	0	100
-	Gift Aid			0	0	100
449	Grants sponsorship & donations	0	331		331	150
2,500	Lighting project & FOH	0			0	0
-	legacies		0		0	0
-	income for last year			0	0	0
165	income for next year			135	135	0
55,427	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	0	331	57,583	57,914	35,250
	EXPENDITURE	restricted	designated	unrestricted	total	
3,260	Production expenses			3,930	3,930	5,460
2,464	Publicity			1,888	1,888	2,675
6,576	Bar costs			7,417	7,417	5,800
688	Royalties			0	0	0
6,914	Ropemaker's rent rates insurance L & H			6,819	6,819	9,000
933	Room hire			1,688	1,688	500
263	Post stationery copying			247	247	300
314	Telephone			408	408	400
405	Licences & memberships			559	559	450
60	Audit fee			60	60	60
2,845	Insurance - Sewell Barn			3,059	3,059	3,000
347	Repairs & maintenance			1,690	1,690	1,000
-	H&S & training			0	0	0
49	Sundry			84	84	100
1,163	Equipment			1,037	1,037	1,000
305	expenses for last year			0	0	0
2,390	expenses for next year, royalties			4,102	4,102	4,900
22	Wardrobe upgrade	0			0	0
-	Technical upgrades & FOH	2,500	5,275		7,775	0
28,998	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	2,500	5,275	32,989	40,763	34,645
26,429	<b>net income(expenditure)</b>	(2,500)	(4,943)	24,594	17,151	605
	<b>transfers between funds</b>		95,500	(95,500)		
		(2,500)	90,557	(70,906)	17,151	
	<b>CASH RESOURCES</b>	restricted	designated	unrestricted	total	
	cash at bank 1 September 2024	3,498	9,995	81,112	94,605	
	<b>CASH FUNDS to date / at 31 August 2025 (1)</b>					
19,178	Lloyds bank	998	100,552	-69,896	31,654	
-	to 21/8/25 Lloyds deposit at 2.8%			0	0	
75,427	Lloyds instant saver at 1.0%			80,102	80,102	
94,605	Total cash funds to date	998	100,552	10,206	111,755	
Notes (1)	<b>Funds analysis</b>	b/f	received	paid	transfers	c/f
Restricted	Technical purchases grant	2,500	0	2,500		0
	Wardrobe sale proceeds	998	0			998
	Restricted totals	3,498	0	2,500	0	998
Designated	Donations general	3,995	331			4,326
	Wardrobe new premises			35,000		35,000
	Buildings fund			25,000		25,000
	Reserves policy - 1 yr annual exp			35,000		35,000
	AD production support fund			500		500
	A Giles bequest	6,000		5,275		725
	Designated totals	9,995	331	5,275	95,500	100,552
unrestricted	general funds	81,112	57,583	32,989	(95,500)	10,206
	Overall totals	94,605	57,914	40,763	0	111,756

## **Independent Examiner's report**

I report on the accounts of the Sewell Barn Theatre Trust Fund for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on the preceding pages.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Basis of the Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

### **Independent Examiner**



date 29 October 2025

The White House  
Sandfield Lane  
Eccles  
Norwich NR16 2PB