

THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

England & Wales · Charity number 284784

Details

Other names FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 1982-05-12

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Willow Barn
Stalbridge Weston
Sturminster Newton
DT10 2LA

Phone 01963362068

Website www.dorsetopera.com

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN OPERA BY THE PROMOTION SUPPORT ASSISTANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOCIETY.

Activities: The promotion and furtherance of the charitable objects of Dorset Opera

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Dorset
- Hampshire
- Somerset
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£32,613	£33,550	-	-
2024-09-30	£35,910	£77,652	-	-
2023-09-30	£30,037	£2,444	-	-
2022-09-30	£30,482	£39,626	-	-
2021-09-30	£29,723	£34,169	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
LADY Joanna Jane GARNIER		2013-03-10
Lucinda Frances Coombs		2025-11-25
NICHOLAS HARRY BLOCK		
Rosamond Elizabeth Cassidy		2020-09-01
Sarah Ann Bignell		2022-04-08

THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

England & Wales - Charity number 284784

Accounts

The Friends of Dorset Opera

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended

30th September 2025

Registered Charity No. 284784

The Friends of Dorset Opera

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees submit their report and the financial statements of the Friends of Dorset Opera for the year to 30th September 2025.

STATUS AND OBJECTIVES

The Friends of Dorset Opera ("the Friends") is a registered charity (No 284784) established by a Trust Deed dated 14th April 1982. Its objective is to raise funds by public subscription to be paid by way of annual grant to Dorset Opera (registered charity No 1105318).

The Friends' registered address is Willow Barn, Stalbridge Weston, Sturminster Newton DT10 2LA.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The Friends continued to support Dorset Opera's Festival. The Trustees made a grant of £33,500 in support of the Festival's 2025 productions of Verdi's *Rigoletto* and double bill of Masagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* with Puccini's *Suor Angelica*.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Friends provide public benefit by supporting Dorset Opera Festival, which itself benefits the public.

INVESTMENT POWERS, POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees have the power to invest the money of the Charity not immediately required for its purposes in such investments or property as they think fit. Currently cash reserves are held in a low risk money market fund which gives immediate access to these funds.

RESERVES POLICY

The charity works closely with Dorset Opera and may, as required, build up a level of reserves to help meet any longer term productions undertaken by the Festival. A small level of cash reserves is normally maintained to cover unforeseen circumstances.

TRUSTEES

The following Trustees have held office during the year:-

Mrs Rosamond Cassidy (Chairman)

Mr Peter Baillie (retired 25/11/2024)

Mr Nicholas Block

Mrs Sarah Bignell

Lady Sarah Digby (appointed 25/11/24)

Lady Garnier

The Trustees have the power to appoint new or additional trustees by resolution at a meeting of the Trustees.

By order of the Trustees



Rosamond Cassidy - Chairman of the Trustees

25th November 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA - CHARITY No 284784**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of **The Friends of Dorset Opera** (the Trust) for the year ended 30 September 2025.

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').

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 all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Paul Jenner MA FCCA
45 Huntly Road
Bournemouth
BH3 7HG**

Date: *29 November* 2025

The Friends of Dorset Opera

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th September 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions and donations received	26,440	27,360
Gift Aid received	5,765	6,165
Interest received	408	2,385
	<u>32,613</u>	<u>35,910</u>
PAYMENTS		
2025 Grant to Dorset Opera	33,500	76,500
Administrative expenses	50	1,152
	<u>33,550</u>	<u>77,652</u>
NET (PAYMENTS) / RECEIPTS	(937)	(41,742)
Cash Funds held at previous year-end	2,560	44,302
Cash Funds held at this year-end	<u>1,623</u>	<u>2,560</u>

The Friends of Dorset Opera

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

For the year ended 30th September 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
MONETARY ASSETS		
Cash Funds - NatWest Current Account	114	109
- COIF Deposit Fund	<u>1,509</u>	<u>2,451</u>
	<u>1,623</u>	<u>2,560</u>

At the year end the following income items were outstanding:

- 1). Gift Aid of £113 (2024 £103) in respect of subscriptions and donations paid between 6th April and 30th September 2025 is to be claimed.
- 2). Subscriptions of £280 have been collected by Dorset Opera up to 30th September 2025 on the Charity's behalf.

No expenditure items were outstanding.

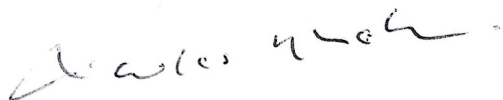
ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Trustees have taken advantage of Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011, which allows a small charity to present the accounts on a receipts and payments basis, together with a statement of assets and liabilities.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 25th November 2025



Rosamond Cassidy
Chairman of the Trustees



Nicholas Block
Hon Treasurer

THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

England & Wales - Charity number 284784

Accounts

The Friends of Dorset Opera

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended

30th September 2023

Registered Charity No. 284784

The Friends of Dorset Opera

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees submit their report and the financial statements of the Friends of Dorset Opera for the year to 30th September 2023.

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The Friends' registered address is Willow Barn, Stalbridge Weston, Sturminster Newton DT10 2LA.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The Friends continued to support Dorset Opera Festival. The Trustees made a grant of £5,000 in support of the Festival's 2023 productions of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and Massenet's *Le Roi de Lahore*. This grant was comparatively modest because first Dorset Opera Festival were not in need, and secondly the Trustees will seek to make as large a grant as possible in 2024, it being the Festival's 50th Anniversary.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Friends provide public benefit by supporting Dorset Opera Festival, which itself benefits the public.

INVESTMENT POWERS, POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees have the power to invest the money of the Charity not immediately required for its purposes in such investments or property as they think fit. Currently cash reserves are held in a low risk deposit account which gives immediate access to these funds.

RESERVES POLICY

The charity works closely with Dorset Opera Festival and may, as required, build up a level of reserves to help meet any longer term productions undertaken by the Festival. A small level of cash reserves is normally maintained to cover unforeseen circumstances.

TRUSTEES

The following Trustees have held office during the year:-

Mrs Rosamond Cassidy (Chairman)

Mr Peter Baillie

Mr Nicholas Block

Mrs Sarah Bignell (appointed 09/09/23)

Lady Garnier

Captain Timothy Lee RN (retired 09/09/23)

Miss Augusta Miller (retired 09/09/23)

The Trustees have the power to appoint new or additional trustees by resolution at a meeting of the Trustees.

By order of the Trustees



Rosamond Cassidy - Chairman of the Trustees

24th November 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of **The Friends of Dorset Opera** (the Trust) for the year ended 30 September 2023.

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').

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 all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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 connection 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.



Henry Digby ACA (13th Baron Digby)
Minterne House
Minterne Magna
Dorchester DT2 7AU

Date 24th November 2023

The Friends of Dorset Opera

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th September 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions and donations received, including those under Gift Aid and Deeds of Covenant	23,641	24,496
Income tax repayments in respect of subscriptions and donations	5,421	5,781
Deposit interest	<u>975</u>	<u>145</u>
	<u>30,037</u>	<u>30,422</u>
PAYMENTS		
2022 Grant to Dorset Opera Festival		35,000
Advance on 2023 Grant to Dorset Opera Festival		2,560
Balance of £5,000 grant to Dorset Opera Festival	2,440	
Administrative expenses	<u>4</u>	<u>2,006</u>
	<u>2,444</u>	<u>39,566</u>
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)	27,593	-9,144
Cash Funds held at previous year-end	<u>16,709</u>	<u>25,853</u>
Cash Funds held at this year-end	<u>44,302</u>	<u>16,709</u>

Note: A claim for recovery of £103 (2022 £140) of Income Tax in respect of subscriptions and donations paid between 6th April and 30th September 2023 remained to be submitted.

The Friends of Dorset Opera

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

For the year ended 30th September 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
MONETARY ASSETS		
Cash at bank - NatWest Current Account	7,886	368
- COIF Deposit Account	<u>36,416</u>	<u>16,341</u>
	<u>44,302</u>	<u>16,709</u>

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

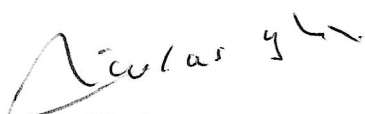
The Trustees have taken advantage of Section 42(3) of the Charities Act 1993 as amended by the Charities Acts 2006, which allows a small charity to present the accounts on a receipts and payments basis, together with a statement of assets and liabilities.

There was no significant income or expenditure outstanding at the end of the year.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 24th November 2023



Rosamond Cassidy
Chairman of the Trustees



Nicholas Block
Hon Treasurer

THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

England & Wales - Charity number 284784

Accounts

The Friends of Dorset Opera

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended

30th September 2023

Registered Charity No. 284784

The Friends of Dorset Opera

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PUBLIC BENEFIT

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Lady Garnier

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Miss Augusta Miller (retired 09/09/23)

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By order of the Trustees



Rosamond Cassidy - Chairman of the Trustees

24th November 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

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Responsibilities and basis of report

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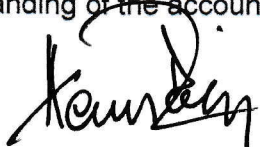
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Henry Digby ACA (13th Baron Digby)
Minterne House
Minterne Magna
Dorchester DT2 7AU

Date 24th NOVEMBER 2023

The Friends of Dorset Opera

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th September 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions and donations received, including those under Gift Aid and Deeds of Covenant	23,641	24,496
Income tax repayments in respect of subscriptions and donations	5,421	5,781
Deposit interest	<u>975</u>	<u>145</u>
	<u>30,037</u>	<u>30,422</u>
PAYMENTS		
2022 Grant to Dorset Opera Festival		35,000
Advance on 2023 Grant to Dorset Opera Festival		2,560
Balance of £5,000 grant to Dorset Opera Festival	2,440	
Administrative expenses	<u>4</u>	<u>2,006</u>
	<u>2,444</u>	<u>39,566</u>
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)	27,593	-9,144
Cash Funds held at previous year-end	<u>16,709</u>	<u>25,853</u>
Cash Funds held at this year-end	<u>44,302</u>	<u>16,709</u>

Note: A claim for recovery of £103 (2022 £140) of Income Tax in respect of subscriptions and donations paid between 6th April and 30th September 2023 remained to be submitted.

The Friends of Dorset Opera

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

For the year ended 30th September 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
MONETARY ASSETS		
Cash at bank - NatWest Current Account	7,886	368
- COIF Deposit Account	<u>36,416</u>	<u>16,341</u>
	<u>44,302</u>	<u>16,709</u>

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

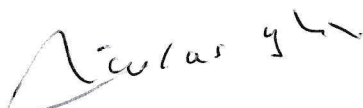
The Trustees have taken advantage of Section 42(3) of the Charities Act 1993 as amended by the Charities Acts 2006, which allows a small charity to present the accounts on a receipts and payments basis, together with a statement of assets and liabilities.

There was no significant income or expenditure outstanding at the end of the year.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 24th November 2023



Rosamond Cassidy
Chairman of the Trustees



Nicholas Block
Hon Treasurer

THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

England & Wales - Charity number 284784

Accounts

The Friends of Dorset Opera

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended

30th September 2022

Registered Charity No. 284784

The Friends of Dorset Opera

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

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STATUS AND OBJECTIVES

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The Friends' registered address is Willow Barn, Stalbridge Weston, Sturminster Newton DT10 2LA.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The Friends continued to support Dorset Opera Festival. The 2020 festival having had to be cancelled in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trustees carried forward a substantial sum from that year, enabling them to make a grant of £35,000 in support of the 2022 Festival's productions of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Friends provide public benefit by supporting Dorset Opera Festival, which itself benefits the public.

INVESTMENT POWERS, POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees have the power to invest the money of the Charity not immediately required for its purposes in such investments or property as they think fit. Currently cash reserves are held in a low risk deposit account which gives immediate access to these funds.

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TRUSTEES

The following Trustees have held office during the year:

Mrs Rosamond Cassidy (Chairman)

Mr Peter Baillie

Mr Nicholas Block

Mrs Sarah Bignell (appointed 08/04/2022)

Lady Garnier

Captain Timothy Lee RN

Dame Dione Digby DBE DL (resigned 23/11/2021)

Miss Augusta Miller (resigned 30/07/2021)

The Trustees have the power to appoint new or additional trustees by resolution at a meeting of the Trustees.

By order of the Trustees



Rosamond Cassidy - Chairman of the Trustees

25th November 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of **The Friends of Dorset Opera** (the Trust) for the year ended 30 September 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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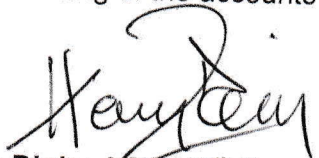
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Henry Digby ACA (13th Baron Digby)
Minterne House
Minterne Magna
Dorchester DT2 7AU

Date

10th January

2023

The Friends of Dorset Opera

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th September 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions and donations received, including those under Gift Aid and Deeds of Covenant	24,556	24,646
Income tax repayments in respect of subscriptions and donations	5,781	5,073
Deposit interest	<u>145</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>30,482</u>	<u>29,723</u>
PAYMENTS		
2022 Grant to Dorset Opera Festival	35,000	33,820
Advance on 2023 Grant to Dorset Opera Festival	2,620	
Administrative expenses	<u>2,006</u>	<u>349</u>
	<u>39,626</u>	<u>34,169</u>
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)	-9,144	-4,446
Cash Funds held at previous year-end	<u>25,853</u>	<u>30,299</u>
Cash Funds held at this year-end	<u>16,709</u>	<u>25,853</u>

Note: A claim for recovery of £140 (2021 £166) of Income Tax in respect of subscriptions and donations paid between 6th April and 30th September 2022 remained to be submitted.

The Friends of Dorset Opera

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

For the year ended 30th September 2022

MONETARY ASSETS	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank - NatWest Current Account	368	24,957
- COIF Deposit Account	<u>16,341</u>	<u>896</u>
	<u>16,709</u>	<u>25,853</u>

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Trustees have taken advantage of Section 42(3) of the Charities Act 1993 as amended by the Charities Acts 2006, which allows a small charity to present the accounts on a receipts and payments basis, together with a statement of assets and liabilities.

There was no significant income or expenditure outstanding at the end of the year.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 25th November 2022



Rosamond Cassidy
Chairman of the Trustees



Nicholas Block
Hon Treasurer

THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

England & Wales - Charity number 284784

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For the year ended

30th September 2021

Registered Charity No. 284784

The Friends of Dorset Opera

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REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The Friends continued to support Dorset Opera Festival. The 2020 festival having had to be cancelled in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trustees carried forward a substantial sum from that year, enabling them to make a grant of £35,000 in support of the 2021 Festival's productions of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and *Così van Tutte*, Schubert's *Winterreise* and Handel/Mozart's *Acis & Galatea*, whilst carrying forward a substantial sum to augment their anticipated 2022 grant to the Festival.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

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INVESTMENT POWERS, POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

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Miss Augusta Miller (resigned 30/07/2021)

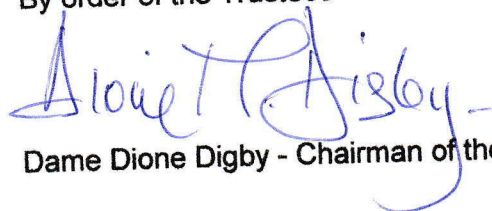
Mr Peter Baillie

Mr Nicholas Block

Lady Garnier

The Trustees have the power to appoint new or additional trustees by resolution at a meeting of the Trustees.

By order of the Trustees



Dame Dione Digby - Chairman of the Trustees

23rd November 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF DORSET OPERA

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of **The Friends of Dorset Opera** (the Trust) for the year ended 30 September 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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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 all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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 connection 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.



Henry Digby ACA (13th Baron Digby)
Minterne House
Minterne Magna
Dorchester DT2 7AU

Date 10th November 2021

The Friends of Dorset Opera

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th September 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions and donations received, including those under Gift Aid and Deeds of Covenant	24,646	24,061
Income tax repayments in respect of subscriptions and donations	5,073	5,360
Deposit interest	<u>4</u>	<u>34</u>
	<u>29,723</u>	<u>29,455</u>
PAYMENTS		
Balance of £35,000 Grant to Dorset Opera Festival	33,820	
Advance on 2021 Grant to Dorset Opera Festival		1,180
Administrative expenses	<u>349</u>	<u>1,135</u>
	<u>34,169</u>	<u>2,315</u>
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)	-4,446	27,140
Cash Funds held at previous year-end	<u>30,299</u>	<u>3,159</u>
Cash Funds held at this year-end	<u>25,853</u>	<u>30,299</u>

Note: A claim for recovery of £166 (2020 £54) of Income Tax in respect of subscriptions and donations paid between 6th April and 30th September 2021 remained to be submitted.

The Friends of Dorset Opera

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

For the year ended 30th September 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
MONETARY ASSETS		
Cash at bank - NatWest Current Account	24,957	307
- COIF Deposit Account	<u>896</u>	<u>29,992</u>
	<u>25,853</u>	<u>30,299</u>

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

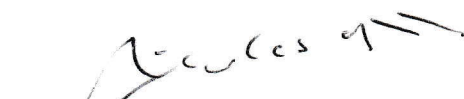
The Trustees have taken advantage of Section 42(3) of the Charities Act 1993 as amended by the Charities Acts 2006, which allows a small charity to present the accounts on a receipts and payments basis, together with a statement of assets and liabilities.

There was no significant income or expenditure outstanding at the end of the year.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 23rd November 2021



Dame Dione Digby
Chairman of the Trustees



Nicholas Block
Hon Treasurer