

WINCHESTER DRAMATIC SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Principal address and Registered Office	Chesil Theatre, Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU
Charity number	285043
Company number	1621492 (England and Wales)

WINCHESTER DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year.

Structure, governance and management

Winchester Dramatic Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The charity's main objects are "to promote, maintain, improve and advance public education particularly by the production of educational plays and the encouragement of the arts."

The trustees who served during the year are:

Joanne	Ashwell	
Peter	Bateson	
Stephanie	Danby	
Martin	Humphrey	
Sarah	Jacobs	
David	James	Retired 24 October 2025
Peter	Liddiard	
Paul	Riddell	Appointed 24 October 2025
David	Small	
Zoe	Stanford	Appointed 25 October 2024
Terrance	Lohr	Retired 24 October 2025
Alec	Walters	Retired 25 October 2024
Marcus	Whitfield	Appointed 24 October 2025

The charity structure is a Board of Trustees (also known as the Executive Committee) who are also directors for the purpose of company law. Trustees are elected annually by the members of the Society. Any member may be nominated for election as a trustee if duly proposed and seconded by two members.

The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

There are no specific restrictions imposed by any governing document concerning the way in which the charity operates.

Objectives and activities

The charity seeks to attain its objects by presenting a varied programme of in-house and visiting drama productions, by running a youth theatre with youth and children's workshops, providing active social and community outreach programmes and by maintaining and improving the historic Grade II* listed Chesil Theatre building (the former church of St Peter Chesil). It plans to enhance and expand these activities through the development of an annexe at 14 Chesil Street. The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. There has been no change in the policies adopted in furtherance of the objects during the year.

During the year the charity has presented a varied programme of drama, run youth and children's workshops and productions, welcomed several visiting productions to the Chesil Theatre, provided active social and outreach programmes and continued to carry out maintenance and improvement of the Theatre building. The charity has obtained planning consent to build its proposed annexe at 14 Chesil Street, the adjoining property which it owns. To that end, the charity has launched a campaign to secure the remainder of the funds required.

The charity acquired the freehold of the Chesil Theatre from the Church Commissioners during the year.

The charity's main dependency is upon the services of unpaid volunteers. It receives donations throughout the year.

Financial Review

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 show a net surplus for the year of £154,866 (2024 £91,514) which has been taken to reserves.

At the balance sheet date the charity had net reserves of £1,242,324 (2024 £1,087,458), two-thirds of which is held in the charity's bank accounts. Accordingly there appears to be no difficulty in fulfilling the charity's financial obligations. £142,477 is held in the Restricted fund (2024 £98,735); £1,063,584 in the Designated fund (2024 £968,000); and £36,263 in the General fund (2024 £20,723). Details are in Note 11 on pages 9-10.

The trustees are fund-raising to enable the charity to build an annexe and enhance the facilities provided as well as having regard to the nature of the Grade II* listed medieval building it occupies.

In addition to the net reserves mentioned above, a further £60,000 has been promised by the Winchester City Council and Town Forum towards the cost of the development, payable as a proportion of expenditure as it is incurred.

Asset cover for funds

Note 11 sets out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds and a description of the trusts. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund by fund basis.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

Signed: 

Name: S J DANBY

Date: 20 . 12 . 2025

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Winchester Dramatic Society**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Winchester Dramatic Society ("the charitable company") for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act') and the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

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

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Signed:



Jonathan Poulter FCA CTA
Rothmans LLP
Avebury House, St Peter Street
Winchester, Hampshire
SO23 8BN

Date: 22/12/2025

WINCHESTER DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income & Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted general fund	Designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Incoming resources		£	£	£	£	£
Fund raising & donations	5	34,823		53,000	87,823	60,152
Interest receivable		32,267			32,267	14,742
Productions		57,697			57,697	52,096
Bar		15,656			15,656	13,468
Adult/Student Subscriptions		7,468			7,468	7,005
Youth Theatre		5,534			5,534	3,740
Hire of theatre, props, costumes		305			305	464
Other Income		3,465			3,465	9
Total incoming resources		157,215	0	53,000	210,215	151,676
Resources expended						
Direct charitable expenditure						
Productions		12,301			12,301	22,940
Bar		5,908			5,908	5,011
Cost of fund raising		228		900	1,128	548
Youth Theatre		988			988	722
Cost of hirings		0			0	0
Support costs	6	7,623		1,170	8,793	8,628
Other expenditure	6					
Management and administration		16,627			16,627	12,361
Depreciation		0	2,416	7,188	9,604	9,952
Total resources expended		43,675	2,416	9,258	55,349	60,162
Net incoming resources		113,540	(2,416)	43,742	154,866	91,514
Transfer between funds	4	(98,000)	98,000	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		15,540	95,584	43,742	154,866	91,514
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		20,723	968,000	98,735	1,087,458	995,944
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		36,263	1,063,584	142,477	1,242,324	1,087,458

WINCHESTER DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		364,351		351,217
Current assets					
Stocks		1,205		1,077	
Debtors	9	35,404		20,367	
Cash at bank and in hand	13	359,758		257,160	
Current asset investments: cash at more than 3 months' notice		489,000		460,904	
		<u>885,367</u>		<u>739,508</u>	
Creditors:	10	7,394		3,267	
(amounts falling due within one year)		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net current assets			<u>877,973</u>		<u>736,241</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,242,324</u>		<u>1,087,458</u>
Income funds	11				
Restricted fund			142,477		98,735
Designated fund			1,063,584		968,000
Unrestricted general fund			<u>36,263</u>		<u>20,723</u>
			<u>1,242,324</u>		<u>1,087,458</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees/directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts were approved by the Board on 20.12.2025

Signed: 

Name: SJ DANBY

Signed: 

Name: P. G. BATESON

Company registration number 1621498

WINCHESTER DRAMATIC SOCIETY

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

1. Accounting policies

Winchester Dramatic Society is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales. Its registered office is Chesil Theatre, Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the charity, which is a public benefit entity, are prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011, under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2019).

In preparing these accounts the trustees have not had to make any significant judgements. There are no sources of estimation uncertainty which have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Creditors and provisions for liabilities and charges are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate which are receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price.

"Cash at Bank" represents money held in cash and accessible at up to 3 months' notice. "Current Asset Investments" represent money held in cash and accessible at more than 3 months' and less than one year's notice.

1.2 Incoming resources

Grants of a revenue nature, including government grants, are credited to income only when the conditions for receipt have been satisfied. Donations and bar income are credited to income when they become receivable. Production income is recognised when the event has taken place. Membership income is apportioned over the subscription year. Bank interest is recognised in the period to which it relates. All turnover is associated with the objects and activities of the charity and relates wholly to the United Kingdom.

1.3 Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land & buildings	Nil
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10% straight line

1.4 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

1.5 Fund accounting

The charity's funds consist of a restricted fund, a designated fund and a general fund.

1.6 Allocation of costs

Costs incurred by the charity are allocated to the cost categories for which they were incurred. Overhead costs are allocated between administration, fundraising and publicity and support costs in direct proportion to their usage.

2. Trustees

None of the trustees, or any persons connected with them, received any remuneration during the year. Seven of them were reimbursed a total of £16,841 for a wide variety of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. No costs were incurred for travel, subsistence or accommodation. (2024 - five were reimbursed £11,551). Donations received from trustees and related parties in the year totalled £29,545 (2024: £13,291). There were no other related party transactions in the year.

3. Employees

There were no employees during the year or the previous year.

4. Transfers

The trustees have approved the transfer of £98,000 from the unrestricted General Fund to the Designated Fund.

5. Restricted Income - Prior Year

In the previous year, income from fundraising and donations included £28,811 of restricted income. All other income received in that year was unrestricted.

6. Total resources expended

	Staff Costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Direct charitable expenditure					
Production costs			12,301	12,301	22,940
Bar costs			5,908	5,908	5,011
Cost of fund raising			1,128	1,128	548
Youth Theatre costs			988	988	722
Cost of hirings			0	0	0
Support costs					
Heat, light, rent, water and rates			8,076	8,076	6,889
Stationery, printing, postage, telephone			717	717	1,739
Management & Administration					
Repairs and maintenance			6,347	6,347	6,125
Insurance			4,177	4,177	4,834
Advertising and marketing			1,231	1,231	0
Sundry			1,451	1,451	1,402
Governance					
Independent Examination fees			3,420	3,420	0
Depreciation		9,604		9,604	9,952
		9,604	45,744	55,348	60,162

During the year, fees of £2,850 plus VAT (total £3,420) were payable to the Independent Examiner for the Examination of these accounts.

7. Total resources expended in the previous year

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Direct charitable expenditure				
Production costs			22,940	22,940
Bar costs			5,011	5,011
Cost of fundraising			548	548
Youth Theatre costs			722	722
Cost of hirings			0	0
Support costs				
Heat, light, rent, water and rates			6,889	6,889
Stationery, postage, telephone			1,739	1,739
Management & Administration				
Repairs and maintenance			6,125	6,125
Insurance			4,834	4,834
Advertising and marketing			0	0
Sundry			1,402	1,402
Governance				
Professional fees			0	0
Depreciation		9,952		9,952
		9,952	50,210	60,162

8. Tangible fixed assets	Land and buildings	Fixtures fittings and equipment	Total 2025	Total 2024
Cost	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	296,008	135,860	431,868	388,864
Additions	14,043	8,695	22,738	52,352
Disposals	0	0	0	(9,348)
At 31 March 2025	310,051	144,555	454,606	431,868
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	0	80,651	80,651	80,047
Charge for the year	0	9,604	9,604	9,952
On disposals				(9,348)
At 31 March 2025	0	90,255	90,255	80,651
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	310,051	54,300	364,351	351,217
As at 31 March 2024	296,008	55,209	351,217	

9. Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments	4,166	3,408
Accrued income including Gift Aid tax refund	31,238	16,959
	<u>35,404</u>	<u>20,367</u>

10. Creditors and deferred income	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred Income (production & subscription income received in advance)	3,974	3,267
Creditors - accrued expenses	3,420	0
	<u>7,394</u>	<u>3,267</u>

11. Funds	2025	2024
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March represented by		
Tangible fixed assets	364,351	351,217
Current assets	885,367	739,508
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(7,394)	(3,267)
	<u>1,242,324</u>	<u>1,087,458</u>

The Restricted Improvement and Development Fund contains money that has been donated or granted to the charity specifically for the purpose of the improvement and development of the Theatre, including the freehold purchases, and which may not be used for other purposes, together with assets bought with such money. In addition to the balance shown below, a further £60,000 has been promised by the Winchester City Council and Town Forum, payable in two stages as the development proceeds.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Restricted Fund balance at 1 April 2024	98,735	79,272
Change in year	43,742	28,811
Transfer from Restricted Fund to General Fund	0	(9,348)
Restricted Fund balance at 31 March 2025	<u>142,477</u>	<u>98,735</u>
This is made up as follows:		
Cash in hand and at bank/current asset investments	0	0
Land & Buildings	101,835	57,184
Improvements to theatre facilities & equipment	40,642	41,551
	<u>142,477</u>	<u>98,735</u>

The Designated Improvement and Development Fund contains money that the Trustees have decided to put on one side with the intention that it should be used for the improvement and development of the Theatre, its facilities and equipment, together with assets bought with such money. The funds could however be used for other purposes if the Trustees so decided.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Designated Fund balance at 1 April 2024	968,000	888,000
Change in year	(2,416)	0
Transfer from General Fund to Designated Fund	98,000	80,000
Designated Fund balance at 31 March 2025	<u>1,063,584</u>	<u>968,000</u>
This is made up as follows:		
Cash in hand and at bank/current asset investments	841,710	715,518
Land & Buildings	208,216	238,824
Improvements to theatre facilities & equipment	13,658	13,658
	<u>1,063,584</u>	<u>968,000</u>

The General Fund contains unrestricted funds and assets, available for any appropriate use by the Trustees, who aim to keep £5-10,000 cash in this fund. The Trustees have agreed to transfer a sum to the Designated Fund each year so that the cash in the General Fund is kept within the target range.

	2025	2024
	£	£
General Fund balance at 1 April 2024	20,723	28,672
Change in year	113,540	62,703
Transfer from Restricted Fund to General Fund		9,348
Transfer from General Fund to Designated Fund	(98,000)	(80,000)
General Fund balance at 31 March 2025	<u>36,263</u>	<u>20,723</u>
This is made up as follows:		
Cash in hand and at bank/current asset investments	7,048	2,546
Net balance of stocks, debtors and creditors	29,215	18,177
	<u>36,263</u>	<u>20,723</u>

12. Government Grants

During the year, the charity received a grant of £30,000 from Winchester City Council as a contribution towards the annexe development scheme. This grant has been recognised in full at the date received. It is free of any ongoing conditions or contingencies.

13. Prior Year Adjustment

Funds are held in various bank accounts which are instant access or for a fixed-term or require a notice period prior to withdrawal. In earlier years, all these sums were included within "cash at bank and in hand." In the current year, these sums have been analysed between cash held at up to 3 months' notice, now described as "cash at bank and in hand"; and cash held at more than 3 months' notice, now described as "current asset investments" in line with the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice. The prior year comparatives have been restated accordingly. This is a presentational adjustment and does not affect the reserves or the surplus for the prior period.