BEDFORD PLAYERS TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 290124

Details

Other names	BEDFORD PLAYERS TRUST LIMITED
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	01839042
Registered	1984-10-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Place Bradgate Road Bedford MK40 3DE
Phone	01234354321
Email	info@theplacebedford.org.uk
Website	www.theplacebedford.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (A) TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN DRAMATIC AND OPERATIC ARTS. (B) TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC APPRECIATION IN THE SAID ARTS.

Activities: MANAGEMENT OF ARTS VENUE AND PROMOTION OF THE ARTS GENERALLY

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BEDFORD AND SURROUNDING ENVIRONS
- Bedford
- Central Bedfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£246,847	£251,972	-	-
2024-03-31	£285,994	£315,054	-	-
2023-03-31	£267,181	£285,203	-	-
2022-03-31	£290,219	£292,905	-	-
2021-03-31	£185,310	£183,324	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brenton Jackson		2013-12-01
Deborah Maggs		2024-05-12
Julie Helen Blunt		2021-04-13
Justin Deaville		2023-08-07
Lee Knapp		2023-08-07
Lorna Dawson		2025-06-24
Stacy Carpenter		2024-05-12

BEDFORD PLAYERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 290124

Accounts

Registered number
01839042

Bedford Players Trust

Report and Accounts

31 March 2025

Bedford Players Trust
Charity Information for the year ended 31 March 2025

Directors
B Jackson
B Shah (resigned 31.07.24)
J H Blunt
J P Deaville
H Forth (resigned 23.03.25)
L Knapp
S Carpenter (appointed 18.12.24)

Accountants
Cowley Holmes Accountants Limited
9 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY

Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
81 High Street
Bedford
MK40 1NE

Registered office
The Place Theatre
Bradgate Road
Bedford
MK40 3DE

Registered number
01839042

Charity number
290124

Bedford Players Trust

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees, some of whom are also Directors, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Bedford Players Trust was incorporated on 7 August 1984, as a company limited by guarantee. Its governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the strategic development of the charity and delegates day-to-day management to the Management Team.
Building on the developments of 2024, the board welcomed a change in trustees, and a change in the structure of the Trustee team, moving to a yearly cycle of Chair and Vice Chair, to encourage new ideas and strategies regarding the growth of Bedford Players Trust and The Place. This fresh skillset and renewed energy will bring valuable perspectives and drive positive growth for the charity. Additional members are in the process of joining the Board, further strengthening our collective capacity and strategic leadership.
The Board of Trustees meets bi-monthly, ensuring consistent oversight and strategic decision-making. To support our work, we have established sub-committees dedicated to key areas of the charity's operation, including Development, Finances, Programmes, Marketing and Strategy Planning. These sub-committees allow for focused expertise, better planning, and more effective execution of initiatives, ensuring that our activities remain impactful, sustainable, and aligned with our mission to serve the community.

Objectives and Activities

The principal objective of Bedford Players Trust is to educate the public in the arts and promote cultural appreciation by offering theatre, storytelling, and artistic opportunities for all as outlined in our governing document. We aim to achieve this by empowering and supporting people of all backgrounds, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race, political, or religious opinions. Through the provision of safe, inclusive, and nurturing spaces, we encourage personal growth, foster resilience, and cultivate leadership skills. Our activities are designed to address social, emotional, and practical needs within the community. We provide a range of programmes and services that inspire confidence, build connections, and support the development of a thriving, inclusive community.
This year, our efforts have included offering a broad range of theatre productions through the curation of an inclusive programme that catered to diverse tastes and interests, featuring works by both established and emerging artists. Creating opportunities for community involvement by providing facilities and support for amateur and professional artists to develop their craft, fostering a collaborative environment. Engaging young people through dedicated workshops and productions tailored to young audiences, promoting cultural appreciation from an early age, encouraging the next generation of artists and enthusiasts. Celebrating cultural diversity by hosting events and performances that highlighted the richness of different cultures, ensuring representation and inclusion in our programming. These activities reflect our ongoing commitment to public benefit, accessibility, and community development, in line with the charity's mission and values.

Activities Overview

The youth arts projects at The Place Bedford highlight a dynamic commitment to fostering creativity and inclusivity. We continued building on:

•BRAVE ‘Youth Theatre for All’: A weekly program aimed at enhancing young people's creative skills in areas such as performance, devising, design, and writing. This initiative caters to various age groups with flexible fee structures to ensure accessibility for everyone, including bursary placements for those with low or no income.
•Storytelling Sessions: Collaborative storytelling sessions held each term with Castle Newnham Primary School, allowing reception-aged children to visit the theatre and engage with the storytelling experience on stage.
•Collaboration with Deaf Access Bedfordshire: We host coffee mornings and other activities for the d/Deaf and hard of hearing community.
•Death Café: Providing a welcoming space for a global movement where individuals can gather to enjoy tea, cake, and discuss the topic of death in a safe and friendly environment.
•Charity Chats: A monthly lunchtime gathering for charity workers in Bedford, fostering connection and support among colleagues.
•Q:Youth: Weekly sessions run by Q:Alliance that provide support and engaging activities for local young people.
We introduced Storytelling Sessions: Collaborative storytelling sessions with Castle Newnham Primary School, one of our local primary schools and Resident Reviewers Scheme: this initiative invites young aspiring critics to attend and review performances at The Place Bedford. Participants receive free tickets, empowering them to build critical thinking and writing skills while engaging deeply with the arts community.

We piloted school holiday workshops for young creatives, catering to various age groups from 8 to 18 years offering engaging activities designed to nurture budding talents in theatre and related arts.

The Dungeons & Dragons TTRPG Club offers a vibrant space for creativity and connection through role-playing games. On Sunday mornings, the TTRPG Club welcomes participants aged 10 to 18, fostering storytelling and teamwork in an imaginative and social environment. Additionally, the Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) Group provides an engaging experience for individuals aged 16 and older. To ensure inclusivity, free places are available for those unable to afford the standard fees, making these sessions accessible to all.

Continuing its outreach to care homes our Timeless Tales project brings storytelling and poetry readings to vulnerable audiences, enhancing cultural accessibility.

Community Support

The charity partnered with Bedford Borough Council to provide a weekly winter warm room, offering a safe space every Saturday morning alongside public coffee mornings.

We hosted Death Café; a monthly bereavement support group offering a safe and welcoming space for individuals to come together and openly discuss experiences of loss and grief. This informal gathering encourages meaningful conversations about death and dying, fostering a supportive community where participants can share stories, reflect on their emotions, and connect with others who understand their journey. By breaking the taboo around these topics, the Death Café aims to provide comfort, understanding, and a sense of solidarity to all who attend.

Cultural Engagement

We continued running Read Poets Society: A monthly poetry evening run in partnership with Swan Theatre Company at The Eagle Bookshop and as part of our commitment to celebrating and fostering local talent, we curate a revolving display of artwork in the theatre's lobby. This initiative provides a platform for local artists to showcase their work to a broad and diverse audience. By transforming the lobby into a dynamic gallery space, we aim to enhance the cultural experience of our visitors and create opportunities for artists to gain visibility and recognition.

Our Volunteers

We have 70 volunteers whose contributions are vital in ensuring the smooth operation of our activities while helping to minimise staff costs, allowing us to allocate more resources to our core charitable objectives. Volunteers assist in various capacities, including stewarding at events and performances to ensure a welcoming and safe environment. Running the box office and bar, contributing to the efficient operation of our services. Supporting fire and safety protocols, enhancing the overall safety of our facilities. General maintenance of the building and outdoor spaces, including gardening and upkeep and leafleting and promotional activities to raise awareness of our events and programmes.

Achievements and Performance

The charitable company has continued its business of promoting theatrical projects as well as developing its cooperation and close working with other organisations in the Arts and Cultural sectors and the Third Sector.

Theatre productions have continued to grow in both frequency and attendance, reflecting the increasing vibrancy of our programme. To support this growth, our marketing team has expanded promotional efforts throughout Bedford and the surrounding areas, leveraging a variety of channels to reach a wider audience. We have strengthened relationships with community-based arts publications, which has helped amplify our reach. Additionally, we have focused on social media and other digital platforms to boost awareness and engagement across the wider community. This approach has been instrumental in growing our audience, particularly for community shows and groups, which have flourished with increased support for the theatre. As we look to the new year, we are encouraged by the community's renewed enthusiasm and are excited to continue building connections and fostering a sense of togetherness through the arts.

This year, the charity focused on enhancing audience experiences by gathering feedback to better understand the impact of our events and identify areas for improvement. While we do not currently have a full comparison between 2024 and 2025, we recognise the value of audience insights in shaping our future activities and ensuring they remain engaging and inclusive. In 2025, we plan to introduce various methods of feedback collection, including emailing parents/guardians of youth group participants to understand their perspectives and gather suggestions for improvement. Running workshops with youth group members, encouraging creative feedback in a supportive environment. Installing QR codes throughout the theatre and meeting rooms, allowing attendees and hirers to provide feedback easily at any time. Engaging those who hire the theatre or meeting rooms, seeking their input on their experiences with our facilities and services. Collecting feedback from volunteers and staff, recognising their vital role in the charity and ensuring their voices are heard in shaping our future operations. By taking this multi-faceted approach, we aim to build a comprehensive understanding of the experiences of everyone who interacts with our organisation. This feedback will play a crucial role in improving our offerings, ensuring they remain inclusive, relevant, and impactful.

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Financial Review

We experienced an overall decrease in revenue and higher expenses in some areas, including an uplift in staff remuneration, resulting in a deficit. A key factor was the transition to a more expensive ticketing provider, which offers an enhanced customer experience and has already improved audience engagement. Additionally, promotional efforts to raise local awareness boosted ticket sales but did not fully offset the costs. We will closely monitor these expenses moving forward. While consistent grant support has provided essential funding stability, we recognise the need to reduce our reliance on grants and broaden our income streams to ensure long-term sustainability. Moving forward, the charity will reassess promotional spending to ensure a strong return on investment, explore more cost-effective marketing strategies, and expand other revenue streams. We are committed to developing a long-term plan to address the deficit trend, balancing growth ambitions with financial sustainability.

The sharp rise in promotional and publicity costs reflects a strategic focus on audience engagement, which significantly boosted ticket sales, though not enough to offset the costs incurred.

Additionally, the Trustees have taken the decision to review staff remuneration in light of the rise of the cost of living and therefore there has a been a further, albeit justified, impact on our reserves.

Looking ahead to 2026 we wil be implementing a budgeting and forecasting system based on a 2025 figures with the approrpiate uplifts for expected growth within our key revenue streams of Venue, Perfomances, Bar and BRAVE. We have implemented Oracke NetSuite to help facilitate this using their Social Impact licensing, itself reducing the cost of our current accounting system.

Our Pricing Policy

The charity's pricing policy reflects our commitment to ensuring that everyone in the community, regardless of their financial means, can participate in our activities and attend theatre productions. While we do not offer traditional concessions or discounted rates, we ensure that all ticket prices remain under £20. In addition, we provide "pay what you can" options for selected performances to make events accessible to as many people as possible. We also offer discounted rates to BRAVE students as part of our efforts to encourage youth engagement and participation in the arts. By continuing to adopt a policy of affordability, we aim to minimise financial barriers, ensuring that as few people as is practical are excluded due to price.

In carrying out these objectives, the Trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub-sector guidance concerning the Public Benefit requirement. In particular, we have adhered to supplementary public benefit guidance on fee charging to ensure our pricing policy aligns with our charitable purpose.

The Trustees have also reviewed and increased Bar prices for 2025 in line with RPI and cost of living increases.

Financial Overview & Reserve Policy

The long-term policy of the Trustees is to strengthen the charity’s reserves and work towards a self-funded model. This strategy includes maximising the use of underutilised meeting rooms and office space to generate sustainable income, reducing the charity’s previous heavy reliance on external funding to remain operational.

Investment Policy

Funds are held in the charity’s main bank account. The Trustees ensure prudent financial management to support future activities.

Plans for Future Periods

The charity is committed to building on its achievements and evolving to meet the needs of the community. As part of this, we will be revisiting our five-year strategic plan to ensure it reflects our priorities for the future. Key areas of focus will include:
1.Youth and young adult engagement: Expanding our outreach to include targeted programmes and activities for young adults, building on our success with youth initiatives to foster creativity, skills development, and cultural participation.
2.Increasing diversity: Strengthening our efforts to engage more diverse demographics, ensuring our activities and events are inclusive and reflective of the wider community we serve.
3.Financial resilience: We will continue to prioritise financial sustainability by:
•Increasing income generated from meeting room and office hires.
•Exploring the potential for expanding our exterior spaces to accommodate additional activities or services.
•Undertaking a comprehensive review of other potential revenue streams to diversify and secure long-term financial stability.
These priorities will guide our efforts in the coming years, ensuring we remain responsive to community needs and capable of delivering meaningful opportunities for engagement, growth, and creativity.

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Risk Management

The Trustees conducted regular risk assessments to identify and mitigate financial and operational risks, ensuring the charity's stability and effective operation. Particular attention was given to:
•Financial risks, including maintaining sufficient reserves, managing cash flow, and reducing reliance on external funding by exploring sustainable income streams such as meeting room and office hire.
•Operational risks, such as the impact of underutilised facilities, health and safety compliance for events and activities, and maintaining the necessary staffing and volunteer support to deliver our programmes effectively.
•Community engagement risks, addressing barriers to participation to ensure accessibility and inclusivity in all our initiatives.
By proactively managing these risks, the Trustees aim to safeguard the charity's long-term viability and its ability to deliver its objectives.

Trustee Composition

The following Trustees, some of whom are directors, served throughout the year and up to the date of this report (unless otherwise stated):

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Resignation if applicable
Brenton Jackson			
Julie Blunt	Chair		
Tina Wiseman		1st August 2024	
Bipinchandra Shah			31st July 2024
Lee Knapp			
Deborah Maggs			
Justin Deaville			
Hazera Forth			23rd March 2025
Stacy Carpenter	Vice Chair	1st July 2024	

Trustee Appointments and Responsibilities

Trustees acknowledge their legal responsibilities for ensuring compliance with the Companies Act 2006, maintaining accurate financial records, and preparing true and fair accounts. None of the trustees received remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a production company, contracted actor, performer or exhibitor must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. The Trustees continued to address board diversity and skill gaps through a recruitment drive, aiming to maintain the size of the board capacity to 8-9 members for the coming Financial Year.

Trustee Recruitment and Induction

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning and delivering the charity's activities. New trustees participate in a comprehensive orientation program to familiarise them with their legal obligations under charity and company law. This programme includes:
•An introduction to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, ensuring they understand how it applies to the charity's activities.
•A review of the charity's governing document, constitution, and decision-making processes.
•Detailed briefings on the charity's business plan, operational objectives, and performance review mechanisms.
•Opportunities to meet key staff members and gain insights into day-to-day operations.
•Encouragement to attend external training sessions and seminars to enhance their knowledge and effectiveness in their role.
This induction process ensures trustees are well-equipped to uphold their legal and ethical responsibilities, align the charity's activities with its objectives, and maximise public benefit.

Bedford Players Trust
Report of the Trustees (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Charitable Company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Trustees
and signed on their behalf by

S Carpenter
Director
Date:

Bedford Players Trust

Accountants' report to the Trustees on the unaudited accounts of Bedford Players Trust

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner
The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)b of the 2011 Act; and
-state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's Trustees as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matter. 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 financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;

have not been met or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Barry Cowley FCA, CTA
Cowley Holmes Accountants Limited
9 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY
Date:

Bedford Players Trust

Statement of financial activities
(incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming resources					
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives:					
Rental income		48,620	-	48,620	42,156
Grants		-	6,558	6,558	78,338
Other		81,333	7,500	88,833	70,781
Ticket sales		102,836	-	102,836	94,719
Total incoming resources		232,789	14,058	246,847	285,994
Resources expended					
Fundraising and publicity		16,833	-	16,833	34,421
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Theatre expenditure		109,689	7,685	117,374	186,660
Promotions		74,896	-	74,896	74,258
Wages and salaries		42,029	-	42,029	18,995
	2	243,447	7,685	251,132	314,334
Governance costs	3	840	-	840	720
Total resources expended		244,287	7,685	251,972	315,054
Movement in total funds for the year		(11,498)	6,373	(5,125)	(29,060)
Transfer between funds		13,173	(13,173)	-	-
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April		(28,646)	13,173	(15,473)	13,587
Fund balance carried forward at 31 March	7,8	(26,971)	6,373	(20,598)	(15,473)

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

All operations of the charitable company are continuing operations.

Bedford Players Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2025

	Notes		2025 £		2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	4		17,941		23,782
Current assets					
Stocks		1,749		1,340	
Debtors	5	5,574		11,923	
Cash at bank and in hand		10,828		263	
		18,151		13,526	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(27,374)		(14,931)	
Net current liabilities			(9,223)		(1,405)
Total assets less current liabilities			8,718		22,377
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(29,316)		(37,850)
Net liabilities			(20,598)		(15,473)
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund			(26,971)		(28,646)
Restricted funds			6,373		13,173
			(20,598)		(15,473)

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 March 2025 and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 393, 394 and 395 of the Act and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees
and signed on their behalf by:

S Carpenter
Director
Date:

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1 The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:-

1.2 Donations and grants, including capital grants, are included in the incoming resources when received.

When donors specify that grants are for particular purposes, this income is shown as a restricted fund.

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Rental income represents monies received in respect of third parties' use of The Place.

1.3 Management and administration costs of the charity relate to the costs of running the charity, such as insurance, legal and professional and bank charges. These have been allocated in full to other charitable expenditure as they do not represent the direct costs of running the charity.

1.4 The leasehold improvements on The Place have been capitalised at cost with a depreciation rate of 4% per annum on a straight line basis. Thus the building enhancements will be depreciated prudently over 25 years although the lease does not expire until 2041.

Fixtures and fittings have been capitalised at cost and are depreciated on straight line basis at a rate of 25% per annum.

1.5 The charity has identified the major costs of governance as being external costs related to the reporting accountants.

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

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

2 Resources expended

	General fund £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Fundraising and publicity:				
Marketing and promotion	16,833	-	16,833	34,421
Direct charitable expenditure:				
Utilities	15,126	-	15,126	14,475
Depreciation	5,841	-	5,841	5,983
Repairs and maintenance	3,341	7,685	11,026	4,005
Other theatre expenditure	78,167	-	78,167	140,152
	102,475	7,685	110,160	164,615
Other charitable expenditure:				
Bank charges	4,018	-	4,018	3,931
Insurance	2,827	-	2,827	1,922
Sundries	5,252	-	5,252	4,019
Arts co-ordinator	0	-	-	12,096
Promotions	74,896	-	74,896	74,258
Wages and salaries	37,146	-	37,146	18,995
Training	0	-	-	77
	124,139	-	124,139	115,298
Total charitable expenditure	243,447	7,685	251,132	314,334
Governance costs	840	-	840	720
Total resources expended	244,287	7,685	251,972	315,054

3 Governance costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examiner's fees	840	720

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

4 Fixed assets

	Leasehold building improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2024	142,408	20,530	162,938
Additions	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2025	142,408	20,530	162,938
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2024	118,844	20,312	139,156
Charge for the year	5,696	145	5,841
As at 31 March 2025	124,540	20,457	144,997
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2025	17,868	73	17,941
As at 31 March 2024	23,564	218	23,782

5 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	5,574	11,923

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	6,757	530
Trade creditors	1,203	7,337
Other creditors and accruals	19,414	7,064
Loans	-	-
	27,374	14,931

7 Movement in funds

		Movement for the year			
	Balance as at 1 April 2024	**Incoming resources**	**Resources expended**	**Transfers**	**Balance as at 31 March 2025**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Unrestricted general fund					
Rental income	-	48,620	(48,620)	-	-
Other income	-	81,333	(81,333)	-	-
Ticket sales	-	102,836	(102,836)	-	-
Leasehold improvements and other net assets held by fund	(28,646)	-	(11,498)	13,173	(26,971)
Restricted funds	13,173	14,058	(7,685)	(13,173)	6,373
	(15,473)	246,847	(251,972)	-	(20,598)
			-		

All funds received in relation to the main activity of the Charity are held in the unrestricted general fund.

The restricted fund receipts relate to grant monies received in connection with upgrading of the building.

8 Net assets held by funds

	Fixed Assets	**Debtors**	**Stock**	**Cash**	**Creditors**	**Total**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Unrestricted and restricted fund	17,941	5,574	1,749	10,828	(56,690)	(20,598)

Creditors include bank loans falling due after one year of £29,316 (2024: £37,850).

9 Trustees' remuneration

No Trustees received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in the year.

10 Related party transactions

Some of the Trustees of Bedford Players Trust were also Trustees of Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd for part of the year. During the year the Trust received a £Nil (2024: £3,000) grant from Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd. At the year end Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd owed the Trust £Nil (2024: £Nil). None of the Trustees are Trustees of Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd at the year end date.

11 Taxation

The company is exempt from corporation tax due to its charitable status.

12 Financial commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no financial commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end.

Accounts

Registered number
01839042

Bedford Players Trust

Report and Accounts

31 March 2024

Bedford Players Trust
Charity Information for the year ended 31 March 2023

Directors
B Jackson
B Shah
J H Blunt
K R S Harpin (resigned 03.03.24)
J P Deaville (appointed 31.10.23)
H Forth (appointed 31.10.23)
L Knapp (appointed 31.10.23)
S Carpenter (appointed 18.12.24)

Secretary
A Levene (resigned 03.04.24)

Accountants
Cowley Holmes Accountants Limited
9 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY

Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
81 High Street
Bedford
MK40 1NE

Registered office
The Place Theatre
Bradgate Road
Bedford
MK40 3DE

Registered number
01839042

Charity number
290124

Bedford Players Trust

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees, some of whom are also Directors, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Bedford Players Trust was incorporated on 7 August 1984, as a company limited by guarantee. Its governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the strategic development of the charity and delegates day-to-day management to the Management Team.
Building on the developments of 2023, the board welcomed a change in trustees, with three stepping down and three new members joining. This fresh skillset and renewed energy will bring valuable perspectives and drive positive growth for the charity. Two additional members are in the process of joining the Board, further strengthening our collective capacity and strategic leadership.
The Board of Trustees meets monthly, ensuring consistent oversight and strategic decision-making. To support our work, we have established sub-committees dedicated to key areas of the charity's operation, including Development, Finances, Programmes, Marketing and Strategy Planning. These sub-committees allow for focused expertise, better planning, and more effective execution of initiatives, ensuring that our activities remain impactful, sustainable, and aligned with our mission to serve the community.

Objectives and Activities

The principal objective of Bedford Players Trust is to educate the public in the arts and promote cultural appreciation by offering theatre, storytelling, and artistic opportunities for all as outlined in our governing document. We aim to achieve this by empowering and supporting people of all backgrounds, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race, political, or religious opinions. Through the provision of safe, inclusive, and nurturing spaces, we encourage personal growth, foster resilience, and cultivate leadership skills. Our activities are designed to address social, emotional, and practical needs within the community. We provide a range of programmes and services that inspire confidence, build connections, and support the development of a thriving, inclusive community.
This year, our efforts have included offering a broad range of theatre productions through the curation of an inclusive programme that catered to diverse tastes and interests, featuring works by both established and emerging artists. Creating opportunities for community involvement by providing facilities and support for amateur and professional artists to develop their craft, fostering a collaborative environment. Engaging young people through dedicated workshops and productions tailored to young audiences, promoting cultural appreciation from an early age, encouraging the next generation of artists and enthusiasts. Celebrating cultural diversity by hosting events and performances that highlighted the richness of different cultures, ensuring representation and inclusion in our programming. These activities reflect our ongoing commitment to public benefit, accessibility, and community development, in line with the charity's mission and values.

Activities Overview

The youth arts projects at The Place Bedford highlight a dynamic commitment to fostering creativity and inclusivity. We continued building on:

•Q:Youth: Weekly sessions offering support and activities to local young people.
•Jackastory: A pay-what-you-can storytelling event for preschoolers, held fortnightly during term time and weekly during school holidays.
•BRAVE 'Youth Theatre for all': Weekly programme designed to develop young people's creative skills in performance, direction, design, and writing. The programme operates across age groups with flexible fee structures, ensuring accessibility for all, including bursary placements for those with low/no income. BRAVE participants benefit from discounted or free tickets to live shows, enriching their artistic exposure.

We introduced Storytelling Sessions: Collaborative storytelling sessions with Castle Newnham Primary School, one of our local primary schools and Resident Reviewers Scheme: this initiative invites young aspiring critics to attend and review performances at The Place Bedford. Participants receive free tickets, empowering them to build critical thinking and writing skills while engaging deeply with the arts community.

We piloted school holiday workshops for young creatives, catering to various age groups from 8 to 18 years offering engaging activities designed to nurture budding talents in theatre and related arts.

The Dungeons & Dragons TTRPG Club offers a vibrant space for creativity and connection through role-playing games. On Sunday mornings, the TTRPG Club welcomes participants aged 10 to 18, fostering storytelling and teamwork in an imaginative and social environment. Additionally, the Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) Group provides an engaging experience for individuals aged 16 and older. To ensure inclusivity, free places are available for those unable to afford the standard fees, making these sessions accessible to all.

Continuing its outreach to care homes our Timeless Tales project brings storytelling and poetry readings to vulnerable audiences, enhancing cultural accessibility.

Bedford Players Trust

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Community Support

The charity partnered with Bedford Borough Council to provide a weekly winter warm room, offering a safe space every Saturday morning alongside public coffee mornings.

We hosted Death Café; a monthly bereavement support group offering a safe and welcoming space for individuals to come together and openly discuss experiences of loss and grief. This informal gathering encourages meaningful conversations about death and dying, fostering a supportive community where participants can share stories, reflect on their emotions, and connect with others who understand their journey. By breaking the taboo around these topics, the Death Café aims to provide comfort, understanding, and a sense of solidarity to all who attend.

Cultural Engagement

We continued running Read Poets Society: A monthly poetry evening run in partnership with Swan Theatre Company at The Eagle Bookshop and as part of our commitment to celebrating and fostering local talent, we curate a revolving display of artwork in the theatre's lobby. This initiative provides a platform for local artists to showcase their work to a broad and diverse audience. By transforming the lobby into a dynamic gallery space, we aim to enhance the cultural experience of our visitors and create opportunities for artists to gain visibility and recognition.

Our Volunteers

We have 60 volunteers whose contributions are vital in ensuring the smooth operation of our activities while helping to minimise staff costs, allowing us to allocate more resources to our core charitable objectives. Volunteers assist in various capacities, including stewarding at events and performances to ensure a welcoming and safe environment. Running the box office and bar, contributing to the efficient operation of our services. Supporting fire and safety protocols, enhancing the overall safety of our facilities. General maintenance of the building and outdoor spaces, including gardening and upkeep and leafleting and promotional activities to raise awareness of our events and programmes.

Achievements and Performance

The charitable company has continued its business of promoting theatrical projects as well as developing its cooperation and close working with other organisations in the Arts and Cultural sectors and the Third Sector.

Theatre productions have continued to grow in both frequency and attendance, reflecting the increasing vibrancy of our programme. To support this growth, our marketing team has expanded promotional efforts throughout Bedford and the surrounding areas, leveraging a variety of channels to reach a wider audience. We have strengthened relationships with community-based arts publications, which has helped amplify our reach. Additionally, we have focused on social media and other digital platforms to boost awareness and engagement across the wider community. This approach has been instrumental in growing our audience, particularly for community shows and groups, which have flourished with increased support for the theatre. As we look to the new year, we are encouraged by the community's renewed enthusiasm and are excited to continue building connections and fostering a sense of togetherness through the arts.

This year, the charity focused on enhancing audience experiences by gathering feedback to better understand the impact of our events and identify areas for improvement. While we do not currently have a full comparison between 2023 and 2024, we recognise the value of audience insights in shaping our future activities and ensuring they remain engaging and inclusive. In 2024, we plan to introduce various methods of feedback collection, including emailing parents/guardians of youth group participants to understand their perspectives and gather suggestions for improvement. Running workshops with youth group members, encouraging creative feedback in a supportive environment. Installing QR codes throughout the theatre and meeting rooms, allowing attendees and hirers to provide feedback easily at any time. Engaging those who hire the theatre or meeting rooms, seeking their input on their experiences with our facilities and services. Collecting feedback from volunteers and staff, recognising their vital role in the charity and ensuring their voices are heard in shaping our future operations. By taking this multi-faceted approach, we aim to build a comprehensive understanding of the experiences of everyone who interacts with our organisation. This feedback will play a crucial role in improving our offerings, ensuring they remain inclusive, relevant, and impactful.

Financial Review

We experienced an overall increase in revenue; however, higher expenses have impacted our financial stability, resulting in a deficit. A key factor was the transition to a more expensive ticketing provider, which offers an enhanced customer experience and has already improved audience engagement. Additionally, promotional efforts to raise local awareness boosted ticket sales but did not fully offset the costs. We will closely monitor these expenses moving forward. While consistent grant support has provided essential funding stability, we recognise the need to reduce our reliance on grants and broaden our income streams to ensure long-term sustainability. Moving forward, the charity will reassess promotional spending to ensure a strong return on investment, explore more cost-effective marketing strategies, and expand other revenue streams. We are committed to developing a long-term plan to address the deficit trend, balancing growth ambitions with financial sustainability.

The sharp rise in promotional and publicity costs reflects a strategic focus on audience engagement, which significantly boosted ticket sales, though not enough to offset the costs incurred.

Our Pricing Policy

The charity's pricing policy reflects our commitment to ensuring that everyone in the community, regardless of their financial means, can participate in our activities and attend theatre productions. While we do not offer traditional concessions or discounted rates, we ensure that all ticket prices remain under £20. In addition, we provide "pay what you can" options for selected performances to make events accessible to as many people as possible. We also offer discounted rates to BRAVE students as part of our efforts to encourage youth engagement and participation in the arts. By continuing to adopt a policy of affordability, we aim to minimise financial barriers, ensuring that as few people as is practical are excluded due to price.

In carrying out these objectives, the Trustees have complied with their duty under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub-sector guidance concerning the Public Benefit requirement. In particular, we have adhered to supplementary public benefit guidance on fee charging to ensure our pricing policy aligns with our charitable purpose.

Financial Overview & Reserve Policy

The long-term policy of the Trustees is to strengthen the charity's reserves and work towards a self-funded model. This strategy includes maximising the use of underutilised meeting rooms and office space to generate sustainable income, reducing the charity's previous heavy reliance on external funding to remain operational.

Investment Policy

Funds are held in the charity's main bank account. The Trustees ensure prudent financial management to support future activities.

Plans for Future Periods

The charity is committed to building on its achievements and evolving to meet the needs of the community. As part of this, we will be revisiting our five-year strategic plan to ensure it reflects our priorities for the future. Key areas of focus will include:

1. Youth and young adult engagement: Expanding our outreach to include targeted programmes and activities for young adults, building on our success with youth initiatives to foster creativity, skills development, and cultural participation.
2. Increasing diversity: Strengthening our efforts to engage more diverse demographics, ensuring our activities and events are inclusive and reflective of the wider community we serve.
3. Financial resilience: We will continue to prioritise financial sustainability by:

- Increasing income generated from meeting room and office hires.
- Exploring the potential for expanding our exterior spaces to accommodate additional activities or services.
- Undertaking a comprehensive review of other potential revenue streams to diversify and secure long-term financial stability.

These priorities will guide our efforts in the coming years, ensuring we remain responsive to community needs and capable of delivering meaningful opportunities for engagement, growth, and creativity.

Bedford Players Trust

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Risk Management

The Trustees conducted regular risk assessments to identify and mitigate financial and operational risks, ensuring the charity's stability and effective operation. Particular attention was given to:
•Financial risks, including maintaining sufficient reserves, managing cash flow, and reducing reliance on external funding by exploring sustainable income streams such as meeting room and office hire.
•Operational risks, such as the impact of underutilised facilities, health and safety compliance for events and activities, and maintaining the necessary staffing and volunteer support to deliver our programmes effectively.
•Community engagement risks, addressing barriers to participation to ensure accessibility and inclusivity in all our initiatives.
By proactively managing these risks, the Trustees aim to safeguard the charity's long-term viability and its ability to deliver its objectives.

Trustee Composition

The following company directors, who are also Trustees of the charity, served throughout the year and up to the date of this report (unless otherwise stated):

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Resignation if applicable
Brenton Jackson			
Julie Blunt	Chair		
Kate Shapland Harpin			3rd March 2024
Bipinchandra Shah			
Lee Knapp		31st October 2023	
Justin Deaville		31st October 2023	
Hazera Forth		31st October 2023	
William Phillimore			31st March 2023
Rae Levene	Secretary		31st March 2023
Alexander Adam Levene	Secretary	31st March 2023	3rd April 2024

Trustee Appointments and Responsibilities

Trustees acknowledge their legal responsibilities for ensuring compliance with the Companies Act 2006, maintaining accurate financial records, and preparing true and fair accounts. None of the trustees received remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a production company, contracted actor, performer or exhibitor must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. The Trustees continued to address board diversity and skill gaps through a recruitment drive, aiming to increase board capacity to 3 members within the next 12 months.

Trustee Recruitment and Induction

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning and delivering the charity's activities. New trustees participate in a comprehensive orientation program to familiarise them with their legal obligations under charity and company law. This programme includes:
•An introduction to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, ensuring they understand how it applies to the charity's activities.
•A review of the charity's governing document, constitution, and decision-making processes.
•Detailed briefings on the charity's business plan, operational objectives, and performance review mechanisms.
•Opportunities to meet key staff members and gain insights into day-to-day operations.
•Encouragement to attend external training sessions and seminars to enhance their knowledge and effectiveness in their role.
This induction process ensures trustees are well-equipped to uphold their legal and ethical responsibilities, align the charity's activities with its objectives, and maximise public benefit.

Bedford Players Trust
Report of the Trustees (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Charitable Company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Trustees
and signed on their behalf by

S Carpenter
Director
Date: 19/12/24

Bedford Players Trust

Accountants' report to the Trustees on the unaudited accounts of Bedford Players Trust

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner
The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:
- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)b of the 2011 Act; and
-state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's Trustees as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matter. 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 financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;

have not been met or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Barry Cowley FCA, CTA
Cowley Holmes Accountants Limited
9 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY
Date: 19th December 2024

Bedford Players Trust

Statement of financial activities
(incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Incoming resources					
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives:					
Rental income		42,156	-	42,156	32,103
Grants		2,300	76,038	78,338	79,408
Other		70,781	-	70,781	83,256
Ticket sales		94,719	-	94,719	72,414
Total incoming resources		209,956	76,038	285,994	267,181
Resources expended					
Fundraising and publicity		34,421	-	34,421	25,000
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Theatre expenditure		111,941	74,719	186,660	209,581
Promotions		74,258	-	74,258	31,369
Wages and salaries		18,995	-	18,995	18,533
	2	239,615	74,719	314,334	284,483
Governance costs	3	720	-	720	720
Total resources expended		240,335	74,719	315,054	285,203
Movement in total funds for the year		(30,379)	1,319	(29,060)	(18,022)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April		1,733	11,854	13,587	31,609
Fund balance carried forward at 31 March	7,8	(28,646)	13,173	(15,473)	13,587

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

All operations of the charitable company are continuing operations.

Bedford Players Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2024

	Notes		2024 £		2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	4		23,782		29,765
Current assets					
Stocks		1,340		1,285	
Debtors	5	11,923		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		263		31,032	
		13,526		32,317	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(14,931)		(12,671)	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			(1,405)		19,646
Total assets less current liabilities			22,377		49,411
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(37,850)		(35,824)
Net (liabilities)/assets			(15,473)		13,587
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund			(28,646)		1,733
Restricted funds			13,173		11,854
			(15,473)		13,587

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

For the year ended 31 March 2024 the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 March 2024 and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 393, 394 and 395 of the Act and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

S Carpenter
Director
Date: 19/12/24

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

1.1 The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:-

1.2 Donations and grants, including capital grants, are included in the incoming resources when received.

When donors specify that grants are for particular purposes, this income is shown as a restricted fund.

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Rental income represents monies received in respect of third parties' use of The Place.

1.3 Management and administration costs of the charity relate to the costs of running the charity, such as insurance, legal and professional and bank charges. These have been allocated in full to other charitable expenditure as they do not represent the direct costs of running the charity.

1.4 The leasehold improvements on The Place have been capitalised at cost with a depreciation rate of 4% per annum on a straight line basis. Thus the building enhancements will be depreciated prudently over 25 years although the lease does not expire until 2041.

Fixtures and fittings have been capitalised at cost and are depreciated on straight line basis at a rate of 25% per annum.

1.5 The charity has identified the major costs of governance as being external costs related to the reporting accountants.

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

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

2 Resources expended

	General fund £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Fundraising and publicity:				
Marketing and promotion	34,421	-	34,421	25,000
Direct charitable expenditure:				
Utilities	14,475	-	14,475	16,370
Depreciation	5,983	-	5,983	6,120
Repairs and maintenance	4,005	-	4,005	4,118
Other theatre expenditure	65,433	74,719	140,152	151,376
	89,896	74,719	164,615	177,984
Other charitable expenditure:				
Bank charges	3,931	-	3,931	3,625
Insurance	1,922	-	1,922	5,689
Sundries	4,019	-	4,019	4,380
Arts co-ordinator	12,096	-	12,096	16,740
Promotions	74,258	-	74,258	31,131
Entertainment	0	-	-	238
Wages and salaries	18,995	-	18,995	18,533
Training	77	-	77	1,163
	115,298	-	115,298	81,499
Total charitable expenditure	239,615	74,719	314,334	284,483
Governance costs	720	-	720	720
Total resources expended	240,335	74,719	315,054	285,203

3 Governance costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examiner's fees	720	720

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

4 Fixed assets

	Leasehold building improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2023	142,408	20,530	162,938
Additions	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	142,408	20,530	162,938
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2023	113,148	20,025	133,173
Charge for the year	5,696	287	5,983
As at 31 March 2024	118,844	20,312	139,156
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2024	23,564	218	23,782
As at 31 March 2023	29,260	505	29,765

5 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	11,923	-

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	530	5,276
Trade creditors	7,337	4,111
Other creditors and accruals	7,064	3,284
Loans	-	-
	14,931	12,671

7 Movement in funds

	Balance as at 1 April 2023 £	Movement for the year: Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance as at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted general fund					
Other grants and donations	-	2,300	(2,300)	-	-
Rental income	-	42,156	(42,156)	-	-
Other income	-	70,781	(70,781)	-	-
Ticket sales	-	94,719	(94,719)	-	-
Leasehold improvements and other net assets held by fund	1,733	-	(30,379)	-	(28,646)
Restricted funds	11,854	76,038	(74,719)	-	13,173
	13,587	285,994	(315,054)	-	(15,473)

All funds received in relation to the main activity of the Charity are held in the unrestricted general fund.

The restricted fund receipts relate to grant monies received in connection with audience development, show costs, upgrading of building and marketing.

8 Net assets held by funds

	Fixed Assets £	Debtors £	Stock £	Cash £	Creditors £	Total £
Unrestricted and restricted fund	23,782	11,923	1,340	263	(52,781)	(15,473)

Creditors includes bank loans falling due after one year of £37,850 (2023: £35,824).

9 Trustees' remuneration

Mr M Baker, one of the Trustees, was paid £7,800 (2023: £7,800) in wages for his services as Facilities Manager in the year. No other Trustees received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in the year.

10 Related party transactions

Some of the Trustees of Bedford Players Trust are also Trustees of Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd. During the year the Trust received a £3,000 (2023: £2,772) grant from Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd. At the year end Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd owed the Trust £Nil (2023: £Nil).

11 Taxation

The company is exempt from corporation tax due to its charitable status.

12 Financial commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no financial commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end.

BEDFORD PLAYERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 290124

Accounts

Registered number
01839042

0? OCT 2023

Bedford Players Trust

Report and Accounts

31 March 2023

Bedford Players Trust
Charity Information for the year ended 31 March 2023

Directors/Trustees
R C Levene (resigned 31.03.23)
W A J Phillimore (resigned 31.03.23)
B Jackson
B Shah
J H Blunt
K R S Harpin

Secretary
R C Levene (resigned 31.03.23)
A Levene (appointed 31.03.23)

Accountants
Cowley Holmes Accountants Limited
9 Goldington Road
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Bankers
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81 High Street
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MK40 1NE

Registered office
The Place Theatre
Bradgate Road
Bedford
MK40 3DE

Registered number
01839042

Charity number
290124

Bedford Players Trust

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees, who are also Directors, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Structure, Governance and Management

Bedford Players Trust was incorporated on 7 August 1984, as a company limited by guarantee no. 1839042, not having a share capital and being a registered charity in England and Wales no. 290124. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended.

The Trustees continue to carry out regular skills audits to identify gaps in the diversity of the board and continue to seek to address that. As part of the continued drive to increase the number and diversity of the board the Trustees have continued to seek new trustees, the need for which has been made more pressing due to the retirement of two long standing trustees at the end of the financial year. In May 2023 a call out was made for persons interested in joining the board, which resulted in a number of good potential trustees coming forward. The Trustees are now taking time in the process of selecting the most appropriate candidates. It is intended to have an increased board of about 7 or 8 by the Autumn of 2023, all of whom will be volunteers.

The Board is responsible for the strategic development of the Charity and the day to day management is vested in the Management Team, which consists of one of the recently retired tustees as Chief Operations Officer in an unpaid capacity. This year saw a continued improvement in the activities of the Charity following the difficulties of the years since the pandemic.

This improvement enabled the Trust to start to implement ideas that had been formulated during the pandemic and to revisit the 5 year Artistic Vision first published in 2019 especially in the area of 'Fostering creatives futures, a pathway to increased youth engagement'. Funding was secured to enable 2 inter-related projects to be introduced - Future Arts Leaders aimed at providing a 10 month part-time paid employment contract for 4 undergraduate and graduates to enable them to gain first-hand experience in working in the industry whilst developing their own artistic interests with a view to future employment in the industry and BRAVE, an inclusive youth theatre project for young people aged from 7 to 16 in which the participants were encouraged to develop relevant skills and experience many different aspects of theatre. The Trustees are grateful to The House of Industry (£19,420) for making the former happen and The Foyle Foundation (£10,000) and the Wixamtree Trust (£5,000) for making the latter possible.

The Trust also developed a project, Timeless Tales, which came out of work started in lockdown aimed at providing vulnerable people with online access to cultural activities. As face to face engagement became possible it was decided to take this activity into care homes and provide regular activities to the residents with poetry, readings and music. This proved very rewarding for all involved.

The Trust is very grateful to The Foyle Foundation, Wixamtree Trust, The House of Industry, Compass Wellbeing and McCarthy Stone for having faith in these new projects and providing the necessary funding to make them happen.

Other fundraising throughout the year has been difficult as, understandably, many funders have focused their grant making on trying to deal with the cost of living crisis. However, the Trust has been successful in obtaining continued funding from Arts Council England and Farnham Maltings towards the latest iteration of our Game Play Festival and the BFI for our film seasons. In the early part of 2023 the Trust undertook a crowdfunding campaign to raise money to be able to continue BRAVE which raised sufficient funds to enable the project to continue for another year.

The Trustees would like to thank the following funders for their support over the years and the team at The Place for their hard work and enthusiasm in obtaining the funding to enable the charity to continue and develop its work:

Arts Council England
The Harpur Trust
Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation
The House of Industry
The Foyle Foundation
The Sylvia Waddilove Foundation
British Film Institute
Independent Cinema Office
National Lottery Community Fund
Cultural Recovery Fund from DCMS
Wixamtree Trust
McCarthy Stone
Compass Wellbeing
Farnham Maltings

The Trustees continue to monitor and review the risk assessment process as an on-going requirement. The pandemic obviously had an effect on the operation of the Charity, particularly with regard to the venue, which was unfortunate as it followed the Charity's most successful year. However, the Trustees' confidence that the Charity would continue to recover in 2022/23 has been borne out with audience numbers continuing to increase and the outdoor space, opened in 2021, having a full programme of work from both community and professional companies during the summer of 2022. The Trust has also been able to put together a season of productions in summer 2023.
The Charity considers that it is in a good position to continue its development as a highly recognised asset in the cultural life of the town.

Objectives and Activities

The principal activity and the objective of the charitable company is to educate the public in the Arts and to further the development of public appreciation in the Arts.

Achievements and Performance of public benefits

The charitable company has continued its business of promoting theatrical projects as well as developing its cooperation and close working with other organisations in the Arts and Cultural sectors and the Third Sector. Theatre productions continue to take place on an increasing basis along with attendances. The productions are widely promoted throughout Bedford and the surrounding areas by a variety of means. The Charity, through members of the Marketing Team, has developed a working relationship with a number of community based arts publications to get to a different audience and to support community activity. Use of the meeting rooms at The Place Theatre continues to increase by established groups representative of the wider community and there has been a continued increase in the number of schools and specialist dance and theatre schools using the venue.

The Charity has addressed public benefit purposes including:

- Promoting theatrical projects in an environment which encourages amateur artists to develop.
- Offering opportunities for a broad range of people from different backgrounds to get involved in the Arts.
- Widening its reach into areas of Bedford's diverse community to engage with them through the sharing of arts and culture as well as showing that the venue is open and available to them.
- Continuing to adopt a policy of affordability so that as few people as is practical are excluded by price.

In carrying out these objectives the Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub sector guidance concerning the operation of the Public Benefit requirement under the Act and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on fee charging.

Financial Review & Reserves Policy

It is the long term policy of the Trustees to increase the reserves of the charity. During this year the general reserves decreased by £20,123 (2022: £2,686). The general fund of £1,733 (2022: £21,856) at the year end is represented by the assets and liabilities as set out in the Balance Sheet.

Investment Policy

The Trust's investment policy is to keep its funds in the Trust's main bank account.

Related Parties

As set out in note 10 the charity has a close relationship with Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd with the majority of the current trustees also being trustees of that charity. During the year the Trust received a grant of £2,772 (2022: £1,250) from Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd.

Directors/Trustees

The following company directors, who are also Trustees of the charity, served throughout the year and up to the date of this report:

R C Levene (resigned 31.03.23)
W A J Phillimore (resigned 31.03.23)
B Jackson
B Shah
J H Blunt
K R S Harpin

Bedford Players Trust
Report of the Trustees (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Charitable Company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Trustees
and signed on their behalf by

Shah·B·M

B Shah
Director
Date: 28/09/2023

Bedford Players Trust

Accountants' report to the Trustees on the unaudited accounts of Bedford Players Trust

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 6 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)b of the 2011 Act; and
-state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's Trustees as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matter. 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 financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;

have not been met or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Barry Cowley FCA, CTA
Cowley Holmes Accountants Limited
9 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY
Date: 17-10-23

Bedford Players Trust

Statement of financial activities
(incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Incoming resources					
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives:					
Rental income		32,103	-	32,103	17,314
Grants		12,992	66,416	79,408	193,518
Other		83,256	-	83,256	24,106
Ticket sales		72,414	-	72,414	55,281
Total incoming resources		200,765	66,416	267,181	290,219
Resources expended					
Fundraising and publicity		25,000	-	25,000	31,234
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Theatre expenditure		145,266	64,315	209,581	209,904
Promotions		31,369	-	31,369	23,840
Wages and salaries		18,533	-	18,533	27,327
	2	220,168	64,315	284,483	292,305
Governance costs	3	720	-	720	600
Total resources expended		220,888	64,315	285,203	292,905
Movement in total funds for the year		(20,123)	2,101	(18,022)	(2,686)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April		21,856	9,753	31,609	34,295
Fund balance carried forward at 31 March	7,8	1,733	11,854	13,587	31,609

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

All operations of the charitable company are continuing operations.

Bedford Players Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2023

	Notes		2023 £		2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	4		29,765		35,885
Current assets					
Stocks		1,285		-	
Debtors	5	-		3,233	
Cash at bank and in hand		31,032		47,155	
		32,317		50,388	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(12,671)		(15,096)	
Net current assets			19,646		35,292
Total assets less current liabilities			49,411		71,177
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(35,824)		(39,568)
Net assets			13,587		31,609
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund			1,733		21,856
Restricted funds			11,854		9,753
			13,587		31,609

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 March 2023 and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 393, 394 and 395 of the Act and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

B Jackson
Director
Date: 28/09/2023

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

1.1 The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:-

1.2 Donations and grants, including capital grants, are included in the incoming resources when received.

When donors specify that grants are for particular purposes, this income is shown as a restricted fund.

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Rental income represents monies received in respect of third parties' use of The Place.

1.3 Management and administration costs of the charity relate to the costs of running the charity, such as insurance, legal and professional and bank charges. These have been allocated in full to other charitable expenditure as they do not represent the direct costs of running the charity.

1.4 The leasehold improvements on The Place have been capitalised at cost with a depreciation rate of 4% per annum on a straight line basis. Thus the building enhancements will be depreciated prudently over 25 years although the lease does not expire until 2041.

Fixtures and fittings have been capitalised at cost and are depreciated on straight line basis at a rate of 25% per annum.

1.5 The charity has identified the major costs of governance as being external costs related to the reporting accountants.

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

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023

2 Resources expended

	General fund £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Fundraising and publicity:				
Marketing and promotion	25,000	-	25,000	31,234
Direct charitable expenditure:				
Utilities	16,370	-	16,370	11,272
Depreciation	6,120	-	6,120	6,073
Repairs and maintenance	4,118	-	4,118	9,392
Other theatre expenditure	87,061	64,315	151,376	158,761
	113,669	64,315	177,984	185,498
Other charitable expenditure:				
Bank charges	3,625	-	3,625	2,549
Insurance	5,689	-	5,689	1,199
Sundries	4,380	-	4,380	3,497
Arts co-ordinator	16,740	-	16,740	16,728
Promotions	31,131	-	31,131	23,119
Entertainment	238	-	238	721
Wages and salaries	18,533	-	18,533	27,327
Training	1,163	-	1,163	433
	81,499	-	81,499	75,573
Total charitable expenditure	220,168	64,315	284,483	292,305
Governance costs	720	-	720	600
Total resources expended	220,888	64,315	285,203	292,905

3 Governance costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Independent examiner's fees	720	600

4 Fixed assets

	Leasehold building improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2022	142,408	20,530	162,938
Additions	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2023	142,408	20,530	162,938
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2022	107,452	19,601	127,053
Charge for the year	5,696	424	6,120
As at 31 March 2023	113,148	20,025	133,173
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2023	29,260	505	29,765
As at 31 March 2022	34,956	929	35,885

5 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	3,233

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	5,276	5,180
Trade creditors	4,111	7,732
Other creditors and accruals	3,284	2,184
Loans	-	-
	12,671	15,096

7 Movement in funds

	Balance as at 1 April 2022	Movement for the year: Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance as at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general fund					
Other grants and donations	-	12,992	(12,992)	-	-
Rental income	-	32,103	(32,103)	-	-
Other income	-	83,256	(83,256)	-	-
Ticket sales	-	72,414	(72,414)	-	-
Leasehold improvements and other net assets held by fund	21,856	-	(20,123)	-	1,733
Restricted funds	9,753	66,416	(64,315)	-	11,854
	31,609	267,181	(285,203)	-	13,587

All funds received in relation to the main activity of the Charity are held in the unrestricted general fund.

The restricted fund receipts relate to grant monies received in connection with audience development, show costs, heating system replacement and marketing.

8 Net assets held by funds

	Fixed Assets	Debtors	Stock	Cash	Creditors	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted and restricted fund	29,765	-	1,285	31,032	(48,495)	13,587

Creditors includes bank loans falling due after one year of £35,824 (2022: £39,568).

9 Trustees' remuneration

Mr M Baker, one of the Trustees, was paid £7,800 (2022: £8,150) in wages for his services as Facilities Manager in the year. No other Trustees received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in the year.

10 Related party transactions

The majority of the Trustees of Bedford Players Trust are also Trustees of Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd. During the year the Trust received a £2,772 (2022: £1,250) grant from Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd. At the year end Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd owed the Trust £Nil (2022: £Nil).

11 Taxation

The company is exempt from corporation tax due to its charitable status.

12 Financial commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no financial commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end.

BEDFORD PLAYERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 290124

Accounts

Registered number
01839042

Bedford Players Trust

Report and Accounts

31 March 2022

Bedford Players Trust
Charity Information for the year ended 31 March 2022

Directors/Trustees
R C Levene
W A J Phillimore
B Jackson
M J Baker (resigned 01.01.22)
B Shah
J H Blunt (appointed 13.4.21)
K R S Harpin (appointed 13.4.21)

Secretary
R C Levene

Accountants
Cowley Holmes Accountants Limited
9 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY

Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
81 High Street
Bedford
MK40 1NE

Registered office
The Place Theatre
Bradgate Road
Bedford
MK40 3DE

Registered number
01839042

Charity number
290124

Bedford Players Trust

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees, who are also Directors, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Structure, Governance and Management

Bedford Players Trust was incorporated on 7 August 1984, as a company limited by guarantee no. 1839042, not having a share capital and being a registered charity in England and Wales no. 290124. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended.
The Trustees continue to carry out regular skills audits to identify gaps in the diversity of the board and continue to seek to address that. Two new trustees were appointed during the year and a further three have been approached to join the board sometime in 2022/23. In the meantime they have formed the basis of an Advisory Group giving specialist support in the areas of Environmental Development and Regeneration, Youth Arts and Venue Management and Accessibility and Cultural Development. This will then bring the Board membership to 9, all of whom are volunteers. The Board is responsible for the strategic development of the Charity and the day to day management is vested in the management team presided over by a trustee acting as Chief Operations Officer in an unpaid capacity.
This year saw an improvement in the activities of the Charity following the difficulties of the previous two years due to the pandemic. In late 2020 the trustees took the decision, due to uncertainty caused by the pandemic and the on/off approach by government regarding national and local lockdowns, not to open the venue to the public until September 2021. This meant that for almost 6 months of the year the venue remained closed indoors. In order to compensate for this and with financial support from DCMS through the Arts Council we were able to create an outdoor space in which we were able to deliver a novel limited outdoor programme. This proved a success though was hampered in being able to develop to its full potential due to the unpredictable weather. We continued to deliver events online during this period, something which we continue to do as part of our overall offer.
The closure duing the early part of the year meant that one of our more interesting projects, Game Play Festival, had to be postponed again and eventually ended up as a series of small events, some face to face and the majority online. This project had been funded by the Arts Council and the Foyle Foundation and we are grateful for their forebearance in the delay in the delivery of the project.
The Charity was able to continue its operations due to receiving support from the Arts Council in the form of the Cultural Recovery Funds as well as from other funders, The Harpur Trust and Sylvia Waddilove Foundation UK. The Charity also continued to receive, when appropriate, support from Government through the local authority of the Local Government Restrictions Grant. As a result of this funding the Charity was able to continue all its freelance contracts. The trustees, having commissioned the preparation of reports from an outside expert on the provision of Youth Theatre during the latter part of 2020/21, were able to prepare a successful bid for funding of youth theatre provision to The House of Industry. The intention had been to commence the delivery of the project, which included an Inclusive Youth Theatre across the age ranges of 8 to 18 and Future Arts Leaders (a part time paid engagement for 3 young people aged 18 to 25 to gain experience of the arts indutry in a working venue), in September but due to the timing of the grant it was decided to defer until September 2022 and to seek further funding to extend the project. This was successful and funding was obtained from the Foyle Foundation in April 2022, this being the second grant from the foundation for which the trustees are very grateful.
During the year we have been able to continue the delivery of a number of projects and to develop new ones by securing further funding for them from the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation, to enable the long running youth programme of gaming activities to continue, the BFI and ICO for an increasing film programme and to provide the opportunity for young people to gain experience in film programming through the Young Film Programmers project; National Lottery Community Fund towards a project leading up to Christmas to tackle loneliness and isolation.
The Trustees would therefore like to thank the following funders for their support over the difficult period caused by the pandemic and the team at The Place for their hard work and enthusiasm in obtaining funding to enable the charity to continue and develop its work:
Arts Council England
The Harpur Trust
Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation
The House of Industry
The Foyle Foundation
The Sylvia Waddilove Foundation
British Film Institute
Independent Cinema Office
National Lottery Community Fund
Cultural Recovery Fund from DCMS
Local Government Restrictions Grant through Bedford Borough Council.

Report of the Trustees (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees continue to monitor and review the risk assessment process as an on-going requirement. The pandemic obviously had an effect on the operation of the Charity, particularly with regard to the venue, which was unfortunate as it followed the Charity's most successful year. However, the Trustees' confidence that the Charity would recover during 2021/22 has been borne out. The recovery has been slower than had been hoped for primarily due to three factors: - a continued reluctance of our audience to return to attending indoor activity (a situation experienced by many venues within the industry), the delivery of a new concept for the venue - an outdoor space which had been particularly adapted for that purpose - which was not helped by the unpredictable weather over the summer, and the lack of small scale product available. The latter started to improve early in 2022 and has led to us being able to deliver a full programme of work from both community and professional companies during the fourth quarter of the year and into 2022/23. The Charity considers that it is in a good position to continue its development as a highly recognised asset in the cultural life of the town and to swiftly recover its financial position pre-pandemic in 2022/23.

Objectives and Activities

The principal activity and the objective of the charitable company is to educate the public in the Arts and to further the development of public appreciation in the Arts.

Achievements and Performance of public benefits

The charitable company has continued its business of promoting theatrical projects as well as developing its cooperation and close working with other organisations in the Arts and Cultural sectors and the Third Sector. Theatre productions took place on an increasing basis from September 2021 and attendances increased slowly from the time that the venue reopened. The productions are widely promoted throughout Bedford and the surrounding areas by a variety of means. The Charity, through members of the Marketing Team, has developed a working relationship with a number of community based arts publications to get to a different audience and to support community activity. Use of the meeting rooms at The Place Theatre continues to increase by established groups representative of the wider community and there has been a noticeable increase in the number of schools and specialist dance and theatre schools using the venue in recent months, something which we believe is likely to continue, in view of the interest in re-booking and new enquiries.

The Charity has addressed public benefit purposes including:

- Promoting theatrical projects in an environment which encourages amateur artists to develop.
- Offering opportunities for a broad range of people from different backgrounds to get involved in the Arts.
- Widening its reach into areas of Bedford's diverse community to engage with them through the sharing of arts and culture as well as showing that the venue is open and available to them.
- Continuing to adopt a policy of affordability so that as few people as is practical are excluded by price.

In carrying out these objectives the Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub sector guidance concerning the operation of the Public Benefit requirement under the Act and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on fee charging.

Financial Review & Reserves Policy

It is the long term policy of the Trustees to increase the reserves of the charity. During this year the general reserves decreased by £2,686 (2021: £1,386 increase). The general fund of £21,856 (2021: £13,889) at the year end is represented by the assets and liabilities as set out in the Balance Sheet.

Investment Policy

The Trust's investment policy is to keep its funds in the Trust's main bank account.

Related Parties

As set out in note 10 the charity has a close relationship with Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd with the majority of the current trustees also being trustees of that charity. During the year the Trust received a grant of £1,250 (2021: £8,160) from Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd.

Directors/Trustees

The following company directors, who are also Trustees of the charity, served throughout the year and up to the date of this report:

R C Levene
W A J Phillimore
B Jackson
M J Baker (resigned 01.01.22)
B Shah
J H Blunt (appointed 13.4.21)
K R S Harpin (appointed 13.4.21)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Charitable Company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Trustees
and signed on their behalf by

R C Levene
Director
Date: 28/6/2022

Bedford Players Trust

Accountants' report to the Trustees on the unaudited accounts of Bedford Players Trust

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 6 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner
The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)b of the 2011 Act; and
-state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's Trustees as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matter. 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 financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;

have not been met or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

B Cowley

Barry Cowley FCA, CTA
Cowley Holmes Accountants Limited
9 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY
Date: 28/06/22

Bedford Players Trust

Statement of financial activities
(incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Incoming resources					
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives:					
Rental income		17,314	-	17,314	1,350
Grants		153,343	40,175	193,518	179,397
Other		24,106	-	24,106	4,563
Ticket sales		55,281	-	55,281	-
Total incoming resources		250,044	40,175	290,219	185,310
Resources expended					
Fundraising and publicity		31,234	-	31,234	16,879
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Theatre expenditure		159,076	50,828	209,904	153,005
Promotions		23,840	-	23,840	2,578
Wages and salaries		27,327	-	27,327	10,862
	2	241,477	50,828	292,305	183,324
Governance costs	3	600	-	600	600
Total resources expended		242,077	50,828	292,905	183,924
Movement in total funds for the year		7,967	(10,653)	(2,686)	1,386
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April		13,889	20,406	34,295	32,909
Fund balance carried forward at 31 March	7,8	21,856	9,753	31,609	34,295

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

All operations of the charitable company are continuing operations.

Bedford Players Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2022

	Notes		2022 £		2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	4		35,885		41,474
Current assets					
Debtors	5	3,233		9,915	
Cash at bank and in hand		47,155		43,917	
		50,388		53,832	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(15,096)		(17,291)	
Net current assets			35,292		36,541
Total assets less current liabilities			71,177		78,015
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(39,568)		(43,720)
Net assets			31,609		34,295
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund			21,856		13,889
Restricted funds			9,753		20,406
			31,609		34,295

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 March 2022 and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 393, 394 and 395 of the Act and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

R C Levene
Director
Date: 28/6/2022

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

1.1 The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:-

1.2 Donations and grants, including capital grants, are included in the incoming resources when received.

When donors specify that grants are for particular purposes, this income is shown as a restricted fund.

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Rental income represents monies received in respect of third parties' use of The Place.

1.3 Management and administration costs of the charity relate to the costs of running the charity, such as insurance, legal and professional and bank charges. These have been allocated in full to other charitable expenditure as they do not represent the direct costs of running the charity.

1.4 The leasehold improvements on The Place have been capitalised at cost with a depreciation rate of 4% per annum on a straight line basis. Thus the building enhancements will be depreciated prudently over 25 years although the lease does not expire until 2041.

Fixtures and fittings have been capitalised at cost and are depreciated on straight line basis at a rate of 25% per annum.

1.5 The charity has identified the major costs of governance as being external costs related to the reporting accountants.

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

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2022

2 Resources expended

	General fund £	Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Fundraising and publicity:				
Marketing and promotion	31,234	-	31,234	16,879
Direct charitable expenditure:				
Utilities	11,272	-	11,272	4,787
Depreciation	6,073	-	6,073	5,998
Repairs and maintenance	9,392	-	9,392	16,073
Other theatre expenditure	107,933	50,828	158,761	107,873
	134,670	50,828	185,498	134,731
Other charitable expenditure:				
Bank charges	2,549	-	2,549	325
Insurance	1,199	-	1,199	2,400
Sundries	3,497	-	3,497	2,690
Arts co-ordinator	16,728	-	16,728	12,324
Promotions	23,119	-	23,119	2,578
Entertainment	721	-	721	-
Wages and salaries	27,327	-	27,327	10,862
Training	433	-	433	535
	75,573	-	75,573	31,714
Total charitable expenditure	241,477	50,828	292,305	183,324
Governance costs	600	-	600	600
Total resources expended	242,077	50,828	292,905	183,924

3 Governance costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Independent examiner's fees	600	600

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2022

4 Fixed assets

	Leasehold building improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2021	142,408	20,046	162,454
Additions	-	484	484
As at 31 March 2022	142,408	20,530	162,938
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2021	101,756	19,224	120,980
Charge for the year	5,696	377	6,073
As at 31 March 2022	107,452	19,601	127,053
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2022	34,956	929	35,885
As at 31 March 2021	40,652	822	41,474

5 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	3,233	-
Other debtors and accrued income	-	9,915
	3,233	9,915

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	5,180	5,179
Trade creditors	7,732	10,997
Other creditors and accruals	2,184	1,115
	15,096	17,291

7 Movement in funds

	Balance as at 1 April 2021	Movement for the year: Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance as at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general fund					
Other grants and donations	-	153,343	(153,343)	-	-
Rental income	-	17,314	(17,314)	-	-
Other income	-	24,106	(24,106)	-	-
Ticket sales	-	55,281	(55,281)	-	-
Leasehold improvements and other net assets held by fund	13,889	-	7,967	-	21,856
Restricted funds	20,406	40,175	(50,828)	-	9,753
	34,295	290,219	(292,905)	-	31,609

All funds received in relation to the main activity of the Charity are held in the unrestricted general fund.

The restricted fund receipts relate to grant monies received in connection with audience development, show costs, heating system replacement and marketing.

8 Net assets held by funds

	Fixed Assets	Debtors	Stock	Cash	Creditors	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted and restricted fund	35,885	3,233	-	47,155	(54,664)	31,609

Creditors includes bank loans falling due after one year of £39,568 (2021: £43,720).

9 Trustees' remuneration

Mr M Baker, one of the Trustees, was paid £8,150 (2021: £6,720) in wages for his services as Facilities Manager in the year. No other Trustees received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in the year.

10 Related party transactions

The majority of the Trustees of Bedford Players Trust are also Trustees of Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd. During the year the Trust received a £1,250 (2021: £8,160) grant from Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd. At the year end Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd owed the Trust £Nil (2021: £Nil).

11 Taxation

The company is exempt from corporation tax due to its charitable status.

12 Financial commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no financial commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end.

BEDFORD PLAYERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 290124

Accounts

Registered number
01839042

08 DEC 2021

Bedford Players Trust

Report and Accounts

31 March 2021

Bedford Players Trust
Charity Information for the year ended 31 March 2021

Directors/Trustees
R C Levene
W A J Phillimore
B Jackson
M J Baker
B Shah
S J Waller (resigned 19.11.20)
J Pharaoh (resigned 19.11.20)
J H Blunt (appointed 13.4.21)
K R S Harpin (appointed 13.4.21)

Secretary
R C Levene

Accountants
Cowley Holmes Accountants Limited
9 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY

Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
81 High Street
Bedford
MK40 1NE

Registered office
The Place Theatre
Bradgate Road
Bedford
MK40 3DE

Registered number
01839042

Charity number
290124

Bedford Players Trust

Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees, who are also Directors, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Structure, Governance and Management

Bedford Players Trust was incorporated on 7 August 1984, as a company limited by guarantee no. 1839042, not having a share capital and being a registered charity in England and Wales no. 290124. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Trustees continue to carry out regular skills audits to identify gaps in the diversity of the board and continue to seek to address that and in fact identified a number of potential new trustees, three of which have subsequently joined early in 2021 with another to join later in the year. This will then bring the Board membership to 9, all of whom are volunteers. The Board is responsible for the strategic development of the Charity and the day to day management is vested in the management team presided over by a trustee acting as Chief Operations Officer in an unpaid capacity.

This year was a difficult year for the Charity, as it was for many organisations working in the cultural sector due to the effects of the pandemic. The venue was closed to the public throughout the year, save for a brief period in late summer 2020 when outdoor activity was possible, which meant that all activity was presented online. This presented a challenge to the management team as online activity had not been a major part of activity previously. Fortunately, all team members rose to that challenge and a successful programme was delivered, in many cases, to a new and more diverse, in demography and geography, audience.

The major disappointment of the closure was that one of our more interesting projects, Game Play, had to be postponed on a number of occasions due to lock downs, both national and local, and social distancing requirements. The intention had been to deliver a face to face event over a number of days within the venue and in the town centre to engage people in the concept of gaming and the Arts. This project had been funded by the Arts Council and Foyle Foundation and we are grateful for their forbearance in the delay in the delivery of the project. Some of the project was rethought so that it could be delivered online with other elements being delivered during 2021/22, provided that there are no further hindrances caused by the pandemic.

The Charity was able to continue its operations due to receiving support from the Arts Council in the form of the Emergency Fund and the Cultural Recovery Fund as well as from other funders, The Harpur Trust and Sylvia Waddilove Foundation UK. The trustees also took advantage of the Government backed Bounce Back Loan

As a result of this funding the Charity was able to continue all its freelance contracts and to increase the number of part-time contracts in the areas of marketing and engagement with the local community groups which use or could use the venue. The trustees were also able to commission the preparation of reports from outside experts on the provision of Outdoor Theatre and Youth Theatre, both of which have enabled the Charity to create an outdoor space and deliver a programme of outdoor events during the summer of 2021 and to prepare a successful bid for funding of youth theatre provision also in 2021.

The Trustees took the opportunity of the closure of the venue to engage with the volunteer team and to look at the audience experience, a process which had started in 2019, so as to be able to offer an enhanced service as and when the venue was able to reopen, which happened in September 2021.

The Trustees continue to monitor and review the risk assessment process as an on-going requirement.

The pandemic obviously had an effect on the operation of the Charity, particularly with regard to the venue, which was unfortunate as it followed the Charity's most successful year. However, the trustees have every confidence that the Charity will recover during 2021/22. The recovery was slow due to the fact that the Charity delivered a new concept for the venue - an outdoor space which had been particularly adapted for that purpose - which was not helped by continued uncertainty in the population about gatherings and the unpredictable weather over the summer. The venue eventually opened with a full programme in September 2021 and the prospects are looking better. The Charity was able to secure further funding during 2021 from Arts Council and the Harpur Trust to enable the Charity to continue its activities and the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation has also provided funding to enable the long running youth programme of gaming activities to continue.

Report of the Trustees (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2021

Objectives and Activities

The principal activity and the objective of the charitable company is to educate the public in the Arts and to further the development of public appreciation in the Arts.

Achievements and Performance of public benefits

The charitable company has continued its business of promoting theatrical projects as well as branching out into the wider community through the Audience Development in the Community project, a project which came to a conclusion at the end of the financial year. Due to the pandemic it has not been possible to follow up this activity but a number of relationships with other organisations were established as a result and these continue to be developed. Theatre productions took place on an ever more regular basis and attendances continue to see an increase year on year with a number of performances having sold out, although this came to an abrupt halt at the very end of the financial year. The productions are widely promoted throughout Bedford and the surrounding areas by a variety of means. The Charity, through members of the Marketing Team, has developed a working relationship with a number of community based arts publications to get to a different audience and to support community activity. Use of the meeting rooms at the Place Theatre continues to increase by established groups, e.g. LGBTQ+ and ELFT Recovery Programme for people experiencing mental illness and towards the end of the year several new groups wished to use the venue but this was not able to be followed up due to the closure.

The Charity has addressed public benefit purposes including:

- Promoting theatrical projects in an environment which encourages amateur artists to develop.
- Offering opportunities for a broad range of people from different backgrounds to get involved in the Arts.
- Widening its reach into areas of Bedford's diverse community to engage with them through the sharing of arts and culture as well as showing that the venue is open and available to them.
- Continuing to adopt a policy of affordability so that as few people as is practical are excluded by price.

In carrying out these objectives the Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub sector guidance concerning the operation of the Public Benefit requirement under the Act and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on fee charging.

Financial Review & Reserves Policy

It is the long term policy of the Trustees to increase the reserves of the charity. During this year the general reserves increased by £1,386 (2020: £2,924). The general fund of £13,889 (2020: £12,691) at the year end is represented by the assets and liabilities as set out in the Balance Sheet.

Investment Policy

The Trust's investment policy is to keep its funds in the Trust's main bank account.

Related Parties

As set out in note 11 the charity has a close relationship with Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd with the majority of the current trustees also being trustees of that charity. During the year the Trust received a grant of £8,160 (2020: £109,080) from Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd.

Directors/Trustees

The following company directors, who are also Trustees of the charity, served throughout the year and up to the date of this report:

R C Levene
W A J Phillimore
B Jackson
M J Baker
B Shah
S J Waller (resigned 19.11.20)
J Pharaoh (resigned 19.11.20)
J H Blunt (appointed 13.4.21)
K R S Harpin (appointed 13.4.21)

Bedford Players Trust
Report of the Trustees (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2021

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Charitable Company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Trustees
and signed on their behalf by

W A J Phillimore
Director 3/12/21
Date:

Bedford Players Trust

Accountants' report to the Trustees on the unaudited accounts of Bedford Players Trust

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 6 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner
The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)b of the 2011 Act; and
-state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's Trustees as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matter. 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 financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;

have not been met or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Barry Cowley FCA, CTA
Cowley Holmes Accountants Limited
9 Goldington Road
Bedford
MK40 3JY
Date: 8TH December 2021

Bedford Players Trust

Statement of financial activities
(incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Incoming resources					
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives:					
Rental income		1,350	-	1,350	-
Grants		135,463	43,934	179,397	109,080
Other		4,563	-	4,563	92,325
Total incoming resources		141,376	43,934	185,310	201,405
Resources expended					
Fundraising and publicity		16,879	-	16,879	20,912
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Theatre expenditure		108,869	44,136	153,005	116,968
Promotions		2,578	-	2,578	43,941
Wages and salaries		10,862	-	10,862	16,060
	2	139,188	44,136	183,324	197,881
Governance costs	3	600	-	600	600
Total resources expended		139,788	44,136	183,924	198,481
Movement in total funds for the year		1,588	(202)	1,386	2,924
Transfer between funds		(390)	390	-	-
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April		12,691	20,218	32,909	29,985
Fund balance carried forward at 31 March	8,9	13,889	20,406	34,295	32,909

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

All operations of the charitable company are continuing operations.

Bedford Players Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2021

	Notes		2021 £		2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	4		41,474		46,999
Current assets					
Stocks	6	-		983	
Debtors	5	9,915		2,255	
Cash at bank and in hand		43,917		450	
		53,832		3,688	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	(17,291)		(17,778)	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			36,541		(14,090)
Total assets less current liabilities			78,015		32,909
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	9		(43,720)		-
Net assets			34,295		32,909
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund			13,889		12,691
Restricted funds			20,406		20,218
			34,295		32,909

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

For the year ended 31 March 2021 the charitable company was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 March 2021 and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 393, 394 and 395 of the Act and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

W A J Phillimore
Director
Date: 3/12/21

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

1.1 The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:-

1.2 Donations and grants, including capital grants, are included in the incoming resources when received.

When donors specify that grants are for particular purposes, this income is shown as a restricted fund.

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Rental income represents monies received in respect of third parties' use of The Place.

1.3 Management and administration costs of the charity relate to the costs of running the charity, such as insurance, legal and professional and bank charges. These have been allocated in full to other charitable expenditure as they do not represent the direct costs of running the charity.

1.4 The leasehold improvements on The Place have been capitalised at cost with a depreciation rate of 4% per annum on a straight line basis. Thus the building enhancements will be depreciated prudently over 25 years although the lease does not expire until 2041.

Fixtures and fittings have been capitalised at cost and are depreciated on straight line basis at a rate of 25% per annum.

1.5 The charity has identified the major costs of governance as being external costs related to the reporting accountants.

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

Bedford Players Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2021

2 Resources expended

	General fund £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Fundraising and publicity:				
Marketing and promotion	16,879	-	16,879	20,912
Direct charitable expenditure:				
Utilities	4,787	-	4,787	10,553
Depreciation	5,998	-	5,998	5,853
Repairs and maintenance	16,073	-	16,073	2,263
Other theatre expenditure	63,737	44,136	107,873	80,785
	90,595	44,136	134,731	99,454
Other charitable expenditure:				
Bank charges	325	-	325	542
Insurance	2,400	-	2,400	2,486
Sundries	2,690	-	2,690	5,764
Arts co-ordinator	12,324	-	12,324	8,358
Promotions	2,578	-	2,578	43,941
Wages and salaries	10,862	-	10,862	16,060
Training	535	-	535	364
	31,714	-	31,714	77,515
Total charitable expenditure	139,188	44,136	183,324	197,881
Governance costs	600	-	600	600
Total resources expended	139,788	44,136	183,924	198,481

3 Governance costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Independent examiner's fees	600	600

4 Fixed assets

	Leasehold building improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2020	142,408	19,573	161,981
Additions	-	473	473
As at 31 March 2021	142,408	20,046	162,454
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2020	96,060	18,922	114,982
Charge for the year	5,696	302	5,998
As at 31 March 2021	101,756	19,224	120,980
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2021	40,652	822	41,474
As at 31 March 2020	46,348	651	46,999

5 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors and accrued income	9,915	2,255

6 Stock

	2021	2020
	£	£
Goods for resale	-	983

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	5,179	9,488
Trade creditors	10,997	4,244
Other creditors and accruals	1,115	1,046
Loans	-	3,000
	17,291	17,778

8 Movement in funds

	Balance as at 1 April 2020	Movement for the year: Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance as at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted general fund					
Other grants and donations	-	135,463	(135,463)	-	-
Rental income	-	1,350	(1,350)	-	-
Other income	-	4,563	(4,563)	-	-
Leasehold improvements and other net assets held by fund	12,691	-	1,588	(390)	13,889
Restricted funds	20,218	43,934	(44,136)	390	20,406
	32,909	185,310	(183,924)	-	34,295

All funds received in relation to the main activity of the Charity are held in the unrestricted general fund.

The restricted fund receipts relate to grant monies received in connection with audience development, show costs, heating system replacement and marketing.

9 Net assets held by funds

	Fixed Assets	Debtors	Stock	Cash	Creditors	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted and restricted fund	41,474	9,915	-	43,917	(61,011)	34,295

Creditors includes bank loans falling due after one year of £43,720 (2020: £Nil).

10 Trustees' remuneration

Mr M Baker, one of the Trustees, was paid £6,720 (2020: £7,995) in wages for his services as Facilities Manager in the year. No other Trustees received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in the year.

11 Related party transactions

The majority of the Trustees of Bedford Players Trust are also Trustees of Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd. During the year the Trust received a £8,160 (2020: £109,080) grant from Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd. At the year end Bedford Theatre Trust Ltd owed the Trust £Nil (2020: £Nil).

12 Taxation

The company is exempt from corporation tax due to its charitable status.

13 Financial commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no financial commitments or contingent liabilities at the year end.