

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.

## **Bedford Players Trust**

### **Report of the Trustees**

**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

#### **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  |                 |                                   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2024  |
| Bipinchandra Shah     |                 |                                   |                             |
| Lee Knapp             |                 | 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023     |                             |
| Justin Deaville       |                 | 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023     |                             |
| Hazera Forth          |                 | 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023     |                             |
| William Phillimore    |                 |                                   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 |
| Rae Levene            | Secretary       |                                   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 |
| Alexander Adam Levene | Secretary       | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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<br>General<br>Fund<br>£ | Restricted<br>Fund<br>£ | Total<br>2024<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Incoming resources</b>                                     |       |                                      |                         |                    |                    |
| <b>Activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives:</b> |       |                                      |                         |                    |                    |
| 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             |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                               |       | <b>209,956</b>                       | <b>76,038</b>           | <b>285,994</b>     | <b>267,181</b>     |
| <b>Resources expended</b>                                     |       |                                      |                         |                    |                    |
| 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                |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>                               |       | <b>240,335</b>                       | <b>74,719</b>           | <b>315,054</b>     | <b>285,203</b>     |
| <b>Movement in total funds for the year</b>                   |       | <b>(30,379)</b>                      | <b>1,319</b>            | <b>(29,060)</b>    | <b>(18,022)</b>    |
| <b>Transfer between funds</b>                                 |       | <b>-</b>                             | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</b>           | <b>-</b>           |
| Fund balances brought forward at 1 April                      |       | 1,733                                | 11,854                  | 13,587             | 31,609             |
| <b>Fund balance carried forward at 31 March</b>               | 7,8   | <b>(28,646)</b>                      | <b>13,173</b>           | <b>(15,473)</b>    | <b>13,587</b>      |

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

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<br>fund<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ | 2024 Total<br>£ | 2023 Total<br>£ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Fundraising and publicity:</b>     |                      |                 |                 |                 |
| Marketing and promotion               | 34,421               | -               | 34,421          | 25,000          |
| <b>Direct charitable expenditure:</b> |                      |                 |                 |                 |
| 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         |
| <b>Other charitable expenditure:</b>  |                      |                 |                 |                 |
| 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          |
| <b>Total charitable expenditure</b>   | <b>239,615</b>       | <b>74,719</b>   | <b>314,334</b>  | <b>284,483</b>  |
| <b>Governance costs</b>               | <b>720</b>           | <b>-</b>        | <b>720</b>      | <b>720</b>      |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>       | <b>240,335</b>       | <b>74,719</b>   | <b>315,054</b>  | <b>285,203</b>  |

**3 Governance costs**

|                             | 2024<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Independent examiner's fees | 720       | 720       |

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

**4 Fixed assets**

|                       | <b>Leasehold<br/>building<br/>improvements</b> | <b>Fixtures<br/>and fittings</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
|                       | <b>£</b>                                       | <b>£</b>                         | <b>£</b>       |
| <b>Cost</b>           |                                                |                                  |                |
| As at 1 April 2023    | 142,408                                        | 20,530                           | 162,938        |
| Additions             | -                                              | -                                | -              |
| As at 31 March 2024   | <u>142,408</u>                                 | <u>20,530</u>                    | <u>162,938</u> |
| <b>Depreciation</b>   |                                                |                                  |                |
| 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   | <u>118,844</u>                                 | <u>20,312</u>                    | <u>139,156</u> |
| <b>Net book value</b> |                                                |                                  |                |
| As at 31 March 2024   | <u>23,564</u>                                  | <u>218</u>                       | <u>23,782</u>  |
| As at 31 March 2023   | <u>29,260</u>                                  | <u>505</u>                       | <u>29,765</u>  |

**5 Debtors**

|               | <b>2024<br/>£</b> | <b>2023<br/>£</b> |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Trade debtors | <u>11,923</u>     | <u>-</u>          |

**6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

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

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

**7 Movement in funds**

|                                                             | Balance as<br>at 1 April<br>2023<br>£ | Incoming<br>resources<br>£ | Resources<br>expended<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance as<br>at 31 March<br>2024<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted general fund</b>                            |                                       |                            |                            |                |                                        |
| 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<br>other net assets held by fund | 1,733                                 | -                          | (30,379)                   | -              | (28,646)                               |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>                                     | 11,854                                | 76,038                     | (74,719)                   | -              | 13,173                                 |
|                                                             | <u>13,587</u>                         | <u>285,994</u>             | <u>(315,054)</u>           | <u>-</u>       | <u>(15,473)</u>                        |

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<br>Assets<br>£ | Debtors<br>£  | Stock<br>£   | Cash<br>£  | Creditors<br>£  | Total<br>£      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Unrestricted and restricted fund | <u>23,782</u>        | <u>11,923</u> | <u>1,340</u> | <u>263</u> | <u>(52,781)</u> | <u>(15,473)</u> |

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.