



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Davenham Players Reg Charity 504475

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024

Objectives and Continuing Activities

1. PURPOSES

The object of the Society as stated in our constitution is

“to educate the public in the dramatic and operatic arts and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in those arts by promoting the Performing Arts and the Arts in general”.

2. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Davenham Players aim to present to the public a varied programme of performing arts events at our own theatre throughout the year. The programme revolves mainly around (but is not limited to) the dramatic and musical arts.

3. DRAMA AT DAVENHAM

Our in-house drama group, the Davenham Players (founded ca. 1941) recruits amateur performers, backstage and front-of-house staff from the general public. These become our member volunteers. We aim to perform around four major drama productions each season, each of which will be presented to the public for about a week. Tickets are sold mainly on-line through an agency to fund the expenses of the production, general theatre overheads and build up reserves for future development. We don't employ paid staff. Visiting drama companies are welcomed too when this can be fitted into our programme.

4. MUSIC AT DAVENHAM

Musical events are a regular part of our programme. Monthly Jazz gigs are presented under the banner jazz@davenham during the season. Besides jazz, we host occasional concerts in folk, rock and classical music and other genres.

5. LITERATURE AT DAVENHAM

The Northwich LitFest, organised by Susi Osborne has held its main evening events at our theatre for the last few years and continues to do so, following a break owing to the pandemic. The festival is a Summer event, usually in June/July/August.

6. COMEDY CLUB

We present an evening of stand-up comedy every last Sunday of the month from October to April (not December). At these events, an MC introduces the acts and links the contributions of the comedians. Popular with audiences, Comedy Club has been an important fundraiser for us, especially when augmented by bar takings.

7. OUR MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer members are crucial to the operation of the theatre. We have an experienced maintenance team who do the day-to-day jobs necessary to keep an old building safe, secure and welcoming. Besides normal maintenance, our specialised sound and lighting team supports set designers and stage directors to help make our shows have the right impact and be attractive to audiences. However, we employ contractors to conduct safety-critical inspections and remediations so as to stay within regulations for electrical and fire certification. Recruiting new volunteers is an important ongoing process. Our theatre bar at public events is staffed by volunteers. We do welcome new volunteers to come and help our volunteer team continue to flourish - just come and meet the Tech team on Tuesday mornings or use our contact form on the website at <https://www.davenhamplayers.co.uk/get-involved/>

8. YOUTH THEATRE

Our theatre is the performing venue for the Young Arts Academy's end of term shows and for our local Primary school's end of year show. Teachers say the children love the experience of performing in a 'proper' theatre with stage lighting as opposed to a school hall.

9. CLUB NIGHTS

Tuesday nights are Club nights at Davenham Theatre, when we hold monthly workshop groups led by a member who specialises in one of the crafts of the performing arts. At present, the groups are for Acting, Writing, Play Reading and Improv in successive weeks. Refreshments are provided free to members, with a small contribution asked from non-members. We also host occasional entertainments and fundraisers for members and their guests such as Quiz nights.

10. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

An extension to the theatre creating new foyer and toilets was completed in 2019 and the plan at that time was to proceed with construction of a community room/rehearsal space in the yard at the side of the theatre. Since then, the pandemic and other factors have seen the cost of building work increase drastically, beyond the scope of our current reserves.

Rather than being overwhelmed by the situation, a subcommittee has started to look seriously at raising funds by new activities under the performing arts umbrella and grant applications. In time, we sincerely believe the new space will come.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES JUL 23 – JUNE 24

11. REPLACEMENT OF THEATRE SEATING

In late 2023, the decision was taken to replace the existing tiered seating units with custom-built units plus extra new stackable chairs. This needed substantial investment, but we decided to go ahead, using cash from our reserves. Installation was to take place in mid-January 2024.

The theatre needed to be completely emptied of the old raised dais units before the contractors could start work so our maintenance volunteers started work immediately following the final December event. After disposal of the old chairs and dais units, the opportunity was taken to dry-line and repaint the walls, improving both the appearance and insulation properties of the theatre.

Contractors started work and completed on-time, well before the first event of 2024. All were extremely pleased with the finished result and we can now say that both safety and appearance of the audience seating has been vastly improved. The new tip-up seating gives the impression of a modern studio cinema and seat numbering has been employed to make it easier for online booking.

12. ONLINE MARKETING AND TICKET SALES

Bookings for our in-house drama and comedy are now taken through Ticket Source. Our Marketing subcommittee continues to make highly effective use of social media, which along with more conventional advertising ensures our shows are almost sold out by opening night.

Audiences seem to have taken to card payments for tickets with little fuss, but we can also take cash and cheque by arrangement. Enquiries are directed from our website to our online 'Ticket Shop' by emails and communications through social media. Our website can be found at <https://www.davenhamplayers.co.uk/> and our ticket shop at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/davenhamplayers>

13. INVISIBLE BY JANE BARRIE

All the plays presented at Davenham this year met with success and all were written by professional authors - with one exception. The play *Invisible* was written and directed by member Jane Barrie. We have only occasionally performed plays written in-house, but a readthrough convinced the committee that we could include *Invisible* in our programme. An audition was held in May and performance set for September 2024.

14. FULL ELECTRICAL INSPECTION

Contractors were employed to conduct a full electrical inspection of our premises in October 2023. The report highlighted some deficiencies against the latest electrical regulations, which were implemented by the contractors later in the year.

15. OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS DURING THE REPORTING YEAR

July 2023 –

- Play Reading, Acting and Writing groups
- Audition for *Allo Allo*
- Rehearsals for *Rules for Living*
- Fire Risk Assessment Review

August 2023 –

- Fire Alarm system annual service

September 2023 –

- Rules for Living on stage
- Rehearsals Allo Allo
- Jazz, Folk music events
- New Bar Card Machine

October 2023 –

- Hands Up Who's Happy* visiting show
- YAA youth show
- Full Electrical Inspection
- Audition *Heaven Sent*
- Spitting Feathers rock covers group
- Jazz
- Comedy Club

November 2023 –

- Allo Allo* on stage
- Comedy Club
- Jazz
- YAA show
- Photo Shoot theatre rental

December 2023 –

- Jazz and Folk music evenings
- Quiz night
- Contractor for Electrical Remediation work
- Visiting company Little Pixie
- Preparatory work for new seating units

January 2024 –

- New seating installation
- Jazz
- Comedy

February 2024

- Jazz
- Heaven Sent* audition
- Davenham School Set Preparation

March 2024 –

- Davenham School Show

Jazz and Folk music events
Comedy
Bar Roof Repair assessment

April 2024 –

Nora rehearsals
Jazz
YAA group session
Comedy Club

May 2024 –

Nora on stage
Audition *Invisible*
Jazz

June 2024 –

Wordfest AGM theatre rental
YAA group session
Northwich LitFest events
Jazz
Readthrough of Revlon Girl
Davenham Choir concert

16. TRUSTEES STATEMENT ON PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees carefully monitor the way that funds are spent, which must be on activities in compliance with our group's stated purposes.

Structure, Governance and Management

Our governing document is the Constitution of the Davenham Players.

We operate as an unincorporated membership association.

Trustees are selected members of our management team chosen to provide a relevant range of skills and experience.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

--	--

Full name(s)

Robert Almquist

Paulette Anderson

**Position (e.g. Secretary,
Chair, etc)**

Chairman	Secretary to the Trustees
----------	---------------------------

Date

DAVENHAM PLAYERS

Registered Charity no. 504475

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Year ended 30/06/24			Year ended 30/06/23		
	Receipts £	Payments £	Surplus/(Loss) £	Receipts £	Payments £	Surplus/(Loss) £
Subscriptions	1076.00		1076.00	1033.00		1033.00
Grant & Donations	295.00		295.00	2733.84		2733.84
Theatre Hire	2867.50		2867.50	3206.20		3206.20
Other income	528.78		528.78	301.38		301.38
Comedy Nights	4772.19	2505.00	2267.19	4329.70	2131.00	2198.70
Productions	12972.98	5459.46	7513.52	6446.46	2931.05	3515.41
Bar	13782.99	<u>5014.38</u>	8768.61	7866.71	<u>4022.94</u>	3843.77
Interest income	<u>239.29</u>		<u>239.29</u>	<u>33.88</u>		<u>33.88</u>
	36534.73	12978.84	23555.89	25951.17	9084.99	16866.18
Facilities Costs						
Heating & Lighting		2727.77			1449.55	
Water		683.94			551.47	
Broadband		418.83				
Insurance		1669.00			1495.83	
Cleaning		453.57				
Other Property Maintenance		4090.65			2826.41	
Subscriptions & Licences		769.03			915.46	
Website (inc redesign)		168.00			-	
Other payments		0.00			34.00	
Bank charges		60.00			10.00	
Depreciation		<u>2103.82</u>			<u>1428.14</u>	
			<u>-13144.61</u>			<u>-8710.86</u>
Surplus for the year			<u>10411.28</u>			<u>8155.32</u>

DAVENHAM PLAYERS

Registered Charity no. 504475

BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2024

	30/06/2024			30/06/2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASSETS						
Fixed Assets						
Property (at cost)	10951.00			10951.00		
Extension project work in progress	<u>48424.78</u>			<u>48424.78</u>		
		59375.78			59375.78	
Equipment & Fittings - cost	14281.43			8801.33		
Additions	27029.40			5480.10		
less depreciation	<u>-8118.88</u>			<u>-6015.06</u>		
		<u>33191.95</u>			<u>8266.37</u>	
			92567.73			67642.15
Bar Stock			822.91			616.80
Cash at Bank						
Natwest Current Account		5144.93			12380.55	
Lloyds Bar Account		3353.19			11711.41	
CAF Project Account		11217.33			10034.20	
CAF Gold Account		45.18			50.00	
Cash in hand		<u>706.30</u>			<u>544.09</u>	
			20466.93			34720.25
Creditor			-467.09			-
			<u>113390.48</u>			<u>102979.20</u>
FUNDS						
General						
Balance at 1 July 2023		102979.20			94823.88	
Surplus for the year		<u>10411.28</u>			<u>8155.32</u>	
			113390.48			102979.20
			<u>113390.48</u>			<u>102979.20</u>

R. S. Almquist

R Almquist Treasurer

October 2024

Date

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAVENHAM
PLAYERS (Registered Charity no. 504475)**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Simon Batey MA FCA

3 October 2024

Higher Heyes Farm, Ball Lane, Kingsley, Frodsham, WA6 8HP