REGISTERED NUMBER 07889440

BEAR PIT THEATRE LTD

Registered Charity No. 1156259

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2026

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ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

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BEAR PIT THEATRE LTD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Administrative details

Charity number : 1156259

Company number : 07889440

Registered office :
Barclays Bank Chambers
Bridge Street
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6AH

Independent Examiner :
H E Bowen ACA
Chartered Accountant
H. L. Barnes
Barclays Bank Chambers
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6AH

Bankers :
Lloyds Bank plc
22 Bridge Street
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6AG

Directors and trustees :
The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.

R Granner (resigned 14 October 2025)
S Allen
A Fincham (resigned 9 January 2026)
D Skinner (Chair)
W Mahmood
F Robson (resigned 14 October 2025)
D Derrington
C Dobson
C McDonald (appointed 16 March 2026)
T Eapen (appointed 16 March 2026)
A Smith (appointed 23 March 2026)

Website :
www.thebearpit.org.uk

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance Document

Bear Pit Theatre Ltd is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 21 December 2011 and amended to allow for current governance arrangements on 11 March 2014. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission. There were 8 members at 31 March 2026 each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Appointment of trustees

The company shall have a Board of Directors (trustees) comprising of no less than three directors. Directors shall be elected by and from the Membership at (or prior to) the Annual General Meeting.

If the Directors believe it would benefit the company or the number of Directors is less than the minimum prescribed, the Directors may co-opt other people to serve on the Board of Directors, provided that at no time shall more than one-third of the Directors comprise co-opted people.

Each Director shall serve a term of two years, after which they are eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees undergo an orientation day to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction day they meet other trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

The board of trustees administers the charity. The trustees meet quarterly.

Risk Management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises :

- An annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate these risks identified in the plan; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Objectives and activities/Achievements and performance

In line with the set objectives of the charity, namely : '*To advance public education in the arts and promote knowledge, understanding and appreciation in the arts (in particular visual and performing arts) by providing and managing a theatre and associated facilities in Stratford upon Avon and in the surrounding area for the public benefit'.*

The trustees have continued to run and improve the Bear Pit Theatre space to ensure that it is a usable, affordable, safe and viable performing area for the performers and artists of Stratford upon Avon.

In shaping the objectives for the year and planning activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Objectives and activities/Achievements and performance (continued)

The Theatre

Over the period of the year the theatre management structure has undergone some changes with a new Chair of the Management Team, Jacquie Campbell, taking over at the end of the financial year. The management of the hirers booking has moved under the direction of the Artistic Committee with the support of a hirers coordinator. Many of the key roles have new volunteers in place bringing a new look and new ideas to the running of the Theatre.

The community cinema continues to offer regular screenings of National Theatre Live recordings and a combination of classic and recently released films. The National Theatre Live screening continues to be popular and overall, the community cinema offering is providing an affordable option to members of the local community as well as supporting itself financially.

During the financial year, the theatre staged five productions:

- The June show, And Then There Were None, was the first Agatha Christie play performed at the Bear Pit and sold out and received good reviews.
- The autumn production, The Welkin, was also a success reaching 75% sales.
- The Christmas show of the Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, was one of the most expensive shows produced by the Bear Pit and the first musical production which also sold out.
- In 2026 the first show of the year, The Herbal Bed, based on a true story of Shakespeare's daughter was a success which may have been partly due to the recent release of Hamnet which was recently released in cinemas.
- The final production of the financial year was a double bill of One Act plays, White Liars and Black Comedy, which reached 60% sales.

The theatre continues to host the Stratford One Act Play Festival with many groups performing over a 4-day period offering an opportunity for new writing to be performed. The play writing group continues to meet and discuss new writing whilst the play reading group also meets monthly to consider a variety of plays.

During the year the theatre has also hosted many productions from the local community theatrical groups ensuring a variety of plays for the Stratford Community to enjoy.

The theatre lease was extended in April 2026 to July 2032 after some delays.

Future Plans for 2026/2027

There has been an increase in the number of Trustees bringing a wider knowledge base into the theatre with a view that this year they will support specific aspects of the theatre based on their experience is such areas as:

- Finance
- Business
- Legals
- Safeguarding
- Theatre Operations

A new role of buildings/bar manager (paid) started in May with a view that they will take on the management of the building and the bar with several planned improvements

- New heating in the Bar
- Installation of air conditioning within the auditorium

- Replacement of the auditorium seats
- Reconfiguration and improvement of the technical desk.

This is expected to cause an overall increase in the running costs of the company. To keep the ability to invest in the theatre but remain an affordable option for the community, it is planned to increase ticket prices by only £1 to £16 but keep tickets at £10 for under 25's. The hire cost of the theatre will also increase marginally. Prices have remained the same for the last 3 years and these rises are below the rate of inflation over this period so should not severely impact attendance.

This is planned to keep the theatre affordable but allow the charitable company to make further improvements as necessary to maintain a safe and welcoming theatre space and bar for our audiences.

Financial review

Incoming resources for the year exceeded resources expended by £27,686. In 2025 incoming resources exceeded resources expended by £13,851. Total incoming resources for the year were £132,785 (2025 £110,761) and total resources expended for the year were £105,099 (2025 £96,910).

Investment powers and policy

Under the Articles of Association the charity has the power to invest in any way the trustees wish.

Reserves policy

It is the trustees' intention to maintain sufficient funds at any time to finance the next planned performance.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year 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 accounts 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 accounts, the trustees are required to:

a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
b) make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
c) prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that adequate accounting records are maintained 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 accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and ensuring their proper application in accordance with charity law, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the trustees :

D Skinnner
18 August 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF BEAR PIT THEATRE LTD

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on pages 6 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

H E Bowen ACA
Chartered Accountant
H. L. Barnes
Barclays Bank Chambers
Stratford upon Avon

18 August 2026

BEAR PIT THEATRE LTD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	2026 Unrestricted Funds	2026 Restricted Funds	2026 Total Funds	2025 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations	3	224	-	224	6,719
Income from charitable activities	4	132,561	-	132,561	104,042
Total income		132,785	-	132,785	110,761
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	5	102,704	2,395	105,099	96,910
Total expenditure		102,704	2,395	105,099	96,910
Net income/(expenditure)		30,081	(2,395)	27,686	13,851
Transfers between funds		150	(150)	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		30,231	(2,545)	27,686	13,851
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		47,693	9,721	57,414	43,563
Total funds carried forward		£ 77,924	£ 7,176	£ 85,100	£ 57,414

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these accounts.

BEAR PIT THEATRE LTD

(REGISTERED NUMBER 07889440)

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	10	37,392	34,490
Total Fixed Assets		37,392	34,490
Current Assets			
Stock		1,766	1,615
Debtors and prepayments	11	6,606	14,850
Cash at bank and in hand	12	46,394	14,622
Total Current Assets		54,766	31,087
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	13	(7,058)	(6,163)
Net Current Assets		47,708	24,924
Total assets less current liabilities		85,100	59,414
Long Term Liabilities			
Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan	14	-	(2,000)
Net Assets		£ 85,100	£ 57,414
The funds of the charity			
Unrestricted Funds	15	77,924	47,693
Restricted Funds	15	7,176	9,721
Total charity funds		£ 85,100	£ 57,414

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for :

a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and

b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the company.

BEAR PIT THEATRE LTD

(REGISTERED NUMBER 07889440)

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AT 31 MARCH 2026

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to the members of the company.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 18 August 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

D Skinner ……..

C Dobson ……..

} Trustees

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these accounts.

BEAR PIT THEATRE LTD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Bear Pit Theatre Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee. The company is registered in England under number 07889440 and the address of the registered office is Barclays Bank Chambers, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6AH. The company's place of business is The Bear Pit, Rother Street, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6LU.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice and 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 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Bear Pit Theatre Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

b) Income

Income is derived from performances, theatre hire, donations, collections and fundraising events held during the year and is included in the year in which it becomes receivable.

c) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

d) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Leasehold improvements – over the life of the lease
Fixtures and fittings – 25% reducing balance basis
Computer and other equipment – 25% straight line basis

e) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS

	2026			2025
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations	224	-	224	39
Grants	-	-	-	6,680
	£ 224	£ -	£ 224	£ 6,719

In 2025 £39 was attributable to unrestricted funds and £6,680 was attributable to restricted funds.

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Performance income	64,042	-	64,042	36,962
Theatre hire	19,758	-	19,758	18,490
Cinema	6,410	-	6,410	3,581
Bar	42,339	-	42,339	32,904
Deposit account interest	12	-	12	96
Insurance claim	-	-	-	12,009
(cancelled performance)				
	£ 132,561	£ -	£ 132,561	£ 104,042

In 2025 all income from charitable activities was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Advertising	2,343	-	2,343	3,233
Bar expenses	21,296	-	21,296	15,842
Depreciation	10,175	2,395	12,570	10,209
General expenses	437	-	437	739
Governance costs (see note 6)	12,244	-	12,244	9,091
Heat and light	4,712	-	4,712	5,689
Insurance	2,438	-	2,438	2,586
Performance costs	31,440	-	31,440	24,211
Rent	11,194	-	11,194	13,877
Repairs and renewals	4,843	-	4,843	7,480
Donations	1,582	-	1,582	3,953
	£ 102,704	£ 2,395	£ 105,099	£ 96,910

In 2025 £94,719 of the expenditure was charged to unrestricted funds and £2,191 to restricted funds.

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2026			2025
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Bank and card machine charges	1,845	-	1,845	1,304
Computer expenses	5,136	-	5,136	2,585
General expenses	34	-	34	34
Meeting expenses	172	-	172	241
Professional fees	4,980	-	4,980	4,800
Bank loan interest	77	-	77	127
	£ 12,244	£ -	£ 12,244	£ 9,091

In 2025 all governance costs were charged to unrestricted funds.

7. NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR

	2026	2025
	£	£
This is stated after charging :		
Operating leases	£ 11,194	£ 11,194
Depreciation	£ 12,570	£ 10,209
Independent Examination	£ 4,980	£ 4,800

8. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

The average number of employees during the year was 7 (2025 - 7), all of whom were directors/ trustees. No member of the board of trustees received any emoluments or reimbursed expenses.

9. CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold improvements	Computer and other equipment	Website	Fixtures and fittings	Total
Cost :	£	£	£	£	£
1 April 2025	86,145	11,705	5,760	85,988	189,598
Additions	-	2,324	-	13,148	15,472
Disposals	-	-	(5,760)	-	(5,760)
31 March 2026	86,145	14,029	-	99,136	199,310
Depreciation :					
1 April 2025	71,890	9,561	5,760	67,897	155,108
Charge for the year	2,035	2,725	-	7,810	12,570
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(5,760)	-	(5,760)
31 March 2026	73,925	12,286	-	75,707	161,918
Net book value :					
31 March 2026	£ 12,220	£ 1,743	£ -	£ 23,429	£ 37,392
31 March 2025	£ 14,255	£ 2,144	£ -	£ 18,091	£ 34,490

11. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	2026			2025
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Insurance claim	-	-	-	12,009
Theatre hire	2,684	-	2,684	-
Cinema	896	-	896	751
Prepayments	3,026	-	3,026	2,090
	£ 6,606	£ -	£ 6,606	£ 14,850

12. CASH AT BANK AND ON DEPOSIT

Lloyds current account	44,265	-	44,265	12,506
Lloyds deposit account	1,829	-	1,829	1,816
Cash in hand	300	-	300	300
	£ 46,394	£ -	£ 46,394	£ 14,622

13. CREDITORS : amounts falling due within one year

Accruals	4,616	-	4,616	3,962
Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Other creditors	442	-	442	201
	£ 7,058	£ -	£ 7,058	£ 6,163

14. CREDITORS : amounts falling due after more than one year

	2026			2025
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan	-	-	-	2,000
	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 2,000

15. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

Current year	**Balance 1 April 2025**	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers**	**Balance 31 March 2026**
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	47,693	132,785	102,704	150	77,924
Restricted funds	9,721	-	2,395	(150)	7,176
	£ 57,414	£ 132,785	£ 105,099	£ -	£ 85,100

Previous year	**Balance 1 April 2024**	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers**	**Balance 31 March 2025**
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	38,331	104,081	94,719	-	47,693
Restricted funds	5,232	6,680	2,191	-	9,721
	£ 43,563	£ 110,761	£ 96,910	£ -	£ 57,414

15. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Analysis of movements in restricted funds – current year

	Balance 1 April 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants towards lighting	4,424	-	1,106	-	3,318
Seat sponsorship	413	-	67	(150)	196
Transformation Project: phase 2	2,169	-	543	-	1,626
Theatres Trust Grant	365	-	91	-	274
Community cinema	862	-	216	-	646
Grant towards emergency exit	1,488	-	372	-	1,116
	£ 9,721	£ -	£ 2,395	£ (150)	£ 7,176

Analysis of movements in restricted funds – previous year

	Balance 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Grant towards lighting	112	4,980	668	-	4,424
Seat sponsorship	500	-	87	-	413
Transformation Project: phase 2	2,479	-	310	-	2,169
Theatres Trust Grant	417	-	52	-	365
Community cinema	1,724	-	862	-	862
Grant towards emergency exit	-	1,700	212	-	1,488
	£ 5,232	£ 6,680	£ 2,191	£ -	£ 9,721

The grant towards lighting fund was established in 2014 with a grant from Stratford District Council to purchase lighting. A further grant of £4,980 was received in 2025 from the council to purchase LED stage lighting.

The seat sponsorship fund was established in 2015 to purchase seating.

The transformation project: phase 2 was established in 2016 with grants towards upgrading the backstage area of the theatre.

The Theatres Trust grant fund was established in 2018 with a grant to install loading doors and a cooling system in the auditorium.

The community cinema fund was established in 2022 with a grant received from One Stop Community Partnership to be used towards purchasing a cinema screen. A further grant was received in the year to 31 March 2023 from the Town Trust to purchase cinema equipment.

A grant of £1,700 was received from the Warwickshire County Council in 2025 to enhance accessibility to the theatre's emergency exits.

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	2026 Unrestricted funds	2026 Restricted funds	2026 Total	2025 Unrestricted funds	2025 Restricted funds	2025 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	30,216	7,176	37,392	27,342	7,148	34,490
Stock	1,766	-	1,766	1,615	-	1,615
Debtors	6,606	-	6,606	14,850	-	14,850
Bank	46,394	-	46,394	12,049	2,573	14,622
Creditors	(7,058)	-	(7,058)	(8,163)	-	(8,163)
	£ 77,924	£ 7,176	£ 85,100	£ 47,693	£ 9,721	£ 57,414

17. GUARANTEE

Bear Pit Theatre Ltd is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 and, not having a share capital, is limited by guarantee. The guarantee of each member is limited to a maximum of £1 and is for a maximum period of twelve months after ceasing to be a member. The position at the year end concerning members giving a guarantee was as follows :

		2026	2025
Number of members		8	8
Total members' guarantees	- members	8	8
	- retired members	3	-
		£ 11	£ 8

18. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

There were no related party transactions in the year.

19. OBLIGATIONS UNDER LEASING AGREEMENTS

The following payments are committed under non-cancellable operating leases:

	Total 31 March 2026	Total 31 March 2025
	£	£
Land and Buildings		
Expiring:		
Within 1 year	14,494	3,343
Between 1 and 5 years	4,458	-
	£ 18,952	£ 3,343