Annual Report 2025

Shoreham Wordfest continued with its annual programme of activities throughout 2025, growing its reach within and beyond the immediate area of Shoreham and Adur District.

Celebrating Shakespeare April 25-27

The weekend festival had its most successful programme this year, starting with a terrific one-man performance by Ethan Taylor and ending with Shakespearean actress Harriet Walter in conversation at The Ropetackle Arts Centre.

In between were talks on The Tempest, a song and dance workshop and the traditional Saturday evening Celidh. The free concert in St. Mary de Haura on Saturday morning was exceptionally well received with 200 people in attendance.

Attendance numbers and funds carried forward exceeded all previous Celebrating Shakespeare weekends.

Poetry Posts and PoARTry

The four Poetry Posts around the town centre are filled quarterly with poems and images created by local poets, celebrating local creativity and keeping Shoreham Wordfest in the public eye. The posts are on Shoreham Station Platform 1 and the foyer of the Community Centre which is also the local council headquarters.

In June, Shoreham Wordfest partnered with Adur Art Trail with a PoARTry competition asking people to write a poem inspired by an art exhibit.

Tree Festival June 14

The Wordfest team supported the Sussex-wide Tree Festival symposium organised by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.

Monthly Catalyst Club

Wordfest also supports the monthly spoken word salon hosted by David Bramwell at the Ropetackle Arts Centre.

Annual Autumn Festival 27 September to 12 October

There were many successful events during the 15 day festival, with Michael Rosen, Gyles Brandreth and Tony Robinson being particular highlights. However, there were problems along the way with two headliners dropping out after the brochure had been published. A couple of events did not sell well and had to be cancelled.

Ticket sales were slow and lower than in previous years, due to cost-of-living pressures and an initial decision not to offer concessionary prices.

The team performed efficiently and effectively throughout the festival, always going above and beyond in ensuring the pressured schedule works smoothly. Book sales are organised by a sub-group and sales were strong.

The end of festival review was very helpful in identifying what had gone well and where we could do better in future, including making events more affordable and reducing the length of the festival next year.

Conclusion

It was another busy year for Shoreham Wordfest. The professionalism and willingness of our team of volunteers was called on to support other organisations. The core team of Festival Director, Operations Director and Finance Director, all voluntary positions, keep the organisation sustained throughout the year. The sponsorship fundraising for the festival brochure by the Operations Director is particularly effective and we also gained new commercial sponsorship from Postscript publishing. The Celebrating Shakespeare team organised a very strong programme and the poetry lead continues to keep up the profile of poems around the town. The trustees kept an overview of the charitable activities and the strategic direction of Shoreham Wordfest.

There was a slight loss in the annual budget for the first time this year, due to cancellations in the autumn festival. Most activities covered their own costs and contributed to overheads through ticket income and business sponsorship. While the on-going aim is to raise sufficient income through self-funded activities, ticket income and sponsorship, there are substantial reserves to underpin the festival programmes and to subsidise target areas, such as activities children and young people. subject to them meeting the Trust’s priorities.

Rosalind Turner

Chair of Trustees and Festival Director

20 September 2026

registered charity 1163258

Annual Accounts 2025

Balance B/F 1 Jan 2025	**40,608**
Total Income	53,628
Total Expenditure	55,973
Balance C/F 31 Dec 2025	**38,263**

Represented by

Income

Autumn tickets & Books	40,807	
Brochure Ads	5,244	
Shakespeare	7,544	
Other	33	
Total	**53,628**	

Expenditure

Autumn Artists	23,235
Autumn Expenses	22,202
Shakespeare	5,696
General Overheads	4,840
Total	**55,973**

2024 creditors – Happy Pixel £185

2025 creditors – Friends of Old Shoreham £177

Mathew Dimmock £75

CHARITY COMMISSION

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A — Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name: SHOREHAM WORDFEST

On accounts for the year ended: 31 12 25

Charity no (if any): 1163258

Set out on pages: as attached (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~*):

(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;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: Neville Pressley

Date: 11 SEPT 2026

Name: NEVILLE PRESSLEY

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): F.C.A retired

Address:

9 NORTH ST,
SHOREHAM BY SEA
BN43 5DJ