

TELFORD AND DISTRICT LIGHT OPERATIC PLAYERS

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Charity registration number 701613

Contents	Page(s)
Report of the Trustees	2 - 5
Legal and Administrative Information	6
Report of the Independent Examiner	7
Receipts and Payment Account	8
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	8
Notes to the Accounts	9

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF TEFORD & DISTRICT LIGHT OPERATIC PLAYERS

The Charity Trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025. The financial statements comply with both the Charity's Constitution and the Charities Act 2011.

Objectives and Activities

Our main goals are to educate the public in the dramatic and operatic arts, to provide entertainment to the local community and to inspire theatrical experiences.

Main Purpose

TADLOP was formed in 1972 and has produced 98 shows predominately at Telford Theatre (Formally Oakengates Theatre at The Place). Productions in 2024-2025 took place at Walker Theatre, Shrewsbury. Productions in 2026 have taken place at Centenary Theatre, Wellington, and The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock.

Strategies to achieve our objectives have been

- Increase the use of our society within the community by continuing to produce theatrical entertainment.
- Ensuring we are accessible to all people in our local community both as audience members and as society members.
- Develop and support our membership by diversifying our production programme and to provide opportunity information and guidance to enable members to develop and enhance their skills across all disciplines.
- Establish relationships and develop a network with local organisations and individuals, to enable enrichment to all both involved or observing via the Arts.

Public Benefit

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and have tried to ensure that we provide public benefit, particularly in encouraging new audiences and members of the community to access the arts who may not have had opportunity. We have paid particular heed to the changing political, social and financial landscape of the country when choosing both our productions and how we showcase ourselves.

Contribution made by Volunteers

The charity has many active members and volunteers who support the charity. Ways to contribute include performing and producing our shows, assisting with scenery, props, costume, backstage and Front of House. Our Committee consists of twelve volunteers elected annually by our membership.

We encourage those with all levels of experience to participate in and be inspired by aspects of theatre. We have also benefitted from fundraising led by our members to further our charitable aims

Achievements and Performance

2025 gave us two performances at the Walker Theatre in Shrewsbury, while our usual venue Telford Theatre is undergoing renovations. We produced "Legally Blonde" in the Spring and "Jesus Christ Superstar" in the Autumn.

"Legally Blonde" was directed by Natalie Weller, who transitioned from her previous role as Stage Manager. The Choreographer was Bryonie Wilkes, in her second time filling this role. We sadly lost our initial Musical Director shortly into the process, but we managed to bring Brandon Corfield and Joe Childs onboard to share the duties.

Brandon has been an MD for several productions in Shrewsbury and has performed in several TADLOP productions, while Joe had just joined us to play Clyde in “Bonnie and Clyde” the previous year. Rounding out the team was Alastor Clark, a regular performer with the company, as Assistant Director to learn from the experience. Alastor has since been chosen to direct our 2027 production of “Footloose”.

“Legally Blonde” is a show with many moving parts, with multiple complex sets, costumes and a larger ensemble than we are accustomed to. The Walker Theatre is a smaller space within the larger Theatre Severn, so it was a very tight squeeze to fit the show into the venue, but the patient cast and resourceful crew led by Stage Manager Tim Parkes were able to pull off an impressive spectacle. The story of an underestimated sorority girl turned Harvard law student continues to inspire new audiences, and this show brought a high number of new members to audition.

“Jesus Christ Superstar” is a show with a long history at TADLOP, having been performed by the society to great acclaim in 1994. After three decades, we took this rock opera on again. The show was directed by Rich Kee, with Musical Direction by Charis Virgo and Choreography by Jocelyn Owen-Evans. Jocelyn’s mum had played Mary Magdalene in our 1994 production, so this was a particularly sentimental project for her. The production was staged with a 1960s aesthetic, highlighting the competing political machinations underlying the nascent Christian movement under the Roman Empire.

“Jesus Christ Superstar” was nominated for a NODA Award for Best Musical for West Midlands District 2, which encompasses much of Shropshire. Our NODA reps selected this production for special awards. The first was for Technical Excellence, highlighting the excellent lighting design and clever staging overseen by Stage Manager Natalie Weller.

TADLOP ON TOUR have also been out and about performing at local events, public and private, to showcase TADLOP’s Talents. We produced tie-in fundraiser concerts connected to each main show. “What, Like It’s Hard?” at the Belfrey Theatre highlighted musical theatre by female writers, like “Legally Blonde”. “Superstars” at The Edge Arts Centre featured songs by “Jesus Christ Superstar” composers Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice. These two concerts proved their value, by raising more profits than the small losses made by the main productions.

Unfortunately, while we had seen consistent sales in the 700-800 mark (of an available 1000 approx.) for our four productions at the Walker Theatre, we weren’t seeing the growth we hoped for even when producing very popular musicals. Theatre Severn informed us of a steep price increase for 2026, which we calculated would require a proportionate increase in ticket prices and participation fees as well as limiting our viable show options and making each production an even larger financial gamble than we were already experiencing. As a result, the Committee made the decision to return to Telford and make use of local theatres attached to schools. There are drawbacks, as these theatres usually have smaller staffs, less visible advertising and less commercial prestige, but we made the decision to prioritise accessibility and diversity rather than chasing the increasingly rare prospect of a profitable amateur show in an expensive professional venue. Our members and audiences have been very understanding about this change, and we will continue to do what we can to bring the same performance and technical quality we are accustomed to into smaller stages.

Financial Review

Income

Income for 2025 totals £38,235; an increase of £243 or 0.6% from 2024.

Our main source of income was ticket sales, totalling £28,159.24, with a breakdown by show of:
£13,549.24 for ‘Legally Blonde’
£14,610.00 for ‘Jesus Christ Superstar”

Membership subscriptions were our second biggest income source, totalling £1,970.

TADLOP ON TOUR have contributed £280 in donations from their performances, while other fundraising events raised £392.

Plus, other donations totalling £1,113 through participation in the TWINCL lottery.

Covering/funding costs

Total costs for 2025 totalled £38,432; an increase of £7,745 or 25% from 2024. The prior year expenditure figure is significantly lower due to a large receipt of circa £7k which was received in early 2024 however relates to theatre costs for Jekyll & Hyde, which was performed in 2023, being refunded as they were accidentally paid twice.

Our main expenses are show costs.
'Legally Blonde' cost £11,668.70
'Jesus Christ Superstar' cost £13,492.54

Our governance costs are £3,351. This includes costs such as society insurance, storage costs, NODA subscription, web hosting, software for accounting, and membership data management.

Net Deficit

The net deficit for 2025 is £197.

This small loss is far less than some of the four-figure losses we have experienced historically. We hope that our relatively frugal choices of venue and material hire will help us to mitigate the substantial losses TADLOP has experienced from higher budgets in the past.

Reserves

The charity holds all surplus reserves in short term deposits. The trustees consider that this should be maintained in order to provide sufficient reserves to meet future working capital requirements. The level of funds held is solely determined by the financial performance of the charity.

At the end of 2025, £7,117 was held as cash funds and are considered freely available for the charity. £27,423 was held in reserves.

Given that in a typical year one show could cost between £15,000 and £25,000, it has been deemed appropriate to held reserves between £40,000 and £50,000.

Due to continued challenges faced over the past several years, the society now holds less than what is deemed appropriate.

Investment Policy

There are no specific investment powers granted to trustees within the constitution, nor are there any specific restrictions to investing. The trustees are deemed to have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. The trustees are governed by the Trustee Act 2000 which sets out the general power of investment.

The Principal Risks Facing the Charity

- Ticket sales remaining lower than expected compared to pre-pandemic attendance combined with higher venue charges and production costs.

- Income streams insecure (ticket sales) and reserves need to be held to fund planned production activities.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

We are governed by a constitution, first set in place by committee at the AGM in February 1989. This has been revised and modified over the years. The most recent version was approved at the AGM in June 2015 and is still current. There is a revision currently, with some amendments being approved by membership votes at our 2026 AGM with intent to hold an EGM for members to review the new Constitution revision in 2027.

Organisational Structure

We are an unincorporated charity with a governing committee of up to 13 Volunteers.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The trustees are elected at our annual AGM meeting, which membership are invited to attend. Each year all trustees step down from roles and members can propose/nominate candidates for trustee roles prior to the meeting. Outgoing trustees are allowed to re-run for positions or run for other roles.

Once elected members of the committee become trustees of the charity.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

Once selected, trustees returning and new, are briefed on the legal obligations, charity commission guidelines, the committee function as a whole and the decision-making process. A handover also takes place between any outgoing/incoming members for specific roles. We have multiple policies and procedures in place as a society and our trustees are required to familiarise themselves with these too.

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works

Our charity committee is made up of 11 named roles plus one General Member, all of whom have voting rights. There is also a non-voting role as President who can provide guidance and insight but does not cast a vote.

The committee meet at least once a month to discuss the society's business and make decisions where needed.

TADLOP is a member of the National Operatic Dramatic Association, which is made up of amateur dramatics societies around the country. NODA offers guidance, advice and insurance as well as optional training for its members.

The charity provides Trustee Indemnity Insurance cover for the committee

Declaration

This Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on the 27th September 2026 and was signed on their behalf by

Rich Kee
Chair

George Price
Treasurer

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name:	Telford and District Light Operatic Players
Other name the charity uses:	TADLOP
Charity Status:	Unincorporated
Registered Charity Number:	701613
Principal Address	2 Stokesay Link Sutton Heights Telford Shropshire TF7 4QD

Charity Trustees:

Chair	**Rich Kee (from Jun 2025)** Samantha Lampitt (stepped down Jun 2025)
Vice Chair	**Amy Minshall (from Jun 2025)** Rich Kee (until Jun 2025)
Treasurer	**George Price (from Jun 2024)**
Secretary	**Charis Virgo (appointed Jun 2025)** Amy Minshall (until Jun 2025)
Business Manager	**Aggie Johnstone (appointed Jun 2025)** Phil McIver (stepped down Jun 2025)
Publicity Manager	**Kitty Walken (appointed Jun 2026)** Beth Williams (stepped down Jun 2026) Rebecca Hassall (stepped down Jun 2025)
Marketing Manager	**Katie Kinnon (from Jun 2023)**
General Member	**Danny Clayton (appointed Jun 2026)** Paul Wootton (stepped down Jun 2025) Rob Lampitt (stepped down Jun 2025)
Health and Safety	**Beth Williams (appointed Jun 2026)** Bryonie Wilkes (stepped down Jun 2026) Jack England (stepped down Jun 2025)
Membership Secretary	**Amy Jones (appointed Jun 2025)**
Tickets Secretary	**Emma Batham (appointed Jun 2025)**
Minutes secretary	**Sarah Brown (appointed Jun 2025)**

Independent Examiner:	Bev Richardson M.A.A.T. Charity AID Accountancy Services**,** Woodland Lodge, Dunston Business Village, Stafford Road, Dunston, Staffordshire, ST18 9AB
Bank:	Lloyds Bank, 25 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HN

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

TELFORD AND DISTRICT LIGHT OPERATIC PLAYERS

I report on the financial statements of Telford and District Light Operatic Players for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 10.

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 Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act 2011
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

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 accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Bev Richardson M.A.A.T. Date: 27th September 2026

On Behalf of Charity AID Accountancy Services
Woodland Lodge, Dunston Business Village
Stafford Road, Dunston, Staffordshire, ST18 9AB

Receipts & Payments Account for the period 1st January – 31st December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
RECEIPTS		**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Shows	1	33,843	-	33,843	32,747
Membership	2	1,970	-	1,970	2,130
Fundraising	3	1,785	-	1,785	2,273
Donations	4	637	-	637	842
TOTAL RECEIPTS		**38,235**	**-**	**38,235**	**37,992**

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
PAYMENTS		**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Show Costs	5	35,081	-	35,081	26,836
Governance Costs	6	3,351	-	3,351	3,851
Fundraising Costs	7	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**38,432**	**-**	**38,432**	**30,687**
Net incoming resources		**(197)**	**-**	**(197)**	**7,305**
Transfer between funds		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Cash funds from last year		34,737	-	34,737	27,432
TOTAL CASH FUNDS		**34,540**	**-**	**34,540**	**34,737**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2025

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
CASH FUNDS			
Lloyds - Treasurer	7,117	-	7,117
Lloyds - Instant Access	25,943	-	25,943
PayPal Account	375	-	375
Equals Money	550	-	550
Cash Float	555	-	555
Total Cash Funds	**34,540**	**-**	**34,540**
Other Monetary Assets	-	-	-
Investment Assets	-	-	-
Assets Retained for Charity's Own Use	-	-	-
LIABILITIES			
FRA Good Limited (QuickBooks)	23	-	23

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 27th September 2026 and were signed on their behalf by

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Rich Kee, Chair **George Price, Treasurer**

Notes to the Accounts

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
1	**Shows**				
	The Hunchback of Notre Dame 2022	-	-	-	180
	Jekyll & Hyde 2023	-	-	-	25
	Our House 2024	-	-	-	16,252
	Bonnie & Clyde 2024	-	-	-	15,787
	Legally Blonde 2025	16,059	-	16,059	503
	Jesus Christ Superstar 2025	17,409	-	17,409	-
	Twisted 2026	375	-	375	-
		33,843	**-**	**33,843**	**32,747**
2	**Membership**				
	Membership	1,970	-	1,970	2,130
		1,970	**-**	**1,970**	**2,130**
3	**Fundraising**				
	PayPal, Amazon, Easy Fundraising	393	-	393	529
	TADLOP on Tour	280	-	280	490
	TWINCL (T&W Community Lottery)	1,113	-	1,113	1,254
		1,785	**-**	**1,785**	**2,273**
4	**Donations**				
	Grants	-	-	-	-
	Other	142	-	142	610
	Interest Income	495	-	495	232
		637	**-**	**637**	**842**
5	**Show Costs**				
	Jekyll & Hyde 2023	-	-	-	-7,167
	Our House 2024	-	-	-	17,553
	Bonnie & Clyde 2024	-	-	-	15,902
	Legally Blonde 2025	16,356	-	16,356	38
	Jesus Christ Superstar 2025	17,755	-	17,755	510
	Twisted 2026	970	-	970	-
		35,081	**-**	**35,081**	**26,836**
6	**Governance Costs**				
	Professional Fees	375	-	375	725
	Committee Expenses	671	-	671	273
	Society Insurance	399	-	399	399
	NODA Subscription	218	-	218	199
	Website & IT	-	-	-	430
	QuickBooks Online	248	-	248	265
	Storage	1,440	-	1,440	1,560
		3,351	**-**	**3,351**	**3,851**
	Fundraising Costs				
7	TADLOP on Tour	-	-	-	-
	Fundraising - other	-	-	-	-
		-	**-**	**-**	**-**