

# lighthouse

Arts & Entertainment | Poole

## Annual Impact Report

April 2023 – March 2024



| Different every day





Noel Gallagher (Photo By Rock Star Images)



**542**

Events

**1,021**

Performances

**522**

Screenings

**10**

Exhibitions

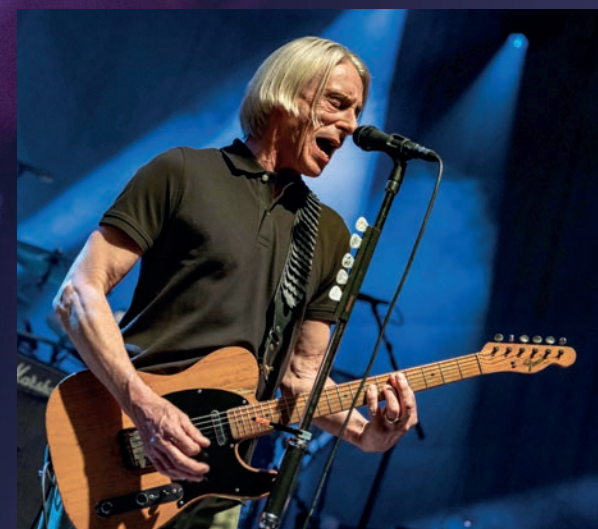
(2022/23: 569 Productions,  
1,052 Performances,  
541 Screenings,  
13 Exhibitions)



**12%**

Increase in tickets sold  
compared to last year

(181,373 in 2023/4: 161,394 in 2022/23)



Paul Weller (Photo by Rock Star Images)

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# From the Chair

At the end of my second full year as Chair I am delighted that Lighthouse continues to go from strength to strength and finishes the year again on a very positive note.

I believe the strength and richness of our programme across all The Arts is a phenomenal asset to the BCP area and to all ages and stages of its population. The team at Lighthouse has worked incredibly hard in this financially constrained and competitive environment to bring our audiences an exciting and varied programme of art, artists and entertainment that any venue in Britain would be proud of.

For example, we have expanded the music programme to bring back some of the big name concerts that Lighthouse has been famous for in the past. It is so striking to attend a wonderful BSO concert one evening then see the facility transform within 24 hours to host a standing concert with Noel Gallagher or a complex multi-level drama set like The Full Monty or a pin-drop production of Twelve Angry Men.

The Studio Jazz programme also continues to bring world class artists to the Sherling Studio and now has a loyal and regular fan base. I was lucky enough to see my own favourite performer Fergus McCreadie in this incredibly intimate venue this year.

As a Board we continue to focus on the sustainability of this wonderful facility and all who sail in her, both in terms of building and organisational viability. To that end we are in the process of setting up a group of Development Ambassadors who will support our long-term plans to ensure the building remains state of the art, energy efficient and sustainable into the future. We also continue to scrutinise the culture of the organisation and the progress being made on our Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) initiatives.

Mostly what strikes me about Lighthouse is the warmth and enthusiasm of our audiences for whom Lighthouse is a familiar, relaxed and welcoming place to come with family and friends. This connection with our community, brought to vivid life in wonderful events like SALT, is perhaps the most fundamental pillar of our sustainability into the future.

Finally, I'd like to thank my excellent Board of Trustees and, of course, the hard working and talented team at Lighthouse led by Elspeth McBain.

**MT (Mary Teresa) Rainey OBE**  
Chair of Trustees



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**MT (Mary Teresa) Rainey OBE – Chair**

**Monika Barnes – Deputy Chair**

**Donald Nordberg – Trustee**

**David Hoare – Trustee**

**Jane Webster – Trustee**

**Caroline Gitsham – Trustee**

**Channa Vithana – Trustee**

**Alison Gannagé-Stewart – Trustee**

**Tony Johnson – Trustee**

# Introduction from Our CEO

I am delighted to report on a year that has been rewarding, challenging and ultimately successful. The beginning of the year saw audiences steadily if a little cautiously respond to our programme, but by autumn they were flooding back to the high-profile drama, celebrity performers and renowned visual artists we presented.

Some of the many highlights included the brilliant musical SIX, which played a two-week run and sold out every single seat. Lighthouse co-commissioned a new production of The Three Little Pigs, alongside Plymouth Theatre Royal with support from the National Theatre, by the fantastic Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company. Our in-house pantomime Aladdin broke previous records with 2,000 more seats sold than the previous year. We are super proud that Ben Armstrong who played Aladdin was awarded Best Newcomer at the national Pantomime Awards.

We have had a renewed focus on presenting original music artists with Jake Bugg delivering the first standing gig in our Concert Hall since 2018, followed by incredible gigs from Noel Gallagher and Paul Weller.

As part of our commitment to artist development, our Sanctuary programme provided space and bursary support for artists to develop their practice. Our hugely ambitious play, SALT, directed by associate artists Angel Exit Theatre, and produced by Lighthouse, saw over 150 people coming together over many months as actors, costume makers, singers and backstage support in what was a transformative project for many.

Lighthouse is also a venue for non-artistic events, and I am delighted we not only retained the Best Business Events Venue title at the South West Tourism Awards 2024, but also won the Best Place to Work Award at the East Dorset Business Awards.

Lighthouse continues to receive public funding as an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) and from BCP Council. In challenging financial times for local authorities, we are especially thankful for their continued support and endorsement of our work.

Support from individual donors and sponsors has given us much needed funds for our learning and education work, as well as continued updates to our building and equipment. Our annual Christmas Appeal once again exhibited the generosity of our community with funds enabling thousands of young people and local families to access performances and participate in the arts.

Our Chair, MT Rainey OBE, continues to lead and develop a Board of amazing trustees who offer their expertise and time voluntarily and we are hugely appreciative of all that they do for us.



There have been challenges too, and we have overcome many external impacts to our business model. We have recovered well post-Covid and worked hard to regain audiences and entice producers to bring shows, as well as to retain and increase earned income, such as ticket sales, room hire, food and beverage sales. However, high inflation has caused rising costs especially in terms of energy, salaries and food prices.

The cost-of-living crisis has reduced opportunities to raise income from customers, but our customers have remained loyal and continue to support us wonderfully. As a free, warm and inclusive space that is open to everyone, our arts centre plays a critical role in community cohesion, health and wellbeing.

Providing this is a team effort and Team Lighthouse has worked hard with skill, humour, and enthusiasm resulting in a strong financial, artistic and community engagement outcome for the year for which I am truly grateful.

We saw a number of changes to the senior management team having said goodbye to Sara St George, Head of Marketing and Sales, and Tim Colegate, Head of Programming. They have both played a hugely important part in our continuing success. We welcome to the team Katy Griffiths, Head of Programming, John Baker, Head of Audiences and Communications and Sue Lloyd who is our first Head of Development.

Thank you to every one of our Lighthouse family, friends, audiences, partners, donors and funders.

**Elspeth McBain**  
Chief Executive



# About Us

## VISION

As a nationally significant, regionally important, locally loved multi-arts venue, Lighthouse is one of Dorset’s cultural gems. At the heart of the community it serves, it is a dynamic, vibrant place where people feel inspired, entertained and welcomed; and where artists and performers feel supported and empowered to do their best work.

## MISSION

Lighthouse exists to provide the people of Poole and the wider region with a vibrant, diverse and relevant cultural programme of live performances, film, engagement and participation. We aim to entertain, move, surprise and challenge our audiences through an ever-changing programme that encompasses the popular and familiar as well as the eclectic and innovative, reflecting and respecting the breadth of their interests and their trust in us.

### Supporting Artists

Lighthouse is here to enable and encourage established, emerging and experimental artists to create, rehearse and perform their work, using our world class facility to inspire and delight those who encounter it and support the national arts ecology.

### Supporting Culture

As an active and collaborative partner with other creative organisations, Lighthouse supports local strategy to establish the region as a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

### Supporting our Community

We are also dedicated to maintaining our iconic venue to create a bright, safe and environmentally responsible facility, with a range of attractive amenities, activities and cultural opportunities the community can be proud of.

## OUR VALUES

### Aspirational

We are up for it! We believe passionately in the power and value of Lighthouse. We believe that bold, audacious arts can enrich and inspire the lives of our community through shared cultural experiences. We strive to improve and develop in everything we do and lead innovative ways of working.

### Welcoming

We welcome our staff, volunteers, artists, audiences, partners, and our community into our work. We are friendly, inclusive and work together effectively and safely, ensuring that teamwork is at the heart of everything we do.

### Excellence

Everything we do is of the absolute highest quality. We strive to achieve excellence in every aspect of our work and how we deliver it.



# Our Audiences

Lighthouse continues to buck the trend experienced by other venues and we have seen our audiences return to the same level as 2019/20, with a 12% increase in audiences against the previous year.

Our programme is designed to appeal to a diverse audience that has always been both urban-based and rural and we work to ensure everyone from our immediate and surrounding communities can enjoy what we do. Around 40 per cent of our visitors are from Poole, with the remaining 60 per cent travelling to Lighthouse from across the South Coast and wider South West region, bringing many thousands of visitors into our town to the benefit of the local economy.

The central desire is to be a genuinely inclusive venue at the service of the entire community as we strive to ensure everyone has access to the unique and vibrant experiences on offer at Lighthouse. Nearly a quarter of our visitors benefitted from subsidised or discounted tickets throughout the last year and our average ticket price was just £21.85.

With such a broad range of events, genres and spaces, our on-going challenge is to grow existing audiences, who are strong, loyal, repeat attenders, while finding new audiences to delight who decide to keep coming back.



Love coming to the Lighthouse for shows – always a great evening out. Good value for money too.

Vicky Chiverton, Google Reviews



181,373

Tickets sold  
(2022/23: 161,394)

29%

of our tickets were  
sold to new bookers



1,589,776

Website visits

956,158

Website users



24,000

Facebook followers

13,300

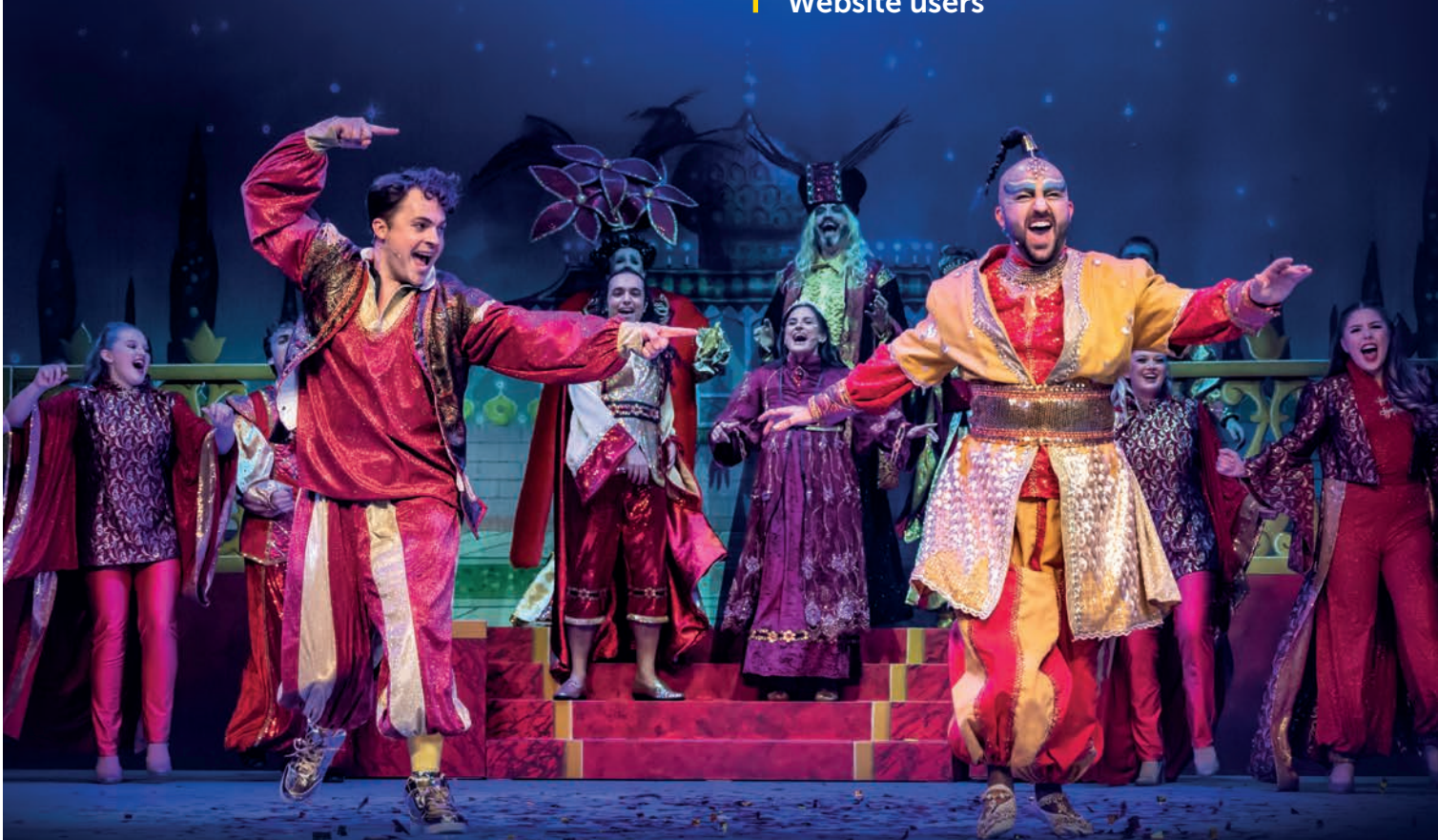
Twitter/X followers

6,282

Instagram followers

3,867

TikTok followers/likes



Aladdin (Photo by Jayne Jackson)





One of the best theatres outside of London, if not the best. Always something for everyone. (The) staff are brilliant.

Carl Westwood, Google Reviews



SIX (Photo by Pamela Raith)

## Delivering a Great Arts Programme

The walls of Lighthouse have soaked up applause for nearly 50 years, but some of the biggest cheers they've heard have come during the last 12 months as audiences close in on pre-pandemic levels.

Of the work we present 80% is received, but at least 20% is self-produced or enabled by Lighthouse, where we have greater ownership and support work from exciting non-mainstream companies, and develop opportunities for new talent with real ambition who are waiting to be discovered.

Those potential performers of tomorrow could draw plenty of inspiration from our glittering programme. In the Theatre we enjoyed an unprecedented run of high-quality touring productions including Twelve Angry Men starring Michael Greco and Gary Webster, The Mousetrap with Todd Carty, the welcome return of our old friend Matthew Kelly in Noises Off, Jake Quickenden sending pulses racing in The Full Monty, the boundary-pushing Ockham's Razor adaptation of Hardy's Tess, and a genuinely chilling production of The Woman in Black.

Theatre Re's joyous, life-affirming production The Nature of Forgetting provided a profoundly powerful insight into what's left when memory is eroded by dementia.

And then there was SIX, which sold out a two-week run to make it the most successful touring show in Lighthouse history – a landmark that was amplified by the rapturous responses from the stalls.

The Concert Hall roared with renewed vigour this year as well. After Jake Bugg returned standing gigs to our Concert Hall for the first time in five years, it went on to host shows by two stonewall rock legends in Noel Gallagher (who sold out in just three minutes, another record!) and Paul Weller, who only took about 30 minutes to sell out.

At Christmas, not only did our in-house production of Aladdin set a new sales record, but it earned a richly deserved Best Newcomer title for Benjamin Armstrong in the title role at the national Pantomime Awards. And our youngest audiences squealed with delight at the utterly charming production of The Three Little Pigs in the Sherling Studio.



Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap - 70th Anniversary Tour



Tess by Ockham's Razor (Photo by Kie Cummings)

The literally awesome talent on daring display in Waldo's Circus of Magic & Terror again showed the depth of creativity and vision in the brilliant Extraordinary Bodies collaboration between Cirque Bijou and Diverse City with D/eaf, disabled and non-disabled artists.

The national treasures that are Miriam Margolyes and Grayson Perry both appeared in solo shows in the Concert Hall, that was memorably transformed for the promenading performance of SALT, our intrepid community play.

In our Main Gallery, the revitalised programme of visual arts exhibitions continues to charm visitors, but none more so than Quentin Blake: Illustrating Verse, the first exhibition of his illustrations for poetry. Lighthouse was one of just four UK venues to host this special show, a treat that was enjoyed by the young participants in the workshop sessions it inspired.

As it has been since the building opened in 1978, our most significant partner is Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. This year, Lighthouse has continued to support its adoption of streaming technology and has been the venue for 104 rehearsals, as well as hosting the Orchestra's full programme of 35 orchestral concerts – its last season under its popular and charismatic Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits.



## Developing Creative People: Artists & Companies

Launched in 2020 in response to the challenges faced by artists during the Covid pandemic, the Sanctuary artist residency is an established feature of summer at Lighthouse when the Sherling Studio and Function Rooms are made available as artistic development spaces.

This year we supported 25 artists and companies in residency, including bursaries to cover travel, accommodation and living expenses, working on projects as diverse as Ticking Along, in which Rox Kilty and Will Dowland explore living with Tourette Syndrome; The Gaps They Leave, OffPiste Theatre's examination of absent fatherhood; Rose, a story about a young woman adapting to sight loss by Kitty Waldron and Christine Diment; Drag 'n' Drop, Ri Baroque's drag-musical-comedy journey into gender, climate change and quantum physics; With Courage, PlayWell Productions' musical created to mark the 200th anniversary of the RNLI; Brazilian-born film and theatre-maker Joel Bernardes charming puppet show inspired by The Little Prince; and acclaimed audiovisual artist Jasmine Kahlia.

For emerging writers, the new Pipeline partnership with Dorset Scriptwriters has been a great success. It showcases new writing to a live audience with the aim of empowering writers by giving them a platform to see and hear their work before it goes into production. Actors present rehearsed script-in-hand performances of curated works in front of an audience that is invited to pay what they can to contribute to covering actors' expenses.

Similarly, regular sessions with the groups that share our building, from Bournemouth Symphony Chorus and Youth Chorus to Poole Leisure Painters, support the development of performers and visual artists of all ages.



We worked with  
**100**  
artists as part of  
the Sanctuary  
programme



**43%**  
of Sanctuary  
artists were from  
the Dorset region



Sanctuary offers a space for work to be made, seen and grow. I feel lucky to have met Lighthouse at this stage in my career.

Archie Rowell, Artistic Director of OffPiste Theatre



Offpiste Theatre's The Gaps They Leave (Photo by Elliot Millson)



Working with the Lighthouse team was an incredible experience. The support helped me to take my regional work seriously and really develop a body of work that subsequently got commissioned.

Jasmine Kahlia, Sanctuary Artist



Jasmine Kahlia





The Young Technicians course made me really passionate about wanting to pursue a career in Sound, as I realised that is what I love doing.

Joli Stockley, Young Technicians Trainee



Joli Stockley, Young Technicians Trainee

# Developing Creative People: Young People

Launched last year, Lighthouse Academy is a vibrant hub for creativity offering young people opportunities to engage with a wide range of art forms presented at Lighthouse, while sharing and nurturing cultural skills and careers.

Alongside a rolling programme of visiting artists, workshops and pre and post-show talks, we continue to develop and produce courses to support young people into creative careers, not necessarily on stage.

Young Writers offers free creative writing workshops for young people aged 7 to 18 in a safe, supportive environment, where they can share work and give and receive feedback in a respectful way.

Young Technicians is a structured 12-week course offering a direct career pathway into the technical team at Lighthouse in which young people aged 13 to 19 are mentored in technical expertise. In addition to these courses, our first Young Producers were recruited in March to work on Poole Pride; and planning continues for an aspirational course for Young Performers as well as the Young Board.

We have continued to support paid internships in the Marketing team and are always delighted when we see interns go on to build on their training with us or find employment elsewhere in the sector.

Lighthouse is also home to Dorset School of Acting, which offers vocational training and performing arts courses, and Stagewise performing arts school.



We provided  
**3,738**  
discounted tickets for  
school children



We provided  
**540**  
creative sessions for  
**3,731**  
young people (aged up to 19yrs)  
as part of our Creative  
Engagement Programme

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS

We have continued to develop our Partner Schools programme, working with 29 schools across the region to bring participation and education opportunities to local young people.

- Avonbourne Academy
- Bourne Academy
- Bournemouth Collegiate School
- Bryanston School
- Cambian Wing College
- Cornerstone Academy
- Downlands Community School
- Ferndown Middle School
- Glenmoor and Winton Academies
- Hamworthy Primary Schools
- LeAF Academy
- Livability Millie College
- Livingstone Academy
- Longfleet Primary School
- Longspee Academy
- Lytchett Minster School
- Manorside Academy
- Montacute School
- Oakdale Junior School
- Parkstone Grammar School
- Poole Grammar School
- Poole High School
- Queen Elizabeth's School
- Sherborne School
- St Aldhelm's Academy
- The Quay School
- Wimborne St Giles C of E First School
- Winchelsea School
- Yarrells School



My hope is that our young people feel welcome within the arts. Our partnership with Lighthouse is hugely valuable for our pupils and the wider school community.

Natasha Skinner, Teacher, Winchelsea School, Poole





The connections I made, the confidence I gained, and the sense of community pride reshaped my life in ways I could have never anticipated. I finally found a sense of belonging that had been missing from my life.

Josh Ward, member of the SALT company



SALT (Photo by Jayne Jackson)

## Connecting with Our Community

Lighthouse is proud to provide a wide range of opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds across our community. Whether watching inspiring, entertaining and thought-provoking performances, or participating in high quality cultural activities, our audiences are engaged, curious and eager to get closer to the artists, the creation process and the ideas we present.

It's our aim that Lighthouse is the creative hub of our community, ensuring the BCP region is culturally vibrant, and that residents, visitors and those who work here can access quality arts and culture within their neighbourhood.

Last summer we worked closely with our associate artists Angel Exit Theatre to produce SALT: A Community Play for Poole, that reached as deep into the diverse communities of contemporary Poole as it did into the trading history of our town. More than 150 local people took part supported by many partners, sponsors and funders, to stage five performances in our Concert Hall, with additional pop-up performances in Poole town centre.

Working with local partners, Sadlers Wells' Breakin' Convention festival of hip hop dance theatre opened its national tour at Lighthouse, taking over the building inside and out in a celebration not only of its own 20th anniversary, but of 50 years of hip hop culture.

NT Connections, the National Theatre's annual nationwide youth theatre festival, showcased its programme at Lighthouse, with more than 120 young people performing on our stages, including groups from Westfield Arts College, Weymouth; Dorset School of Acting; Pure Drama; Love Theatre, Jersey; Black Cherry Youth Theatre; High Definition Drama; Swanage School; Colfox Academy, Bridport; QE School, Wimborne; and Poole High School.

Once again, our resident artists, Bournemouth Symphony Chorus, welcomed singers from across the region to its annual Big Sing workshop and performance, led by its inspirational director Gavin Carr.

Lighthouse is actively expanding its outreach programme as part of our commitment to respond to the needs of our community, extend the activities we offer, and develop new connections and collaborations with communities that we have yet to form a link with.



Breakin' Convention (Photo by Richard Budd)





...accessible performances are brilliant and mean that people who are disabled can comfortably watch a show without having to make any adjustments themselves.

Lily Felstead (Diverse Abilities – a Dorset-based charity)

## Access & Our Staff

### ACCESS

Lighthouse is actively confronting the inequalities that exist in the arts, particularly around race and disability, and continues to build decisively on its strategic plan for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging (EDIB).

Lighthouse is continuing a programme of audio described and captioned performances as well as touch tours, with BSL interpreted performances of our family pantomime Aladdin.

Including pantomime and orchestral performances, we offer relaxed performances where the environment has been specifically adapted for families with children with an Autistic Spectrum Condition, individuals with sensory and communication disorders, those with learning disabilities and anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed environment.

Waldo's Circus of Magic & Terror, a large-scale collaboration between D/deaf, disabled, and non-disabled artists and creators, enjoyed a packed house in our Theatre in May as a chilled performance, that was British Sign Language (BSL) interpreted, captioned and audio described.

A grant of £5,000 from the Theatres Trust Small Grants Programme supported by The Linbury Trust saw two new automatic doors installed backstage at stage level and sub-stage to enable wheelchair users to access the Theatre stage and orchestra pit without assistance.

Thanks to a generous donation from NFU Mutual and an individual donor, the future of Dementia-Friendly film screenings at Lighthouse has been ensured for the next two years, enabling us to provide a safe and comfortable environment tailored to the unique needs of individuals with dementia.

We have used technology to improve the experience for customers booking tickets for accessible performances.

Customers are encouraged to sign up to an online Lighthouse account where those with additional needs can record their requirements so that they are subsequently shown available appropriate seats when booking online. So far, more than 2,100 customers have signed up for this service, an increase of 250% over the last year.



Over

**2,100**

audience members have joined our accessible tickets scheme, a 250% increase on last year, due to increased promotion

(2022/23: 600 members)



We issued

**2,726**

free companion seats for disabled patrons, a 57% increase on last year

(2022/23: 1,731)

### OUR STAFF

Lighthouse is proud to have retained Investors In People accreditation and, in line with our core values, our staff continue to receive training and mentoring to ensure the customer experience we offer is second-to-none.

Ensuring we have a healthy workforce has become a major-priority post pandemic and Togetherness, the staff wellness programme introduced in June 2021, has gone from strength to strength. Our first two Mental Health First aiders were appointed in November 2021 and we now have three first-aiders who are providing an invaluable role throughout the organisation.



# Maintaining a World Class Facility

Our iconic, award-winning\* building is recognised as a local landmark and an invaluable facility for the Poole community and the wider region.

While the building remains the focus of our activity, the future is an increasingly digital landscape and, as we plan, we must consider what it means to operate a geographically rooted venue in a digital environment while pursuing a 10-year plan for true environmental sustainability.

Since the 2015-17 capital project we have seen significant gains in energy performance. The building is using 80% less than the industry benchmark† for thermal energy performance and 68% less than the benchmark for electrical energy performance.

The annual summer maintenance programme is more complex each year, partly due to the increasing age of the building, but also to the need to achieve the highest levels of audience experience. In addition to

the ongoing refresh of technical equipment in each performance space, looking forward this will result in the installation of a new purpose-built bar on the top floor together with a cutting edge digital till system to reduce service speeds and introduce a fully joined-up retail offer to audiences.

In the further interests of audience comfort, as well as for environmental reasons, we are also replacing old toilet cisterns with a fast-flush alternative. It is estimated that, once complete, this programme will save 234 cubic metres of water a year – roughly the equivalent of the annual domestic water use for a six-person household‡.

\* South West Community Building Category, 2018 Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) awards.

† Set by Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)

‡ The Consumer Council for Water



Lighthouse (Photo by Richard Budd)

# Towards Net Zero

The global environmental situation is of urgent concern and significance to the artistic community.

Conscious of our responsibility to play our part in addressing this, we are working with an external consultant to set out specific plans that will push Lighthouse towards net zero by 2030.

This process will report in January 2025 and we are expecting this to produce a full, costed framework and a tangible starting point for how the organisation may then proceed. Every aspect of our energy, infrastructure and insulation is being considered and innovative solutions are expected to meet the mounting challenges.

In the meantime, we have been continuing our process of LED replacement.

This will be completed in the 2024-25 financial year with a greater emphasis on stage lighting, but changes already made indicate significant savings. The first stage of this work has shown a 93% energy saving against previous traditional fittings, an annual reduction of 8,952kg of carbon dioxide emissions.

In the current phase we anticipate a reduction of 23,541kg of carbon dioxide a year – equivalent to the amount absorbed by 2,354 trees\* in a year.

\* onetreeplanted.org



Control panel at Lighthouse (Photo by Richard Budd)



# Supporting the Cultural Strategy of the Region

Lighthouse continues to forge partnerships with a range of national and regional cultural organisations and artists to help realise artistic projects.

In doing so we drive economic activity worth millions of pounds, promoting the town and its facilities and enhancing the region's reputation as a beautiful place to live, work and visit.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Activate

Arts University Bournemouth  
Arts Council England  
Arts Development Company  
BCP Council  
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra  
Bournemouth Symphony Chorus  
Inside Out Festival  
Pavilion Dance South West  
Poole BID  
Soundstorm  
Wave Arts Education Agency

## NETWORKS

We work with many national and regional partners and are grateful to them for ensuring that we deliver strong art and culture in our region.

Arts Marketing Association  
British Association of Concert Halls  
Cultural Compact (BCP)  
Dance Along the South Coast  
Dorset Theatre Promoters' Consortium  
Future Arts Centres  
Music Beyond Mainstream  
Regional Touring Network  
What Next? Dorset



Money, Money, Money – How Do We Fund Work and Make a Living? a one-day special conference to discuss arts financing. (Photo by Richard Budd)

# Fundraising & Development

Our work is supported through the generosity of our funders, donors, corporate partners and Friends members.

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Funded by donations from our amazing audiences, the Christmas Appeal gives disadvantaged audiences the opportunity to share in the life-enhancing experience of live theatre.

As a result of the appeal, 2,238 tickets for a range of different shows were given to charities, schools and community groups across the region.

## FRIENDS

Over 500 Friends supported the theatre through their memberships and gained access to priority booking, exclusive discounts and special events.

Membership of our Friends scheme grew across all the different membership levels and some members were so inspired by the work we do that they also became donors.

## CORPORATE RELATIONSHIPS

Our relationships with local and regional business grew, generating income from corporate memberships, sponsorships, events and bespoke partnerships.

In return, they received a host of benefits to build their brand, engage with our audiences and entertain their clients.

Businesses with whom we worked included Ocean Automotive, NFU Mutual, Breeze Motor Group, Trethowans, Forelle Estates and Breathe HR.



**I will be honest, I got emotional. To see so many people enjoying a few hours away from their norm, I really can't describe how I feel.**

Andy Walker, Time Out, a Dorset-based SEND parent and carer support group (a charity that received theatre tickets from our Christmas Appeal)



Aladdin (Photo by Jayne Jackson)



# The Money

Financially, this was the year Lighthouse was finally able to view itself as truly post-pandemic.

While the cost-of-living crisis and the ongoing ramifications of the war in Ukraine continued to buffet the organisation, the latter half of the year was particularly successful, and our programme went from strength to strength.

Audiences are increasingly eager to experience live, one-of-a-kind, shared events that makes Lighthouse so treasured, and attendance returned once more to a point comparable with pre-pandemic levels.

We have continued to invest in our organisation to ensure that we sustain Lighthouse as a venue fit for the future. This investment has been focused on improving the overall visitor experience, most notably in the Beacon Cafe and bars.

Significant work is ongoing to build our Creative Engagement programme and SALT: A Community Play for Poole was an obvious highlight.

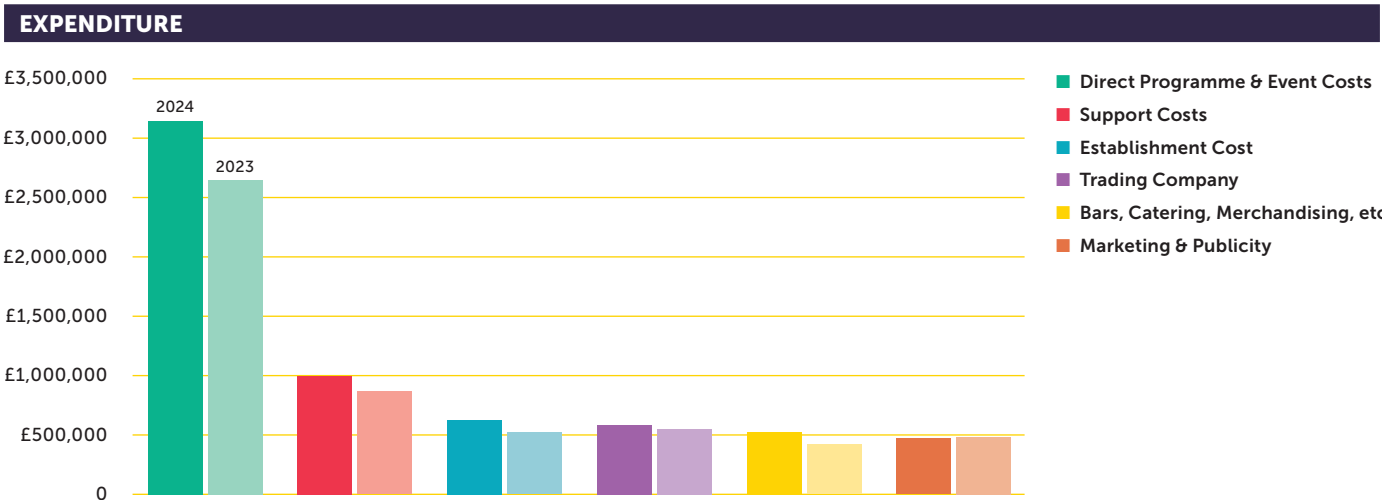
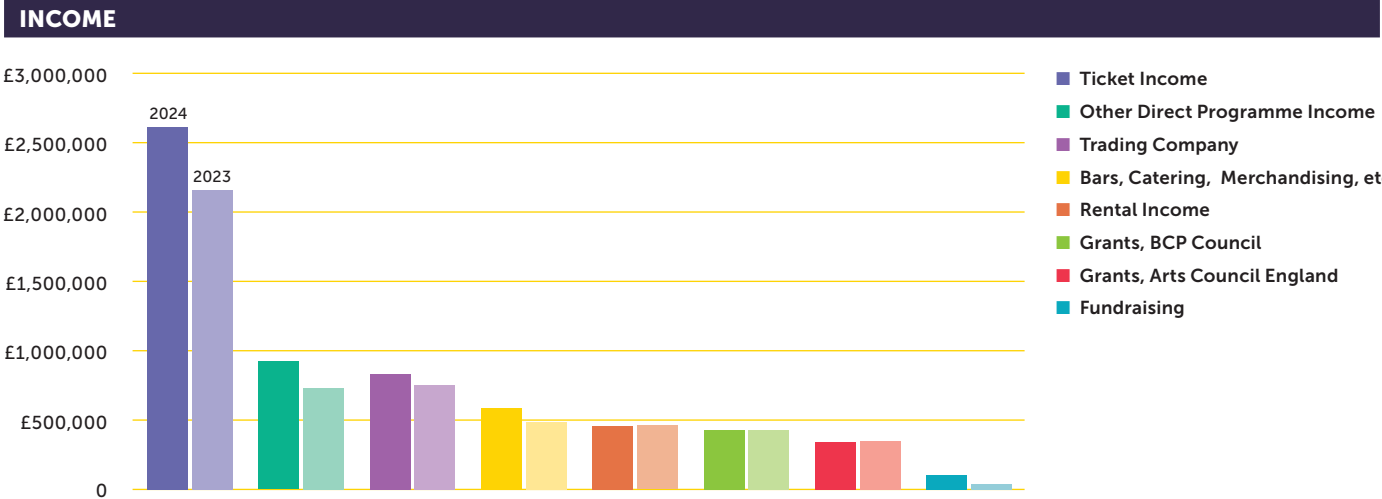
Diversity and Environmental Sustainability remain key challenges for the coming year, and we are pleased to have sealed a new contract to safeguard the cost of our electricity supply for the next two years.

Lighthouse remains a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) of Arts Council England for the periods 2023-2027 and we are grateful for their support and endorsement.

We remain a key asset to our other major funder BCP Council, whose support enables us our building to be maintained and our community programme to flourish.

**Pete Wilson**  
Head Of Finance

FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
	2024	2023	2022
Earned Income	£4,610,879	£3,849,858	£2,918,287
Ticket Sales	£2,613,790	£2,161,136	£1,671,990
Secondary Income	£592,298	£489,510	£346,708
Grants	£784,510	£794,155	£2,034,410
Donations / Fundraising	£107,950	£41,516	£117,684
Total Unrestricted Expenditure	£6,245,341	£5,455,458	£4,276,492
Unrestricted Surplus / (Deficit)	£36,971	(£19,125)	£182,568
No. Tickets Sold	181,373	161,394	110,181



# Thanks

Lighthouse is a major community asset, a cultural jewel in the BCP region and intrinsic to the development of artists, both current and those yet to start their creative journey. We want to thank all the trusts, foundations, companies and individuals who have supported Lighthouse with donations, grants and gifts.

## FUNDERS

We are extremely grateful for the funding and continuing support of our major stakeholders.

- Arts Council England
- BCP Council

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

- Arts University Bournemouth
- Breeze Motor Group
- Breathe HR
- Clipper Teas
- HSBC UK
- NFU Mutual
- Ocean Automotive
- Poole Audi
- Poole BID
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And thank you to our donors who wish to remain anonymous.

## OUR COMMUNITY

Thanks to all the people within our community who have ensured that Lighthouse continues to thrive and serve our region's cultural strategy.

Particularly:

- Our Lighthouse staff team, for their work, warmth, humour and positivity.
- Our Trustees, who give their expertise and guidance freely.
- Our volunteers, who ensure that our audiences are welcomed.
- Our artists, whose work is our reason for being and makes our programme so vibrant and diverse.
- Our audiences, whose love of and support for culture is what drives our ambitions.
- Our funders, without whose financial support Lighthouse simply would not exist.
- Our suppliers, who keep our bars and café stocked, our equipment maintained and our building safe and inviting.
- Our clients, who hire our spaces and provide amazing cultural and business opportunities for our community.
- Our corporate sponsors, who support our work and value our contribution to the region.



# | Annual Impact Report



Starchitects by Motionhouse (Photo by Dan Tucker)

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