**Lover Community Trust**

**Treasurer’s report 2024**

If I were to be asked to summarise in a few words our financial position at the end of 2024 my response would be “we’re in good shape”.

Don’t be put off by the fact that expenditure appears to have exceeded income by about £12 000. There is a straightforward explanation for this: in 2024 we finished off building work that had started in earlier years, using funds from grants raised and fundraising in earlier years, and we didn’t start any major new projects or apply for any new grants.

Of course, we cannot rest on our laurels. Just to ‘keep the lights on’ and meet the basic costs of running and insuring the building costs around £6000 a year, and there is not much scope to reduce this. We spend another £1800 or so maintaining Lover Green. Although our regular income, excluding fundraising and grants, continues to cover these day-to-day running cost, we are vulnerable to any drop in income. This is particularly important since currently 90 per cent of our income from hall hire comes from just two regular users and if we were to lose either of these we would be reliant on fundraising to make up the shortfall.

This is where you, our members, come in. There is scope to use the building more than it is used currently. It would be particularly helpful to have more users with regular bookings. So if you know of any clubs or societies being set up, or existing organisations looking for a new home, do encourage them to consider the Old School. And do make use of it yourselves for parties, family gatherings and the like. The trustees are also focused on expanding the programme of events at the School and more volunteers to develop and run this programme are always needed.

Finally, as this is my last report as Treasurer, I would like to say how much satisfaction it has given me to see the developments at the School and Lover Green over the past 10 years. I am sure you will agree that we now have a building of which we can be truly proud. But that’s not the least of it: we have a loyal community of members, and a body of trustees that it has been a privilege and a joy to work alongside.

Peter Harper – Treasurer, Lover Community Trust  
March 2025