

# MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1119394

## Details

---

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [06126132](#)

**Registered** 2007-05-24

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

---

**Address** Millgate Arts Centre  
Stoneswood Road  
Delph  
Oldham  
OL3 5DY

**Phone** 01457871411

**Email** [ian@shepherd.uk.net](mailto:ian@shepherd.uk.net)

**Website** [www.saddleworthplayers.org.uk](http://www.saddleworthplayers.org.uk)

## Activities

---

**Objects:** TO ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE ARTS AND IN PARTICULAR TO:3.1.1 PRESENT PLAYS OF HIGH QUALITY AND IN A VARIETY OF PERIODS AND STYLES.3.1.2 TO MANAGE THE MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE, DELPH AS A CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AMENITY FOR SADDLEWORTH.3.1.3 TO PROMOTE AN INTEREST IN DRAMA BY ANY APPROPRIATE MEANS.

**Activities:** Manage the Millgate Arts Centre in Delph, Oldham. Foster the Centre as a cultural, social and educational amenity for all people in Saddleworth and as a community hub for Delph.

## Classification

---

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** DELPH
- Lancashire
- Oldham

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£159,588	£151,458	-	-
2024-06-30	£119,618	£110,788	-	-
2023-06-30	£108,446	£96,538	-	-
2022-06-30	£74,562	£66,114	-	-
2021-06-30	£24,074	£12,016	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW CHARLES MANN		2023-09-28
Adrian Barass		2022-12-01
Ian Shepherd		2017-09-25
Martin Paul Roche		2025-10-22
Miriam Lawton		2022-10-01
PHILLIDA ANN SHIPP		
Peter Barham MBE		2025-10-22
Roger Hinchliffe		2015-09-30
Sandy Patricia Hawkins OBE		2018-09-19
Verity Jane mann		2023-09-27
david PLOWRIGHT		2025-08-05

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1119394

---

# Accounts

---

**CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS REPORT**

**TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**

**ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025**

It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that Millgate Arts Centre Limited has kept adequate accounting records, and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of Millgate Arts Centre Limited. You consider that Millgate Arts Centre Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

It is our responsibility to examine the accounts and to state whether any matters have come to our attention.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company 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 directors 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.

In connection with our examination, no material matters have come to our attention which gives us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- adequate accounting records were not kept
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts 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.

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

This report is made solely to the board of directors. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the board of directors for our work or for this report.

*Ogden & Partington*

**OGDEN & PARTINGTON**

Chartered Certified Accountants

Office 3, Falcon Business Centre,  
Victoria Street,  
Chadderton,  
Oldham,  
OL9 0HB.

27<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132**  
**SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2025**

**1. RECEIPTS**

<b>TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Subscribers for 2024/25 season	10,599	11,048
Plays income	31,055	35,265
Play sponsorship	1,000	1,990
Bar	52,347	38,775
Box Office	12,432	7,905
SFS/SCS/Lettings	11,663	5,349
Saddleworth Player Youth Theatre	675	185
National Theatre Live	5,219	0
Pantomime	18,290	13,641
	<u>143,280</u>	<u>114,159</u>
Other Trading Income	11,382	1,285
<b>INCOME FROM ASSETS</b>	<u>154,662</u>	<u>115,443</u>
Interest and Dividends	4,926	4,174
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>159,588</u>	<u>119,617</u>

**2. PAYMENTS**

**DIRECT EXPENDITURE IN SUPPORT OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS**

Play expenses	21,606	17,294
---------------	--------	--------

**OTHER EXPENDITURE**

Bar Wages	7,627	1,217
Bar Expenses	25,806	18,965
Ice cream/sweets	2,638	3,368
Marketing	9,510	6,304
Cleaning	7,804	5,200
Utilities	11,720	13,742
Card Fees	2,427	1,887
Insurance	4,221	7,270
Accountants	452	419
SPY	6,485	0
Bank Charges	359	280
Building maintenance	12,582	6,346
Building structural repairs	32,031	24,997
Miscellaneous	6,191	3,499
	<u>129,852</u>	<u>93,493</u>

<b>Total Payments</b>	<u>151,458</u>	<u>110,788</u>
-----------------------	----------------	----------------

<b>SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>8,130</b>	<b>8,830</b>
--------------------------------	--------------	--------------

Add Donations / Income from Friends	<u>10,302</u>	<u>1,152</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>18,432</u>	<u>9,982</u>

Less Write Off:

Building Improvement Works from Previous Years	7,419	7,419
--	-------	-------

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 61261**  
**BALANCE SHEET**

	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Building Improvements (see note 1)	0	2,419
Investments (see note 2)	15,000	15,000
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>17,419</b>
<b>Current Assets (see note 4)</b>	<b>155,353</b>	<b>137,931</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>170,353</b>	<b>155,350</b>
Subs paid in advance	(495)	(1,465)
Accruals	0	(40)
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(495)</b>	<b>(1,505)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>169,858</b>	<b>153,845</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Balance b/f	153,845	146,283
Surplus (Loss) for year	16,013	7,563
<b>Total</b>	<b>169,858</b>	<b>153,845</b>

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132**  
**NOTES TO ACCOUNTS**

<b>1. Building Improvements</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Brought Forward	2,419	4,838
Write Off in Year	(2,419)	(2,419)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,419</b>
Building Improvements In Year	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,419</b>

In 2016/17 it was decided that future building improvement works should be written off over two years.  
 In 2022/23 £4,838 was capitalised for new windows in the Theatre bar area  
 In 2023/24 £2,419 was been written off, representing half the balance  
 The remaining balance was written off in 2024/25  
 Building improvement works will continue to be written off over two years.

<b>2. Investments</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
COIF	15,000	15,000

£15000 has been invested in COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund.  
 The investment is held in the balance sheet at cost

**3. Leasehold property**

This has no value since in the event of the company winding up it reverts to Oldham Council at nil value.  
 Millgate is in the process of transferring the legal ownership of the building from OMBC to Millgate Arts Centre Limited

<b>4. Current Assets</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Current accounts	62,989	19,817
Business Deposit	75,706	54,537
Business Savings	15,958	62,123
Other assets	700	1,456
<b>Total</b>	<b>155,353</b>	<b>137,931</b>



**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
(Company Number 06126132 and Charity Number 1119394)

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> 2025**

The Directors present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 2025.

**Reference and administrative details**

The company is a company limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital. The company was incorporated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007 and the charity was first registered on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007. The liability of the members of the company, which is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, is limited to £10 per member in the event of the company being wound up while they are a member. Trustees/Directors represent the various groups who make up the work of Millgate Arts centre.

**Directors - June 2025**

We have 12 directors in total and currently have 3 vacancies moving forward.

Adrian Barass	<i>Saddleworth Film Society</i>
Sandy Hawkins OBE	
Roger Hinchliffe	<i>Saddleworth Concerts Society</i>
Duncan Jackson	
Miriam Lawton	
Andrew Mann (Chair of MAC directors)	
Verity Mann	
Luke Settle	
Ian Shepherd	
David Plowright	
Phillida Shipp	<i>Delph Community Association</i>
John Tanner	
Anne Wright MBE (Ex officio)	President

**Officers**

Chair of MAC Directors	Andrew Mann
Company Secretary:	Sandy Hawkins
Company Treasurer:	Duncan Jackson

**Members**

- The register of Members maintained by the Membership List Coordinator, which includes
  - ✓ the Directors as listed above,
  - ✓ Life Members as listed below and
  - ✓ representatives from some or all of - the Delph Community Association; Saddleworth Concerts Society; Saddleworth Civic Trust, Saddleworth Film Society and the Saddleworth Parish Council

**Life Members –**

- Elizabeth Hardie; Margaret Hill; June Holmes; Tricia Kenworthy; Ian Perks; Patricia Redshaw; Edwina Rigby; Andrew Rigby; Ian Shepherd; David Shipp; Jill Smith; John Shore; John Tanner; Anne Wright, John Hankin, David Plowright and Pauline Walsh

<b>Company Number</b>	06126132
<b>Charity Number</b>	1119394
<b>Principal and Registered Office Address</b>	The Millgate Arts Centre Stoneswood Road Delph Oldham OL3 5DY
<b>Bankers</b>	Santander Bank Bridle Road Bootle Merseyside L30 4GB
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Phil Mushing, Ogden and Partington, Falcon Enterprise Centre, Victoria Street, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 0HB

### **Principal objectives and policies**

The **key objectives** of the charity are:-

- to advance public education in the Arts and to present plays of high quality and in a variety of periods and styles.
- to manage the Millgate Arts Centre, Delph as a cultural and social amenity for Saddleworth.
- to promote an interest in drama by any appropriate means.

To further these objectives, the Charity

- fosters the use of the Millgate Arts Centre as a cultural, social and educational amenity for all people in Saddleworth and as a community centre for all people in Delph and in Saddleworth in general.
- protects and preserves the Millgate Arts Centre as a building of architectural and historic importance.
- fosters and preserves the name of “Saddleworth Players” in the presentation of plays. The charity acquired the assets, but subject to the liabilities, of the charity known as Saddleworth Players. The new company has the same charitable objectives as Saddleworth Players and the name “Saddleworth Players” has been preserved for play productions.

### **Background**

The Millgate Arts Centre building is a prominent feature in the village of Delph. It houses a theatre, a bar, a bar lounge and a library. Part of the building was let by Oldham MBC to the former Saddleworth Players for use as a theatre. In 2005 when it became known that the library was to be closed, interested parties came together to form the “Millgate Centre Steering Group”,

to consider the future of the whole building. As a result of this initiative and following detailed negotiations, all parties agreed that to secure the future of the building for the community of Delph, the only way forward was to establish a new charity and company known as the Millgate Arts Centre.

Oldham MBC, who currently owns the freehold of the building, granted a 30-year full repairing lease of the whole building, including the library, to the new company/charity at a peppercorn rent (this lease now expires in 2039). Under the auspices of the Millgate Arts Centre the Delph library is now separately managed and staffed by volunteers from the Delph Community Association.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Directors of the Company**

The Company currently has 12 directors (with 3 vacancies) who were appointed because of their wide range of considerable skills and experience in managing large scale organisations and delivering projects/ initiatives on time and on budget. They consist of people with experience in such areas as senior management, project coordination, arts and theatre management, architecture, engineering, building maintenance, IT, finance, law, administration, human resources, marketing and community consultation. There are representatives from Saddleworth Players, the Film society and the Concert society and local government.

The directors are responsible for managing the business of the company and charity and making policy and main funding decisions, with the day-to-day management of the Centre being carried out by a **Management Committee**.

The powers and functions relating to the charity's object of presenting plays and promoting drama is delegated to a **Saddleworth Players Operations Team**.

We also currently have a **Buildings Strategy Group** that meet to discuss the repairs that are needed to various parts of the structure. They need to find contractors, get estimates and plan repair dates.

Directors are kept fully informed of issues by reports from the committees and through directors who serve on these groups. The Management Committee meets every month to deal with the day-to-day affairs of the society and the Millgate Arts Centre building, and deals with issues such as finance, building maintenance, advertising, membership, lettings, health and safety etc. Our sincere appreciation is extended to the Committees /Groups for their advice and support throughout the year.

### **Members of the Charity**

Members include the people of the memorandum who were the first members of the charity, together with all persons who were members of Saddleworth Players at the date of incorporation and anyone on the list of Members/Subscribers at the time the AGM is called. New members are vetted and approved by the Management Committee on behalf of the directors. Furthermore, under the Articles the following local organisations are members of the charity – Delph Community Association, Saddleworth Concerts Society, Saddleworth Civic Trust, Saddleworth Film Society and Saddleworth Parish Council. There are currently **484** members of the charity. Oldham MBC also appoints an Officer to be a named contact, currently Councillor Kevin Dawson, to ensure that consultation and liaison is maintained as the Arts Centre develops.

### **Staffing and Volunteers**

We have currently one employee who works part-time as bar coordinator. A cleaning company is also brought in to ensure that the building is clean and Covid safe.

The organisation and management of the company/charity and all the activities of the Centre are undertaken by a large team of volunteers. The directors are very grateful for the efforts and support of these volunteers which ensures that the full facilities of the Centre are made available to the local community.

## Achievement and Performance

### Business review

- The directors are responsible for ensuring that an effective risk assessment policy is in operation. Action is being taken to identify all potential risks and a formal policy and risk register has been produced and this is updated and reviewed every six months by both the Management Committee and directors.
- Financial controls and systems are regularly reviewed by the Treasurer and board of directors together with an annual budget and strategic plan. Ongoing reviews by the directors ensure that financial performance is in line with the approved budget.
- Insurances are regularly updated to ensure that risks are sufficiently covered. Public appeals are ongoing and other fundraising initiatives increase the level of funds needed for building projects and ongoing maintenance /running costs.
- MAC is a member of the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO).
- The centre provides a barrier free environment, including a ramp access to the theatre.
- We continue to raise monies for the ongoing development of the Centre.
- The Management Committee and Production Committee continue to operate effectively and deliver in their areas of responsibility. A newsletter is circulated to Members on a regular basis. Friends of Millgate Arts Centre are kept informed by letter or email as required of developments and progress.

### Responsibilities 2024-2025

Role	Leader	Support
Finance	Duncan Jackson	(leaving us in July2025)
Company secretary, Safeguarding coordinator, Subscriptions secretary	Sandy Hawkins	
Buildings Manager	Ian Shepherd	
Publicity manager, Membership Coordinator, Data protection	Andrew Mann	Sam Al Hamdani, David Ebden, Richard Wallis, Martin & Val Kavanagh
Saddleworth Players Operations team	Andrew Mann	Secretary: Alayne Whitworth Play Selection: Verity Mann, Carol Davies, Mark Rosenthal, Pauline Walsh, Props: Siobhan Ebden Technical: David Plowright Stage/Set: Chris Bannatyne Costumes: Verity Mann Stage Manager : Sue Borg
Newsletter Coordinator	Verity Mann	

Bar manager	Luke Settle	Elizabeth Southall
Technical Coordinator	David Plowright	
Stage/Set Coordinator	Chris Bannatyne	
Front of House Manager	Vacant	
Library Coordinator	Caitlin Barrass	
Venue Hire	Sharon Bannatyne (leaving us in July2025)	Mike Clegg
Sponsorship Manager	Vacant	
Charities coordinator	Miriam Lawton (leaving us in July2025)	Mike Clegg
Play Reading group	Maurice Reid	

### **Officer's Reports 2024- 2025**

**Reports have been received from officers/volunteers, and the directors are pleased to present them as follows, to give a flavour of our work.**

#### **Chairman of Directors 2025      Andrew Mann**

I'm delighted to be chair of Directors for a two-year period in 24/25 and 25/26 season, as we go through a significant period of change with some amazing volunteers involved in our community theatre.

We have a very clear purpose: to advance public education in the Arts and to present plays of high quality and in a variety of periods and styles, to manage the Millgate Arts Centre as a cultural and social amenity for Saddleworth and to promote an interest in drama by any appropriate means. This purpose is used as a guiding rod in how we steer ourselves.

The best measurement of success against our purpose is the number and quality of shows and the number of audience members ( which is a good indication of quality) .

By all measurements we have grown both of these measures:

- 141 shows in 2024/25 season vs 100 in 2019
- The 5 shows of Saddleworth Players regularly selling out
- 51 vs 27 Panto shows rolling into the new year, with 90%+ audience attendance
- Film Society attendances up
- National Theatre Live Films sell out shows, with 4 already added for 25/26
- Concerts Society in their 50<sup>th</sup> year and attracting more attendees and added 5th show remembering Roger Tanner in January

- Extra venue hire shows (Simon & Garfunkel / Stax of Soul / Saddleworth Musical Society/ ActOne Panto / In my Shoes who are all coming back this season )
- Fundraising shows like The Audience / murder mystery / poetry nights ‘Words in the Heather’

But we also need to focus on the areas that will enable us to deliver our purpose, and these are really under strain:

1. Maintaining and Developing our Community Theatre Building
2. Developing and Supporting our Community Theatre Volunteers

### **1a. Maintaining & Developing our Community Theatre Building**

Adrian Barrass has separately given an update on the repair and refurbishment to the stage area in summer 2025 and we have additional plans to develop the bar into a studio theatre and continually maintain our Victorian building.

I’d like to thank the team that’s worked over the summer break ( May to September) to take apart, repair, rebuild then put back together our community theatre: There are really too many to mention them all but particularly a thank you to Bob and the team at Killan’s Builders, Adam at Edge, and our volunteers led by Adrian Barrass: Raad Al-Hamdani Chris Bannatyne, Frank Brown, Peter Dignan, John Lees, Andrew Mann, David Plowright, Patrick Warrington, Mark Acton, Richard Wallis.

### **1b. FUND RAISING : Commercial Surplus & Building the Future Appeal**

We’re funding all this development work through self-generating a commercial surplus through shows ( more panto shows, added NT Live, more venue hire) but also through our centenary appeal ‘Building the Future’

- We have ambitious plans to raise £100,000 over the next three years to continue to develop the Millgate Arts Centre as a community theatre.
- Our fundraising campaign is called Building the Future, raising funds through to the centenary celebration of Saddleworth Players in 2027. We have a small team focusing on grant applications ( Peter Barham , David Plowright, Andrew Mann). But we need your help us to continue to be the home of community theatre in Saddleworth. Together we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary in 2027, as Saddleworth Players was formed in 1927.
- With your help, in the Summer of 2025, we repaired and refurbished and modernised the main auditorium stage, which will benefit performers and provide a better experience for our audiences.
- Future plans will focus on improving different parts of the Millgate Art Centre building and also further developing our youth group (SPY Theatre) ensuring the younger generation develop theatre skills on and off stage which will secure the future of live theatre.
- 5 ways to help us to continue to run our community theatre
  1. by making a **one off or regular donation**,
  2. becoming a **Friend of the Millgate** – it’s easy to set up an annual donation of £50 or spread it monthly or quarterly.

3. **give a seat your name-** Give a seat your name £150 donation ( or £50 a year for 3 years).
4. **Fundraise** for Millgate Arts Centre by seeking sponsors when you take part in races and events, like Saddleworth Santa Dash on 7th December.
5. simply **come and see the shows**, have a drink in the bar, buy an ice cream

## 2. Volunteer Capability

The additional shows have stretched our volunteer capability, and we all needed a good break over the summer. We learnt lots of lessons in the last few years:

- We are a community theatre and (mostly) run by volunteers.
- We need to work as a team and support each other.
- We need to be clear about the specifics and requirements involved in all the roles.
- We need to develop and publish a code of conduct / 'contract' for volunteers and lead this behaviour as a Management team ( & Directors).
- We need to ensure that no roles become 'too big to fail' nor have only one person doing it.
- The management team (individually and collectively) support volunteers (and ourselves as volunteers), identify when circumstances change (personal, social, work etc.) and when people are struggling. The management team do not ignore these signs but develop a plan to fix it.
- We need to make it easier to volunteer- know what you are doing ( have skills and time ) and enjoy doing it.

Following from this we have launched a code of conduct, making it easier to volunteer, getting clear on clarity of roles / descriptions and launching more training days ( Monday of SP show) .

If you are interested in becoming part of the team that delivers on our purpose please contact me on [saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk) or [boxoffice@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

### **Finally, some news of our Treasurer:**

I'd like to say a thank you to Duncan Jackson our treasurer for the last six years who has worked tirelessly in the background , guiding us with some sound financial planning, steering us through the fundraising, and managing the money through the big financial investment of repairing the theatre stage. He has been a rock to us all, quietly in the background and he will be missed as he heads off travelling in retirement.

**Thank you, Duncan.**

**So 2024/25 was a great season and we are all looking forward to 2025/26 and our centenary season 2027/28**

### **Financial review 2024-25**

**Duncan Jackson    Treasurer**

The 2024/25 season was record-breaking year with a trading income of £154,662. This included subscriptions of £10,599, income from Saddleworth Players £32,055, the Pantomime £18,290, the Box Office £12,432 and the Bar £52,347. There was additional income from the National

Theatre Live screenings of £5,219. This was another fantastic performance and demonstrates that Millgate Arts Centres continues to thrive despite the challenging economic climate.

Total operating costs for the year were £129,852. This included gas, electricity, and water costs of £11,720, bar expenses of £33,433 (made up of bar supplies and wages), plus the annual insurance renewal of £4,221, (over £2,500 saving was made on insurance as we changed our insurance brokers). Other significant overheads included cleaning (£7,804) and marketing (£9,510).

There was expenditure of £39,181 on the on the structural repairs which started in June and completed in August. A further instalment of £48,000 was paid in August 2025, and the estimated amount remaining is £43,000. OMBC refunded the cost of the asbestos removal (£7,150) in September 2024.

The surplus from operating activities in 2024/25 was £8,130. At the end of June 2025, there was £154,653 in the Millgate bank accounts. After all the expenses for the structural repairs and the insulation/heating work have been made the bank account balance will be reduced to around £40,000.

The Annual Reports and Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and an audit exemption statement have been prepared and are attached to this Report as **Appendix A**.

As most of you know, I have stepped down as Treasurer of Millgate after 6 years. I recently stopped working and this means I will not be around as much to deal with the today-to-today activities. My replacement, Diane Clarkson-Wright, is a qualified Accountant with lots of experience working with small businesses, so will be great addition to the team. I wish Millgate all the best and hope to see it continue to go from strength to strength.

### **Saddleworth Players report 2025 – Andrew Mann**

We've just had a really successful season with five Saddleworth Players plays that audiences loved. I'd like to thank everyone involved in each of those shows for the time and effort they put into them (over 100 Saddleworth Players). It's a lot of fun... but still thank you.

- Clue directed by Mark Rosenthal-
- Haunting Julia directed by Pauline Walsh
- The Children directed by Carol Davies
- The Rise & Fall of Little Voice directed by Phil McCarthy
- Bleak Expectations directed by Verity Mann
- Lizzy Darcy & Jane by Joanna Norland directed by Verity Mann.

#### **Working more effectively**

We've also continued to develop the way we work to develop the capability to deliver even better shows setting up SPOT our Saddleworth Players Operations Team

- We have a play selection team and are looking to be more inclusive for
- selection of 2026/27 season.

- We have leads for all the technical teams (stage, sound & lighting, costumes, props, stage manager, publicity etc)
- We continue to audition shows to encourage and develop new talent- we have had lots of new people on the stage in 24/25 season and even more in 2025/26 season already cast
- We have written and updated job descriptions for all the roles.
- Training sessions on Monday of show week for stage manager, props and we are developing sound & lighting training. We are also leading on Front of House and Bar training
- Investing in the right equipment- we have won two major grants from The Theatre's Trust and The Roger Tanner Trust that has enabled us to buy 18 new LED lights including movers / X Y

Get Involved on stage or behind stage- it's fun

If you'd like to get involved more actively in Saddleworth Players shows

- Please contact [saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)
- Ensure your membership details are up to date.
- Ask for a SPOT member in the bar.
- Come along to an audition or training session when advertised
- Training sessions for 2025/26 season are
  - ✓ Monday September 29th
  - ✓ Monday November 17th
  - ✓ Monday February 9th
  - ✓ Monday April 20th
  - ✓ Monday June 15th

A great season is planned for 2025/26

We have a balanced season of farce, thriller, drams, tense comedy and another farce.

- Waiting for God, directed by Verity Mann
- Nell Gwynn directed by Carol Davies
- Once Upon a Time in Wigan directed by Mark Rosenthal
- Wait until Dark directed by Jane Tonge
- Blue Stockings directed by Sue Borg

We have also had a successful season with Saddleworth Players Youth Theatre (SPY) who meet every Monday during term time,

### **Buildings report - Adrian Barass**

This summer Millgate Arts Centre is making a significant investment in the building to make long term repairs to a building that started off as a cooperative warehouse and shop and has since the 1970s been entertaining the Saddleworth Community.

In 2022 as MAC prepared for their annual panto, they recognised that the backstage of the theatre had suffered significant structural deterioration over many years. Water ingress which was hidden behind decoration had worked its way into all the floor beams and deteriorated them to a point where they would need replacement. The water had also begun to damage main structural steelwork which held up the walls to the theatre and library It was originally feared whole sections of steel would need to be replaced.

Since then, the Millgate team have worked with structural engineers and specialist construction teams to understand the true depth of repair that was required and to build a fund with contribution from all the Millgate events to allow this major project to be delivered this summer.

Over a year of planning including re-scheduled events has given the building team a long period of time this summer, to complete everything planned before we start to bring the theatre back to life in late August in advance of our first performances in September.

A project team was formed, and a quality plan signed off by the management team and Directors, where the objective, scope and timing of the project was agreed. The team then worked with designers, engineers and suppliers to detail the scope and agree costs for the work to be done.

A key meeting in March 2025 confirmed the budget required and the risks that had to be managed. Following final work on the scope and a refinement of costs the Directors were able to sign off the delivery of an agreed scope in May 2025.

In June we have installed more timbers in the ceiling which will tie the roof and walls together more firmly, all this could be done without impacting Delph's Whit Friday activities.

Since Whit Friday the whole of the stage area has been removed, original steel beams have been repaired and painted, and new steelwork is installed.

In late July the most impactful part of the project begins as we had to put temporary traffic lights on The Sound to make the vital repairs to the corroded steel structure we originally feared had to be replaced.

Over a 2-week period from Monday 14th July we shall expose the steel, make repairs, clean and paint it before covering it over hopefully for another 100 + years before we need to look again!

A consequence of the project was that the library had to move temporarily. St. Thomas's church hall was found as a suitable but small alternative, and the library team -OMBC and volunteers managed a seamless move to St. Thomas's ahead of the construction work. They will move back in August.

The theatre finally comes back together over early August as we install new electrical circuits and for the first time, radiators and insulation in the backstage area to keep our performers warm in the winter.

It's been a massive contribution from the whole of the Millgate Community just to get our major project in place, and we are very grateful to the Delph Community for the understanding as we make vital improvements for our theatre for the future.

We will hold a grand reopening of the whole building on Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 10am-1pm so people can see the works, book a ticket, or collect new season leaflets, as well as visit the library.

### **Membership – Andrew Mann**

We'd like to say a big thank you to Sharon Bannatyne who has been the venue hire coordinator for the last two years. She's stepping down but not away.

We need you to get involved.

We need members to be actively engaged in the running of all elements of Millgate Arts

Centre, either on stage, backstage or in the bar or front of house.

What skills do you have?

We have several roles that we'll be advertising as part of the management team, (Front of House Coordinator and Venue Hire Coordinator) and we always welcome volunteers to support the running of the theatre. Please ask at the box office or bar to offer your support on [saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

### **Keeping in contact**

We have maintained an update through SPNews regularly on email as PDF, or as paper copy to those members without email access. Please give us feedback on what you think. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram and join Saddleworth Players at Millgate Arts Centre group on Facebook.

We have made good use of our membership database to keep members connected: please let us know if you have moved or changed contact details. If we don't know we can't keep in touch.

New members have joined over the last year, using the online sign-up link on the website, as well as coming along to see shows and asking to sign up in the bar or box office.

Unfortunately, we've also lost members passing away or with ill health, or just not returning to active participation at Millgate

Membership on database	Sept 2025
Regular members	477
SPY members	7
TOTAL MEMBERS	484
Friends	43
Friends of Auditorium	105
Acting Active	140
Sound & Lighting Active	15
Costume team	11
Publicity Team	21
Play Reviewers	4
Bar active	56
FOH active	63

### **Publicity - Andrew Mann**

Publicity ran for the 24-25 season and is set up for the 25/26 season across Saddleworth Players, Saddleworth Concerts Society, Saddleworth Film Society ( & NT Live) SPY, The Panto and external venue hire events.

140 shows in total !

We use external posters, internal posters and leaflets, as well as email and social media. We have built a strong relationship with Saddleworth Independent, Saddleworth Monthly, Oldham Chronicle and Oldham Times.

We are also building the history of shows on the website and there is a team meeting on a Wednesday morning going through the archives led by Carol Davies. If you have old programmes or photos please send details to

[saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

Big thanks you to everyone involved: Sam Al-Handani, Caitlin Barrass David Ebden,

Stuart Coleman Alan Gorst, Val & Martin Kavanagh, Andrew Mann, Michael Powis, Richard Wallis, Adrian Barrass, Gemma and the team at Saddleworth Independent, Mary Booth at Saddleworth Monthly.

Also, a thank you to our team of play reviewers: Helen Rigby, John Rigby, Martin Roche. If you are interested in becoming part of the reviewing team ( free tickets to performances) please let me know on [saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

### **Saddleworth Film Society – Adrian Barass**

Saddleworth Film Society had a successful season with a mixture of films which provided interest, entertainment, and curiosity but perhaps not in equal measure!

Special thanks to all our new and long-serving committee members. Without the support from everyone who helps, these events would not happen.

With the mixture of existing subscribers and regular one-off sales, our income covered our costs and we were able to replenish our cash reserves slightly. This will allow us to build funds for future investment in new technology.

The film season was chosen like previous seasons to show ‘new’ films that provide challenge, interest and interval conversation. Our 2024/ 2025 season had films presented in 8 foreign languages (including 2 in Icelandic) and only 1 in English. The availability of films through streaming services means that we work hard to find films that are not free to air through the main streaming services, they may be available to buy or indeed may not be available at all. Our intention was to screen films which provide entertainment but also challenge. We recognize that we are not trying to attract people to watch ‘blockbusters’, but at the same time we need to make the films attractive enough to maintain our subscriber base and ticket sales.

This season Film Society and in particular the projection team have played a key part in the introduction of NT live into the MAC calendar. These have proven very popular, and they have contributed funds into the central MAC account. For each event Film Soc receive a £50 payment from the ticket sales which will be used when required to replace projection technology.

Our ticket prices were unchanged from last year and early indications suggest our subscriber numbers will stay similar to previous years. Our first film of the 2025 / 2026 season, My Favourite Cake is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September starting at 7.30pm.

### **Delph Library - Caitlin Barass**

Delph library- downstairs at the Millgate Arts centre, is a great place- warm, welcoming and open for 15 hours every week. With the support of the Delph Community Association (who pay the ever-rising electricity bill) and OMBC (allowing all the library services such as books to be ordered, two computers etc.) the library is a welcoming space and the only part of Millgate open during the day-

Tues- Thursday 2-5, Fri and Sat mornings 10-1, all year round!

Plenty of books are borrowed and our computers and printing services are well used. Ever popular is community Scrabble!!

As well as a reading group, meetings, knitting group and Bounce and Rhyme baby sessions weekly as well as children's crafts seasonally, the space is now sometimes used by SPY the youth theatre group when the film society or another event is on in the theatre.

The move to the room at St Thomas's Church, to allow for the vital Millgate building works went smoothly. We kept the Millgate presence in the village particularly important to the youngest and oldest generations.

All visitors to the library are recorded including special enquiries or group attendances. We maintain good number of visitors across the week with an average weekly attendance of around 60 people.

### **Safeguarding – Sandy Hawkins**

Our youth group SPY is thriving for young actors aged 11-21.

All safeguarding along with Health and Safety procedures are in place.

All members who are responsible for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are subject to enhanced Criminal Record Bureau disclosures. Saddleworth Players and the MAC review the comprehensive child protection policy on a regular basis.

Copies of the policy are available on request.

### **Bar report - Elizabeth Southall**

The bar made a healthy profit this year and continues to play a key role in Millgate arts centre. There were changes this year as Luke Settle stepped back from being involved in the day-to-day running of the bar and handed this over to Elizabeth, who has a paid position as bar lead. We'd like to thank Luke for all his hard work over the years and for the systems he has introduced which has provided the basis of the bar organisation. We have two other paid staff to assist Elizabeth – Bernadette and Lydia.

The bar has relied heavily on a small band of volunteers who work alongside Elizabeth. We'd like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

### **Play reading group - Maurice Reid**

We have had another good year, reading 10 plays as usual and as ever, plays of great variety. I must record my thanks to the Inter Library Lending Service in Oldham and especially to Helen Weddell there who is always most helpful.

St Thomas' church in Delph has provided us with a home when we have not been able to use the Millgate. When we have struggled to source plays, Verity Mann and Carol Davies have sprung to our rescue, allowing us to access the library of plays which they have collected over the years.

Early in the year there was a slight crisis when our main suppliers, Wiltshire Library of Performing Arts, closed down their service. We were able to turn this to our advantage however when we discovered a rich source of play-sets in Lancashire Library and another potential source at Shropshire Library which should keep us going for some years ahead.

We start off next 'year' with 'Cold Comfort Farm' and 'Hobson's Choice' and look forward to a full programme at the Millgate, with thanks to Andrew Mann who has fitted us into your busy schedule. As usual we were able to make a small contribution to The Society's funds at the end of the year.

### **Directors Appreciation**

**We are extremely grateful for the commitment given and shown by individuals and organisations involved with the Millgate Arts Centre and for the initiatives and support that is given in so many ways. We could not survive without this enthusiasm and commitment**

### **Policy regarding financial risks and reserves**

Box office revenue, bar income and extra income received from events and lettings covers all annual outgoings and provides a surplus which can be utilised by the Arts Centre to further enhance and develop activities. The directors continue to explore other avenues of funding to carry out further refurbishment works and enhance activities even more for the benefit of the community. It is also vital to ensure that adequate funding is obtained to ensure that the library can continue to operate. The directors have a policy on both financial risks and reserves.

### **Statement of Board of Directors' responsibilities for the financial statements**

- Company law requires the board of directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of money matters of the charitable company, and of the excess of income over expenditure of the charitable company for that period.
- In preparing those financial statements the board of directors are required to:
  - a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
  - b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
  - c) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
  - d) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.
- They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charitable company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.
- The board of directors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985 and Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

### **Approval**

This report was approved by the Directors on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Andrew Mann  
Chair and Director

Sandy Hawkins  
Company Secretary





**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1119394

---

# Accounts

---



**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
(Company Number 06126132 and Charity Number 1119394)

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Directors present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Reference and administrative details**

The company is a company limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital. The company was incorporated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007 and the charity was first registered on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007. The liability of the members of the company which is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association is limited to £10 per member in the event of the company being wound up while they are a member. Trustees/Directors represent the various groups who make up the work of Millgate Arts centre.

**Directors - June 2024**

We have 12 directors in total and currently have 3 vacancies moving forward.

Adrian Barass	<i>Saddleworth Film Society</i>
Sandy Hawkins OBE	
Roger Hinchliffe	<i>Saddleworth Concerts Society</i>
Duncan Jackson	
Miriam Lawton	
Andrew Mann	
Verity Mann	
Luke Settle	
Ian Shepherd	
David Shipp	
Phillida Shipp	<i>Delph Community Association</i>
John Tanner (Chair of MAC directors)	

Anne Wright MBE (Ex officio)    President

During 2023-2024 we lost one of our most valued directors. We remember Ken Wright MBE. He will be sorely missed.

**Officers**

Chair of MAC Directors	John Tanner
Company Secretary:	Sandy Hawkins
Company Treasurer:	Duncan Jackson

**Members**

- The register of Members maintained by the Membership List Coordinator, which includes
  - ✓ the Directors as listed above,
  - ✓ Life Members as listed below and
  - ✓ representatives from some or all of - the Delph Community Association; Saddleworth Concerts Society; Saddleworth Civic Trust, Saddleworth Film Society and the Saddleworth Parish Council





Current Life Members –

- Elizabeth Hardie; Margaret Hill; June Holmes; Tricia Kenworthy; Ian Perks; Patricia Redshaw; Edwina Rigby; Andrew Rigby; Ian Shepherd; David Shipp; Jill Smith; John Shore; John Tanner; Anne Wright, John Hankin

**Company Number** 06126132

**Charity Number** 1119394

**Principal and Registered Office Address** The Millgate Arts Centre  
Stoneswood Road  
Delph  
Oldham  
OL3 5DY

**Bankers** Santander Bank  
Bridle Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L30 4GB

**Independent Examiner** Phil Mushing,  
Ogden and Partington,  
Falcon Enterprise Centre,  
Victoria Street,  
Chadderton, Oldham  
OL9 0HB

### Principal objectives and policies

The **key objectives** of the charity are:-

- to advance public education in the Arts and to present plays of high quality and in a variety of periods and styles.
- to manage the Millgate Arts Centre, Delph as a cultural and social amenity for Saddleworth.
- to promote an interest in drama by any appropriate means.

To further these objectives, the Charity

- fosters the use of the Millgate Arts Centre as a cultural, social and educational amenity for all people in Saddleworth and as a community centre for all people in Delph and in Saddleworth in general.
- protects and preserves the Millgate Arts Centre as a building of architectural and historic importance.
- fosters and preserves the name of “Saddleworth Players” in the presentation of plays. The charity acquired the assets, but subject to the liabilities, of the charity known as Saddleworth Players. The new company has the same charitable objectives as Saddleworth Players and the name “Saddleworth Players” has been preserved for play productions.



## Background

The Millgate Arts Centre building is a prominent feature in the village of Delph. It houses a theatre, a bar, a bar lounge and a library. Part of the building was let by Oldham MBC to the former Saddleworth Players for use as a theatre. In 2005 when it became known that the library was to be closed, interested parties came together to form the “Millgate Centre Steering Group”, to consider the future of the whole building. As a result of this initiative and following detailed negotiations, all parties agreed that to secure the future of the building for the community of Delph, the only way forward was to establish a new charity and company known as the Millgate Arts Centre.

Oldham MBC, who currently owns the freehold of the building, granted a 30-year full repairing lease of the whole building, including the library, to the new company/charity at a peppercorn rent (this lease now expires in 2039). Under the auspices of the Millgate Arts Centre the Delph library is now separately managed and staffed by volunteers from the Delph Community Association.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Directors of the Company

The Company currently has 12 directors (with 3 vacancies) who were appointed because of their wide range of considerable skills and experience in managing large scale organisations, and delivering projects and initiatives on time and on budget. They consist of people with experience in such areas as senior management, project coordination, arts and theatre management, architecture, engineering, building maintenance, IT, finance, law, administration, human resources, marketing and community consultation. There are representatives from Saddleworth players, the film society and the concert society and local government.

The directors are responsible for managing the business of the company and charity and making policy and main funding decisions, with the day-to-day management of the Centre being carried out by a **Management Committee**.

The powers and functions relating to the charity’s object of presenting plays and promoting drama is delegated to a **Saddleworth Players Operations Team** .

We also currently have a **Buildings Strategy Group** that meet to discuss the repairs that are needed to various parts of the structure. They need to find contractors, get estimates and plan repair dates.

Directors are kept fully informed of issues by reports from the committees and through directors who serve on these groups. The Management Committee meets every month to deal with the day-to-day affairs of the society and the Millgate Arts Centre building, and deals with issues such as finance, building maintenance, advertising, membership, lettings, health and safety etc. Our sincere appreciation is extended to the Committees/Groups for their advice and support throughout the year.

### Members of the Charity

Members include the people of the memorandum who were the first members of the charity, together with all persons who were members of Saddleworth Players at the date of incorporation and anyone on the list of Members/Subscribers at the time the AGM is called. New members are vetted and approved by the Management Committee on behalf of the directors. Furthermore, under the Articles the following local organisations are members of the charity – Delph Community Association, Saddleworth Concerts Society, Saddleworth Civic Trust, Saddleworth Film Society and Saddleworth Parish Council. There are currently **476** members of the charity. Oldham MBC also appoints an Officer to be a named contact, currently Councillor Kevin Dawson, to ensure that consultation and liaison is maintained as the Arts Centre develops.



## Staffing and Volunteers

We have currently three people who are currently employed part time by the charity as bar coordinators. A cleaning company is also brought in to ensure that the building is not only clean but Covid safe. The organisation and management of the company/charity and all the activities of the Centre are undertaken by a large team of volunteers. The directors are very grateful for the efforts and support of these volunteers which ensures that the full facilities of the Centre are made available to the local community.

## Achievement and Performance

### Business review

- The directors are responsible for ensuring that an effective risk assessment policy is in operation. Action is being taken to identify all potential risks and a formal policy and risk register has been produced and this is updated and reviewed every six months by both the Management Committee and directors.
- Financial controls and systems are regularly reviewed by the Treasurer and board of directors together with an annual budget and strategic plan. Ongoing reviews by the directors ensure that financial performance is in line with the approved budget.
- Insurances are regularly updated to ensure that risks are sufficiently covered. Public appeals are ongoing and other fundraising initiatives increase the level of funds needed for building projects and ongoing maintenance /running costs.
- MAC is a member of the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO).
- The centre provides a barrier free environment, including a ramp access to the theatre.
- We continue to raise monies for the ongoing development of the Centre.
- The Management Committee and Production Committee continue to operate effectively and deliver in their areas of responsibility. A newsletter is circulated to Members on a regular basis. Friends of Millgate Arts Centre are kept informed by letter or email as required of developments and progress.

### Responsibilities 2023-2024

Role	Leader	Support
Finance	Duncan Jackson	
Company secretary, Safeguarding coordinator, Subscriptions secretary	Sandy Hawkins	
Buildings Manager,	Ian Shepherd	
Publicity manager, Membership Coordinator, Data protection	Andrew Mann	Sam Al Hamdani, David Ebden, Richard Wallis, Martin & Val Kavanagh
Saddleworth Players Operations team	Andrew Mann	Secretary: Alayne Whitworth Play Selection: Verity Mann, Carol Davies, Mark



		Rosenthal, Melvyn Bates, Pauline Walsh, Props: Siobhan Ebden Technical: David Plowright Stage/Set: Chris Bannatyne Costumes: Verity Mann Stage Manager : vacant
Newsletter Coordinator	Verity Mann	
Bar manager	Luke Settle	
Technical Coordinator	David Plowright	
Stage/Set Coordinator	Chris Bannatyne	
Front of House Manager	Neil Bradbury	
Library Coordinator	Phillida Shipp	
Venue Hire	Sharon Bannatyne	Mike Clegg
Sponsorship Manager	Vacant	
Charities coordinator	Miriam Lawton	
Play Reading group	Maurice Reid	

## Officer's Reports 2023- 2024

**Reports have been received from officers/volunteers and the directors are pleased to present them as follows to give a flavour of our work.**

### **Chairman's report - John Tanner**

On reading back my report from last year, I started by announcing our 50th Anniversary, and what a year it has been, with successful shows, concerts, films, youth theatre, Panto, the list goes on, filling the building with growing audiences and more and more new faces to add to our already loyal but sometimes ageing cohorts!

My personal highlight was watching 'In My Shoes' performing 'The Boy, the Mole and the Fox'. Long may they have continued success.

Well surprise, surprise! We are now looking forward towards our 100th anniversary of Saddleworth Players and in celebration we have launched a new appeal, Our 'Centenary Appeal'!

More on that as the season progresses.

As we all know the building is feeling its age (1871) and as custodians of this fine Community Centre we must endeavour to raise as much funds as possible to not only stop the building from falling down! but to improve our already excellent facilities.



Ian Shepherd will report in more detail where we are up to with our dialogue with the OMBC, in particular, funding and lease arrangements going forward.

As a Society we have always been ambitious and with the team we now have I am sure we will meet our aims. So, a huge thanks to those who put in all the work (the list is too long to mention everyone) but we need that list of names to be even longer so to all members please, please volunteer!

- ✓ I am delighted to say that 2 new Directors have been appointed since our last AGM, namely Andrew and Verity Mann.
- ✓ Phillida Shipp -What can you say! she IS ‘Delph Library’! We owe her a huge thanks although I am glad to say that she is staying on as a Director of MAC in her role for the ‘Delph Community’.
- ✓ David Shipp on the other hand will be stepping down as a director this year – David was our treasurer for a great many years, very well known to us all and a Life Member and we must thank him for all that he has helped us with over the years.
- ✓ Sadly, we lost 3 very well known members since our last AGM.  
Ken Wright - The very backbone of our society and in too many roles to mention.  
Eileen Southard - A great actress and Director.  
Peter Hodgson - A great actor and supporter of our society.  
We will miss them enormously.
- ✓ Lastly, I just want to say a big thank you to Sandy and Duncan.  
As Secretary and Treasurer they quietly get on dealing with our endless meetings and keeping our finances in check – in my mind unsung heroes.

## Financial review 2023-24 - Duncan Jackson

The 2023/24 season provided trading income of £115,443. This included subscriptions of £11,048, income from Saddleworth Players of £37,255, income from Pantomime of £13,641, income from the Box Office of £7,905 and income from the Bar of £38,775. This was an excellent performance and demonstrates the continued importance of the theatre to the local community and beyond.

Total operating costs for the year were £93,493. This included gas, electricity, and water costs of £13,742, bar expenses of £20,182 (made up of bar supplies and wages), plus the annual insurance renewal of £7,270. Other significant overheads included cleaning (£5,200) and marketing (£6,304). There was expenditure of £24,997 on continued investigations into and preliminary work on the structural repairs required to the theatre building. OMBC refunded the cost of the asbestos removal (£7,150) in September 2024.

The surplus from operating activities in 2023/24 was £8,830. At the end of June 2024, there was £137,931 in the Millgate bank accounts.

The main financial risk to the theatre remains the cost of the structural repairs, with the first phase planned to start in summer 2025. This will significantly deplete the existing financial reserves. Fund raising activities are planned to help meet the cost of the repairs, discussions continue with OMBC around their obligations under the lease, and the potential for grants to help meet the cost is under investigation.

The Annual Reports and Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and an audit exemption statement have been prepared and are attached to this Report as **Appendix A**.



## Saddleworth Players – Andrew Mann

We've just had a really successful season with five Saddleworth Players plays that audiences loved. I'd like to thank everyone involved in each of those shows for the time and effort they put into them (over 100 Saddleworth Players). It's a lot of fun... but still thank you.

- Curtain Up by Peter Quilter-directed by Mike Lawlor. A fast-paced and very funny comedy, with new and established actors on the stage
- Alice by Laura Wade, Based on the novel by Lewis Carroll. Alice breathes fresh life into a much-loved story about rabbit holes, pocket watches and talking caterpillars, directed by Carol Davies. I still have memories of the lobster quadrille and SPY as Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum
- Glorious by Peter Quilter directed by Pauline Walsh. A glittering comedy with a heart & soul. Memories of the singing will stay with me forever!
- Murder Margaret & Me directed by Sue Borg. Knit one, bash two. Genteel ladies involved with violent murder makes a fine theme for comedy drama. A cast of three ladies taking us through the drama of Margaret Rutherford and Agatha Christie's relationship
- Lizzy Darcy & Jane by Joanna Norland directed by Verity Mann. Jane Austen pits her wits and will against her greatest adversary and ally-Elizabeth Bennett. A young and new to the stage at Delph cast of actors that gave us truly memorable Austin nights with amazing period costumes and Bridgerton meets Austin music

## Working more effectively

We've also changed the way we work to develop the capability to deliver even better shows setting up SPOT our Saddleworth Players Operations Team

- We have a play selection team
- We have leads for all the technical teams (stage, sound & lighting, costumes, props, stage manager, publicity etc)
- We now audition shows to encourage and develop new talent- our last show Lizzie Darcy & Jane had 6/8 actors new to the Millgate Stage
- We have training sessions on Monday of show week for stage manager, props and we are looking to develop sound & lighting training
- Investing in the right equipment- we have just bought a new MAC for sound (last one was from 2012). You may have heard better sound in Lizzy Darcy and Jane and will be invaluable for 2024/25 season This means we can encourage a range of people to be involved and put on better shows for you.

## Get Involved on stage or behind stage- it's fun

If you'd like to get involved more actively in Saddleworth Players shows

- Please contact [saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)
- Ensure your membership details are up to date.
- Ask for a SPOT member in the bar.
- Come along to an audition or training session when advertised



## A great season is planned for 2024/25

We have a balanced season of farce, thriller, drams, tense comedy and another farce.

- Clue directed by Mark Rosenthal
- Haunting Julia directed by Pauline Walsh
- The Children directed by Carol Davies
- The Rise & Fall of Little Voice directed by Phil McCarthy
- Bleak Expectations directed by Verity Mann

We have also had a successful season with Saddleworth Players Youth Theatre (SPY) who meet every Monday during term time,

## Buildings report - Adrian Barass

We have made some good progress this year in addressing some of the items that arose as a consequence of the structural report we received in 2022.

In 2023- 2024, the management team supported by Directors agreed to progress with specific work this year and plan for a substantial amount of the remaining work to be completed in Summer 2025. This will mean modifying our performance plans for early summer 2025 to allow the theatre (and library probably) to be closed to allow the major work to complete.

Following a survey and proposal of cost, the MAC management team and Directors in November 2023 supported the first phase of repairs to ensure structural integrity of Millgate Arts Centre.

The overall scope of the work was summarised into three main areas of work.

1. Repairs to the ring beam – this supports the external wall above the library windows and entrance – approved by Directors and planned for delivery in Summer 2025.
2. Repairs to joists and replacement of the stage flooring. – approved by Directors and planned for delivery in Summer 2025.
3. Repairs to the wall and roof structure above the stage – This was completed in January 2024.

Other work has included -

Backstage improvements to improve the heating, insulation and electrical supplies

We recognise that there is also a baseload of ongoing maintenance work required, such as recent electrical inspections and upgrades.

Post completion of the wall and roof repairs in January 2024, other scope areas were developed and, in some cases addressed but there remains a list of improvements that could be considered, as well as a longer list of future upgrades.

We have been working to:-

- Understand the current financial position so we can be confident we have the cash (and reserves) to support an agreed scope of work for summer 2025.
- Confirm a team with roles and responsibilities to 'lead' on the summer 2025 work, allowing that team to focus on delivery what we agree and in the right time.
- Scope out future improvements; understanding the user needs and ways of meeting that requirement, as well as building a phased plan of progressive improvements with costs.
- Pursue the wider questions on OMBC and building ownership which are key elements prior to making some of these commitments



**Membership – Andrew Mann**

*We need you to get involved.*

We need members to be actively engaged in the running of all elements of Millgate Arts Centre, either on stage, backstage or in the bar or front of house

*What skills do you have?*

We have several roles that we’ll be advertising as part of the management team, and we always welcome volunteers to support the running of the theatre. Please ask at the box office or bar to offer your support on [saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

*Keep in contact*

We have maintained an update through SPNews regularly on email as PDF or as paper copy to those members without email access. Please give us feedback on what you think.

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram and join Saddleworth Players at Millgate Arts Centre group on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/523728151642709>

We have made good use of our membership database to keep members connected: please let us know if you have moved or changed contact details. If we don’t know we can’t keep in touch.

New members have joined over the last year, using the online sign-up link on the website, as well as coming along to see shows and asking to sign up in the bar or box office. Unfortunately, we’ve also lost members passing away or with ill health, or just not returning to active participation at Millgate

Membership on database	Sept 2024
Regular members	469
SPY members	7
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>476</b>
Friends	41
Friends of Auditorium	101
Acting Active	119
Sound & Lighting Active	10
Costume team	11
Publicity Team	21
Play Reviewers	4
Bar active	43
FOH active	50

**Front of House - Neil Bradbury**

FOH has had a good year and has successfully recruited a number of new volunteers who are doing an excellent job.

As the theatre gets busier we will though need more.

Come on Players, you can't tread the floor if we don't open the door.





## Publicity - Andrew Mann

Publicity ran for the 23-24 season and set up for 24/25 season across Saddleworth Players, Saddleworth Concerts Society, Saddleworth Film Society ( & NT Live) SPY, The Panto and external venue hire events. We use external posters, internal posters and leaflets, as well as email and social media. We have built a strong relationship with Saddleworth Independent, Saddleworth Monthly, Oldham Chronicle and Oldham Times.

We are also building the history of shows on the website and created Windback Wednesday. If you have old programmes or photos please send details to [saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

Big thanks you to everyone involved: Sam Al-Handani, David Ebdon, Michael Powis, Jude Gidney, Alan Gorst, Val & Martin Kavanagh, Andrew Mann, Richard Wallis, Adrian and Caitlin Barrass, Gemma and the team at Saddleworth Independent, Mary Booth at Saddleworth Monthly.

Also, a thank you to our team of play reviewers: Helen Rigby, John Rigby, Jude Gidney, Martin Roche. If you are interested in becoming part of the reviewing team ( free tickets to performances) please let me know on [saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

## Saddleworth Film Society – Adrian Barass

Saddleworth Film Society had a successful season with a mixture of films which provided interest, entertainment, and curiosity but perhaps not in equal measure!

A special thanks goes to all our new and long serving ‘committee members’. Without the support from everyone who helps out, these events would not happen.

With the mixture of existing subscribers and regular one-off sales our income covered our costs, and we were able to replenish our cash reserves slightly after using much of our funds to buy the new projector in the previous year.

The film season was chosen like previous seasons to show ‘new’ films that provide challenge, interest and interval conversation. Our 2024 season had films presented in 7 foreign languages and only 2 in English. The availability of films through streaming services means that we work hard to find films that are not free to air through the main streaming services, they may be available to buy or indeed may not be available at all. Our intention was to screen films which provide entertainment but also challenge, we recognize we are not trying to attract people to watch ‘blockbusters’, but at the same time we need to make the films attractive enough to maintain our subscriber base and ticket sales.

In July 2024 Film Society arrange the screening of a local film Wild Water, which told the story of wild swimmers at Gaddings Dam near Todmorden. Through Film Soc connections we were able to invite the producer of the film who took a Q&A session afterwards. The evening was well supported with all proceeds going to the MAC general fund to support MAC refurbishment.

Following on from the success of Wild Water, Film Soc alongside other MAC team members negotiated the opportunity to start screening National Theatre Live. The first screening Prima Facie in September was sold out quickly allowing us to arrange a second performance, all of which brought valued income into MAC. We look forward to leading on the projection and technical set up for future events this year.



Our ticket prices are unchanged from last year and early indications suggest our subscriber numbers have increased for this year. Our first film of the 2024 / 2025 season *Zone of Interest* was a virtual sellout. From this year all screenings will be at 7.30pm

### **Saddleworth Events - Sharon Bannatyne**

Sharon Bannatyne and Mike Clegg became outside events coordinators in February 2024. We have had many enquiries with regards to booking the centre. Due to the excellent scheduling of Saddleworth Players, Concert Society, Film Society and the great addition of National Theatre Live, we have not been able to accommodate all of them.

Events so far included *Stax of Soul*, and a new play by Martin Roche. Feedback from the audience was excellent.

Coming up, we have a varied programme including *A Celebration of Simon and Garfunkel*, *Pauline Montgomery*, *International Medium* and *Hancock's Half Hour The Lost TV Episode* (coming straight from London).

We have been very fortunate to secure film showings of plays from National Theatre Live during this new season. We are looking forward to each production.

### **Delph Library - Phillida Shipp**

Delph Library is run as a partnership between Oldham Libraries, Delph Community Association (DCA) and Millgate Arts Centre (MAC). The library is staffed by volunteers, and a Senior Library Assistant is available for advice and support. DCA pays for the running costs of the library but receives an annual grant from Oldham Libraries to help with this. The Library occupies part of the MAC building and is responsible for the internal maintenance of this area.

The library is open for fifteen hours a week: on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and Friday and Saturday mornings.

We had a total of 2809 visitors between the beginning of September 2023 and the beginning of September 2024. This included two class visits from Delph Primary School.

We hold Bounce and Rhyme sessions for under-fives on Friday mornings from 10.30 – 11.30, followed by a quieter session for those who enjoy knitting from 11.30 – 1.00pm.

We took part in the Summer Reading Challenge along with all Oldham Libraries. This year the theme was “*Marvellous Makers*”. Primary aged children have been encouraged to read six books during the summer holidays and receive a medal and certificate if they do.

We organise craft afternoons for primary children during each school holiday and encourage those who attend to also borrow books.

Delph Library Reading Group meets on the third Monday of the month from 5.00 – 6.00pm. We read books selected from Oldham Libraries stock. Anyone who would like to join is welcome to come along.

At present there are 22 volunteers, but we really need more. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Helena Tinker on 07836 284493

I have recently handed over the role of coordinator to a small group of volunteers, including Caitlin Barrass, who will liaise with MAC on behalf of Delph Library.



### **Safeguarding – Sandy Hawkins**

Our youth group SPY is thriving for young actors aged 11-21.

All safeguarding along with Health and Safety procedures are in place.

All members who are responsible for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are subject to enhanced Criminal Record Bureau disclosures. Saddleworth Players and the MAC review the comprehensive child protection policy on a regular basis.

Copies of the policy are available on request.

### **Bar report - Luke Settle**

- Income from the bar is really important and helps our theatre finances balance the books.
- We have had changes through the year with our recruited staff.  
We now have two people sharing a bar leader role – Sarah and Elizabeth – who were successfully recruited through our Facebook adverts. An assistant bar leader has also been employed – Bernadette. All employees are currently taking their bar license.
- However, we really rely on volunteers to help out on the bar, alongside our leaders. If you can help, please get in touch.

### **Play reading group - Maurice Reid**

The play reading group carries on as ever thanks to the Inter library Lending Service and we have borrowed from libraries as far apart as Wiltshire and Blackburn with Darwen. When there have been problems, we have been expertly bailed out by Carol Davies and Verity Mann who have given us access to the Millgate's own library of playsets.

We read anything that's published and last year this ranged from '4 Plays for Coarse Actors' to 'The Tempest'. We have established a tradition of making Shakespeare our final reading of the season in June and we prepare parts for this one. Otherwise all our readings are 'blind' and the group shows great skill in quickly sizing up an unseen part and reading appropriately - no mean task.

I guess the only change this year is that we have established a rota for refreshments and I think the coffee and biscuit break has been appreciated.

## **Directors Appreciation**

We are extremely grateful for the commitment given and shown by individuals and organisations involved with the Millgate Arts Centre and for the initiatives and support that is given in so many ways. We could not survive without this enthusiasm and commitment

### **Policy regarding financial risks and reserves**

Box office revenue, bar income and extra income received from events and lettings covers all annual outgoings and provides a surplus which can be utilised by the Arts Centre to further enhance and develop activities. The directors continue to explore other avenues of funding to carry out further refurbishment works and enhance activities even more for the benefit of the community. It is also vital to ensure that adequate funding is obtained to ensure that the library can continue to operate. The directors have a policy on both financial risks and reserves.

## **Statement of Board of Directors' responsibilities for the financial statements**



- Company law requires the board of directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of money matters of the charitable company, and of the excess of income over expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements the board of directors are required to:
  - a)select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
  - b)make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
  - c)state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
  - d)prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.
- They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charitable company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.
- The board of directors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985 and Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

### Approval

This report was approved by the Directors on the 23rd of October 2024 and signed on their behalf by

John Tanner  
Chair and Director

Sandy Hawkins  
Company Secretary

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132**  
**SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2024**

**1. RECEIPTS**

<b>TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Subscribers for 2023/24 season	11,048	7,258
Plays income	35,265	31,949
Play sponsorship	1,990	1,320
Bar	38,775	37,801
Box Office	7,905	5,607
SFS/SCS/Lettings	5,349	4,916
Saddleworth Player Youth Theatre	185	1,487
Saddleworth Live and Pantomime	13,641	15,765
	<u><b>114,159</b></u>	<u><b>106,102</b></u>
Other Trading Income	1,285	466
<b>INCOME FROM ASSETS</b>	<u><b>115,443</b></u>	<u><b>106,569</b></u>
Interest and Dividends	4,174	1,878
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u><u><b>119,617</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>108,447</b></u></u>

**2. PAYMENTS**

<b>DIRECT EXPENDITURE IN SUPPORT OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS</b>		
Play expenses	17,294	12,096
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bar Wages	1,217	4,960
Bar Expenses	18,965	20,037
Ice cream/sweets	3,368	2,141
Marketing	6,304	4,715
Cleaning	5,200	5,194
Utilities	13,742	17,427
Card Fees	1,887	1,269
Insurance	7,270	5,897
Accountants	419	436
Bank Charges	280	271
Building maintenance	6,346	1,408
Building structural repairs	24,997	17,099
Miscellaneous	3,499	3,588
	<u><b>93,493</b></u>	<u><b>84,442</b></u>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u><u><b>110,788</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>96,538</b></u></u>
<b>SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>8,830</b>	<b>11,909</b>
Add Donations / Income from Friends	1,152	11,726
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u><b>9,982</b></u>	<u><b>23,635</b></u>
Less Write Off:		
Building Improvement Works from Previous Years	2,419	13,671
<b>SURPLUS (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u><u><b>7,563</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>9,964</b></u></u>

Check total

0

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132**  
**BALANCE SHEET**

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Building Improvements (see note 1)	2,419	4,838
Investments (see note 2)	15,000	15,000
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b><u>17,419</u></b>	<b><u>19,838</u></b>
 <b>Current Assets (see note 4)</b>	 <b>137,931</b>	 <b>128,247</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>155,350</u></b>	<b><u>148,085</u></b>
 Subs paid in advance	 (1,465)	 (1,320)
Accruals	(40)	(482)
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>(1,505)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,802)</u></b>
 <b>Net Assets</b>	 <b><u><u>153,845</u></u></b>	 <b><u><u>146,283</u></u></b>
 <b>Represented by</b>		
Balance b/f	146,283	136,319
Surplus (Loss) for year	7,563	9,964
<b>Total</b>	<b><u><u>153,845</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>146,283</u></u></b>
	0	0

MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED  
 CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132  
 NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Write Off in Year

2,419 Remaining half CAPEX incurred in 2022/23

	2023/24	2022/23
<b>1. Building Improvements</b>		
Brought Forward	4,838	13,671
Write Off in Year	<u>(2,419)</u>	<u>(13,671)</u>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>0</b>
Building Improvements In Year	0	4,838
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>4,838</b>

In 2016/17 it was decided that future building improvement works should be written off over two years.  
 In 2022/23 £4,838 was capitalised for new windows in the Theatre bar area  
 In 2023/24 £2,419 has been written off, representing half the balance  
 Building improvement works will continue to be written off over two years.

	2023/24	2022/23
<b>2. Investments</b>		
COIF	15,000	15,000

£15000 has been invested in COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund.  
 The investment is held in the balance sheet at cost

**3. Leasehold property**  
 This has no value since in the event of the company winding up it reverts to Oldham Council at nil value.

	2023/24	2022/23
<b>4. Current Assets</b>		
Current accounts	19,817	60,672
Business Deposit	54,537	11,862
Business Savings	62,123	55,113
Other assets	<u>1,456</u>	<u>600</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>137,931</b>	<b>128,247</b>

**CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS REPORT**

**TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**

**ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that Millgate Arts Centre Limited has kept adequate accounting records, and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of Millgate Arts Centre Limited. You consider that Millgate Arts Centre Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

It is our responsibility to examine the accounts and to state whether any matters have come to our attention.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company 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 directors 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.

In connection with our examination, no material matters have come to our attention which gives us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- adequate accounting records were not kept
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts 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.

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

This report is made solely to the board of directors. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the board of directors for our work or for this report.

*Ogden & Partington*

**OGDEN & PARTINGTON**

Chartered Certified Accountants

Office 3, Falcon Business Centre,  
Victoria Street,  
Chadderton,  
Oldham,  
OL9 0HB.

14<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132**  
**SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2024**

**1. RECEIPTS**

<b>TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Subscribers for 2023/24 season	11,048	7,258
Plays income	35,265	31,949
Play sponsorship	1,990	1,320
Bar	38,775	37,801
Box Office	7,905	5,607
SFS/SCS/Lettings	5,349	4,916
Saddleworth Player Youth Theatre	185	1,487
Saddleworth Live and Pantomime	13,641	15,765
	<u><b>114,159</b></u>	<u><b>106,102</b></u>
Other Trading Income	1,285	466
<b>INCOME FROM ASSETS</b>	<u><b>115,443</b></u>	<u><b>106,569</b></u>
Interest and Dividends	4,174	1,878
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u><u><b>119,617</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>108,447</b></u></u>

**2. PAYMENTS**

<b>DIRECT EXPENDITURE IN SUPPORT OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS</b>		
Play expenses	17,294	12,096
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bar Wages	1,217	4,960
Bar Expenses	18,965	20,037
Ice cream/sweets	3,368	2,141
Marketing	6,304	4,715
Cleaning	5,200	5,194
Utilities	13,742	17,427
Card Fees	1,887	1,269
Insurance	7,270	5,897
Accountants	419	436
Bank Charges	280	271
Building maintenance	6,346	1,408
Building structural repairs	24,997	17,099
Miscellaneous	3,499	3,588
	<u><b>93,493</b></u>	<u><b>84,442</b></u>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u><u><b>110,788</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>96,538</b></u></u>
<b>SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>8,830</b>	<b>11,909</b>
Add Donations / Income from Friends	1,152	11,726
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u><b>9,982</b></u>	<u><b>23,635</b></u>
Less Write Off:		
Building Improvement Works from Previous Years	2,419	13,671
<b>SURPLUS (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u><u><b>7,563</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>9,964</b></u></u>

Check total

0

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132**  
**BALANCE SHEET**

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Building Improvements (see note 1)	2,419	4,838
Investments (see note 2)	15,000	15,000
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b><u>17,419</u></b>	<b><u>19,838</u></b>
<b>Current Assets (see note 4)</b>	<b>137,931</b>	<b>128,247</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>155,350</u></b>	<b><u>148,085</u></b>
Subs paid in advance	(1,465)	(1,320)
Accruals	(40)	(482)
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>(1,505)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,802)</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u><u>153,845</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>146,283</u></u></b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Balance b/f	146,283	136,319
Surplus (Loss) for year	7,563	9,964
<b>Total</b>	<b><u><u>153,845</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>146,283</u></u></b>
	0	0

MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED  
 CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132  
 NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Write Off in Year

2,419 Remaining half CAPEX incurred in 2022/23

	2023/24	2022/23
<b>1. Building Improvements</b>		
Brought Forward	4,838	13,671
Write Off in Year	<u>(2,419)</u>	<u>(13,671)</u>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>0</b>
Building Improvements In Year	0	4,838
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>2,419</u></b>	<b><u>4,838</u></b>

In 2016/17 it was decided that future building improvement works should be written off over two years.  
 In 2022/23 £4,838 was capitalised for new windows in the Theatre bar area  
 In 2023/24 £2,419 has been written off, representing half the balance  
 Building improvement works will continue to be written off over two years.

	2023/24	2022/23
<b>2. Investments</b>		
COIF	15,000	15,000

£15000 has been invested in COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund.  
 The investment is held in the balance sheet at cost

**3. Leasehold property**  
 This has no value since in the event of the company winding up it reverts to Oldham Council at nil value.

	2023/24	2022/23
<b>4. Current Assets</b>		
Current accounts	19,817	60,672
Business Deposit	54,537	11,862
Business Savings	62,123	55,113
Other assets	<u>1,456</u>	<u>600</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>137,931</u></b>	<b><u>128,247</u></b>

**CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS REPORT**

**TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**

**ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that Millgate Arts Centre Limited has kept adequate accounting records, and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of Millgate Arts Centre Limited. You consider that Millgate Arts Centre Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

It is our responsibility to examine the accounts and to state whether any matters have come to our attention.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company 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 directors 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.

In connection with our examination, no material matters have come to our attention which gives us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- adequate accounting records were not kept
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts 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.

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

This report is made solely to the board of directors. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the board of directors for our work or for this report.

*Ogden & Partington*

**OGDEN & PARTINGTON**

Chartered Certified Accountants

Office 3, Falcon Business Centre,  
Victoria Street,  
Chadderton,  
Oldham,  
OL9 0HB.

14<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1119394

---

# Accounts

---

MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED - (Company Number 06126132 and Charity Number 1119394)  
(Company Limited by Guarantee)

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Directors present their Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Reference and administrative details**

The company is a company limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital. The company was incorporated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007 and the charity was first registered on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007. The liability of the members of the company which is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association is limited to £10 per member in the event of the company being wound up while they are a member. Trustees/Directors represent the various groups who make up the work of Millgate Arts centre. They are -

**Directors**

We have 11 directors in total.

Sandy Hawkins OBE	
Roger Hinchliffe	<i>Saddleworth Concerts Society</i>
Duncan Jackson	
Luke Settle	
Ian Shepherd	
David Shipp	
Phillida Shipp	<i>Delph Community Association</i>
John Tanner (Chair of MAC directors)	
Ken Wright MBE	
Adrian Barass	<i>Saddleworth Film Society</i>
Miriam Lawton	

Anne Wright MBE (Ex officio) President

Tim Newbold has recently resigned due to ill health. We thank him for all his hard work with Saddleworth Live and wish him a speedy recovery. We have been joined by Miriam Lawton.

This leaved us with 4 vacancies moving forward.

**Officers**

Chair of MAC Directors	John Tanner
Company Secretary:	Sandy Hawkins
Company Treasurer:	Duncan Jackson
Productions manager	Verity Mann
Buildings manager	Ian Shepherd
Chair of Management Committee:	Ian Shepherd

## Responsibilities

Role	Leader	Support
Finance	Duncan Jackson	
Company secretary, Safeguarding coordinator, Subscriptions secretary	Sandy Hawkins	
Building Manager, Lettings manager	Ian Shepherd	
Publicity manager, Membership Coordinator, Data protection	Andrew Mann	Sam Al Hamdani, David Ebden,
Production coordinator, Newsletter Coord, Wardrobe Coordinator	Verity Mann	Props - Siobhan Ebden Play selection - Pauline Walsh,
Bar manager	Luke Settle	Kerry Ely (paid role)
Technical Coordinator	David Plowright	
Front of House Manager	Neil Bradbury	
Library Coordinator	Phillida Shipp	
Sponsorship Manager	John Tanner	
Production committee	Verity Mann	Carol Davies Melvyn Bates, Alayne Whitworth
Charities coordinator	Carol Davies	
Play Reading group:	Maurice Reid	
Stage Director	Current vacancy	

## Members

- The register of Members maintained by the Membership List Coordinator, which includes-
  - ✓ the Directors as listed above,
  - ✓ Life Members as listed below and
  - ✓ representatives from some or all of - the Delph Community Association; Saddleworth Concerts Society; Saddleworth Civic Trust, Saddleworth Film Society and the Saddleworth Parish Council

## Life Members –

- Ken Deighton; Elizabeth Hardie; Margaret Hill; June Holmes; Tricia Kenworthy; Ian Perks; Patricia Redshaw; Edwina Rigby; Andrew Rigby; Ian Shepherd; David Shipp; Jill Smith; John Shore, Jean Sykes; John Tanner; Ken Wright, Anne Wright, John Hankin

**Company Number**

06126132

<b>Charity Number</b>	1119394
<b>Principal and Registered Office Address</b>	The Millgate Arts Centre Stoneswood Road Delph Oldham OL3 5DY
<b>Bankers</b>	Santander Bank Bridle Road Bootle Merseyside L30 4GB
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Phil Mushing, Ogden and Partington, Falcon Enterprise Centre, Victoria Street, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 0HB

### **Principal objectives and policies**

The **key objectives** of the charity are: -

- to advance public education in the Arts and to present plays of high quality and in a variety of periods and styles.
- to manage the Millgate Arts Centre, Delph as a cultural and social amenity for Saddleworth.
- to promote an interest in drama by any appropriate means.

To further these objectives, the Charity

- fosters the use of the Millgate Arts Centre as a cultural, social and educational amenity for all people in Saddleworth and as a community centre for all people in Delph and in Saddleworth in general.
- protects and preserves the Millgate Arts Centre as a building of architectural and historic importance.
- fosters and preserves the name of “Saddleworth Players” in the presentation of plays. The charity acquired the assets, but subject to the liabilities, of the charity known as Saddleworth Players. The new company has the same charitable objectives as Saddleworth Players and the name “Saddleworth Players” has been preserved for play productions.

### **Background**

The Millgate Arts Centre building is a prominent feature in the village of Delph. It houses a theatre, a bar, a bar lounge and a library. Part of the building was let by Oldham MBC to the former Saddleworth Players for use as a theatre. In 2005 when it became known that the library was to be closed, interested parties came together to form the “Millgate Centre Steering Group”, to consider the future of the whole building. As a result of this initiative and following detailed negotiations, all parties agreed that to secure the future of the building for the community of

Delph, the only way forward was to establish a new charity and company known as the Millgate Arts Centre.

Oldham MBC, who currently owns the freehold of the building, granted a 30-year full repairing lease of the whole building, including the library, to the new company/charity at a peppercorn rent (this lease now expires in 2039). Under the auspices of the Millgate Arts Centre the Delph library is now separately managed and staffed by volunteers from the Delph Community Association.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Directors of the Company**

The Company currently has 11 directors (with 4 vacancies) who were appointed because of their wide range of considerable skills and experience in managing large scale organisations and delivering projects and initiatives on time and on budget. They consist of people with experience in such areas as senior management, project coordination, arts and theatre management, architecture, engineering, building maintenance, IT, finance, law, administration, human resources, marketing and community consultation. There are representatives from Saddleworth players, the film society and the concert society and local government.

The directors are responsible for managing the business of the company and charity and making policy and main funding decisions, with the day-to-day management of the Centre being carried out by a **Management Committee**.

The powers and functions relating to the charity's object of presenting plays and promoting drama is delegated to a **Production Committee**.

Directors are kept fully informed of issues by reports from the committees and through directors who serve on these two committees. The Management Committee meets every month to deal with the day-to-day affairs of the society and the Millgate Arts Centre building, and deals with issues such as finance, building maintenance, advertising, membership, lettings, health and safety etc. Our sincere appreciation is extended to the Committees/Groups for their advice and support throughout the year.

### **Members of the Charity**

Members include the subscribers to the memorandum who were the first members of the charity, together with all persons who were members of Saddleworth Players at the date of incorporation and anyone on the list of Members at the time the AGM is called. New members are vetted and approved by the Management Committee on behalf of the directors. Furthermore, under the Articles the following local organisations are members of the charity – Delph Community Association, Saddleworth Concerts Society, Saddleworth Civic Trust, Saddleworth Film Society and Saddleworth Parish Council. There are currently **453** members of the charity. Oldham MBC also appoints an Officer to be a named contact, currently Councillor Kevin Dawson, to ensure that consultation and liaison is maintained as the Arts Centre develops.

### **Staffing and Volunteers**

We have currently one person who is currently employed by the charity as a bar worker. A cleaning company is also brought in to ensure that the building is not only clean but Covid safe. The organisation and management of the company/charity and all the activities of the Centre are undertaken by a large team of volunteers. The directors are very grateful for the efforts and support of these volunteers which ensures that the full facilities of the Centre are made available to the local community.

## **Achievement and Performance**

### **Business review**

- The directors are responsible for ensuring that an effective risk assessment policy is in operation. Action is being taken to identify all potential risks and a formal policy and risk register has been produced and this is updated and reviewed every six months by both the Management Committee and directors.
- Financial controls and systems are regularly reviewed by the Treasurer and board of directors together with an annual budget and strategic plan. Ongoing reviews by the directors ensure that financial performance is in line with the approved budget.
- Insurances are regularly updated to ensure that risks are sufficiently covered. Public appeals are ongoing and other fundraising initiatives increase the level of funds needed for building projects and ongoing maintenance /running costs.
- MAC is a member of the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO).
- The centre provides a barrier free environment, including a ramp access to the theatre.
- We continue to raise monies for the ongoing development of the Centre.
- The Management Committee and Production Committee continue to operate effectively and deliver in their areas of responsibility. A newsletter is circulated to Members on a regular basis. Friends of Millgate Arts Centre are kept informed by letter or email as required of developments and progress.

### **Officer's Reports**

**Reports have been received from officers/volunteers and the directors are pleased to present them as follows to give a flavour of our work.**

#### **Message from our Chairman of Directors – John Tanner**

This year marks our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Millgate Theatre and after such a great season in 2022/23 all the signs are that 2023/24 will be another high quality and entertaining season. 50 years ago, the Saddleworth Players put on 4 plays a year (with a fifth play in the summer every 4 years to coincide with the Saddleworth Festival). Also, The Chamber Society and Film Society joined us not long after and as well as a few extra plays and social events I estimated that the building was used for approx. 40/50 nights in a 10-month season. We had a relatively large group of acting/production/technical and bar volunteers allowing us to put on several large cast productions.

Today, with the inclusion of the Christmas Panto, the theatre will be used between 80/100 times and that is without any Saddleworth Live shows.

So, with the ever-growing popularity of our 'Millgate' comes the major issue of trying to man these events currently covered by a dedicated few of our members and volunteers.

The pressure this bears on us as a Society is the most pressing problem we face, and I know the management group are hard at work to try and resolve this and I wish them success in enticing our ever-growing new member numbers to get involved.

Sadly, Tim and Michael are taking time out from their 'Saddleworth Live' activities, and I want to acknowledge the huge and generous contribution that they have given us over the

years (not least the Panto). Their style of shows brought fresh audiences and I firmly believe that has helped spotlight our Saddleworth Players shows.

I am delighted to say that we have a new MAC Director joining us namely Mirriam Lawton and she is someone who I am sure will bring a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to bear. However, we have said goodbye and farewell to Ken Deighton, who has played a tremendous part in the life of Millgate for so many years. We owe him huge gratitude and thanks. He will be sorely missed.

Finally - the Building! We have major structural repairs that are needed to be addressed and a sub-group has been working out what this will entail in costs, in time schedules. etc. More details will emerge over the coming months but whilst every one of us have a part to play I particularly want to thank Richard Wallace for taking the lead on this complex issue.

### **Delph Library - Phillida Shipp**

Delph Library is run as a partnership between Oldham Libraries, Delph Community Association (DCA) and Millgate Arts Centre (MAC). The library is staffed by volunteers, and a Senior Library Assistant is available for advice and support. DCA pays for the running costs of the library but receives an annual grant from Oldham Libraries to help with this. The library occupies part of the MAC building and is responsible for internal maintenance of this area.

The library is open for fifteen hours a week: on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and Friday and Saturday mornings.

In the Winter we took part in Oldham Council's 'Warm Spaces' scheme. Anyone could come into the library and sit comfortably with a warm drink during our opening hours. This proved quite popular during cold spells.

We had a total of 2694 visitors between the beginning of August 2022 and the beginning of August 2023. This included two class visits from Delph Primary School.

We hold fun sessions for under-fives on Friday mornings from 10.30 – 11.30 followed by a quieter session of knitting and crocheting from 11.30 – 1.00pm. We are taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge along with all Oldham Libraries. This year the theme is 'Ready, Set, Read', with an emphasis on outdoor activities and sports. All primary aged children are encouraged to read six books during the summer holidays and will receive a medal and a certificate if they do.

The Delph Library Reading Group meets on the third Monday of the month between 5.00 and 6.00pm. We read books selected from Oldham Libraries stock. Anyone who would like to join is welcome to come along.

At present we have 26 volunteers, but we really need more. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact me on 01457 875171 Phillida Shipp (Volunteer Coordinator)

### **Production Committee Season 2022/2023 – Verity Mann**

Saddleworth Players had a successful season, producing 5 plays, which saw audience levels increasing to pre-pandemic levels and new recruits onstage and offstage. It was not without its challenges – in particular the backstage area was out of bounds for the first two plays and an entire set team had to be found in the New Year but, as usual, the spirit of Community Theatre saved the day and there was a huge amount of camaraderie, co-operation and sense of fun.

The season included three comedies, a drama and a classic thriller. In order, they were:

- Scary Bikers by John Godber: A political comedy about Brexit and cycling which saw Mike Lawlor joining us as director for the first time. Regardless of political leanings,

this modern two-hander had a big heart and explored the theme of widow hood with sensitivity whilst giving us laugh-out-loud moments as the pair grew saddle-sore on a tandem on the way to Florence.

- **Ben Hur** by Patrick Barlow: A fast-paced comedy with a cast of four endlessly multi-role-ing aided by stage crew and props. It required clever staging and creativity by costume and props teams in what became an immensely enjoyable ensemble piece. It was testament to the energy and goodwill created by the cast that the whole audience joined in as galley slaves and abusive Romans.
- **Bette and Joan** by Anton Burge: A thought provoking drama bringing to life the highs and lows of life as Hollywood Divas and Bette Davis and Joan Crawford slug it out both on screen and off in the making of 'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane!'. Sympathetically and stylishly directed by Melvyn Bates, set, costumes and props screamed Hollywood glamour.
- **Trap for a Lonely Man** by Robert Thomas: Set in the French Alps, this classic thriller, directed by Sue Stephenson, kept audiences guessing right until the very end. An intriguing play, it allowed for some lovely characterisation and cameo roles.
- **Silver Lining** by Sandi Toksvig: directed by Carol Davies: set in a nursing home during a catastrophic flood this warm hearted but intelligent comedy is packed with one-liners and laugh-out-loud moments. Creative direction, fantastic performances, a realistic set and a challenging props list helped shape this show as one of our all-time best sellers attracting new audience members who have since gone on to become subscribers.

We have also had a really successful season with Saddleworth Players Youth Theatre (SPY) who meet every Monday during term time, and have put on a Christmas show *The Snow Queen*, and entered a one act play written by SPY and Rebecca Wood into the Oldham Drama Festival, performing it at the June season preview to full house.

The season 2023-24 has now been launched. We are always looking and encouraging people to get involved and adding to the 80 Players from 2022/23. Keep an eye out for audition notices.

### **Saddleworth Players Operations Team**

We realised that we didn't have enough people organising and actually running Saddleworth Players 5 shows a season, and we were / are in danger of too few people taking on too much and burning out.

In Spring 2023, we formed Saddleworth Players Operations Team (SPOT) who will meet regularly and plan and organise the Saddleworth Players Shows. This will give some structure to an important core of Millgate Production Committee, working closely with the Management team that runs the theatre building; front of house (bar; box office)

Chair Andrew Mann,

Secretary Alayne Whitworth

Creative & Play Selection - Verity Mann, Carol Davies, Pauline Walsh, Melvyn Bates

Sound & Lighting - David Plowright

Props\_ Siobhan Ebden

Costumes -Verity Mann

Stage Manager -tbc

Stage Set -tbc

We have also agreed that we will become more open and inclusive.

- Director: PA appointed for each show, then technical leads fill roles
- Audition / read through for shows (starting with Curtain Up!)
- Identify roles and responsibilities for each role (so new people are clear)
- Advertise for new roles (Stage Manager; Set; Stage)
- SPOT roles agreed at AGM each year.

If you would like to get involved on stage , behind stage or have any skill you think we can use, please contact us on [Saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:Saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

### **Membership - Andrew Mann**

We need you to get involved.

We need members to be actively engaged in the running of all elements of Millgate Arts Centre, either on stage, backstage or in the bar or front of house

What skills do you have?

We have several roles that we'll be advertising as part of the management team, and we always welcome volunteers to support the running of the theatre. Please ask at the box office or bar to offer your support. Keep in contact.

We have maintained an update through 5 SPNews regularly on email as PDF or as paper copy to those members with-out email access. Please give us feedback on what you think. We have made good use of our membership database to keep members connected: please let us know if you have moved or changed contact details. If we don't know we can't keep in touch. Contact [membership@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:membership@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

New members have joined over the last year, using the online sign-up link on the website, as well as coming along to see shows and asking to sign up in the bar or box office.

Unfortunately, we've also lost members passing away or with ill health, or just not returning to active participation at Millgate.

<b>Membership on database</b>	<b>2023</b>
Regular members	453
SPY members	14
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>467</b>
Friends	55
Friends of Auditorium	101
Acting Active	89*
Sound & Lighting	7
Costume team	9
Publicity Team	15
Play Reviewers	8
Bar active	36
FOH active	31

### **Publicity - Andrew Mann**

- Publicity ran for the 22-23 and now for the Golden Anniversary Season 23-24.

We have rebuilt the website over the summer, involving all the elements of Millgate Arts Centre (Saddleworth Players, Concerts Society, Film Society, and the Panto and The Library) and are very active on social media, email, and in local press/ radio. We have built a particularly strong relationship with Gemma at Saddleworth Independent

Big thanks you to everyone involved: Sam Al-Hamdani, David Ebden, Michael Powis Jude Gidney, Alan Gorst, Val & Martin Kavanagh, Andrew Mann, Richard Wallis, Adrian and Caitlin Barrass, Gemma and the team at Saddleworth Independent, Mary Booth at Saddleworth Monthly.

- Thanks goes to our Newsletter Coordinator – Verity Mann – who ensures everyone is kept up to date, publicising forthcoming productions, publishing in-house reviews and talking directly to the membership about items of interest to the society. Many of our active members continue to supply copy and to give positive feedback about the content. A copy is emailed out to the membership 3 weeks prior to a Saddleworth Player show, with paper copies distributed via Mail Chimp to those who require it.
- Also, a thanks you to our team of play reviewers: Helen Rigby, John Rigby, Jude Gidney, Martin Roche, Carol Davies and Verity Mann. If you are interested in becoming part of the reviewing team (free tickets to performances) please let me know on [saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

### **Golden Anniversary Season**

Millgate Arts Centre is celebrating 50 years!

Saddleworth Players moved from the Mechanics Hall in Millgate in 1972 with the first show. in 1973. Our Golden Jubilee will be celebrated throughout 2022 & 2023 culminating in a special performance in autumn 2023 to mark the 50th anniversary of the first show in November 2023 with the play Alice.

We have been gathering memories of the last 50 years and sharing them on the website and on social media. We kicked off with a history of Saddleworth Players from 1927 to 1972, several members have written memories and we are uploading details of past shows going back as far as we can.

The memories are already starting to appear on the website, as well as past plays being added through the year. If you have a story, photos or memories you want to share please get in touch: [saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:saddleworthplayers@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

### **Wardrobe – Verity Mann**

We have continued to run a drop-in costume group on Wednesday mornings from 10am-12pm with the aim of sorting, mending, and sizing costumes, providing costumes for all the Saddleworth Players' shows and for other theatre groups when requested.

As well as providing a valuable service (we no longer need to hire costumes ourselves and can tackle all periods, widening the scope of plays that we perform), our volunteers are a cohesive and friendly crew and make Wednesday mornings fun and varied.

### **Front of House - Neil Bradbury**

Like all areas of Millgate Arts Centre Front of House has had a very busy year and a big thank you to all who have volunteered.

We have retained our existing team while recruiting some new members and I cannot stress enough that we couldn't do it without your dedication and support.

New members to the team are always welcome and don't hesitate to contact me at [FOH@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:FOH@millgateartscentre.co.uk)

I am pleased to report that the increase in customers generally has been reflected in our sales of confectionary and ice cream which all contributes to the theatre budget.

Over the Summer we have been working to clear and tidy behind the desk and the office area so an improvement should be seen.

Throughout the year we have replaced and improved our First Aid facilities and the decision has recently been taken to purchase a lightweight wheelchair to assist evacuation from the auditorium if required.

### **Saddleworth Film Society – Adrian Barass**

- After a 2-year Covid break this was a ‘make or break’ year where the Film Society needed to commit to the season in Summer 2022 with no real confidence of the number of tickets that would be sold through the season to cover all our costs. We are pleased to report that our subscriber levels returned to our pre-Covid levels and through the support of Millgate Arts Centre we have been able to make online ticket sales available. These extra sales have made a small but meaningful difference as we have balanced our costs and in fact added to our small cash asset to enable us to invest in the future.
- The film season was chosen, like previous seasons to show ‘new’ films that provide challenge, interest and interval conversation. The availability of films through streaming services means that we work hard to find films that are not free to air through the main streaming services, they may be available to buy or indeed may not be available at all. At the same time, we do try and find one or two ‘blockbusters’ such as Elvis this year which aims to make the film society attractive to all whilst at the same time giving a little challenge on occasional evenings.
- Our 2023 season had films presented in 8 foreign languages and only 2 in English. It had short films Petite Maman (73 minutes) and long films Drive my Car (179 minutes). Most were contemporary, some based on true stories; Benediction, Elvis and Hive and you could say we have presented films that could be perceived as challenging, but many left the cinema feeling thankful that we came out on a Monday evening. This is the key part of the Film Society to feel entertained and challenged in equal part.
- With Millgate Management Team support, we have become much more integrated within Millgate Theatre through the year. We are members of the Millgate Management Team who meet monthly. They have been very helpful to us and ensure all the SFS events are well publicised alongside all the Millgate Events and working to push our film events out to a wider audience. The most visible benefit of our close cooperation is that we sell tickets for films via the Millgate Website via Ticket source.
- With the return of our subscribers, we have confidence in our cash position and have now invested in new technology to make our offering to the community more attractive. With the advent of digital TVs our image size and resolution are now small and ‘washed out’ relative to many people’s experiences at home. Whilst film society is much more than the quality of picture, we believe we can improve, and as many of our films are subtitled there have been times when these have not been as clear as many would like!
- At our AGM all members supported the investment in a new Blu Ray player and more importantly a new projector. This is a significant investment, but initial testing has indicated we will increase the image size by 50% and increase the colour and picture definition significantly. We now have a ‘spare’ projector and Film Society are happy that this should remain in the theatre and be available to all whilst also acting as spare for ourselves if required.
- The projection improvements lead us to be even more excited about our next season. We hope with the improved image and continued push on marketing, the films we will be able to maintain and grow our subscriber and individual ticket sales. We have

confirmed our first 5 films for the season including an extra film, West Side Story on 4th September where we hope to be able to show off our new technology and time spent in the control room to improve the audio. We look forward to welcoming subscribers and visitors in September.

### **Sponsorship – John Tanner**

All 5 plays for the 2023/24 season have sponsors in place and we have an additional sponsor 'Ryder& Dutton' for this year Pantomime.

You can contact me on johntanner@tannerbrothers.co.uk or mob 07802 385 591.

### **Safeguarding – Sandy Hawkins**

Our youth group SPY is thriving for young actors aged 11-21.

All safeguarding along with Health and Safety procedures are in place.

All members who are responsible for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are subject to enhanced Criminal Record Bureau disclosures. Saddleworth Players and the MAC review the comprehensive child protection policy on a regular basis.

Copies of the policy are available on request.

### **Bar report – Luke Settle**

The bar and bar lounge continue to fulfil an important role in the operation of the theatre, providing not only vital income for the charity, but a social space for the enjoyment of our audiences and members.

Since the last report, our Bar Manager (Tim Newbold) has had to step away from his position. We thank Tim greatly for his hard work over the past few years and overseeing the recent developments of the bar area. Similarly, our Bar Leader (Pete Mariette) has had to step away from his position and we thank Pete for his time with us.

Director, Luke Settle, has assumed the voluntary position of Bar Manager and brings with him over a decade of experience, having previously managed the bar at Millgate Arts Centre and as manager at Rochdale Town Hall. Recruitment is currently underway for a new Bar Leader, a paid position to manage the day-to-day operations of the bar.

Development of the bar operations continues, with improved financial and stock controls introduced over the summer. Similarly, processes have been introduced to improve communication with our bar volunteers with the aim of ensuring that helping on the bar is a fun and enjoyable experience for all our volunteers, on which we rely so much. The list of active bar volunteers is increasing once again but more are still needed. If anyone is interested in helping out, please email [bar@millgateartscentre.co.uk](mailto:bar@millgateartscentre.co.uk).

### **Play reading group - Maurice Reid**

We carry on as before, reading a play every first Tuesday of each month apart from our summer break in July and August and again we were able to send a small sum (£70) to the Millgate as thanks for its kind hospitality.

We have a good relationship with Oldham Central Library who source plays for us via the Inter Library Lending scheme. Many of our plays recently have come from Wiltshire who have an impressively stocked Library of the Performing Arts. They did let us down one month however, but Carol Davies and Verity Mann sprang to our aid, and we were able to access the library of plays now developing at the Millgate and so we chose 'Abigail's Party'.

In May Chris O 'Ryan led a reading of 'Measure for Measure' in what is becoming a tradition - i.e., preparing parts in advance and then reading a complete Shakespeare.

### **Directors Appreciation**

We are extremely grateful for the commitment given and shown by individuals and organisations involved with the Millgate Arts Centre and for the initiatives and support that is given in so many ways. We could not survive without this enthusiasm and commitment.

### **Financial review 2022-2023 Duncan Jackson**

The 2022/23 season provided trading income of £106,102. This included subscriptions of £7,258, income from Saddleworth Players of £33,269, Saddleworth Live and income from Pantomime of £15,765, income from the Box Office of £5,607, and income from the Bar of £37,801. This was an excellent performance in our first full season not affected by the pandemic, and provides comfort that people are now happy returning to theatre.

Total operating costs for the year were £84,442. This included gas, electricity, and water costs of £17,427, bar expenses of £24,997 (made up of bar supplies and wages), plus the theatre annual insurance renewal of £5,897. Other significant overheads included cleaning (£5,194) and marketing (£4,715). There was un-forecast expenditure of £17,099 on the investigations into the structural repair work required to the theatre building. OMBC have so far agreed to refund the cost of the asbestos removal (£7,150).

The surplus from operating activities in 2022/23 was £11,909.

We received a lump sum donation of £10,000 from the Roger Tanner Trust, as well as ongoing donations from Friends of the theatre. At the end of June 2023, there was £127,647 in the Millgate bank accounts.

The main financial risk to the theatre is the cost of the structural repairs to the building which cannot be met from our existing reserves. Contribution from OMBC and / or significant fund raising will be needed to meet the estimated costs of the repairs.

The Annual Reports and Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and an audit exemption statement has been prepared. These are available on request.

### **Policy regarding financial risks and reserves**

Box office revenue, bar income and extra income received from events and lettings covers all annual outgoings and provides a surplus which can be utilised by the Arts Centre to further enhance and develop activities. The directors continue to explore other avenues of funding to carry out further refurbishment works and enhance activities even more for the benefit of the community. It is also vital to ensure that adequate funding is obtained to ensure that the library can continue to operate. The directors have a policy on both financial risks and reserves.

### **Statement of Board of Directors' responsibilities for the financial statements**

- Company law requires the board of directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of money matters of the charitable company,

and of the excess of income over expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements the board of directors are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
  - b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
  - c) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
  - d) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.
- They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charitable company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.
  - The board of directors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985 and Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

### **Approval**

This report was approved by the Directors on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 and signed on their behalf by

John Tanner  
Chair and Director

Sandy Hawkins  
Company Secretary

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132**  
**SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2023**

**1. RECEIPTS**

<b>TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Subscribers for 2022/23 season	7,258	7,764
Plays income	31,949	22,960
Play sponsorship	1,320	1,320
Bar	37,801	29,638
Box Office	5,607	2,177
SFS/SCS/Lettings	4,916	2,235
Saddleworth Player Youth Theatre	1,487	175
Saddleworth Live and Pantomime	15,765	4,371
	<u>106,102</u>	<u>70,640</u>
Other Trading Income	466	231
<b>INCOME FROM ASSETS</b>	<u>106,569</u>	<u>70,871</u>
Interest and Dividends	1,878	1,024
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u><u>108,447</u></u>	<u><u>71,895</u></u>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS</b>		
COVID 19 Grants	0	2,667
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u><u>108,447</u></u>	<u><u>74,562</u></u>

**2. PAYMENTS**

<b>DIRECT EXPENDITURE IN SUPPORT OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS</b>		
Play expenses	12,096	6,618
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bar Wages	4,960	7,144
Bar Expenses	20,037	14,519
Ice cream/sweets	2,141	1,075
Marketing	4,715	3,894
Cleaning	5,194	3,708
Utilities	17,427	12,485
Card Fees	1,269	1,753
Insurance	5,897	4,884
Accountants	436	406
Bank Charges	271	261
Building maintenance	1,408	6,922
Building structural repairs	17,099	0
Miscellaneous	3,588	2,446
	<u>84,442</u>	<u>59,496</u>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u><u>96,538</u></u>	<u><u>66,114</u></u>
<b>SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>11,909</b>	<b>8,447</b>

Add Donations / Income from Friends	<u>11,726</u>	<u>64,274</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23,635</b>	<b>72,721</b>
Less Write Off:		
Building Improvement Works from Previous Years	<u>13,671</u>	<u>49,658</u>
<b>SURPLUS (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b><u>9,964</u></b>	<b><u>23,064</u></b>
Check total	(0)	

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132**

**BALANCE SHEET**

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Building Improvements (see note 1)	4,838	13,671
Investments (see note 2)	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>19,838</b>	<b>28,671</b>
<b>Current Assets (see note 4)</b>	<b>128,247</b>	<b>113,993</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>148,085</u></b>	<b><u>142,664</u></b>
Subs paid in advance	(1,320)	(1,378)
Accruals	<u>(482)</u>	<u>(4,967)</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>(1,802)</u></b>	<b><u>(6,345)</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u><u>146,283</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>136,319</u></u></b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Balance b/f	136,319	113,255
Surplus (Loss) for year	<u>9,964</u>	<u>23,064</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u><u>146,283</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>136,319</u></u></b>
	0	0

MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED  
 CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132  
 NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Write Off in Year

13,671

Remaining half CAPEX incurred in 2020/21

	2022/23	2021/22
<b>1. Building Improvements</b>		
Brought Forward	13,671	63,329
Write Off in Year	<u>(13,671)</u>	<u>(49,658)</u>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,671</b>
Building Improvements In Year	4,838	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,838</b>	<b>13,671</b>

In 2016/17 it was decided that future building improvement works should be written off over two years. In 2022/23 £13,671 has been written off. This comprises the remaining balance from 2020/21 In 2022/23 £4,838 has been capitalised for new windows in the Theatre bar area Building improvement works will continue to be written off over two years.

	2022/23	2021/22
<b>2. Investments</b>		
COIF	15,000	15,000

£15,000 has been invested in COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund. The investment is held in the balance sheet at cost

**3. Leasehold property**

This has no value since in the event of the company winding up it reverts to Oldham Council at nil value.

	2022/23	2021/22
<b>4. Current Assets</b>		
Current accounts	60,672	25,691
Business Deposit	11,862	9,805
Business Savings	55,113	77,882
Other assets	600	615
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,247</b>	<b>113,993</b>

**CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS REPORT**

**TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**

**ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023**

It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that Millgate Arts Centre Limited has kept adequate accounting records, and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of Millgate Arts Centre Limited. You consider that Millgate Arts Centre Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

It is our responsibility to examine the accounts and to state whether any matters have come to our attention.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company 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 directors 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.

In connection with our examination, no material matters have come to our attention which gives us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- adequate accounting records were not kept
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts 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.

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

This report is made solely to the board of directors. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the board of directors for our work or for this report.

*Ogden & Partington*

**OGDEN & PARTINGTON**

Chartered Certified Accountants

Office 3, Falcon Business Centre,  
Victoria Street,  
Chadderton,  
Oldham,  
OL9 0HB.

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132**  
**SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FINANCIAL YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2023**

**1. RECEIPTS**

<b>TRADING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Subscribers for 2022/23 season	7,258	7,764
Plays income	31,949	22,960
Play sponsorship	1,320	1,320
Bar	37,801	29,638
Box Office	5,607	2,177
SFS/SCS/Lettings	4,916	2,235
Saddleworth Player Youth Theatre	1,487	175
Saddleworth Live and Pantomime	15,765	4,371
	<u>106,102</u>	<u>70,640</u>
Other Trading Income	466	231
<b>INCOME FROM ASSETS</b>	<u>106,569</u>	<u>70,871</u>
Interest and Dividends	1,878	1,024
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>108,447</u>	<u>71,895</u>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS</b>		
COVID 19 Grants	0	2,667
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>108,447</u>	<u>74,562</u>

**2. PAYMENTS**

<b>DIRECT EXPENDITURE IN SUPPORT OF CHARITY'S OBJECTS</b>		
Play expenses	12,096	6,618
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bar Wages	4,960	7,144
Bar Expenses	20,037	14,519
Ice cream/sweets	2,141	1,075
Marketing	4,715	3,894
Cleaning	5,194	3,708
Utilities	17,427	12,485
Card Fees	1,269	1,753
Insurance	5,897	4,884
Accountants	436	406
Bank Charges	271	261
Building maintenance	1,408	6,922
Building structural repairs	17,099	0
Miscellaneous	3,588	2,446
	<u>84,442</u>	<u>59,496</u>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u>96,538</u>	<u>66,114</u>
<b>SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>11,909</b>	<b>8,447</b>

Add Donations / Income from Friends	<u>11,726</u>	<u>64,274</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23,635</b>	<b>72,721</b>
Less Write Off:		
Building Improvement Works from Previous Years	<u>13,671</u>	<u>49,658</u>
<b>SURPLUS (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b><u>9,964</u></b>	<b><u>23,064</u></b>
Check total	(0)	

**MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132**

**BALANCE SHEET**

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Building Improvements (see note 1)	4,838	13,671
Investments (see note 2)	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>19,838</b>	<b>28,671</b>
<b>Current Assets (see note 4)</b>	<b>128,247</b>	<b>113,993</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>148,085</u></b>	<b><u>142,664</u></b>
Subs paid in advance	(1,320)	(1,378)
Accruals	<u>(482)</u>	<u>(4,967)</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>(1,802)</u></b>	<b><u>(6,345)</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u><u>146,283</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>136,319</u></u></b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Balance b/f	136,319	113,255
Surplus (Loss) for year	<u>9,964</u>	<u>23,064</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u><u>146,283</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>136,319</u></u></b>
	0	0

MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED  
 CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER 1119394; COMPANY NUMBER 6126132  
 NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Write Off in Year

13,671

Remaining half CAPEX incurred in 2020/21

	2022/23	2021/22
<b>1. Building Improvements</b>		
Brought Forward	13,671	63,329
Write Off in Year	<u>(13,671)</u>	<u>(49,658)</u>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,671</b>
Building Improvements In Year	4,838	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,838</b>	<b>13,671</b>

In 2016/17 it was decided that future building improvement works should be written off over two years. In 2022/23 £13,671 has been written off. This comprises the remaining balance from 2020/21 In 2022/23 £4,838 has been capitalised for new windows in the Theatre bar area Building improvement works will continue to be written off over two years.

	2022/23	2021/22
<b>2. Investments</b>		
COIF	15,000	15,000

£15,000 has been invested in COIF Charities Global Equity Income Fund. The investment is held in the balance sheet at cost

**3. Leasehold property**

This has no value since in the event of the company winding up it reverts to Oldham Council at nil value.

	2022/23	2021/22
<b>4. Current Assets</b>		
Current accounts	60,672	25,691
Business Deposit	11,862	9,805
Business Savings	55,113	77,882
Other assets	600	615
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,247</b>	<b>113,993</b>

**CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS REPORT**

**TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE LIMITED**

**ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023**

It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that Millgate Arts Centre Limited has kept adequate accounting records, and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of Millgate Arts Centre Limited. You consider that Millgate Arts Centre Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

It is our responsibility to examine the accounts and to state whether any matters have come to our attention.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company 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 directors 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.

In connection with our examination, no material matters have come to our attention which gives us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- adequate accounting records were not kept
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts 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.

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

This report is made solely to the board of directors. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the board of directors for our work or for this report.

*Ogden & Partington*

**OGDEN & PARTINGTON**

Chartered Certified Accountants

Office 3, Falcon Business Centre,  
Victoria Street,  
Chadderton,  
Oldham,  
OL9 0HB.

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023