

**THE WORKINGTON  
PLAYGOERS' CLUB**

**INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31ST MAY 2024**

	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
	Unrestrict ed	Restrict ed	Unrestrict ed	Restrict ed
	£	£	£	
<b>Net Income</b>				
Members' subscriptions	2,159		2,115	
Net income from:-				
Golden Jubilee Club				
(summary attached)	1,226		1,489	
Performances (summary				
attached)	9,999		6,464	
Theatre Royal Youth				
(summary attached)	1,231	(175)	0	0
Coffee/ Licensed Bar				
(summary attached)	3,227		4,052	
Hire (summary attached)	12,805		9,617	
	30,647	(175)	23,737	0
Sundry Income	0		0	
Sale of Costumes/Props	0		0	
Bank Interest received	966		306	
Grants received (restricted				
funds)	0	10,000	0	0
Feed in tariff	460		2,242	
Donations received	6,743	0	1,020	0
	38,816	9,825	27,305	0
<b>Support Costs</b>				
Heating and Lighting	7,193		6,915	
Rates and Water Rates	969		1,069	
Maintenance costs	11,689		11,933	
Insurance	7,356		6,982	
Telephone charges	667		929	
Postage and Stationery	168		306	
Advertising/marketing	0		0	
Cleaning	1,229		2,031	
Legal & Professional fees	1,404	5,000	1,320	
Subscriptions & Licences				
Little Theatre Guild				

Sundry costs	901		1,296	
Bank charges	162		142	
Depreciation	4,914	13,288	4,681	13,748
Loss on disposal of fixed assets				
Partial exemption VAT adjustment				
	36,652	18,288	37,604	13,748
	2,164	(8,463)	(10,299)	(13,748)
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>	<b>2,164</b>	<b>(8,463)</b>	<b>(10,299)</b>	<b>(13,748)</b>

## THE WORKINGTON PLAYGOERS' CLUB

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b> (per Schedule)	115,375	441,258	115,539	454,546
<b>Current assets</b>				
Stocks of paint and materials	200	0	200	0
Coffee bar and Bar stock	692	0	641	0
Sundry debtors and prepayments	3,503	0	3,114	0
Cash at Bank	52,569	6,982	45,535	2,157
Cash in hand	360	0	360	0
	57,324	6,982	49,850	2,157
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	11,994	0	6,848	0
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	45,330	6,982	43,002	2,157
<b>Total Assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>160,705</b>	<b>448,240</b>	<b>158,541</b>	<b>456,703</b>

Represented by:-

**Accumulated fund**

		456,70		470,45
Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	158,541	3	168,840	1
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
				(13,74
Surplus for the year	2,164	(8,463)	(10,299)	8)
		<b>448,24</b>		<b>456,70</b>
	<b>160,705</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>158,541</b>	<b>3</b>

**THE WORKINGTON  
PLAYGOERS' CLUB**

**SCHEDULE OF FIXED  
ASSETS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024**

	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
	Unrestri cted £	Restric ted £	Unrestri cted £	Restric ted
<b>Furnishings and equipment</b>				
<b>Net book value at 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023</b>	27,007	30,771	29,580	34,437
Additions in year	4,751			
Disposals		(2,904)		(1,312)
	31,758	27,867	29,580	33,125
<b>Depreciation</b>				
Charge for the year	2,808	3,204	2,573	3,666
On disposals		(2,904)		(1,312)
<b>Net book value at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024</b>	<b>28,950</b>	<b>27,567</b>	<b>27,007</b>	<b>30,771</b>

**Freehold property**

<b>Net book value at 1st June 2023</b>	88,532	423,77 5	90,640	433,85 7
Additions in year		423,77 5		433,85 7
	88,532		90,640	

<b>Depreciation</b>				
Charge for year	2,107	10,084	2,108	10,082
<b>Net book value at 31st May 2024</b>		413,69		423,77
	86,425	1	88,532	5
		441,25		454,54
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	115,375	8	115,539	6

**THE WORKINGTON  
PLAYGOERS' CLUB**

**SUBSIDIARY ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024**

	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
	Unrestri cted	Restric ted	Unrestri cted	Restric ted
	£	£	£	
<b>Performance Account (Playgoers)</b>				
Sale of tickets and programmes	15,343		12,220	
Advertising income	1,417			
<b>Less expenses:-</b>				
Royalties	0		0	
Production costs	6,461		5,509	
Sundry Costs	300		247	
	6,761	0	5,756	0
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	9,999	0	6,464	0

**THE WORKINGTON  
PLAYGOERS' CLUB**

**SUBSIDIARY ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024**

	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
	Unrestri cted	Restric ted	Unrestri cted	Restric ted
	£	£	£	

## Rising Stars

Sale of tickets	1,231		0	
Less: Expenses				
Royalties	0		0	
Production costs	0	175	0	
Sundry costs	0	0	0	0
	0	175	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	1,231	(175)	0	0

## THE WORKINGTON PLAYGOERS' CLUB

### SUBSIDIARY ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024

	2024		2023	
	Unrestri ct'd	Restric ted	Unrestri ct'd	Restric ted
	£	£	£	
<b>Coffee and Licensed Bar Account</b>				
Sales	5,394		6,561	
Less purchases (adjusted for stock)	2,167		2,450	
Sundry costs	0		59	
Surplus for year	3,227	0	4,052	0
		59.83 %		61.7 6%

### Golden Jubilee Club

Subscriptions				
Due by 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023				
Received by 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	3,456		3,719	
Due by 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	-		-	
	3,456	0	3,719	0
Prizes				
Due by 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	(2,519)		(2,379)	
Paid by 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	2,054		2,090	

Due by 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	2,695		2,519	
	2,230	0	2,230	0
	1,226	0	1,489	0
Other income:-				
Donations				
	1,226	0	1,489	0
Expenses				
Printing, stationery and postage				
Surplus for year	1,226	0	1,489	0

## Hire

Rental income - auditorium, rooms etc	15,389	9,086
Tickets sales - outside hire shows	8,718	11,620

## Less: Expenses

Visiting performers	10,614		10,843	
Sundry costs	84		246	
Bad debts written off	604		0	
	11,302	0	11,089	0
	12,805	0	9,617	0

Date: 28th August 2024

Since taking the position in August 2023, I have tried very hard to produce performances that engage the whole Playgoers community as well as the locals of Workington and West Cumbria. I oversaw three shows towards the end of 2023 (*Four Weddings and an Elvis*; *Something Spooky*; *Last of the Summer Wine*). I also inherited the 2024 season (*I'll Be Back Before Midnight*; *Treasure Island* and *Blithe Spirit*), apart from *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, which was decided for the July slot shortly after I took the post. This decision was made at a members night based on the idea that the production was on the curriculum for secondary drama. It has seemed to be a popular decision to align at least one show a year with the curriculum in order to nurture a more appealing and diverse audience range. All plays have been successful in their own ways, or are predicted to be.

That being said, overall the audience numbers have been poor for the last year. The council and I are grateful for the regulars who come along to every show regardless, but I have to admit it's slightly disappointing that most of our members do not. The same goes for members nights, which have been very poorly attended every time. Due to the lack of audience engagement I have been working on a season for 2025 that will appeal to the masses as well as our members, and hopefully therefore this popularity will reflect in our audience numbers. I am very open to suggestions for how else to build up numbers for audience engagement because currently our predicted numbers are not sustainable and our beautiful theatre will suffer as a result.

I have previously touched on the low engagement with members nights. In my promise to the role last year I said I would endeavour to host a series of exciting members nights that everyone would want to attend. This has not proved the case as, despite mixing things up and hosting a variety, I'm sad to say it's the same members attending every time, and not many of them to boot. Unfortunately, the March members night was not attended by anybody. Plenty of notice was given for the members nights and it is very disheartening to have such a low engagement. Help me to help you: what do you want to see?

Casting the 2024 season has also proved difficult in places, with the same faces appearing in our shows. This is not a problem as everyone on our cast roster is highly talented and a joy to watch on stage, but it is nevertheless disheartening that I have received complaints about such a thing when it is very hard to cast these shows out of a small pool of those willing to perform. Looking forward to our 2025 season, all shows have been proposed based on a small cast size

for this reason and I implore you to, before complaining about the plays or the same faces and talents, consider performing in them yourself. The door is always open for anyone willing to perform, you need only ask! I'm not a mind reader as much as I'd like to be, and my email is always monitored by myself and I'm happy to receive your interest! This low engagement is the same reason I have not followed up on my pledge for rehearsed readings: it is hard enough to cast our main productions, let alone rehearsed readings. As it stands currently, the confirmed productions for next year are *Blood Brothers* in July and *The Three Musketeers* in December. The other two slots are still under consideration, but if you are wanting to crew or perform in the 2025 season please [let me know](#).

Finally, I am excited to confirm that we will be hosting our own pantomime - *Jack and the Beanstalk* - in February, in collaboration with Cockermouth Amateur Dramatics and with our youth theatre. The workshop that was held on the 18th was very positive and well attended, however, following on from my previous point: not one of our adult members were amongst those who came along. I will be the first to accept that pantomime isn't for everyone, but it will hopefully be a great audience bringer to our theatre and will give us a safety net for 2025. However, for this to happen **we need your support!** If you want to be involved in pantomime or in any of the plays proposed for next year, **let me know**.

Despite the setbacks and struggles for the past year, I am optimistic that the next year will be one of our best. It's our 90th anniversary and we want it to be special for our membership and for the community outside. I cannot, however, do it alone and would love your support on making the productions we host here successful.

*Millie Hardy-Sims*

## **Treasurers Report Workington Playgoers Club for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

Ladies and Gentlemen

The company accounts have been completed from the information in the income and expenditure which have been emailed out, if anyone hasn't received a copy and would like one, please let me know.

**Income this year is £38816 against last year of £27305 so up by £11511.**

Members subscriptions are slightly up.

Golden Jubilee income is down again this year by approximately £263 which is a continuing trend. It goes without saying that there are available numbers please ask your friends and relatives if they would like a number.

We are showing an excess of income over expenditure on the performance account of £9999 this however does not include a percentage of the overheads which include utilities, insurance, cleaning, and maintenance.

We have increased our income from hires by £3188 again this does not include a percentage of the afore mentioned overheads. However RV Projects in Wilson Street account for approximately 47% of this income.

Following the break in last November we were very fortunate in receiving donations in excess of £6000 which has enabled us to replace the damaged items as well as install a new door entry system and a security barrier between the rear of the theatre and Wilson Street.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure is slightly down £952 over the last financial year.

Overall we have an excess of income over expenditure of £2164 this year against a loss of £10299 last year and £16506 the previous year. You will see from the accounts that maintenance is slightly down.

Our insurance is slightly up and heat and light slightly down.

We have an old building which needs constant attention, we have a bar that needs staffing, so if you are not in a play, please think about what else you could do help backstage, props, wardrobe, set building, bar. However this, needs doing not only for our own productions but for the outside hires which are a valuable source of income. As I have said before THIS THEATRE WILL NOT SURVIVE ON THE REVENUE FROM OUR PERFORMANCES ALONE.

Could I also ask that when you are purchasing anything for the theatre that you get the best possible price getting two quotes and check with myself before purchasing. We really need to watch every penny going forward. You may think it is just a few pounds but if several people are spending just a few pounds it soon adds up to a large amount.

**Could I remind you that the subscriptions were increased at the 2022 AGM to £30 therefore you are not eligible to vote if you have only paid £20.**

Any questions?

Could I thank William Moore and Danny Moffat from Saint and Company not only for producing the accounts but for answering any query that I may have had.

I would like to thank my fellow council members for their support and Judith Teasdale my assistant who has been invaluable when I am away.

I therefore submit these accounts for approval.

Gilda Wells

Treasurer

Date: 27th August 2024

This year marked the return of the youth presence in Theatre Royal! As most of you know, my journey with this theatre began in 2015 with the forming of Second Star Youth Theatre. When I left for university in 2017, I handed the reigns over to my second in command: Kira, and the youth council. In my absence the youth theatre was renamed Theatre Royal Youth and seemed to be quite successful until it was discontinued in 2021. The lack of a youth presence in the theatre weighed heavy upon my mind in my return to Cumbria, so it was high on my list to reestablish for the youth of the town and beyond. Therefore, in 2024, the youth theatre returned under the name **Rising Stars Youth Theatre**, meaning I have reclaimed my youth leader and designated safeguarding lead place on council alongside my Productions Director role.

When RSYT started in February we had 15 young actors sign up to our Play in a Day workshop. 11 of these joined for our Summer production of *Robin Hood and the Silver Arrow*. Throughout rehearsals, some of them dropped out but were replaced by three new eager souls so that our numbers stood at 14. *Robin Hood and the Silver Arrow* brought in a significant amount of audience income alongside the young actors' participation fees and has been given the green light to continue as an endeavour.

Our next production, *Rumple and Punzie*, will take place in November and currently holds 15 young actors on the roster. The young actors are partly creating this debut performance themselves, based on a series of fairytales. This is our trial year and therefore we have chosen plays that do not require a performance licence, but we are hoping to stage professional productions in 2025 - including, we hope, a Jr musical. The RSYT actors will also be taking part in our February pantomime, bridging the gap between youth and Playgoers.

Our young actors have a series of fundraising ideas that we will be rolling out over the next few months and ask for your full support in our next generation of actors.

Thank you.

*Millie Hardy-Sims*

### **Facilities Report for the year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2024**

It's been a busy year on the facilities front.

August saw the beginning of internal damp proofing of a section of wall in the auditorium. This was finally completed in October by way of re-decoration. My thanks to the cleaning party.

December was a devastating month with the damage caused by vandals in the bar and mezzanine bar areas. Great team efforts to get all areas cleared and temporary bar equipment in position to allow us to put on our Christmas production of Last of the Summer Wine and allowing later hires to go ahead.

A fire safety audit was carried out in December and several recommendations suggested, some of which have been carried out.

Further to the December incident council agreed to increase our security and we have installed a monitored door entry system to the front door and a security gate between back stage and the rear of the building.

In January a massive props store clearout with several volunteers on hand to assist which made the work much easier.

Regular maintenance has continued on the following fire alarm, emergency lighting, lift, boilers, fire extinguishers and stage lighting.

I must especially thank my team of volunteers who have worked tirelessly on set building and maintenance. Tasks they have carried out with fortitude and good humour.

Tony Magorrian

Facilities Director

## **Publicity and Marketing Report for AGM 2024 on 24th August 2024**

### **Jenni Rushton - Director responsible for Publicity and Marketing**

Last year I sent in a detailed list of the responsibilities I carry out as Publicity and Marketing Director during a Season of Workington Playgoers' Productions and Theatre Royal Hires, with my report. These responsibilities have not lessened but the other members who help me carry out these responsibilities have!

I have taken back responsibility for Facebook which has been admirably looked after, since September last year, by Megan Smeaton. A big thank you to her. If any member would like to help with this please get in touch. Becky Wilson is happy to carry posting on Instagram.

I also have to get my head around sending out information on Mailchimp and updating the events using The Little Box Office website, for our online booking. This now has an *all singing, all dancing* system which I believe Gilda and I will get our heads around in no time. The booking online LTBO page looks wonderful, extremely professional and I believe it will be easier for our audience members to navigate.

I wrote in last year's report that there were three things I wanted to happen this year but I'm afraid only one has got off the ground.

#### **1) Devise and send out some sort of survey to ask our audience - *How did they hear about our Playgoers Productions and Hire Events?***

It has taken us a while but Anne Bowmer and I have worked together quite recently to produce this survey. I believe this will be going out soon, hopefully on Mailchimp.

2) I didn't manage to find designated people to sell our programmes. Just leaving them on the bar for people to buy is hopeless. Too many are recycled!

Andy Greenwood has worked hard selling advertising again this year to local businesses and one of the things we offer them is space in our programmes. We also put their adverts on the foyer and front window TVs, send adverts out in all our E Blasts. It is always difficult to decide how many programmes to print. For this coming year I think we should rethink the programme and offer our audiences an A4 sheet like the one The Theatre By The Lake now use. We could print it in-house and print them as we need them. The advertisers would be listed on the sheet as Sponsors.

3) I wanted all members to buy a ticket for all our productions and sell tickets to friends and family for every show not just for production they are involved in. It is very noticeable that cast members are always more active in selling tickets for and wanting to promote their production.

We still advertise Playgoers' productions on banners and posters. More help to distribute the posters would be welcome. A small commitment 4 times a year.

I keep Cumbria Life Magazine & Ents 24 website up to date with our productions and hires.

We used some of the money generated by the advertisers to send, out using Royal Mail, umpteen thousands of leaflets advertising productions and events in the Theatre Royal. Unfortunately some of these leaflets are still in the office!

The photographs for the productions are now posted on the foyer tv and it has been a great success. Small videos of the productions can also be uploaded. Not printing production photos has reduced publicity costs somewhat.

Next year it is Workington Playgoers' 90th Anniversary. There is a small group of members, mainly the ones involved in Publicity and Marketing, working on ideas of how best to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

**Let us know if you have any ideas of how we could celebrate this!**

Next year, in September, the Theatre Royal will be on the Heritage Weekend Trail.

**Again we need ideas on what to offer the visitors who would like to visit the theatre.**

A big thank you to everyone who has been involved in the work publicising and marketing the Playgoers' productions and Theatre Royal Hires this past year. A few more willing members to work in this team would be very welcome!

Jenni Rushton 25th August 2024.

### **Technical Manager Report for AGM**

To the members of Theatre Royal it's certainly been a fun year filled with mixture of shows and as we look to the future hopefully some exciting upgrades to the theatre as well.

Where we left off from last year in 2023 we sailed into four weddings and an Elvis. A hilarious play which centres on a wedding chapel and the weddings which it ordains for better or for worse. We had some fun creating a wedding sound track for the show. Although a simple lighting show the set crew gave a wonderful take on a Las Vegas chapel.

We then entered October and Halloween and took on the family show something spooky. Written for the stage to be fun for all we had some fun with lighting and smoke to create a scary but fun atmosphere and certainly show that we aren't afraid of no ghosts.

Then the last of the summer wine came in and we had fun taking a British classic and putting it on for the stage. The set crew again did a marvellous job taking us into the world of wine and we had fun helping them create the world of wine.

We next had a thriller, I'll be back before midnight. A tale of love and fear and how far you can push a person before they break. We had fun with creating sleight of hand effects and fun with smoke and lighting to create the atmosphere and also the sounds of guns and the odd hammer thrown in to help the characters with surviving the tale.

We then went back into time for Theatre Royals Rising Stars. The youth theatre first show since their return which we told the classic tale of Robin Hood and the silver arrow. A fun filled show for all and I must say I thought our young actors did very well in telling the tale and playing the characters of which we all know well. They return with Rumpel and Punzie later in our programme.

We then to finish before this AGM, The Accidental death of an Anarchist. A mad show as the Anarchist wreaks chaos in a police station full of corrupt police. We had fun at the end simulating a bomb being thrown out of the window and the other challenges of which it posed.

I would like also to take a moment to thank our amazing and talented set crew, for all their hard work is rarely seen except the result. They are a brilliant crew and I very much appreciate their hard work and efforts. I wish to thank also all the crew who have worked with me this year and their talents and ideas have made the shows better.

We have exciting projects to look forward too, hopefully a fun packed season and the theatre first pantomime in Jack and the Beanstalk. We very much you will continue to keep supporting the theatre as without you we would have nothing and it would mean the shows would end here. We hope to keep performing for another 90 years as the theatre celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. An amazing achievement to get to and you shall see a lot of the history of the theatre to celebrate this anniversary.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report and hopefully we will see you at the theatre soon.