

DORCHESTER COMMUNITY PLAYS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1140952

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [07369993](#)

Registered 2011-03-21

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

Contact

Address 10
Old Coastguard Cottages
Portland Bill
Portland
Dorset

Phone 07779 410187

Email dfmcg58@gmail.com

Website www.dorchestercommunityplay.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE PERFORMING ARTS AND AND TO FURTHER THE DEVELOPEMENT OF PUBLIC APPRECIATION AND TASTE IN THE SAID ARTS PARTICULARLY BY THE PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL PLAYS AND MUSICALS.

Activities: The production of community plays based on Dorchester, Dorset and the promotion of dramatic art generally in Dorchester and its surrounding area.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Dorset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£495	£760	-	-
2023-12-31	£39,216	£53,786	-	-
2022-12-31	£25,241	£4,761	-	-
2021-12-31	£873	£2,395	-	-
2020-12-31	£14,119	£34,724	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Francis McGarel		2019-09-03
Elizabeth Meyndrina Barnaby James		2022-01-26
Emma Marie Hill		2023-03-11
Frances Dawn Sansom		2024-01-29
Ivana Jelinic		2024-01-29
John Buchanan Butler		2024-01-29
John Mason Savage		2024-01-29
LUCY MARGARET ALLEN		2013-04-25
Madeleine Jane Lyons		2026-03-20
Marie-Christine Barsky		2024-01-29

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Accounts



Chair's Report for 2023 AGM

Welcome to the Dorchester Community Plays Association AGM. Many thanks to all the Board members for their energy, commitment and work over the past year. Thanks also to Fiona Scott for minute taking each meeting.

The Board of Trustees roles and responsibilities is currently as follows:

- Chair - Rowan Seymour
- Treasurer - Laurie Scott
- Book keeper - Fiona Scott
- Fundraising and Sponsorship lead - Emma Hill
- Grant applications lead/Vice-chair - Sue McGarel
- Company Secretary & Business Manager - David McGarel
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- Wardrobe - (specifically during the production period of play) Sue McGarel
- Operations Manager (specifically during the production period of play) - David McGarel

Lucy Allen, Sonia Morris and Paul Wallis are Trustees on the Board in supporting roles.

The 2022 DCPA AGM was held in March 2022, when we were in the thick of rehearsals for *Spinning the Moon*. Following is a brief report on the process and success of the play.

Spinning the Moon should have been performed in April 2020, but had to be postponed after three months of rehearsals and just two weeks prior to performances due to the first government enforced lockdown at the start of the covid pandemic. In April 2022 the DCPA board of Trustees agreed that it was safe to revive the project and go ahead with 11 performances in April 2023.

Three years on approximately 25% of the cast found they were unable to participate for a variety of reasons so two workshops were held in October and November 2022 which were enthusiastically attended by previous members of the cast together with several new people. The playwright Stephanie Dale, new director Peter Leslie Wild and assistant director Penny Levick devised improvisation activities and a new cast was formed.

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HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT Jon Oram**



This involved re-writes and changes of character for the playwright to address and a new script was launched at the end of November 2022.

From the beginning the Director insisted that this was an ensemble piece, with no main characters as such, involving 86 cast members with everyone being key to the telling of the story. This very much chimed with DCPA's ethos of inclusivity. DCPA were delighted that the cast comprised of people of all ages from 8-81; 35 males, 48 females and 3 non-binary. The cast included 8 married couples and 7 family groups, 2 of which included three generations of family. We were also pleased to welcome several cast members with learning difficulties and some with physical or mental health challenges.

The professional musical director Tim Laycock and his assistant Alastair Simpson directed a band of community musicians some of whom had performed in previous plays and some new. There were 13 musicians in total including 2 children.

Rehearsals began in earnest in January 2023 with the following schedule attended by the full cast: Friday 6.30-9.30, Saturday 9-4, Sunday 10-5, a total of 50 sessions initially. This increased nearer to the performances to include Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The band was present at most rehearsals and they also rehearsed one evening per week on their own.

Through spending most of the weekend together the cast very quickly bonded and found it an enriching experience. New friends were made and connections within the community strengthened alongside learning new skills and working towards a shared goal.

Here is a selection of comments from our cast questionnaire:

- "The intensity of rehearsals schedules has been challenging but worth it. It has been a uniquely life enhancing experience." (Female – over 75)
- "It has helped in the recovery process from injury – given goals and purpose" (Male 46-55)
- "A great experience as a whole family we have spent a lot of quality time together. Our children have increased their acting capabilities and made new friends of different ages" (Female 46-55)
- "I have learned a new skill – puppetry, I've made new friends and increased my knowledge of Dorchester history." (Gender Bender 11-16)
- "I have made friends with many people from all walks of life that I might otherwise not have done. It has been wonderful to watch friends with mental health issues come out of themselves and see their light shine. It has helped me get over a period of grief and I love the sense of family". (Female 46-55)
- "I have loved getting to know new people and hope to stay in contact with everyone and remain involved in future projects." (Male 26-35)
- "I have learned new skills – making props, voice projection and performing. I have definitely had fun and really makes me feel part of something special." (Female 36-45)
- My self-confidence has increased; I feel less isolated and more part of the community. OMG it was fantastic! I had so much fun. (Non – binary (fluid) 11-16)

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During the rehearsal period a team of 12 volunteer sewers finished off costumes begun in 2020. New cast needed new costumes and several original cast members were re-cast so some costumes needed altering. The objective of our professional designer Dawn Allsopp was to:

“Create our own Medieval world and not a historical representation of the early 1500’s. We also wanted to re-use and recycle as much as we could while creating the costumes and as such have used donated fabrics and charity shop finds.” This very much fitted with DCPA’s Environmental policy to:

‘Embed environmental sustainability in all aspects of DCPAs practice’, ‘our project will try wherever possible to utilise second-hand clothing and accessories and we aim for our props to be mostly found objects or made from recycled materials.’

Many of the cast were involved in prop making: birds from recycled feather boas and fascinators, clay pots and empty bean tins covered in hessian for honey pots. Members of the cast and community kindly loaned or donated items too.

During the rehearsal period our play officer and safeguarding officer recruited other local volunteers to support the project. Once the performances began, a total of 43 front of house volunteers did a myriad of jobs from welcoming people, checking tickets, selling programmes, working behind the bar, acting as fire wardens to helping audience with disability to their seats. 9 chaperones took great care of the children in the cast.

Spinning the Moon was performed over two weeks, totally 10 performances including a matinee to an audience of over 1,800.

Here is a small selection of comments from our audience questionnaire:

- “Novel, interesting, interactive, engaging. I hope to return for a second show” (Female 17-35)
- “Well done to all who created this. A really worthwhile production exposing cruelty, tradition and heritage” (Male over 65)
- “We were totally enthralled all the way through, loved every minute” (Female 46-55)
- “Blown away! Outstanding, brilliant, never seen anything like it!! Astonishing” (Female 56-64)
- “The immersion in the action. Brilliant! I wish every play was like this. Fascinating history as well as a dramatic and exciting performance” (Male 46-55)
- "I was so thankful to be invited to share this experience. Huge congratulations to everyone involved as the dividends in participating in such a community event are amazing across many areas. The sense of community is needed even more today as so many are struggling with living in a society that appears not to care about each other." (Female 56-64)
- "It's fantastic to finally see this being performed after waiting so long due to it being postponed. So many familiar faces. Seeing our community coming together to perform was brilliant. (Female 36 - 45)
- The performance was very interactive for the audience. It was wonderful being in the middle of the action and amongst the actors.

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Spinning the Moon – Dorchester’s 7th community play has been a huge success.

The board of Trustees has met three times since the end of the play in April and work has been going on to tie up all the loose ends.

- Props, costumes and effects have been sorted and we have secured long term storage on the 4th floor of Dorchester Town Council Offices in North Square – grateful thanks to Steve Newman, Town Clerk and officers for this tremendous support
- We have reported back to all our grant funders and thanked local businesses and supporters
- All outstanding monies have been received and paid out as necessary – a big thank you to Laurie Scott for his financial management, attention to detail and for steering us through so efficiently, thanks to his work DCPA is in a secure financial position
- We held a meeting for prospective Trustees and have co-opted Christine Barsky, John Butler, and Ivana Jelinic onto the board – to be ratified at the AGM. Fran Sansom and John Savage also wish to join
- Looking forwards DCPA are in partnership with the Town Council to celebrate the anniversary of D Day in 2024. Lucy Allen and Liz James are the liaison trustees

As you can see, the work that the DCPA board of trustees put in is extraordinary, it is thanks to every one of them that DCPA continues to grow from strength to strength.

I would particularly like to thank Sonia Morris, Sue McGarel and Laurie Scott who are stepping down as trustees for all their hard work.

I am stepping down from the board but will remain in the background and available to advise and support whoever takes over.

Rowan Seymour

DCPA Chair

January 2023

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**DORCHESTER COMMUNITY PLAYS ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR
ENDING 31/12/23**

	£	£
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		2022
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Membership	335	357
Fundraising	5,288	3,420
Funding for £10 challenge	860	
Grants	4,500	9,416
Donations	282	8,503
Gift Aid	-	236
Advertising/ Sponsorship	-	3,310
Net Ticket Sales	22,517	
Bar/ Programme Sales	4,554	
Equipment sales	880	
Total Income	39,216	25,242
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Net Administration Costs	1,423	351
Arts Council Grant Clawback	591	
Grants and Donations	250	125
Premises Costs	5,720	
Costs relating to Fundraising		70
Dorchester Arts Fees	2,036	980
Professional Fees	23,525	
Bank Fees	104	86
Costumes	599	
Stage Management and Production	18,549	3,150
Bar	990	
Total expenditure	53,786	4,762
Net Income/Expenditure for year	(14,571)	20,480

**DORCHESTER COMMUNITY PLAYS ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 23**

	£	2022 £
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets	-	-
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	29,273	43,824
Cash in Hand	-	20
	29,273	43,844
FUNDED BY:		
General Reserves brought forward	43,844	23,364
Deficit/ Surplus in this year	(14,571)	20,480
General Reserves Carried Forward	29,273	43,844

I have examined the Receipts and Payments Account, Balance Sheet and underlying records for the year ended 31 December 2023. I have received all the explanation and clarifications that I sought and have no matters to report.

Alec Bailey M.A., F.C.A.



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Chair's Report for 2022 AGM

Welcome to the Dorchester Community Plays Association AGM. Many thanks to all the Board members for their energy, commitment and work over the past year. Thanks also to Fiona Scott for minute taking each meeting. During the last year Peter Brown has resigned from the board, we thank him for his contribution to DCPA, and Emma Hill has been co-opted as the Fundraising and Sponsorship lead.

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Lucy Allen, Sonia Morris and Paul Wallis are Trustees on the Board in supporting roles.

Since the 2021 AGM held in January 2022, when we were still waiting to see how things looked in relation to Covid- 19 and whether we might be able to plan the play, 2022 has been another extraordinary year. At the full Board Meeting in March 2022, we made the unanimous decision to proceed with the play in Spring 2023, with a re-union of cast and supporters at the Corn Exchange on 30th April 2022 which was great fun and felt wonderful to be together again.

So, from March onwards it was full steam ahead for the Board of Trustees:

- Identifying the gap in funding needed to pay a Director, Musical Director, rehearsal space etc. together with the inevitable rising costs for scaffolding and materials 3 years on

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- Hearing that Peter Cann was no longer available to direct in 2023
- Researching, interviewing and appointing Peter Leslie Wild as Director
- Re-negotiating and booking the Get in/out and Performance dates with Thomas Hardy School
- Negotiating with Dorchester Arts to confirm the Corn Exchange for rehearsal space free of charge
- Talking to the Duchy to get the best possible financial deal for the Jubilee Hall in Poundbury as a large, regular rehearsal space
- Applying to grant funders; we have successfully received funds this year from:

Dorchester Town Council
Dorset Council
Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation
The Valentine Charitable Trust
Scops Arts Trust
The Maria Bjornson Memorial Fund
The Elmgrant Trust
Poundbury Community Trust
Rotary Club of Dorchester Casterbridge
Dorchester Market Car Boot Fund

- Working hard at gaining local business sponsorship, payment for advertisements in the STM programme and via our social media with promotional STM cloth bags. The following companies are supporting us, in addition to those engaged in 2020:

C B Reid
Great Western Camping
Just Dance
O'Brien Roofing
Poundbury Wealth Management
Symonds & Sampson
The Duchess of Cornwall public house
The Pointe
Wessex Property Services
Zero C

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- Holding a number of fundraising events for both cast and supporters to keep the play alive in people's minds
- Agreeing with the Town Council three rooms in the TC offices for costume storage, making and fitting, free of charge
- Confirming all the professionals for 2023, apart from Gillian Spencer-Gulliford. Appointing Bridget Edmonds as Costume Supervisor
- Holding workshops with Peter, Steph and Tim to meet the cast and re-cast where needed
- Talking to Henry Ling who have printed a second set of new rehearsal scripts and will be printing the 32-page full-color STM programme for free
- Talking to Nick at Wallis Agency for Poster & Programme design, 2nd time around – again free of charge
- Working with Sprint – who have sponsored the printing of the majority of our posters and flyers and printed at cost for the rest

The contribution from all these local businesses is tremendous, we could not put on the play without this fantastic community support. We thank them all.

As a Board of Trustees, following the end of performances we will be putting *Spinning the Moon* to bed, tying up all the reporting back to grant funders and completing the finance. We are prepared to be part of a transition period, to support and appoint a new board, before standing down. If you are interested in taking on a board role and seeing the DCPA continue, please talk to us.

As you can see, the work that the DCPA board members have put in is extraordinary. It is thanks to every one of them that we are *Spinning the Moon!*

Rowan Seymour
Chair
AGM 2022

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Dorchester Community Plays Association

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022

Income and expenditure account

	2022	2021
Income		
Membership	357	274
Fundraising	3,420	
Grants	9,416	
Donations	8,503	599
Gift Aid	236	
Advertising and sponsorship	3,310	
Total income	25,241	873
Expenses		
Administration costs	351	257
Grants and donations	125	125
Play costs	3,150	317
Dorchester Arts fees	980	
Ticket refunds		1,696
Fundraising costs	70	
Bank fees	86	
Total expenses	4,761	2,395
Excess/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure for the year	20,480	(1,522)

Balance sheet

Brought forward	23,364	24,886
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	20,480	(1,522)
	43,844	23,364
Fixed assets		
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	43,844	23,364
	43,844	23,364

I have examined the accounts and records of the Dorchester Community Plays Association for the year ended 31st December 2022 and am satisfied that they provide a true and fair view of the activities of the association.

Signed 

Date 19th February 2023

Name Ruth Bettenson

Address 15 St Helen's Road
Dorchester
DT1 1SD

Dorchester Community Plays Association

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