

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT JULY 2025

Well, another year has whizzed past – which at my age is a worrying prospect. We have been as busy as ever – despite all the changes to the way we operate that have come our way. However, we have overcome them – mostly – and continue to present to our loyal audiences high quality plays and pantomimes.

In these unsettling times it is reassuring to know that if you want to get away from it all and have a night out at the theatre you can do this – whether with us or the other groups that also stage high class productions at the Festival Hall.

We started this last year with our performances at the Petersfield Fringe. This was our second time at this event and we presented the third of the Agatha Christie trilogy that we started the previous year. We also presented a Radio Play version of one of the Sherlock Holmes stories which was cleverly adapted by Rob Sheppard. These were well received and we have been invited back to this year's Fringe and will be performing at the end of August.

We had a further dose of Christie in October with one of the best known Miss Marple mysteries A Murder is Announced. With a strong cast and expertly directed by Phill Humphries it was a great success – not only on-stage but also at the box office where we sold an incredible number of tickets. Clearly Christie has a special attraction which we must bear in mind for the future.

Christmas would not be the same without Petersfield's Proper Panto and this year we staged Robinson Crusoe. With a uniformly strong cast, great sets and a good script the company put on a performance which our NODA rep said "sets the standard that other groups must aspire to". It was especially good to see one of our juniors Joe Tully take on a major role and he did a superb job – his interaction with the audience would do credit to any seasoned performer. Guest Night was, once again, well received.

We had to make some adjustments for our spring play as the stage at the Festival Hall was out of action and we had to perform on the flat. Having decided on 2 one-act plays we felt this was a good time to introduce two of our younger members to the directors chair, Daisy with White Liars and Matt with Black Comedy. Both plays were challenging yet with, again, strong casts and great sets, they both did a tremendous job. It is never easy to take the major step into directing by oneself, even if you have done a one act or acted as assistant but they have both said that they would direct again so it could not have been too traumatic. I will add that they both valued having mentors with them – in this case Penny and Laura. The only down side was the low audience numbers.

We have just recently had our One Act Day at Rake when the juniors presented Roald Dahl's The Twits. This was directed by Joe Tully and Carol Tubbs and they put on a great production with splendid costumes and a "Bodgers special" set. Sadly, due to a clash of dates, I was not able to see it at Rake – I caught the final rehearsal at the Hut – but all the reports suggested that it was very successful. The adults presented the second section of "Welcome to our Village" the first of which we did last year. This very witty piece written for radio gave Ben Bedford the opportunity to take on a directors role and both he, and the performers, did a marvellous job. In the end there were decent audiences too.

Speaking of our juniors we continue to run Junior Club nights led by Karla with assistance from Sarah and many others. These are very popular and we are very grateful to the members who take the sessions. For the juniors it maintains their interest and involvement between pantos.

If you look at the calendar on the wall you can see that the Hut is being used much more these days. The Hut is generally in good nick at the moment and is overseen by Chris Elsey who is doing a splendid job as our new Hut Manager. It is reassuring to know that we have resources available to us if we did need to spend some money, thanks to the Hut Repair fund which continues to be run by Sarah and Lesley and we are very grateful to them.

Similarly, Penny continues to maintain our wardrobe which enables us to costume most of our requirements for our productions as well deriving income from hirings. She has done this for many years but I know she is looking to pass the mantle on and take a lesser role. Our props store is looked after by Lyn and Sarah and, again, provides most of what we need for our productions which saves a lot in hiring costs.

Penny's last production as director was our pantomime, Beauty and The Beast, which won a NODA Accolade of Excellence. Penny, Philip, Jane Blower and myself went to the NODA AGM in Alton to collect the award which is on the wall at the back. Congratulation to everyone who made this possible.

We went through a period of having virtually no social events, due to the fact that we had nobody to organise them,. Happily we now have Daisy in charge and she has arranged a number of events, including quiz nights and bingo. She puts a lot of work into them and they are great fun yet it would be nice to see more members support them. To fill the gap when there were no social events Phill and Anne took the initiative and introduced games evenings which still continue to run roughly monthly. Again, they are very enjoyable even if some of the games are rather taxing on the brain!

The many changes being introduced at the Festival Hall are, in equal measure, a benefit and a challenge to the user groups, such as ourselves. The overall look of the venue is much better and many of the operational aspects are an improvement. However there are some which have the capacity to be detrimental to us and which we need to keep a close eye on them. To be fair the Hall staff are doing their best but are the servant of two masters - the Council and the users. I think the road ahead will continue to be a bumpy one - for a while at least - but as long as we keep pressing them through both the individual performing groups and PPAF, hopefully we can influence any decisions made.

Sadly in the past year we have lost two well-loved members who have given a lot to the group. Angie Blackford directed many pantomimes for us and brought a touch of magic to them from her time spent in the profession. The list of accomplishments of John Mill is endless. As an actor he excelled in both straight drama and as an excellent Dame in pantomime. He was also an award-winning director. Off stage he was Hut Manager for a number of years, was Chairman and recently was tea boy! We miss their talent, their friendship and their company.

Despite our membership being at a good level we still struggle for support at times. Whether it is getting a reasonable attendance at General Meetings, getting people to commit to supporting Front of House in our productions or assisting with publicity including leaflet handouts, it is much harder work than it need be – or should be. Members cannot rely on just “the few” to do all the work. Every member should be prepared to do their share.

We have said on a number of occasions that we would welcome approaches from members about possible plays for us to consider and also for possible directors. Our pool of directors is pretty small and, even with our new young contingent, we are still reliant on just a few. We want to avoid having to go outside the group if possible. Play readings will recommence in the autumn and I urge you to support them. If not, then, in order to create a programme of future productions, we will have to revert to choosing plays through the committee.

I would like to thank the committee for all their help and support during the year. Their energy, enthusiasm and hard work have kept the Group running and enabling our programme of productions to be delivered to a high standard. Much goes on behind the scenes which you do not see, some of it securing the present and some looking to the future and I have greatly benefitted from their individual and collective wisdom. Special thanks to Lucy, our Secretary, Matt, who has been responsible for setting up or Safeguarding policies and procedures, and Grace our membership secretary who are all standing down. We are grateful for all you have done.

Before closing I would just like to mention a creeping tendency for negative and hurtful comments being made – usually about something that someone else has done. These are neither necessary nor helpful. There is a process in existence if someone is unhappy about something or wants to make a comment, and that is to a member of the committee or directly to me as Chairman. It does not encourage those who are willing to step up and do things if comments are being made behind their back, and this negativity has been directly instrumental in us losing a valuable resource this year. In order to avoid this spreading onto our social media we have put controls in place to stop negative comments being made on Facebook. We have always prided ourselves in being a friendly, welcoming group and we need to keep that in mind. The old adage “If you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all” is very apposite in this case.

In conclusion, we have had a busy and successful year and next year promises to be more of the same. We will deal with any obstacles that come our way – and there will be some – with the same good humour and positivity that we have always shown.

Thank You

Roger Wettone, Chairman Winton Players

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Winton Players, charity number 1181736

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Winton Players (the Trust) for the year ended 31st May 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:

Name: NICOLA HILLIER, ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS

Address: 10 HOLT DOWN, PETERSFIELD, HAMPSHIRE. GU31 4PQ

Date: 09-JULY-2025

Income & Expenditure Report

Winton Players

01-JUN-2024 - 31-MAY-2025

INCOME					
4000 Event Income		38,840.62		43,963.40	1
4005 Bar Sales	3,604.38		4,631.32		
4007 Tea/Coffee	250.20		379.00		
4010 Ice Cream Sales	2,773.55		3,041.70		
4015 Sweets / crisps/ bakes Sales	245.80		0.00		
4025 Ticket Sales	29,146.14		32,516.78		
4027 Programmes	238.55		473.50		
4029 Sundry Receipts	0.00		233.00		
4030 Raffle	1,297.00		958.10		
4032 Advertising	285.00		80.00		
4040 Float repaid	1,000.00		1,650.00		
5000 MEMBERSHIP INCOME		2,536.00		2,320.00	
5001 Adult Subscriptions (this year)	2,205.00		1,938.00		
5003 Junior Subscriptions (this year)	144.00		192.00		
5004 Junior Subscriptions (next year)	16.00		0.00		
5005 Emeritus Subscriptions (this year)	171.00		190.00		
6000 OTHER INCOME		1,406.45		2,540.70	
6001 Club Nights	114.45		(0.10)		
6005 Miscellaneous Donations	5.00		236.00		
6015 Grants	0.00		500.00		
6020 Costume Hire	55.00		115.00		
6040 Misc. Receipts	1,232.00		1,254.21		2
6042 Gift Aid	0.00		435.59		
TOTAL INCOME		42,783.07		48,824.10	
EXPENDITURE					
7000 General Overheads		(4,049.91)		(3,804.52)	
7001 NODA fees	(260.00)		(245.00)		
7002 Expenses	(154.53)		(311.02)		
7003 Insurance	(1,609.41)		(1,569.89)		
7004 Software and web site	(321.32)		(458.36)		
7005 Admin	(36.50)		(220.25)		
7023 Donations	(1,635.94)		(1,000.00)		3
7025 Club Nights	(32.21)		0.00		

	2024/25		2023/24		Note
7100 Production		(35,404.13)		(38,298.95)	
7101 Catering	(392.76)		(403.36)		
7102 Costumes	(701.11)		(1,440.88)		
7103 Equipment hire	(364.50)		(121.00)		
7104 FOH	(72.57)		(94.64)		
7105 Props	(313.98)		(300.86)		
7106 Publicity	(2,485.90)		(2,828.45)		
7107 Set Construction	(2,008.37)		(1,406.78)		
7109 Transport	(588.32)		(551.00)		
7110 Music	(1,042.29)		(420.75)		
7111 Venue Hire	(13,280.00)		(13,868.00)		
7112 Lighting and Sound	(4,465.50)		(4,928.37)		
7113 Scripts	(908.51)		(918.78)		
7114 Licences	(2,393.80)		(1,920.40)		
7116 Programmes	(730.00)		(885.00)		
7117 Cost of Sales - Bar	(1,548.38)		0.00		
7118 Cost of Sales - tickets	(125.44)		(85.84)		
7119 Cost of Sales - Sweets	(170.28)		(4,606.06)		4
7120 Special Effects	0.00		(618.36)		
7121 CCTV	(38.50)		0.00		
7122 Miscellaneous	(767.08)		(500.42)		
7123 Cost of Sales - Ice cream	(1,830.80)		0.00		
7124 Rehearsal hire	(45.77)		(750.00)		
7125 Cost of Sales - Zettle	(130.27)		0.00		
7130 Float	(1,000.00)		(1,650.00)		
7200 The Hut		(3,487.13)		(3,817.44)	
7209 Electricity Costs	(283.86)		(592.39)		
7210 Gas Costs	(1,318.22)		(1,287.12)		
7211 Water Rates	(357.13)		(280.86)		
7213 Wifi and phone	(431.28)		(308.53)		
7217 Building Repairs & Maintenance	(284.98)		(886.15)		
7221 Purchase of Equipment	(52.28)		(192.58)		
7222 Council Tax / Rates	(614.17)		(158.99)		5
7229 Consumables	(145.21)		(110.82)		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(42,941.17)		(45,920.91)	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR PERIOD		(158.10)		2,903.19	

OPENING CASH BALANCES AT BANK	2024/25	2023/24
Hut Repair Fund	9,566.82	8,084.51
Lloyds Current	26,348.99	24,928.11
	<u>35,915.81</u>	<u>33,012.62</u>
CLOSING CASH BALANCES AT BANK		
Hut Repair Fund	11,117.92	9,566.82
Lloyds Current	24,639.79	26,348.99
	<u>35,757.71</u>	<u>35,915.81</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH RESOURCES	(158.10)	2,903.19

2024/25 Production Analysis	Income	Expense
A Murder is Announced	£ 13,672.50	£ 7,820.62
Robinson Crusoe	£ 19,863.43	£ 17,497.83
Tons of Money	£ 230.00	£ -
One Acts 2024	£ 443.00	£ 406.38
Petersfield Fringe 2024	£ -	£ 165.42
One Acts 2025	£ 20.00	£ 452.00
Jack and the Beanstalk	£ -	£ 921.20
Monstrous Regiment	£ -	£ 995.84
White Liars / Black Comedy	£ 4,611.69	£ 6,575.56
General production expenses	£ -	£ 569.28
Total	<u>£ 38,840.62</u>	<u>£ 35,404.13</u>

Notes to the accounts

Note 1. General income includes the floats for shows and the equivalent in expenditure
b. Miscellaneous receipts includes £1,000 to the Hut Fund from the hut fund draw

Note 3. Donations

Defibrillator Cabinet *	£635.94
Age Concern Petersfield	£250.00
Friends of Petersfield Hospital	£250.00
Rowans Hospice	£250.00
King's Arms	£250.00
	<u>£1,635.94</u>

* £212 of this spend was recovered by a donation from Sheet Parish Council

Note 4. All costs of sales in 23/24 were listed under sweets, further analysis has been made in 24/25

Note 5. Council tax is paid in instalments across the financial years. Annual costs have increased from £316 to £913 due to reductions in transitional relief and cessation of Covid relief

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