

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1184546

Details

Other names	VILLAGE PLAYERS RUSHLAKE GREEN
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2019-07-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address Pond Cottage
Rushlake Green
Heathfield
East Sussex
TN21 9QN

Phone 07847571202

Email clydeyoung@btinternet.com

Website www.villageplayersrushlakegreen.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF LIVE THEATRE.TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ARTS BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED MENTORS

Activities: The Village Players provides an opportunity for people to understand and appreciate dramatic art.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- East Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£23,080	£21,154	-	-
2024-08-31	£24,327	£20,418	-	-
2023-08-31	£23,189	£19,736	-	-
2022-08-31	£24,114	£20,706	-	-
2021-08-31	£728	£1,810	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kathleen Ann Walker	Chair	2019-07-23
Anita Gunn		2019-07-23
Clyde Young		2019-07-23
Elizabeth Hutcheson		2019-07-23
Irene Marie Osprey		2024-01-08
Maria Hadlow		2019-07-23
Pamela Edmonds		2019-07-23
Robert Barker		2025-10-06
Suzanne Toynton		2025-10-06

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1184546

Accounts



**ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
FROM
1st SEPTEMBER 2024
TO
31st AUGUST 2025**

TRUSTEES

Ann Walker - Chair
Clyde Young - Treasurer
Pamela Edmonds - Secretary
Anita Gunn
Maria Hadlow
Elizabeth Hutcheson
Irene Osprey

Registered Charity Number

1184546

**THE VILLAGE PLAYERS
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1st SEPTEMBER 2024 TO 31st AUGUST 2025**

THE OBJECTS OF THE TRUST

The objects of the CIO are:

- (1) to advance the education of the public in the arts through the provision of live theatre.
- (2) to advance the education of the public in the arts by providing opportunities to work with professionally trained and experienced mentors.

The Trust was registered as a charity number 1184546 with the Charity Commission in England and Wales on 23rd July 2019 in order to create a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report for the period 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025 is stated in the income and expenditure account attached. A commentary is also made by the Treasurer later in this report.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES - REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

1. Committee Activity

We began this financial year with a Committee which consisted of 7 Trustees and 3 Committee members. After discussion with our two newest committee members, Suzanne Toynton and Robert Barker, they have agreed to become Trustees of our CIO and this will be confirmed by vote at the AGM.

Heather Young agreed last year to take on the role of Membership Secretary and we are pleased to have a healthy number of members of our group. Anyone who is involved in one of our productions is obliged to become a member for insurance purposes.

I'm pleased to report that the Committee functions very well as a unit with each person contributing well towards the tasks in hand.

2. Production Activities

We have had another very successful year both in terms of productions performed and from a financial point of view. This will be outlined further in the Treasurer's report.

In November 2024 we put on a play entitled 'The Late Mrs Early' by Norman Robbins. This was a comedy in which Mrs Early, a battleaxe of the highest order, meets an early demise much to the relief of her family but, a little later, returns to haunt them as a ghost with very amusing results. This was skillfully directed by Pam Edmonds and the production team did a brilliant job with the lighting, set and backstage to ensure the production ran smoothly. This play was very much enjoyed by our audiences and we had a full house practically every night which also helps financially. The two-course meal provided by Janet Smith and her excellent team of helpers was very well received and added to the ambience of the evening.

We were approached early in 2025 by Colin Saunders on behalf of Heathfield Church asking whether the Village Players would be prepared to put on some entertainment in the church on 10th May as part of the town's VE Day celebrations. It was agreed that we would like to contribute to this event and Pam Edmonds and Maria Hadlow with the help of Pippa Poulton put together a 45 minute performance of songs, poems, readings and a short 'Dad's Army' sketch which was performed twice by members of the group and was extremely well received by the audiences at both performances.

In May we staged a play entitled 'Plaza Suite' by Neil Simon. This was a well written play in three acts. Each act told the story of a different couple in the same hotel room of the Plaza Hotel in New York. Each act was extremely well performed by the actors taking part and it was particularly rewarding to have three actors who were new to our group taking part. These were Jana, Paul Cox and Andrew Stredder and we are delighted to welcome them to the Village Players.

All our productions rely heavily on our excellent production team who work tirelessly behind the scenes towards ensuring that all aspects of the production run smoothly. With this in mind I would like to make special mention of the phenomenal input from both Jonathan Austin, who is responsible for the sound and set building, and Graham Stoner, who designs and builds our wonderful sets with the help of Jonathan Austin and also Ian Charlesworth. We are extremely grateful for their contribution.

Looking ahead, rehearsals are already underway for our next production which is to be a comedy entitled 'It Runs in the Family'. This is a play written by Ray Cooney and is a play we originally performed in 2009. It is extremely funny and we are very pleased once again to have some new members in the cast of this play. Both Hollie and Joseph are new to our group and it is lovely to welcome them, especially as they reduce the average of the group considerably! The play will be performed from 19th to 22nd November.

On a different note, we had purposely built-up reserves in order to fund the upgrade of our lighting to LED lights. However, we subsequently established that a common problem for small groups like ours, hoping to install LED lighting, is that the change would require re-wiring at a prohibitive cost. As we can still buy and maintain our current lights we decided that it is best to keep to our existing system.

In addition, our existing stage blocks which were specifically designed and built to extend the depth of our stage, are extremely heavy and needing to be replaced. We are currently exploring what our options are to achieve this.

During our last two spring productions in both 2024 and 2025 we have experienced particularly hot weather which has made the hall extremely uncomfortable for both the audience and the actors on stage. We therefore decided that, in future, when faced with high spikes in temperature, we should hire in air conditioning units. Although this will increase the cost of the production, it will make the whole experience much more comfortable for everyone involved.

We are currently in the process of updating our website and hope that the new fresher version will be up-and-running within the next month or so. This work is being carried out by Robert Barker (Committee Member) at no cost to the group and we are very grateful to him for the time spent on this project.

For many years Andrew Nairne has been in charge of Lighting and has given a huge amount of his time on a voluntary basis to maintain the lamps and rig the lighting for each show. However, Andrew has asked that he be allowed to step down and with this in mind he has trained Suzanne Toynton (Committee Member) over the course of our last few productions. This has worked out very well and Suzanne now feels able to take full charge of the lighting with Andrew in a consultant role. Suzanne will now be the lighting lead for our future productions.

3. Drama Sponsorship

As mentioned in my report last year, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation it is part of our remit to try to encourage drama for young people in our area. Last year we donated £150 to Punnetts Town School towards their drama department, and I had the pleasure of attending the school in July to see their summer production 'Yee Haw!' which was performed by the two top years at the school. This was very well performed and the children looked after the lighting and sound as well as acting on the stage, which is no mean feat. Following this performance, Clyde Young, Treasurer, and myself met once again with Mrs Claire Kinsella, School Principal, and as a result we have donated a further £150 towards the next year's production.

4. Summary

We feel that our Charitable Objects have been achieved in that we:

- (i) have successfully provided the community with live theatre via two very different productions- 'The Late Mrs Early' which was quite a challenging play from the actors' point of view and 'Plaza Suite', which produced some outstanding performances from a number of the people taking part.
- (ii) gave an opportunity to two members, Pam Edmonds and Heather Young to direct, with the support of everyone on the Committee. Both plays being performed very successfully.
- (iii) approved that our next production - the play 'It Runs in the Family' - would be directed by another member, Maria Hadlow.
- (iv) provided sponsorship to a local primary school with a view to encouraging drama within the school.

Finally I would like to thank my wonderful committee for all their hard work in helping to achieve all that the group has achieved over the last year. I would especially like to thank Pam Edmonds who has been an excellent secretary over the last year and also Clyde Young who is a much valued Treasurer of The Village Players. Our finances are in very good shape which is a great tribute to Clyde and it enables us to confidently plan for the future.

2024-25 has been another very successful year for the Village Players and I look forward to another exciting year with great optimism.

Ann Walker, Chair & Trustee

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Income & Expenditure Statement covers the 12-month period from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025 which is our normal financial year. From this, our total income was £23,079.99 whilst our total expenditure was £21,154.20 thereby providing a healthy profit of £1,925.79.

This compares with a profit of £3,909.07 in the previous year. However, I would like to point out that we received a generous, anonymous donation of £2,500 in that year which means that the underlying true profit for 2023/24, for comparison purposes, was £1,409.07.

I would now like to cover the main Income & Expenditure items:

Income:

- (i) £508: Subscriptions. Last year's figure was higher at £660 due to there being a large cast in the pantomime "Aladdin". Historically, subscriptions are higher when we are putting on a production with a large cast.
- (ii) No donations were received during the financial year, and none were expected.
- (iii) £285.69: Interest (a slight improvement of £267.57 for the year before!).
- (iv) £746.95: Bar sales for Sussex Jazz. As Treasurer for The VP, I also run a small jazz club (Sussex Jazz) with Robert Barker at a local village hall where we organise three concerts a year. In the past, the bar was run on a cash basis, but there was a demand for contactless payments to be made. As there are only 3 concerts a year, I asked the Committee if I could use The VP card reader on these three annual occasions? The Committee unanimously agreed to help but with one caveat namely that The Chair should satisfy herself that everything was bona fide, and this she did by signing a statement to this effect.
This form of payment has become more popular with the jazz audience, reflecting in the higher sales made this year (by comparison, card sales last year amounted to only £233). As Treasurer, I feel that this has now become uncomfortable for The VP from an auditing perspective and, as a result, Sussex Jazz will arrange to have its own card reader in future so there will be no further need for them to borrow the VP unit and therefore these items will no longer appear in our accounts.
- (v) £10,828.11 receipts (i.e. ticket & bar sales etc) from the play, "The Late Mrs Early".
- (vi) £10,711.24 receipts (i.e. ticket & bar sales etc) from the comedy "Plaza Suite".
- (vii) No fund-raising events were arranged in this financial year.

Expenditure:

- (i) General costs totalling £1,407.68 which included: Administration costs (£5.68); Scripts to read (£49.95); Front of House items (£nil); Hall hire for meetings (£32); renewal Insurance Premium (£322.26- same as last year); Misc (£16.17); Other- Bar sales to Sussex Jazz, as mentioned earlier (£746.95); Provisions

(£46.60); Publicity (£74); Gifts (£114.07 - Wine to Auditor [£34.07] & flowers to various people [£80]).

(ii) Specific expenditure items totalling £1,113.18 -

- (a) Committee & Guests Dinner (£418.78)- This is an important event to thank certain individuals for the generous amount of time & energy that they had freely given to the group during that year. The cost of the guest's dinner was borne by the society whereas the Committee's meals were subsidised by 50%. Both the Chair and the Treasurer believe that the cost of this annual event is fully justified when weighing up the social benefits and the goodwill it creates.
- (b) Charity Donation: A donation of £150 was made to Punnetts Town Primary School to help fund their drama events. This is the second year that we have made this donation and it is our aim to make this a regular donation to help develop drama in the school.
- (c) Special expenditure: We decided to install a new loft ladder in the hall at £443.55 to make it easier, and safer, to store items for the set, props and lighting.
- (d) Other- Costume storing: We decided to spend £100.85 on vacuum packaging for some of our costumes so that they take up less room when stored and can be kept dry.

(iii) £18,533.34: Production costs:

- "The Late Mrs Early": £7,890.13 - Total costs incurred in producing this Café Theatre play. Main items included Hall hire (£784); Set Construction (£484); Costumes (£208); Publicity (£253); Sound (£100); Gifts (£103); Bar (£2,341); Catering (£3,258); Note: Royalties of £264 were paid in the previous financial year.
- "VE Day Celebration": £200 musician costs in staging some entertainment in support of All Saints Church, Old Heathfield, on 10th May as part of the town's VE Day celebrations.
- "Plaza Suite": £9,372.99: Total costs incurred in producing this Café Theatre play. Main items included Hall hire (£982); Set Construction (£477); Costumes (£285); Props (£155); Publicity (£278); Royalties (£389); Sound (£150); Gifts (£80); Scripts (£287); Bar (£2,538); Catering (£3,306).
- "It Runs in the Family": £1,070.22 - Initial costs in setting up our next production in November 2025.

(iv) £100: Angie Trew Award i.e. two awards of £50 each.

Notes:

1. In my report for the year ending 2024, I mentioned that we were facing a large increase in hiring the village hall which would bring the average hire charge of £750 per show to an estimated £1,000! I'm pleased to report that we have been

able to absorb the additional cost through careful planning and budgeting and without the need to increase our ticket price. All of this has resulted in each production still being able to generate a reasonable profit.

2. As mentioned earlier by the Chair, we had purposely built-up reserves in order to fund the upgrade of our lighting to LED lights. However, after consultation, it became apparent that the cost would be prohibitive and that it was in our best interests to keep our existing system. However, our existing stage blocks are needing to be replaced, and we are currently exploring what our options are to achieve this.
3. It is now approaching two years since we opened a 95-Day Notice Account at NatWest with a sum of £4,000. This provides a higher interest rate than that given in our Reserve Account. For example, the 95 Day account generated £147.48 interest during the last year whereas the Reserve No1 account, with a far higher amount deposited, generated £132.84!
It therefore makes sense to retain this account and to consider increasing it by making a further transfer from our Reserve Account but to do so without stretching our finances and to retain sufficient funds in our Reserve No1 Account which can be withdrawn without notice.

Summary

- £15,810.83: Balance carried over from 2023/24
- £23,079.99: Income
- -£21,154.20: Expenditure
- £17,736.62: Balance carried forward.

The closing balance in the accounts, as shown above, reconciles with monies held in the four accounts as shown below:

- £12,534.67: Reserve 1 Account
- £ 423.83: Reserve 2 Account
- £ 495.80: Current Account
- £ 4,282.32: LM95-Day Account
- £17,736.62: Total

Notes

- (i) The amount available to The Village Players in order to carry out its charitable function is £17,312.79 i.e. the Total amount shown above less the amount in the Reserve No 2 Account.
- (ii) The Reserve 2 Account shown above was originally opened in 2009 following a donation of £1,000 made by Lady Pile (in memory of her late daughter, Angie Trew - the founder of The Village Players) with the request that two book

tokens, to the value of £25 each, be awarded each year to deserving members under the title of The Angie Trew Awards. The Committee decided in 2023 to increase the award to £50 each. The above figure is the current balance (including interest), and this money is kept separate from the group's operational monies.

This is a "depreciating" fund in that it will, at some stage, reduce to zero.

- (iii) In addition to monies on deposit, there are certain assets held by The Village Players to which the Treasurer has given a nominal combined value of £1,910 i.e. Tablecloths (£5), Lights (£900), Sack barrow (£5), Microphones (£500) & Shed (£500).

The group's bankers are NatWest Bank plc. The accounts were examined by Mr James Cook, Chartered Accountant and I would ask that we give a vote of thanks to Jim for taking the time to audit the books for us.

In closing, The Village Players ended the reporting period with funds of £1,925.79 higher than in the corresponding period last year. We have staged two very successful productions with excellent audience numbers, have supported a local church during its VE Day celebrations, have made a donation to a local primary school to help their drama department and have weathered the increased hall hire charges due to careful budgeting.

Overall, therefore, the group remains in a very healthy financial position.

Clyde M Young, Treasurer & Trustee, The Village Players

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS
YEAR 1st SEPTEMBER 2024 to 31st AUGUST 2025

Income & Expenditure Statement

INCOME	2024/25	2023/24
General		
Subscriptions	£508.00	£660.00
Donations & Grants	£0.00	£2,545.00
Interest	£285.69	£267.57
Royalties-Refund	£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£0.00	£0.00
Other (Bar sales from Jazz Club)	£746.95	£232.98
Workshop	£0.00	£0.00
	£1,540.64	£3,705.55
Productions		
The Late Mrs Early	£10,828.11	£0.00 Dracula
Plaza Suite	£10,711.24	£7,524.29 Aladdin
	£0.00	£10,935.63 Upham Hall
	£21,539.35	£18,459.92
Fund Raising		
No events	£0.00	£2,161.99 Burns Night
TOTAL INCOME	£23,079.99	£24,327.46
EXPENDITURE		
General		
Administration	(£5.68)	(£8.49)
Scripts to Read & Guide to Plays	(£49.95)	(£155.15)
Front of House	£0.00	(£101.94)
Hall hire	(£32.00)	(£68.00)
Insurance & Subscription	(£322.26)	(£322.26)
Miscellaneous	(£16.17)	(£10.65)
Music	£0.00	£0.00
Other (Bar sales to Jazz Club)	(£746.95)	(£232.98)
Provisions	(£46.60)	£0.00
Publicity	(£74.00)	(£44.00)
Gifts	(£114.07)	(£51.69)
	(£1,407.68)	(£995.16)
Specific		
Website	£0.00	£0.00
Committee & guests meal (subsidised)	(£418.78)	(£349.23)
Workshop	£0.00	£0.00
Charity Donation- Special Expenditure	(£150.00) Punnetts Town School	(£250.00) Little Arts Festival & PT
Other: Costume storing	(£443.55)	£0.00
	(£100.85)	£0.00
	(£1,113.18)	(£599.23)
Productions		
The Late Mrs Early (A)	(£7,890.13)	(£64.86) Dracula
VE Day Celebration	(£200.00)	(£5,990.74) Aladdin
Plaza Suite	(£9,372.99)	(£10,400.17) Upham Hall
It Runs In The Family	(£1,070.22)	(£640.32) The Late Mrs Early
	(£18,533.34)	(£17,096.09)
Fund Raising		
No events	£0.00	(£1,627.91) Burns Night
Productions and fund raising	(£18,533.34)	(£18,724.00)
Angie Trew Award		
Withdrawn from No2 Account	(£100.00)	(£100.00)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(£21,154.20)	(£20,418.39)
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR YEAR	£1,925.79	£3,909.07

Income & Expenditure

Summary of Financial Year	2024/25	2023/24
Balance Brought Forward	£15,810.83	£11,901.76
Income	£23,079.99	£24,327.46
Expenditure	(£21,154.20)	(£20,418.39)
Balance Carried Forward	£17,736.62	£15,810.83
Closing Balances		
Reserve Account	£12,534.67	£9,701.83
Reserve No2 (AngieTrewAward)	£423.83	£518.46
Current Account	£495.80	£1,455.70
LM95 Day Acct	£4,282.32	£4,134.84
Minus Unpresented Cheques	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£17,736.62	£15,810.83
	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>

Assets & Liabilities	2024/25	2023/24
Assets		
Costume rail	£0.00	£0.00
Tablecloths	£5.00	£20.00
Lights	£900.00	£900.00
Blackout Curtains	£0.00	£0.00
Set Flats	£0.00	£0.00
Sack Barrow	£5.00	£5.00
Costumes	£0.00	£0.00
Microphones	£500.00	£500.00
Shed	£500.00	£500.00
Total – non cash items	£1,910.00	£1,925.00
Cash on Deposit	£17,736.62	£15,810.83
Total Assets	£19,646.62	£17,735.83
Liabilities		
	£0.00	£0.00
Grand Total	£19,646.62	£17,735.83

The above values take into account their age and condition. The Trustees of The Village Players therefore believe that the values set against the non-cash assets listed above represent a true reflection of their forced sale value at the end of this financial year.

Signed Clyde Young Date 15th October 2025
 Clyde Young : Treasurer

Auditor's Statement

I have examined the above accounts for The Village Players and confirm that, from the records maintained, they represent a true reflection of the financial position of The Village Players during the period 01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025

Signed James W Cook Date 15th October 2025
 Name : J W Cook Esq, Chartered Accountant

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1184546

Accounts



**ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
FROM
1st SEPTEMBER 2023
TO
31st AUGUST 2024**

TRUSTEES

Ann Walker – Chair
Clyde Young – Treasurer
Pamela Edmonds – Secretary
Anita Gunn
Maria Hadlow
Elizabeth Hutcheson
Irene Osprey

Registered Charity Number

1184546

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1st SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 31st AUGUST 2024**

THE OBJECTS OF THE TRUST

The objects of the CIO are:

- (1) to advance the education of the public in the arts through the provision of live theatre.
- (2) to advance the education of the public in the arts by providing opportunities to work with professionally trained and experienced mentors.

The Trust was registered as a charity number 1184546 with the Charity Commission in England and Wales on 23rd July 2019 in order to create a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 is stated in the Income and Expenditure account attached. A commentary is also made by the Treasurer later in this report.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES – REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

1. Committee Activity

We began this financial year with a Committee which consisted of 7 Trustees and 3 Committee members. However, after an extensive period on the Committee as Membership Secretary Jane Uren resigned as a Trustee in the Summer. As mentioned in last year's report, we attracted two new people to the Committee and Irene Osprey subsequently agreed to become a Trustee, which was notified to the Charity Commission, and this will be voted for and confirmed at our forthcoming AGM. Jonathan Gray, who was also mentioned in last year's report, has decided to resign from the Committee and will therefore not become a Trustee. We have also co-opted on to the Committee Robert Barker who has kindly agreed to update our website and take on responsibility for publicity for our next production. As a result, we enter the 2024/25 year with 7 Trustees and 2 Committee Members and will be actively looking towards appointing a new Committee Member to bring the total up to 10.

Heather Young has taken on the role of Membership Secretary and we are pleased to have a healthy number of members of our group. Anyone who is involved in one of our productions is obliged to become a member for insurance purposes.

I'm pleased to report that the Committee functions very well as a unit with each person contributing well towards the tasks in hand.

2. Production Activities

This last year has been another very successful one for The Village Players, both in terms of productions performed and from a financial point of view. We have staged two productions and also put on a third Burn's Night celebration in January due to popular demand. We also took part in the Rushlake Green Little Arts Festival which took place in August.

In November 2023 we put on a pantomime entitled 'Aladdin' which was written by Alex Jackson and superbly directed by Maria Hadlow. A pantomime is always tremendous fun both to rehearse and perform and all the audiences responded well to the performances joining in vociferously when required to do so. From the point of view of the group a pantomime is very good in that it has a large cast and whereas not everyone wants to act in a play many people enjoy the singing and dancing involved in a pantomime. It also attracts new members and there were a number of children in the cast who did a wonderful job in leading the chorus numbers. The pantomime was particularly challenging for the production team, but a wonderful job was done by all concerned.

On 27th January we held our third Burn's Night. Once again this was an extremely successful event brilliantly organised by Pam Edmonds with the help of a small sub- committee. The meal was excellent, provided by Julie Barker and her team of helpers.

In May we staged a play entitled 'Upham Hall' which was both written and directed by Helen Halliday. The play was a comedy spoof on Downton Abbey and told the story of the demise of the British Aristocracy in the twenties. The play was a step outside the normal sort of production The Village Players puts on and produced many challenges for all involved. However, it was largely well received by all audiences and attracted a full house every night. The hall was set out with long tables as in a banqueting hall which also produced challenges for the front of house team and the excellent meal was provided by Janet Smith who hopefully has taken the catering role over from Mary Dick Cleland who has moved away from the area.

A few weeks after the play we had an evening to view the DVD for discussion and critical appraisal and a very good social evening was enjoyed by all who attended.

Looking ahead, rehearsals are already underway for our next production which is to be a comedy entitled 'The Late Mrs Early' written by Norman Robbins and directed by Pam Edmonds. This will be a theatre supper and once again Janet Smith will be doing the catering and it will take place from 20th to 23rd November this year.

3. Drama Sponsorship

As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, it is part of our remit to try to encourage drama for young people in our area. With this in mind Clyde Young, Treasurer of the Village Players, and I met with Mrs Claire Kinsella, Headteacher of Punnetts Town School, to discuss the possibility of the Players offering sponsorship for drama within the school. This offer was welcomed enthusiastically and as a result we have donated £150 in the form of sponsorship to the school and will continue to donate the same sum for the next two years. This will be reviewed after that time when a decision will be made as to whether we continue or possibly offer sponsorship to another school in the area.

4. Little Arts Festival

In August this year a Little Arts Festival was held at Rushlake Green and The Village Players were asked if they would like to participate. As we are part of the Rushlake Green community the Committee felt that it was important we took part and Pam Edmonds kindly agreed to be our representative on the Little Arts Committee.

Owing to Pam's hard work and organisation we were able to put on three events. The first was a drama workshop for children held on 10th August. Six children attended and spent a very enjoyable two hours being coached in drama by Pam with the help of her husband Jim and Anita Gunn and Isla Mayhew, who is one of the younger members of our group.

On Saturday 17th August we held an afternoon of readings for which a number of the Village Players acted as readers and people were asked to suggest readings or poems which they would like read during the afternoon. This was well attended and very successful and a couple of people also read poems which they had written themselves.

On Friday 23rd August The Village Players staged a murder mystery entitled 'Murder at the Blue Parrot'. This proved enormously popular and the audience were invited to dress up in twenties clothes to become part of the performance. At the end of the play the audience had to decide who had committed the murder and a prize was awarded to the table who guessed correctly. A prize was also awarded to the most impressive costume. A ploughman's supper was served in the interval and the evening was extremely successful.

5. Summary

We feel that our Charitable Objects have been achieved in that we:

- (i) have successfully provided the community with live theatre via two very different styles of productions- 'Aladdin', a pantomime which had a large cast including a number of children which also gave the cast the opportunity to work with a professional musical director, Richard Eldridge, and 'Upham Hall' which was a play that proved challenging for both the actors and the audience but explored new boundaries for the group.
- (ii) provided the opportunity to the cast & crew of "Upham Hall" to work with a professional director, Helen Halliday.
- (iii) gave an opportunity to a member, Maria Hadlow, to direct, with the support of everyone on the Committee, the pantomime 'Aladdin' which was challenging to cast & crew but which was a huge success.
- (iv) approved that our next production – the play 'The Late Mrs Early' – would be directed by another member, Pam Edmonds.

Finally, I would like to thank my wonderful committee for all their hard work in helping to achieve all that the group has achieved over the last year. Looking back at my report we do seem to have done rather more than usual and particular thanks must go to Pam Edmonds who has not only done a great job as Secretary of the group but has also steered us through the Little Arts Festival and is now

directing our next play! I would also like to thank Clyde Young for the wonderful job he does as Treasurer of The Village Players. Our finances are in very good shape, which is a great tribute to Clyde, and it enables us to confidently plan for the future.

As I said at the beginning, this has been a very successful year for the Village Players, and I look forward to the 2024 - 25 year with great optimism.

Ann Walker
Chair & Trustee

TREASURER'S REPORT

The attached Income & Expenditure Statement covers the 12-month period from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 which is our normal financial year. From this, our total income was £24,327.46 whilst our total expenditure was £20,418.39 thereby providing a healthy profit of £3,909.07. This compares with a profit of £3,452.70 in the previous year.

The main Income & Expenditure items are detailed below:

Income: As mentioned earlier, total income for the financial year amounted to £24,327.46 which arose as follows:

- (i) Subscriptions, totalling £660 were higher than last year's figure of £474 due to having a large cast in the pantomime "Aladdin".
- (ii) Donations received totalling £2,545 -see Notes.
- (iii) £267.57 Interest (an improvement of £84.70 for the year before!).
- (iv) £232.98 bar sales for Sussex Jazz – but see Expenditure & Notes
- (v) £7,524.29 receipts (i.e. ticket & bar sales etc) from the pantomime, Aladdin.
- (vi) £10,935.63 receipts (i.e. ticket & bar sales etc) from the comedy "Upham Hall".
- (vii) £2,161.99 receipts (i.e. ticket & bar sales etc) from the fund-raising Burn's Night event.

Expenditure: Total expenditure in the financial year amounted to £20,418.39 the bulk of which was spent on the following items:

- (i) General administration costs of £8.49, plus, Scripts to read (£155.15); Front of House items (£101.94); Hall hire for meetings (£68); renewal Insurance Premium (£322.26); Misc (£10.65); Other– Bar sales to Sussex Jazz, see Notes (£232.98); Provisions (£33.98); Publicity (£44); Gifts– Wine for Auditor (£51.69); Angie Trew Award (£100).
- (ii) £599.23: Specific expenditure items – Committee & Guests Dinner (£349.23); Charity Donation (£250 > £100 Little Arts Festival + £150 to Punnetts Town Primary School).
- (iii) £17,096.09: Production costs:
 - "Dracula": £64.86 (Provisions & Screening).
 - "Aladdin": £5,990.74: Total costs incurred in producing this pantomime including Hall hire (£729); Set Construction (£541); Costumes (£693); Lighting (£106); Music

(£1,747); Props (£85); Publicity (£337); Royalties (£275); Sound (£150); Gifts (£100); Bar (£873).

- “Upham Hall”: £10,400.17: Total costs incurred in producing this Café Theatre spoof of Downton Abbey including Catering costs (£2,956); Hall hire (£1,014); Set Construction (£716); Costumes (£349); Props (£16); Publicity (£250); Royalties (£400); Director’s Fee (£600); Sound (£1,150); Scripts (£84); Gifts (£100); Bar (£2,166).
 - “The Late Mrs Early”: £640.32 - Initial costs in setting up our next production in November 2024.
- (iv) £1,627.91: Running costs incurred in the fund-raising “Burn’s Night” event including Catering (£855); Bar (£397); Front of House (£120- hire of the piper).

Notes:

At this point, I would like to highlight the following aspects:

1. As Treasurer, I wish to point out that I also run a small jazz club (Sussex Jazz) at a local village hall where I organise three concerts a year. In the past, the bar was run on a cash basis, but there is now a demand for contactless payments to be made. Whilst researching the card reader market, I found that it was not possible to operate a separate card reader with SumUp as I already operate one for The VP, and other retail providers charged sizeable fees which would make it uneconomical. I therefore asked the Committee if I could use The VP card reader on these three annual occasions?
The Committee unanimously agreed to help as it was a way of supporting a local club which provides the local community with the opportunity to see and listen to jazz musicians of an exceptionally high standard.
The Committee had one caveat namely that The Chair should satisfy herself that (a) the SumUp statement did indeed reflect bar sales at the concert and (b) the bank account, to which the proceeds would be paid to, was a bona fide account used solely for Sussex Jazz, and this she did by signing a statement to this effect.
As a “thank you”, Sussex Jazz donated £35 to The VP which was half the cost of purchasing a new card reader from SumUp.
2. In December 2023, we were faced with an announcement from the village hall that they were increasing their hire charges. Previously, as a “frequent user”, we were given a preferential rate per rehearsal and free use of the hall to build the set. With immediate effect, the new hire charge would be based on an hourly rate and this would also apply to set construction, although 2 free days would be given. This will have a substantial impact on our costs in that it will add approximately one-third to our hire charge e.g. from an average of £750 per show to an estimated £1,000! Thankfully, we have been able to absorb the additional cost and have conscientiously thought-through the number of rehearsals needed and what element of set construction could be undertaken offsite.
3. On hearing that we were facing higher hall charges, we were exceptionally fortunate in receiving a most generous, anonymous, donation of £2,500 in December 2023. In addition, a member donated £10 and Sussex Jazz donated £35 (as mentioned earlier) bringing the total to £2,545 in this financial year. Thanks to careful budgeting, we have had no need to use these

funds to supplement the production running costs and the Committee will therefore consider the best use of the monies received – perhaps to update our lighting or sound equipment.

4. As mentioned last year, it was decided to resurrect our normal “Committee & Guests Annual Dinner” (which had been cancelled during 2020 and 2021 due to Covid) and this continued into the current year 2023/24. This is an important event to thank certain individuals for the generous amount of time & energy that they had freely given to the group during that year. The cost of the guest’s dinner was borne by the society whereas the Committee’s meals were subsidised by 50%. Both the Chair and the Treasurer believe that the cost of this annual event is fully justified when weighing up the social benefits and the goodwill it creates.
5. A donation of £100 was made to The Little Arts Festival to support this local group in delivering an eclectic range of the arts to the village community during the month of August. In addition, a donation of £150 was made to Punnetts Town Primary School to help fund their drama events and it is our aim to make this a regular donation to help develop drama in the school.
6. Following the discussion at last year’s AGM regarding interest rates on deposit accounts, our application to NatWest for a Liquidity Manager 95-Day Notice Account, offering an interest rate of 4.25%pa, was approved and opened on 1st November 2023. An amount of £4,000 was subsequently transferred out of our Reserve No1 Account and into this new account. It was felt that we could comfortably set aside this amount, to obtain a higher interest rate, without stretching our finances and in the knowledge that there were sufficient funds in our Reserve No1 Account which could be withdrawn without notice.

Summary

- £11,901.76: Balance carried over from 2022/23
- £24,327.46: Income
- -£20,418.39: Expenditure
- £15,810.83: Balance carried forward.

The closing balance in the accounts, as shown above, reconciles with monies held in the four accounts as shown below:

- £ 1,455.70: Current Account
- £ 9,701.83: Reserve 1 Account
- £ 4,134.84: LM95-Day Account
- £15,292.37: Sub-total
- £ 518.46: Reserve 2 Account
- £15,810.83: Grand Total

Notes

- (i) The sub-total figure shown above is, in effect, the group’s operational monies.

- (ii) The Reserve 2 Account shown above was originally opened in 2009 following a donation of £1,000 made by Lady Pile (in memory of her late daughter, Angie Trew - the founder of The Village Players) with the request that two book tokens, to the value of £25 each, be awarded each year to deserving members under the title of The Angie Trew Awards. The Committee decided in 2023 to increase the award to £50 each. The above figure is the current balance (including interest), and this money is kept separate from the group's operational monies.
- (iii) In addition to monies on deposit, there are certain assets held by The Village Players to which the Treasurer has given a nominal combined value of £1,925 i.e. Tablecloths (£20), Lights (£900), Sack barrow (£5), Microphones (£500) & Shed (£500). However, in view of the age of these items, it was decided at a recent Committee Meeting that, in future, no value will be given for any of these items as it is doubtful whether buyers would be found e.g. our lighting is analogue whereas LED lighting is now preferred.

The group's bankers are NatWest Bank plc. The accounts were examined by Mr. James Cook, Chartered Accountant, and I would like to thank Jim for taking the time to audit the books for us.

In closing, The Village Players ended the reporting period with funds of £3,909 higher than in the corresponding period last year thanks to the very generous donation received and a fund-raising Burns Night event. We have staged two very successful productions with excellent audience numbers and have weathered the increased hall hire charges due to careful budgeting.

Overall, therefore, the group remains in a very healthy financial position.

Clyde M Young
Treasurer & Trustee

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS
YEAR 1st SEPTEMBER 2023 to 31st AUGUST 2024
Income & Expenditure Statement

INCOME	2023/24	2022/23
General		
Subscriptions	£660.00	£474.00
Donations & Grants	£2,545.00	£0.00
Interest	£267.57	£84.70
Royalties-Refund	£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£0.00	£0.00
Other (Bar sales from Jazz Club)	£232.98	
Workshop	£0.00	£0.00
	£3,705.55	£558.70
Productions		
Dracula - The Bloody Truth	£0.00	£30.00 <small>SoM: Late ticket sale</small>
Aladdin	£7,524.29	£11,173.35 <small>Dracula</small>
Upham Hall	£10,935.63	£9,663.11 <small>Witness for the Prosecution</small>
	£18,459.92	£20,866.46
Fund Raising		
Burn's Night	£2,161.99	£1,763.88 <small>30th Anniversary</small>
TOTAL INCOME	£24,327.46	£23,189.04
EXPENDITURE		
General		
Administration	-£8.49	-£117.28
Scripts to Read & Guide to Plays	-£155.15	-£25.97
Front of House	-£101.94	-£48.45
Hall hire	-£68.00	-£36.00
Insurance & Subscription	-£322.26	-£298.06
Miscellaneous	-£10.65	-£64.59
Music	£0.00	£0.00
Other (Bar sales to Jazz Club)	-£232.98	£0.00
Provisions	£0.00	-£33.98
Publicity	-£44.00	-£44.00
Gifts	-£51.69	-£88.36
	-£995.16	-£756.69
Specific		
Website	£0.00	£0.00
Committee & guests meal (subsidised)	-£349.23	-£339.90
Workshop	£0.00	£0.00
Charity Donation- Special Expenditure	-£250.00 <small>Little Arts Festival + Punnett's Town School</small>	-£600.00 <small>Hospice in the World</small>
Other: Lighting	£0.00	£0.00
	-£599.23	-£999.90
Productions		
Dracula-The Bloody Truth (U)	-£64.86	-£89.37 <small>Sound of Music</small>
Aladdin (X)	-£5,990.74	-£9,152.50 <small>Dracula</small>
Upham Hall (Z)	-£10,400.17	-£7,048.83 <small>Witness</small>
The Late Mrs Early (A)	-£640.32	-£445.09 <small>Aladdin</small>
	-£17,096.09	-£16,735.79
Fund Raising		
Burn's Night	-£1,627.91	-£1,243.96 <small>30th Anniversary</small>
Productions and fund raising	-£18,724.00	-£17,979.75
Angie Trew Award		
Withdrawn from No2 Account	-£100.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-£20,418.39	-£19,736.34
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR YEAR	£3,909.07	£3,452.70

Income & Expenditure

Summary of Financial Year	2023/24	2022/23
Balance Brought Forward	£11,901.76	£8,449.06
Income	£24,327.46	£23,189.04
Expenditure	-£20,418.39	-£19,736.34
Balance Carried Forward	£15,810.83	£11,901.76

Closing Balances

Reserve Account	£9,701.83	£10,576.68
Reserve No2 (AngieTrewAward)	£518.46	£610.88
Current Account	£1,455.70	£714.20
LM95 Day Acct	£4,134.84	
Minus Unpresented Cheques	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£15,810.83	£11,901.76
	£0.00	£0.00

Assets & Liabilities	2023/24	2022/23
Assets		
Costume rail	£0.00	£0.00
Tablecloths	£20.00	£20.00
Lights	£900.00	£1,000.00
Blackout Curtains	£0.00	£0.00
Set Flats	£0.00	£0.00
Sack Barrow	£5.00	£5.00
Costumes	£0.00	£0.00
Microphones	£500.00	£600.00
Shed	£500.00	£600.00
Total – non cash items	£1,925.00	£2,225.00
Cash on Deposit	£15,810.83	£11,901.76
Total Assets	£17,735.83	£14,126.76
Liabilities	£0.00	£0.00
Grand Total	£17,735.83	£14,126.76

The value of the above assets have been re-appraised in light of their age and condition. In particular, there is greater demand for LED lighting rather than the conventional lamps we have. The Trustees of The Village Players therefore believe that the values set against the non-cash assets listed above represent a true reflection of their forced sale value at the end of this financial year.

Signed Clyde Young Date 12th Sept 2024
 Clyde Young : Treasurer

Auditor's Statement

I have examined the above accounts for The Village Players and confirm that, from the records maintained, they represent a true reflection of the financial position of The Village Players during the period 01/09/2023 to 31/08/2024

Signed James W Cook Date 20/09/2024
 Name: J W Cook Esq, Chartered Accountant

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1184546

Accounts



**ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
FROM
1st SEPTEMBER 2022
TO
31st AUGUST 2023**

TRUSTEES

Ann Walker – Chair
Clyde Young – Treasurer
Pamela Edmonds – Secretary
Jane Uren – Membership Secretary
Anita Gunn
Maria Hadlow
Elizabeth Hutcheson

Registered Charity Number

1184546

**THE VILLAGE PLAYERS
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1st SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 31st AUGUST 2023**

THE OBJECTS OF THE TRUST

The objects of the CIO are:

- (1) to advance the education of the public in the arts through the provision of live theatre.
- (2) to advance the education of the public in the arts by providing opportunities to work with professionally trained and experienced mentors.

The Trust was registered as a charity number 1184546 with the Charity Commission in England and Wales on 23rd July 2019 in order to create a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report for the period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 is stated in the income and expenditure account attached. A commentary is also made by the Treasurer later in this report.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES – REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

1. Committee Activity

Since becoming a CIO in July 2019, our Committee consisted of 8 Trustees and 2 Committee Members: the latter being Clive Uren and Heather Young who are prevented from becoming Trustees whilst their respective spouses are Trustees. Sadly, as reported in last year's accounts, Clive died in Sept 2021 which left Heather Young as the sole Committee Member responsible for Newsletters.

However, in this financial year, our Committee was comprised of 7 Trustees and 3 Committee Members. This is because:

- (i) Peter Williams, Trustee, gave notice of his resignation early in 2022, as he and his wife had moved to West Sussex, but it was not until August 2022 that his name was finally removed as a signatory at NatWest Bank and as a Trustee of the group. As a result, we moved into the 2022/23 year with only 7 Trustees. Peter joined in October 2015 and was a very capable Treasurer and we are extremely grateful to him for all the research and guidance he gave us on becoming a CIO.

- (ii) We were fortunate in being able to attract two new people to the group (Irene Osprey and Jonathan Gray) both with considerable experience in drama. However, rather than invite them to become Trustees immediately, we thought it better if they joined, initially, as Committee Members, but with the view towards becoming full Trustees at a later date if they wished to do so. By adopting this approach, it gives everyone time to see what is involved and what their duties are before committing themselves.

At the start of the year, Elizabeth Hutcheson stepped down as Secretary but remained on the Committee as a Trustee. Pamela Edmonds was appointed Secretary to replace her.

I'm pleased to report that the Committee functions very well as a unit with each person contributing well towards the tasks in hand.

2. Production Activities

This last year has been a very successful one for The Village Players, both in terms of productions performed and from a financial point of view. We have staged two productions and also put on a Burn's Night celebration in January to mark the thirtieth anniversary of The Village Players.

In November 2022 we put on a play written by John Nicholson entitled 'Dracula - The Bloody Truth'. This play purports to tell the true story of Dracula and was a cross between a comedy and 'The Play that went Wrong' and necessitated many of the actors taking multiple parts. From the group's point of view, it was a real challenge as we had not attempted anything like this before. However, under the superb direction of Helen Halliday the end result was extremely successful and very well received by the audiences. The play was particularly challenging for those working behind the scenes but, as usual, the production team did an amazing job and kept things running smoothly throughout.

Although many performing rights preclude us from videoing performances and selling DVDs to the cast as we could do in the past, we are able to have one video of each show which we can keep for critical and archive purposes. This enabled us to show videos of one of the performances of 'The Sound of Music' which was performed in May last year and 'Dracula - The Bloody Truth' to members of the cast and backstage crew involved in each production, following which there was time given for discussion and critical appraisal of the performance. This was found to be an extremely beneficial learning experience and we will continue to do this in the future. It was also an opportunity for those involved in each production to get together again in a social setting, which was very enjoyable. We intend to do this for future productions.

On 28th January a Burn's Night was held to celebrate thirty years of the Village Players. This was an extremely successful event brilliantly organised by Pam Edmonds with the help of a small sub-committee. The meal was excellent, provided by Mary Dick-Cleland and, although we did not know it at the time, this was the last meal that Mary would prepare for the Village Players

as she and her husband Neil have now moved out of the area. Mary has provided meals for our Theatre Suppers for many years and the Players owe her a huge debt of gratitude for making these evenings so popular and successful.

In June we staged 'Witness for Prosecution' by Agatha Christie. This was performed under the excellent direction of Heather Young and was a tremendous success. From start to finish there was a terrific atmosphere during both rehearsals and performances and there were some excellent individual performances given. The play was put on 'in the thrust' and Graham Stoner, with the help of Jonathan Austin and Ian Charlesworth, produced an exceptional set. Graham's wife Nicky also contributed by the painting and 'ageing' of the court furniture to make it look amazingly authentic. The audience enjoyed being so close to the action and really felt that they were in the courtroom. The jury were members of the audience who had tables on the stage.

Having lost the services of Mary we had to find someone who could take over the catering for this theatre supper. We were fortunate that Clyde found a caterer called Janet Smith who, after discussion, was keen to provide the meal for the play. This was very well received, and she has been booked for our next theatre supper in May next year.

Andrew Nairne, who has been responsible for lighting our productions for many years, has given notice that he would like to retire, and we are extremely grateful to Suzanne Bratby who has agreed to move from stage management to take over the lighting for us. Andrew kindly agreed to act as mentor to Suzanne during the takeover period. This of course leaves a gap in our stage management team but we were very pleased when Suzanne suggested that some friends of hers might be interested and so we welcomed Chris and Annie to the group who very efficiently ran the backstage for Witness for the Prosecution and are already involved in our next production.

The week of the play was extremely hot and this made it quite uncomfortable for both the cast and the audience. It was agreed that in future we would try to have our spring production before the end of May, which hopefully will be a little more comfortable for all concerned.

On the Friday night of the play, we held a charity night which was in aid of The Hospice in the Weald in memory of the wonderful John Gunn who was a mainstay of The Village Players for so many years and who is still greatly missed. John and Anita's daughter Suzie gave a very moving speech before the play began and there were collection buckets and also a raffle for the audience. The Village Players donated £5 to the Charity from every ticket sold for that performance. On the evening, an amazing £832.16 was raised.

However, following Suzie's speech she was contacted by a member of the audience on behalf of the Mrs A. Lacy-Tate trust who said she was so impressed by Suzie's speech that the trust would like to make a donation if Suzie contacted her. This Suzie did and a further donation of £2,000 was made to the Hospice in the Weald making a total donation of £2,832.16, a wonderful result.

Looking ahead, rehearsals are already underway for our next production which is to be the pantomime 'Aladdin' written by Alex Jackson. This is being directed by Maria with musical direction by Richard Eldridge and we are very pleased to have some new people involved with this show, including four children who are helping to reduce the average age of the group significantly!

Next May we will be putting on a comedy, yet to be decided, and this will be a theatre supper so there is much to look forward to.

3. Summary

We feel that our Charitable Objects have been achieved in that we:

- (i) have successfully provided the community with live theatre via two very different styles of productions- "Dracula", a fast-moving farce with multiple roles played by the actors and "Witness", a court-room drama.
- (ii) provided the opportunity to the cast & crew of "Dracula" to work with a professional director, Helen Halliday.
- (iii) gave an opportunity to a member, Heather Young, to direct, with the support of everyone on the Committee, the Agatha Christie court-room drama "Witness for the Prosecution" which, being set "in the thrust", was exceptionally challenging to cast & crew but which was a huge success.
- (iv) approved that our next production – the pantomime, Aladdin – would be directed by another member, Maria Hadlow, and that this production will give many children and adults of various ages the opportunity to act, sing and dance within a safe and vibrant environment and to work with a professional Musical Director, Richard Eldridge.

Finally, as you will all be aware, this group could not run without the enormous amount of work that is done behind the scenes. I would like to thank all the members of the committee and particularly Clyde who works so hard to make sure that the group is run correctly and whose knowledge of all things financial is invaluable. Thank you also to Pam who has taken over the unenviable of task of secretary, it is always good to know that she is there to remind me of anything that might have slipped my mind! I should also mention that Jane Uren has stepped down from being membership secretary for a number of years. We are very grateful to Jane for her work on the membership and I am pleased to say that she will continue on the committee for the time being.

As I said at the beginning, this has been a very successful year for the Village Players, and I look forward to the 2023 - 24 year with great optimism.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The attached Income & Expenditure Statement covers the 12-month period from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 which is our normal financial year. From this, our total income was £23,189.04 whilst our total expenditure was £19,736.34 thereby providing a healthy profit of £3,452.70. This is the second year running where our profit has been in the region of £3,400 resulting in a return to having a very healthy balance following two years of losses during the Covid pandemic of 2020 & 2021.

The main Income & Expenditure items are detailed below:

Income: As mentioned earlier, total income for the financial year amounted to £23,189.04 which arose as follows:

- (i) Subscriptions totalling £474 were lower than last year's figure of £574 which was boosted by having a large cast in the musical *The Sound of Music*.
- (ii) £11,173.35 receipts (i.e. ticket & bar sales etc) from the play, *Dracula- The Bloody Truth*.
- (iii) £9,663.11 receipts (i.e. ticket & bar sales etc) from the court-room drama, *Witness for the Prosecution*.
- (iv) £1,763.88 receipts (i.e. ticket & bar sales etc) from the fund-raising 30th Anniversary & Burn's Night event.
- (v) £84.70 Interest (an improvement of £1.96 for the year before!).
- (vi) £30 late ticket receipt for *Sound of Music*.

Expenditure: Total expenditure in the financial year amounted to £19,736.34 the bulk of which was spent on the following items:

- (i) £756.69: General administration costs (£117.28 - including IT cost of £100 in opening a new Gmail account), plus, Scripts to read (£25.97); Front of House items (£48.45); Hall hire for meetings (£36); renewal Insurance Premium (£298.06); Misc – A/Trew Awards plus a Lock for shed (£64.59); Provisions (£33.98); Publicity (£44); Gifts – Wine for Auditor & Flowers to a member for support (£88.36).
- (ii) £999.90: Specific expenditure items – Committee & Guests Dinner (£339.90); Charity Donation (£600); Lighting (£60).
- (iii) £16,735.79: Production costs:
 - "Sound of Music": £89.37 (Screening);
 - "Dracula": £9,152.50: Total costs incurred in producing this Café Theatre play including Catering costs (£2,695); Hall hire (£760); Set Construction (£655); Director's Fee (£600); Costumes (£758); Front of House (£144); Props (£31); Publicity (£212); Royalties (£510); Sound (£100).
 - "Witness for the Prosecution": £7,048.83: Total costs incurred in producing this Café Theatre court-room drama including Catering costs (£2,100); Hall hire (£736); Set Construction (£206); Costumes (£670); Front of House (£334); Props (£96); Publicity (£275); Royalties (£510); Sound (£100).

- “Aladdin”: £445.09 - Initial costs in setting up our next production in November 2023.
- (iv) £1,243.96: Running costs incurred in the fund-raising “30th Anniversary & Burn’s Night” event including Catering (£529); Bar (£379); Front of House (£290 which includes the hire of the piper).

At this point, I would like to highlight the following aspects:

1. The production of WFTP was set in the “thrust” which reduced the normal seating capacity in the hall. However, it was very well received as it gave the audience the sense of being in the court and, thanks to an amazing set construction team who used lots of existing materials to reduce the cost, the production produced a very healthy profit.
2. It was decided to resurrect our normal “Committee & Guests Annual Dinner” which had been cancelled during 2020 and 2021 due to Covid. This is an important event in which we are able to thank certain individuals for the generous amount of time & energy that they had freely given to the group during that year. The cost of the guest’s dinner was borne by the society whereas the Committee’s meals were subsidised by 50%. Both the Chair and the Treasurer believe that the cost of this annual event is fully justified when weighing up the social benefits and the goodwill it creates.
3. A donation of £600 was made to Hospice in the Weald in memory of John Gunn who, for over 30 years, was a vital member of the group both on and off stage and who sadly died in November 2021. As the Chair mentions in her report, it was particularly gratifying to find that other personal donations brought the total donation to £2,832!

Summary

- £ 8,449.06: Balance carried over from 2021/22
- £23,189.04: Income
- -£19,736.34: Expenditure
- £11,901.76: Balance carried forward.

The closing balance in the accounts as shown above reconciles with monies held in the three accounts as shown below:

- £ 714.20: Current Account
- £10,576.68: Reserve 1 Account
- £11,290.88: Sub-total
- £ 610.88: Reserve 2 Account
- £11,901.76: Grand Total

Notes

- (i) The sub-total figure shown above is, in effect, the group’s operational monies.
- (ii) The Reserve 2 Account shown above was originally opened in 2009 following a donation of £1,000 made by Lady Pile (in memory of her late daughter, Angie Trew - the founder

of The Village Players) with the request that two book tokens be awarded each year (currently to the value of £25 each) to deserving members under the title of The Angie Trew Awards. The above figure is the current balance (including interest), and this money is kept separate from the group's operational monies.

The group's bankers are NatWest Bank plc. The accounts were examined by Mr. James Cook, Chartered Accountant and I would ask that we give a vote of thanks to Jim for taking the time to audit the books for us.

A question that is often asked is why don't we place some of our money in a higher interest-bearing account? Now that interest rates have increased in recent months it is a matter that we are considering at the moment. However, two things:

1. the normal deposit rates that are quoted (eg 5%pa or even 6% for NS&I) are for personal, individual, accounts. Deposit accounts for small businesses or charities, like us, give a far lower interest rate. The interest rate on our instant-access Reserve Account with NatWest is 1.45%pa but we should balance this with the fact that our current account with NatWest is a Community Account which has no bank charges – a significant advantage.

However, now that we have a far higher balance in our Reserve Account, we are currently applying for a Notice Period account with NatWest with the idea of parking some of our funds there to obtain a higher interest rate.

2. We are not eligible to open any product offered by National Savings & Investments.

In closing, The Village Players has ended the reporting period with funds of £3,453 higher than in the corresponding period last year thanks to its ability to stage two very successful productions with healthy audience numbers and a successful fund-raising event.

Overall, therefore, the end-of-year balance has returned to pre-Covid levels thanks to lessons learned from the challenging year of 2020-21 and the continuation of serious budgeting of productions. As a result, the group remains in a very healthy financial position.

Clyde M Young
Treasurer & Trustee
The Village Players

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS
YEAR 1st SEPTEMBER 2022 to 31st AUGUST 2023

Income & Expenditure Statement

<u>INCOME</u>	2022/23	2021/22
General		
Subscriptions	£474.00	£574.00
Donations & Grants		£500.00
Interest	£84.70	£1.96
Golf day		
Royalties-Refund		
Miscellaneous		
Workshop		
	£558.70	£1,075.96
Productions		
Sound of Music	£30.00	£10,657.07
Dracula - The Bloody Truth	£11,173.35	£10,358.80
Witness for the Prosecution	£9,663.11	
Aladdin		
	£20,866.46	£21,015.87
Fund Raising		
30th Anniversary & Burn's Night	£1,763.88	£2,022.63
		Burn's Night
TOTAL INCOME	£23,189.04	£24,114.46
EXPENDITURE		
General		
Administration	(£117.28)	(£19.47)
Scripts to Read & Guide to Plays	(£25.97)	(£27.97)
Front of House	(£48.45)	
Hall hire	(£36.00)	(£84.00)
Insurance & Subscription	(£298.06)	(£298.06)
Miscellaneous	(£64.59)	(£45.00)
Music		
Other		
Provisions	(£33.98)	(£17.17)
Publicity	(£44.00)	(£44.00)
Gifts	(£88.36)	(£80.48)
	(£756.69)	(£616.15)
Specific		
Website		
Committee & guests meal (subsidised)	(£339.90)	
Workshop		
Charity Donation-	(£600.00)	
Special Expenditure		(£94.80)
Other: Lighting	(£60.00)	(£30.49)
	(£999.90)	(£125.29)
Productions		
Sound of Music (Q)	(£89.37)	(£9,186.58)
Local Affairs (S)		(£9,130.79)
Dracula-The Bloody Truth (U)	(£9,152.50)	(£259.90)
Witness for the Prosecution (W)	(£7,048.83)	
Aladdin (X)	(£445.09)	
	(£16,735.79)	(£18,577.27)
Fund Raising		
30th Anniversary & Burn's Night	(£1,243.96)	(£1,387.31)
		Burn's Night
Productions and fund raising	(£17,979.75)	(£19,964.58)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(£19,736.34)	(£20,706.02)
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR YEAR	£3,452.70	£3,408.44

Income & Expenditure

Summary of Financial Year	2022/23	2021/22
Balance Brought Forward	£8,449.06	£5,040.62
Income	£23,189.04	£24,114.46
Expenditure	(£19,736.34)	(£20,706.02)
Balance Carried Forward	£11,901.76	£8,449.06
Closing Balances		
Reserve Account	£10,576.68	£5,997.49
Reserve No2 (AngieTrewAward)	£610.88	£655.37
Current Account	£714.20	£1,796.20
Minus Unpresented Cheques		
Total	£11,901.76	£8,449.06

Assets & Liabilities	2021/22	2021/22
Assets		
Costume rail		
Tablecloths	£20.00	£25.00
Lights	£1,000.00	£1,500.00
Keyboard		£10.00
Blackout Curtains		
Set Flats		
Sack Barrow	£5.00	£5.00
Costumes		
Microphones	£600.00	£800.00
Shed	£600.00	£750.00
Total – non cash items	£2,225.00	£3,090.00
Cash on Deposit	£11,901.76	£8,449.06
Total Assets	£14,126.76	£11,539.06
Liabilities		
Grand Total	£14,126.76	£11,539.06

The value of the above assets have been re-appraised in light of their age and condition. In particular, there is greater demand for LED lighting rather than the conventional lamps we have. The Trustees of The Village Players therefore believe that the values set against the non-cash assets listed above represent a true reflection of their forced sale value at the end of this financial year.

Signed Clyde Young Date 19/09/23
Clyde Young : Treasurer

Auditor's Statement

I have examined the above accounts for The Village Players and confirm that, from the records maintained, they represent a true reflection of the financial position of The Village Players during the period 01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023

Signed James L. Cook Date 25.9.23

Name : J W Cook Esq, Chartered Accountant