

THE WINDMILL PLAYERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1196878

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-12-01

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

Contact

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Holly Road
Red Marsh Estate
Thornton Cleveleys
FY5 4HH

Phone 07312173983

Email secretary@thewindmillplayers.co.uk

Website <https://thewindmilplayers.co.uk>

Activities

Objects: (1) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN THE SUBJECTS OF THE ART OF DRAMA AND MUSICAL THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES FOR ALL IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. (2) THE PROMOTION OF THE ART OF DRAMA AND ITS UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE DELIVERY OF THEATRE PRODUCTIONS AND WORKSHOPS.

Activities: To advance education in the subjects of the art of drama and musical theatre performances for all in the local community and the promotion of the art of drama and its understanding and appreciation for the public benefit.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Lancashire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£24,405	£23,373	-	-
2024-06-30	£18,157	£16,950	-	-
2023-06-30	£21,303	£26,653	-	-
2022-06-30	£13,672	£15,890	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan John Dickinson		2024-08-22
David Arthur Baxter		2022-08-25
Diana Margaret Timmins		2022-08-25
Elizabeth Danielewicz		2024-08-22
Ralph James Cedric Lawrenson		2023-11-01
Stephen Richard Cook		2024-08-22

THE WINDMILL PLAYERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1196878

Accounts

The Windmill Players Thornton Cleveleys



Annual Report 2025



**NODA Award Winner
Best Drama 2023/2024
Love on the Dole
By Walter Greenwood and Ronald Gow**

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The Windmill Players is an amateur dramatic organisation, with charitable status, performing plays across all genres at the local theatre. We aim to produce quality live and recorded entertainment, that enriches our community by broadening their experiences and perspectives through theatre and to provide our community the opportunity both to attend and to participate in quality stage productions.

A Message from our President

Starting the season with the popular Murder Mystery tour followed by the great production of *The Corn is Green* at the newly refurbished CRE8IV Little Theatre and then two further productions, I am confident that with full commitment from everyone, The Windmill Players will have a successful year.

I reiterate, it is a privilege and honour to be President of the great Windmill Players.

Thank you.
Maureen McCrea

Chair's Report

The Board of Trustees

The Trustees met twice in October 2024, mainly because of the complexity of the new contract with CRE8IV Little Theatre. The Trustees had identified quite a few issues in the contract which needed clarification and this was eventually achieved at a meeting with Chris and Claire Higgins on 8th October 2024, when the contract for *The Corn is Green* production was signed.

Further Board meetings were held in November 2024 and February 2025, where other issues were raised regarding such things as the lighting and heating at the rehearsal studio. I am pleased to say that the lighting issue has now been resolved, as all the light fittings have now been replaced, and the building will be having insulation installed by the landlord and improvements made to the heating in due course.

At the February meeting it was highlighted that some areas of our website needed updating and this has now been done. However, we are still in the process of updating some of our policy documents and these will be made available as soon as possible.

The Operational Committee

The Operational Committee meets on a regular basis once a month and they have been kept busy with the general day- to- day running of The Windmill Players. They were actively involved along with the Trustees in getting the issues of the contract sorted with CRE8IV Little Theatre in time for our October production of *The Corn is Green*. The Operational Committee work very hard to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible, and I for one am so grateful for all the effort every one of them puts in. Unfortunately, two of our committee members, Cath Griffiths and Ruth White, have had to step down from committee work due to other commitments, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for everything they have done during their time on the Operational Committee. We do, however, have a further three people who, following election at the AGM, have now joined us on the Operational Committee. They are, Mark Edmonds, elected as Vice Chair of the Operational Committee and Tina Warren along with Ian Lamond both elected as Operational Committee Members. Welcome to you all.

Finance and Funding Group

Steve Cook and Cath Griffiths have been and still are working tirelessly away in the background on various aspects of fundraising. We have also now become members of The Chartered Institute of Fundraising. The membership of which is now up and running and providing a number of contacts and links to sources of funding opportunities. We really are fortunate to have people like Steve and Cath working on Finance and Funding for The Windmill Players. They are both doing a great job and on behalf of The Windmill Players, I would like to thank them for it.

The Theatre Workshop

The Theatre Workshop has been working very hard under the guidance of Angela Hudson on their presentation of *The Founder of Fleetwood*, which has already been presented at several libraries in the area to great success.

The Theatre Workshop has now become a very popular and valuable asset to The Windmill Players C.I.O, and is now giving us the opportunity to devise projects together through improvisation such as this.

It tells the story of the life of Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood of Rossall Hall Fleetwood, who was responsible for bringing the railway to the coast and the building of a new town.... Fleetwood.

Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood was a kind man who wanted the best for his workers and he was also a writer and poet. The scenes portrayed in the production were first improvised over about three months.

As each situation was improvised the script began to emerge and was then put together by Theatre Workshop member Christina Higgin. This is a whole new way of working as with traditional theatre it is the other way round. The production itself though is very much a team effort by all the actors and actresses that take part in it.

Telling the story of how the town of Fleetwood was born, it has some wonderful characters and has been expertly directed by Angela who also created The Windmill Players Theatre Workshop. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Angela for all the hard work she has been putting into this project which has been receiving wonderful comments from all who have seen it to date.

Our Productions for the last season (October 2024 to June 2025)

In October 2024 we presented *The Corn Is Green* a classic play by Emyln Williams and directed by Angela Hudson and Roger Lloyd Jones. This was indeed a very successful production and received NODA nominations for Best Drama, Best Performance in a Drama, Best Supporting Male in a Drama, Best Leading Male Character in a Drama, Best Leading Female in a Drama.

At this event held in February 2025, we also received a nomination for Best Director in respect of our February 2024 production of *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of A Christmas Carol*.

Although we did not win anything on the NODA Awards Presentation Evening, it is an accolade in its own right to receive a NODA nomination, so we are all immensely proud of this achievement.

February saw The Windmill Players present John Buchan's *The 39 Steps* adapted by Patrick Barlow and directed by Colin Johnson. This fast-paced semi-improvised comedy was an absolute hoot and went down very well with our audiences. We were all immensely proud of the four actors/actresses who took this on. Four people playing 139 characters between them! Well done to all involved with this production.

In June of this year, one of our members, Ruth White, took on the role of director for the first time and delivered a wonderful play by Blake Morrison about the Bronte' Sisters called *We Are Three Sisters*. Again, this was received very well by our audiences. Like *The Corn Is Green* this was a period play with a large cast so for a first attempt at directing Ruth and all the cast did exceptionally well. Well done!

The Murder Mysteries

This year we trialed a Murder Mystery just before Easter, in addition to the one we normally do in September. The Windmill Players have been presenting the annual Murder Mysteries since 2013 and this will continue for the foreseeable future. However, Di Timmins, who writes and produces the Murder Mysteries, will be directing for us at CRE8TIV Little Theatre in the Spring of 2026, so this additional one may well have been a one-off, but with an enthusiastic cast of 10 it was indeed very successful.

Finally, I would just like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who has helped us with all our productions and community activities over that last year, especially to all those who help back stage with props, prompts, costumes, sound, lighting and set building. You have all done us proud. Well done each and every one of you.

Alan Dickinson
Chairman of The Windmill Players

August 2025

Secretary's Report

A welcome to all our members to the third AGM, to be held in our studio location, Starlight Studios.

We would like to extend our thanks to all members for supporting our social events over the past year.

The past 12 months since the last AGM have been very successful, exciting and also eventful for The Windmill Players.

Our plays presented at CRE8IV Little Theatre have been well-received; our first play of the season, *The Corn is Green* went on to receive NODA nominations for acting, directing and drama awards. Including all plays from 2024, The Windmill Players received several nominations at the local District 2 NODA Awards evening held in February of this year. To receive so many nominations this year really is an amazing achievement, and is testament to all the talented people in our society. We would like to extend congratulations to all the directors, actors and crews who were involved in these productions. We also had the amazing *39 Steps* directed by Colin Johnson which got so much positive feedback and a historic play *We Are Three Sisters* directed by Ruth White which is based on the lives of the Bronte' sisters in Yorkshire. This also received some very nice comments.

Soon after last year's AGM, consultations on the future were launched with CRE8IV Little Theatre, who took over the running of Thornton Little Theatre from Wyre Borough Council. We are looking forward to being able to develop valuable links and to build relationships with CRE8IV in the years to come. All in all, CRE8IV have done the best to help us out on shows nights and we look forward to the next play to be held in October at CRE8IV Little Theatre.

We've had much involvement in community events, including our ever-popular Murder Mysteries in local libraries which has been a great success.

Members continue with their valuable support of N-Vision's talking newspaper and we have had some fantastic donations.

The Theatre Workshop's *The Founder of Fleetwood* presentation, about Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, which was publicly advertised on local radio, has been very well received the libraries in and around Fleetwood, Thornton Cleveleys and Blackpool.

The play reading group continues. Members of the Trustees and Committee attended the Year 11 Awards at Millfield School, as The Windmill Players sponsors one of their awards annually; we were delighted to this year receive personal thanks from the recipient. We continue to adhere to all the new procedures and policies, terms and conditions from the license holders to enable us to perform their plays.

We have had nine new members join us this year

Fern Paisley
Secretary of The Windmill Players - August 2025

Treasurer's Report

Independent Examiners Report

**THE WINDMILL PLAYERS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2025**

ASSETS		CAPITAL ACCOUNT	
HSBC Current Account	6,343	Balance b/f	21,459
Prepay future play expenses	1,328		
HSBC Savings Account	14,739	Profit/(Loss) for year	1,032
HSBC Money Market	-		
Cash in hand	81		
	<u>22,491</u>		<u>22,491</u>
		0	
Restricted funds liability	2,316.78		

In accordance with instructions given to us, we have prepared without carrying out an audit, the above financial statements from the accounting records of The Windmill Players and from information and explanations given to us.



Miller Roskell Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
17 Victoria Road East
Thornton Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 5HT

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure

THE WINDMILL PLAYERS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

Bank Rec

Balance @ 30/06/24	9,975.57
less: unpresented cheque (102386)	- 5,390.64
Add: Outstanding play income	1,698.55
Add: Outstanding lodgements	60.00

Adjusted bank balance	<u>6,343.48</u>
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Cash Rec

Balance b/f	178.26
Cash Receipts	1,863.97
Cash Payments	1,957.94
W/off variance	3.00

Balance c/f	<u>81.29</u>
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Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure / Profit and Loss

THE WINDMILL PLAYERS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

RECEIPTS		€	PAYMENTS		€
The Corn is green					
Tickets		5,340.00	Theatre hire and commission		2,899.00
Raffle		519.00	Licence		489.60
Donations		443.10	Scripts		236.81
			Props, sets and costumes		277.70
			Printing, publicity and banners		280.88
			Other		200.00
		6,302.10			4,383.99
39 Steps					
Tickets		6,216.00	Theatre hire and commission		3,459.10
Raffle		556.00	Licence		489.60
Donations		119.20	Scripts		194.91
			Props sets and costumes		621.85
			Printing, publicity and banners		135.35
			Other		200.00
		6,891.20			5,012.81
We are 3 sisters					
Tickets		3,936.00	Theatre hire and commission		2,487.45
Raffle		412.00	Licence		408.00
Donations		-	Scripts		-
			Props sets and costumes		239.89
			Printing, publicity and banners		426.09
			Other		200.00
		4,348.00			3,761.43
Other receipts					
Members subs		1,395.00	Other payments		
Workshop subs		589.15	Room hire and utilities charges		6,600.00
Murder Mystery		794.38	NODA insurance		697.42
Donations		547.54	NODA membership		205.00
Bank interest		268.87	Donations and social		58.45
Restricted funds - Friends of Thornton		-	Equipment Inc website		740.26
Little Theatre legacy funds		2,899.78			
Other income		369.00	Bank charges		82.34
			Other expenses		1,831.54
		6,864.32			10,215.01
TOTAL RECEIPTS		24,405.62	TOTAL PAYMENTS		23,373.24
Profit/(loss)					
Overall P&L					
The Corn is Green - Surplus		1,918.11			
39 Steps - Surplus		1,878.39			
We are 3 Sisters - Surplus		586.57			
Other receipts		6,864.32			
less Other expenses			10,215.01		
Profit in year		1,032.38			

Note to End of Year Accounts 2024/2025

Income and Expenditure Reporting

The Windmill Players' year-end accounts for 2024/2025 include all income and payments processed through its bank accounts and petty cash. In November 2024, The Windmill Players received £2,899.78 in legacy funds from Friends of Thornton Little Theatre (FTLT), which had ceased to exist. These funds were transferred to The Windmill Players with the agreement that they would be used solely for community purposes, as established by the outgoing chair of FTLT and The Windmill Players trustees.

Accounting for Receipts and Payments

The FTLT funds appear in the income and expenditure account under '**other receipts**'. In the 2024/2025 financial year, £583.00 from these funds was spent on agreed community projects. This amount is shown within '**other expenses**', listed as '**other payments**' in the accounts.

Profit and Fund Status

Including all income and expenditure, The Windmill Players recorded a profit of £1,032.38 for the year. Importantly, the FTLT legacy funds remain distinct from The Windmill Players' own funds. At year end, the remaining balance of the FTLT funds stands at £2,316.78. This amount is reflected within the current account total on the balance sheet and is also listed separately as '**restricted funds**'.

Impact of Legacy Funds on Financial Position

If the FTLT income and expenditure were excluded, and only Windmill Players' own funds were reported, the income and expenditure account would show a loss of £1,285.10.

Similarly, by including that loss in the capital account, and removing the FTLT legacy funds from the assets in the balance sheet, would result in assets and capital totalling £20,174.

Notes on "Other Expenses"

This year the expenses included all donations from the Friends of Thornton Little Theatre legacy funds, expenditure from the Lancashire County Council community fund (*The Founder of Fleetwood* production - costumes, props and publicity material), costs for refreshments throughout the year and including the Mince Pie evening, tickets for the NODA awards dinners (members pay for these but the tickets must be purchased through The Windmill Players, so this is a zero cost to us but must be shown in the accounts).

The amounts of £200 shown as other expenses in each of the productions, refers to the cost of van hire for each production.

The Total of £1831.54 shown as "other expenses" under "Other Payments" is made up of the following: -

Legacy Donations	£583.00
The Founder of Fleetwood Production costs	£700.00
NODA Presentation tickets	£369.00
Various Miscellaneous Expenses	£179.54

Directors Group Report

The Directors Group meets monthly (approximately) to discuss topics such as the choice of plays for The Windmill Players, matters concerning the dates of various performances, and volunteer directors. Also, we deal with funding and membership applications, and support for and concerns from directors.

The Group currently consists of Angela Hudson, Di Timmins, Linda Whitworth and Steve Cook, all of whom are established members of The Windmill Players.

Matters discussed since the last AGM

- * Ongoing reports from the various productions (CRE8TIV Little Theatre/Workshop/Murder Mystery) as to how rehearsals and performances are going
- * Support given to all directors (Angela Hudson/Roger Lloyd Jones, Colin Johnstone, Ruth White, Bernard Melling)
- * Concerns were discussed as to potential clashes between rehearsals and performances, e.g. rehearsals for the CRE8TIV Little Theatre play and Murder Mystery performances. It was agreed that the main house play should always have priority. Various suggestions have been made around this, both at Directors Group and the Operational Committee, and the decision had been made that if the two directors agreed and the actors concerned were sure they could handle this, then it was acceptable to be in both.

The main activity that we have been involved in this past year is the updating of the Director's Checklist, which required much discussion and several drafts. The completed checklist has now been approved by the Directors Group and Operational Committee, and follows this report. We hope that this will clarify the issues for directors, especially those new to the task.

We also noted that there were a number of nominations this year from NODA regarding some of our actors and directors. Although none resulted in prize-winners, we felt that this was a good indication of the regard in which our group is held.

We now have directors (and some plays) confirmed for 2025-2026:
October 2025 *And Then There Were None* (directed by Bernard Melling)
February 2026 *Stepping Out* (directed by Emma Davies)
June 2026 (*play to be confirmed*) (directed by Di Timmins)
October 2026 (*play to be confirmed*) (directed by Poppy Flanagan)

We will continue working towards supporting the work of The Windmill Players, and any member who wishes to consider Directing, possibly for the first time, should come and have a chat with us!

Di Timmins, July 2025

Windmill Players Murder Mysteries Report

These have been performed once a year since 2014. The premise is as follows:

The Murder Mystery takes place in the autumn of each year, usually towards the end of September. Members are encouraged to volunteer, and the number of characters will change each year, dependent on the people who wish to be in it.

It is a collaborative piece, in that the theme is decided by the group, and the play is then written around them. The play itself is about 25 minutes long, then the actors (with the exception of whoever was the victim!) immediately go into a 'hot-seating' session, where the audience can ask any questions they wish of the actors, who must improvise their answers in character. There is then an opportunity for the audience to fill in forms with their suggested murderer and motive (whilst having refreshments!), followed by a reveal and a confession.

We normally tour local libraries (up to 7 so far), and are often asked to perform for private organisations who have heard of us.

In 2024, we produced *Death at Meadowbrook Farm* in which the farmer was 'bumped off', and in Spring 2025 *The Deadliest Game of All*, revolving around a community group hoping to enliven their local villagers by organising a social event wearing fancy dress, but getting too involved. This was an 'experiment', which was to present two Murder Mysteries in one year. Unfortunately, this cannot happen next year, as I will be directing for The Windmill Players at the CRE8TIV Little Theatre from Spring 2026. However, we will be performing *The Play's The Thing – And It's Murder!* in September/October 2025, which is set around an amateur dramatics group.

Although many of the members in this group are regulars, we will always welcome new people, and although the play is cast for this year, please keep your eyes open in around May/June 2026 for information about our next Murder Mystery, or try to see the latest one at your local library!

Di Timmins, July 2025

Friends of The Windmill Players Report

As soon as each play is cast, the Friends' Secretaries write a letter to the Friends of The Windmill Players (comprising of those formerly on our Patrons list, our Life Members and those on the Mailing List). This letter is sent out either by post or email, informing our Friends of the dates of the production with a short synopsis of its theme, and telling them that it is now advertised on CRE8IV Little Theatre's website, and how they can book tickets.

A reminder is sent out to those on email several times before each production, reminding them about booking, if they haven't already done so.

The Media Team create posters, flyers and banners advertising the new production. These are distributed to CRE8IV Little Theatre for display and to as many places around the area who will take them, including the local libraries and shops / supermarkets.

Large banners are displayed outside the theatre approximately four weeks before the run of the play.

Our Webmaster (Peter Jones) puts all the relevant information, and how to book tickets, onto The Windmill Players website, and posts are put regularly onto Facebook, advertising the play.

We are finding that the list of those receiving notification by email is growing steadily all the time – they join by accessing the link on The Windmill Players website.

We recognize that a number of our audience perhaps leave it to the last minute to book seats, and that reminders and good publicity (on social media and with printed flyers) bring in those who book seats on the night at the Box Office.

It should be noted that as a result of the June play programme this year, advertising our October production on the back, people were already booking seats for the October play before they left the theatre that same night. The decision to provide free programmes has proved to be a sound decision, as no-one has refused to be given one, and so advance publicity is paying off.

Linda Whitworth (Friends' Secretary) with Pauline Powell (Media Team)
August 2025

Theatre Workshop Report

RATIONALE.

- To ensure all members have an opportunity to learn the basic skills in performing arts through drama from leaders who have appropriate knowledge and have received relevant training.
- To support each other and create a safe space.
- To develop confidence and friendship through drama and poetry.

ACTIVITIES.

1. The Windmill Players have had a busy year. We began with rehearsals for our annual production *The Founder of Fleetwood* and this was presented successfully in several libraries and has been very well received. In June we performed at Castle view School, Lancaster to a full hall of primary school children.

2. Our research for this production also included a very interesting trip to Fleetwood Museum to meet with the staff who were most helpful.

3. Towards the end of this year we were asked by the Museum to perform some street theatre in Fleetwood based on our play. It was a lovely day, and the acting was so effective. Thank you to David Baxter for his continued advice and guidance on this historical subject. Thanks also to Mark Bowman and Mark Edmunds for their contributions to the production. Pauline Powell has been invaluable for her continued efforts to design and print the posters/leaflets. From the Workshop members it was truly an ensemble production.

4. Some of our members attended the Christmas Mince Pie Evening, with food a raffle and live music from Roger.

5. Ian Lamond is training to be a Celebrant and during two workshop sessions attendees of the workshop participated in an enactment of a South African Wedding. This formed part of Ian's penultimate assessment.

6. Thanks to Emma Davies for her guest appearances to teach a workshop session, they are always enjoyable, and Georgina and Tina for their ongoing teaching/direction on *The Founder of Fleetwood*.

NEW MEMBERS.

We are pleased to welcome some new members this year.

Thank you to Cindy, Shakira, Ian and Natasha for taking part in our production. A strong core of members has been present through the year to support and sustain its activities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Workshop has taken approximately £600 in subs this year.
The Founder of Fleetwood donations are approx. £150.

In 2024 we obtained a grant of £700. This has been invaluable for costumes, props and two packs of shelves. Thanks to Tina and Mark for assembling them. We also gave £10 each to the car drivers for our Lancaster trip.

FUTURE PLANS.

- 1.To Maintain a high quality of teaching.
- 2.To allow opportunities for members to learn and develop their relevant skills, to include participation in future workshop productions.
- 3.To help members improve their confidence and presentation skills.
- 4.To encourage new members to join and try to build up the membership.
- 5.To establish a YouTube channel which will be used for documenting performances and improving skills in various aspects of amateur theatre.
- 6.To revise the payment system to allow more flexibility to the members when paying their weekly subscriptions.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped to guide us through this year. It has, without doubt been successful.

Angela Hudson
August 2025

Photo Gallery



**October Production 2024
The Corn is Green
By Emyln Williams**





**February Production 2025
John Buchan's
The 39 Steps
Adapted by Patrick Barlow**





**June Production 2025
We Are Three Sisters
By Blake Morrison**

Drama Workshop Production 2025



The Founder of Fleetwood By The Windmill Players Drama Workshop



Murder Mystery 2025



The Deadliest Game of All By Di Timmins



Trustees and Operational Committee

Trustees

Chair & Trustee	Alan John Dickinson
Vice-Chair & Trustee	David Arthur Baxter
Trustee	Ralph James Cedric Lawrenson
Trustee	Diana Timmins
Trustee	Steve Cook
Trustee	Liz Danielewicz

Operational Committee

Chair:	Alan John Dickinson
Vice-Chair:	Mark Edmonds
Treasurer:	Alison Hollas
Secretary	Fern Crump
Friends Secretary	Linda Whitworth
Committee Member	Diana Timmins
Committee Member	Pauline Powell
Committee Member	Angela Hudson
Committee Member	Steve Cook
Committee Member	Tina Warren
Committee Member	Ian Lamond

Charity Registration & Contacts

Registered charity: No. 1196878
Registered address: Starlight Stage School
Holly Road
Red Marsh Estate
Thornton Cleveleys
FY5 4HH
Telephone: 07312173983
E-mail address: secretary@thewindmillplayers.co.uk
Website: <https://thewindmillplayers.co.uk>
Facebook: The Windmill Players



THE WINDMILL PLAYERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1196878

Accounts



**The
Windmill
Players**

AGM

PACK

22nd August 2024

AGM Agenda 2024

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Apologies
3. Minutes to AGM 2023
4. Secretary's Report
5. Directors' Group Report
6. Friends of the Windmill Players Report
7. Theatre Workshop Report
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Proposals & Elections
 - Committee Members
 - Trustees
10. Changes to Constitution

Message from our President Maureen McCrea

Starting the season with the popular Murder Mystery tour followed by the great production of "The Corn is Green" at the newly refurbished CRE8IV Little Theatre and then two further productions, I am confident that with full commitment from everyone the Windmill Players will have a successful year.

I reiterate it is a privilege and honour to be President of the great Windmill Players.

Thank you.

Maureen McCrea

Secretary Report for AGM - 2024

A welcome to all our members! The past 12 months since the last AGM have been successful, exciting and also eventful for the Windmill Players.

We'd like to thank all members for supporting our Social events this year. The Mince Pie evening was very enjoyable, with thanks to Roger Lloyd Jones for providing the fabulous entertainment at our Christmas social event. We'd also like to thank Jackie Rhodes for so ably organising the Summer Bowling Tournament, with members and friends competing for the newly renamed 'Anne George Memorial Trophy' in memory of a much-loved, much-respected and much-missed member of the Windmill Players.

Our plays presented at Thornton Little Theatre have been well-received. Our first play of the season 'Love on the Dole' went on to win 'Best Drama' at the NODA awards; along with all the plays performed in 2023, we received a magnificent total of 11 nominations at the local district NODA awards in February. To receive so many nominations this year really is an amazing achievement, and is testament to all the talented people in our society.

Congratulations to the director (Bernard Melling), cast and crew of 'Love on the Dole'; and also, to Ruth White for winning 'Best Leading Female Character in a Drama' for her role as Megan Winterburn in 'The Incident Room'. Both 'Love on the Dole' and Ruth White went forward to the next round: the NODA North West Regional Awards Gala in May.

Our second play of the season 'Farndale ...Christmas Carol' received a very positive NODA review, calling it 'a slick and reassured production ... expertly directed and expertly delivered'.

Unfortunately, our third play of the season, due to be performed in June, did not go ahead.

Soon after last year's AGM, consultation on the future of Thornton Little Theatre began. There was much uncertainty regarding the handover of Thornton Little Theatre by Wyre Theatres, and at the time when we should have been auditioning and rehearsing our third play, we still had no indication of timescales or who would be taking over the running of the theatre. The committee and Trustees had much discussion on alternative venues, made contact with, and visited, various locations (including churches, church halls, colleges, schools, community centres, and the Marine Hall) and considered costs, venue suitability, audience needs, etc.

The timing of the announcement for the handover of the theatre to Cre8iv Theatre Group did not work in our favour, and it is with sadness that we had to cancel the proposed June play.

We look forward to our next play in October, to be held at the newly named Cre8iv Little Theatre.

We are excited to be working with Cre8iv Theatre Group, developing further valuable links, and building relationships with their team. Bookings have been made for Oct 2024 and Feb 2025

We've had much involvement in community events, including our ever-popular Murder Mysteries in local libraries, N-Vision talking newspaper, the Theatre Workshops and play reading group. Members of the Trustees and Committee again attended the Year11 Awards at Millfield School, as the Windmill Players sponsors one of their awards annually.

We continue to adhere to all the new procedures and policies from the licence holders to enable us to perform their plays.

We have welcomed 5 new members; we now have 58 members.

We'd like to thank all members and Friends of the Windmill Players for their support this year.

Cath Edmonds, July 2024

DIRECTORS GROUP REPORT FOR AGM 2024

The Directors Group consists of Angela Hudson, Di Timmins, Linda Whitworth and Steve Cook. The decision to expand the group to four was taken at a committee meeting in late 2023/early 2024, as the membership of the group had gone down to two.

The group meets regularly, around once per month, and more frequently if it is felt there is a need.

The job of the Directors Group is to accept suggestions for plays and directors, and consider whether these are appropriate for The Windmill Players. 'Appropriate', in this context, covers:

- a) Artistic considerations
- b) Audience expectations
- c) Financial considerations
- d) Membership expectations

All the above have to be considered in detail before The Windmill Players moves forward on a production, and includes extensive conversations with prospective directors.

In 2023/early 2024, we were acutely aware of the problems around Wyre Theatres' situation, which made it impossible to book our normal June dates (we normally book February, June and October every year, well beforehand, at Thornton Little Theatre). This led to a period of instability, created by Wyre Theatres' inability to offer us any assurances that we would be able to book the theatre. As a result of this, we had to pass our June booking (although we and the rest of the committee looked extensively at other possible venues), and decided instead to put our efforts into the upcoming production of "The Corn Is Green", which is to be held in October/November 2024.

During the period when we did not have any productions in development, the group spent time discussing with potential directors any possibilities for the future, and reading scripts that had been submitted. As a result, we have the following planned:

February 2025 – Comedy directed by Colin Johnston (details to follow)

June 2025 - Play directed by Ruth White

October 2025 - Play directed by Bernard Melling

February and October 2026 as yet do not have directors.

Di Timmins has offered to direct a comedy in June 2026.

Apart from October 2024, titles of plays are not yet confirmed, so watch this space!

Other activities have continued, such as the Wednesday Workshop (see separate report), a physical theatre workshop and play-readings. Charitable undertakings include this year's Murder Mystery library tour and also activities we undertake such as Talking Newspaper for the Blind, and Outreach work with the Just Good Friends group in St. Annes.

We have also implemented an idea brought back by the committee: that everyone taking part in a production should make a donation of £1 each time they attend. This has been well received by casts.

As we go forward, working with the CRE8TIV group, and with thanks to Charlotte and her team at Starlight Studio for their support, The Directors Group now feels that after an unsettling period, the course is set for a new and exciting phase of The Windmill Players' development.

diti 18/7/2024

FRIENDS AND MEDIA REPORT FOR AGM 2024

As soon as the play is cast, the Friends' Secretaries write a letter to the Friends of the Windmill Players (comprising of those formerly on our Patrons list, our Life Members and those on the Mailing List). This letter is sent out either by post or email, informing our Friends of the dates of the production with a short synopsis of its theme, and telling them that it is now advertised on Cre8iv Little Theatre's website, and how they can book tickets.

A reminder is sent out to those on email about four weeks before each production, reminding them about booking, if they haven't already done so.

By this time the Media Team have created Posters, Flyers & Banners advertising the new production. These will be distributed to The Little Theatre for display and as many places around the area who will take them.

Large banners will be displayed outside the theatre approximately 4 weeks before the run of the play.

Our Webmaster (Peter Jones) has put all the relevant information, and how to book tickets, onto the WP website.

Posts will be regularly put onto Facebook advertising the play.

As we were unable to stage a June Production, owing to the uncertainty surrounding the Little Theatre earlier in the year, we kept in touch with our Friends by email informing them of the situation, and assuring them that we were looking forward to inviting them to "something special" which we were planning already for our October Production.

We are finding that the list of those receiving notification by email is growing steadily all the time – they join by accessing the link on our Windmill Players website. During the month of June, we telephoned many of our Friends still receiving notification of our plays through the post. Eighteen of those Friends told us that they are now no longer able to attend our Productions due to ill health and mobility problems but encouraged us by thanking the Society for the many years of pleasure and entertainment they had previously enjoyed.

We recognize that a number of our audience perhaps leave it to the "last minute" to book seats, and that reminders and good publicity (on social media and with printed flyers) bring in those who book seats on the night at the Box Office.

Linda Whitworth and Pauline Powell (Media Team)

WINDMILL THEATRE WORKSHOP REPORT FOR AGM 2024

The Workshop opened again in September 2023 and has worked steadily and successfully throughout the year.

In November we recreated "Is Witchcraft a Crime" for Cleveleys Library. The presentation, set in the round' was based on a poem by Margaret Atwood called "Half Hanged Mary" and was built on improvisation. We had previously performed in Thornton, but it was still a challenge and a learning curve for me. Thanks must go to Peter Jones for his work on the sound.

After Christmas we began working on our next project The projected dates for this are early 2025 and we have a grant as secured through LCC to develop this. We are taking our time because this is an ambitious venture which has involved extensive research. The presentation is based on the life of Peter Hesketh (the man who was responsible for the Fleetwood Railway and the building of Fleetwood). Most of our research is now done, and we have started to work on the scenes through improvisation. It has been suggested that we work through the summer so watch this space!

As our weekly classes continued Emma Davies again joined us to lead some of the sessions and Steve Cooke has now been "bribed" to become "joint leader" with me.

We have welcomed one or two members although attendance numbers have been lower this year as some members have been in other productions, which were thoroughly enjoyed by the audiences. Our core membership, as based on the WhatsApp Group membership, is 14.

In spite of this we have had a successful year. The work has been excellent and I, for one have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Angela Hudson

TREASURERS REPORT TO FOLLOW

Fund Raising Group: Report for AGM 2024

A funding group was established early in 2024, with regular meetings since, and comprises of Cath Griffiths, Angela Hudson and Steve Cook.

Its function is to consider and make appropriate funding applications, as supported by Windmill's status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and aligning with the Windmill Constitution objectives as follows:

- to advance education in the subjects of the art of drama and musical theatrical performances for all in the local community;
- the promotion of the art of drama and its understanding and appreciation for the public benefit in particular, but not exclusively, by the delivery of theatre productions and workshops.

The central theme of funding applications, so far, has been developing live community theatre to the public, expanding the current Windmill staples of the Workshop and Murder Mystery productions of recent years. Focus is also around developing the confidence in the spoken word of the players while also encouraging audience participation. Extra funding will enable wider publicity, enhanced staging including the purchase of extra props and set furniture, hire of costumes and transport.

To date two funding applications have been submitted:

1. Lancashire County Council Local Member Grant Scheme. This builds upon community links with local Councillor and Windmill Players Hon. Patron, John Shedwick. £700 has been secured for 2024/5 and will be used to develop the projected Workshop production on the Peter Hesketh Fleetwood Story. This will particularly seek to offer an educational component around local history with rehearsals to commence later in 2024 with performances planned to take place early in 2025.
2. One Stop Community Partnership Programme. Successful applicants receive an initial grant of up to £1000 and begin partnership with their local One Stop store (Thornton). An application form has been submitted to expand the remit around the successful Murder Mystery programme and a decision is expected week commencing 13th August 2024.

Moving forward, there is an opportunity to take up a free subscription from the Chartered Institute of Fund-raising and take advantage of professional advice and guidance. A more developed business plan, as based around a revised Constitution, would be integral to future progress here.

Steve Cook July 2024

Motions for The Windmill Players AGM 2024 from the Trustees

Background to Motion 1.....The "three year requirement"

The Foundation Document (the Constitution) for The Windmill players CIO shows, at paragraph 13, that at each AGM one third of the Trustees shall retire from office. At the time of the 2024 AGM there will be 5 Trustees and David Baxter and Di Timmins will be the two Trustees who will retire.

At Paragraph 16 of the Foundation Document, it shows that a Trustee "who has served for three consecutive years may not be re-appointed for a fourth consecutive term but may be re-appointed after an interval of one year."

This means that for David Baxter and Di Timmins their engagement will end at the date of the AGM as both became Trustees in 2021 when the Windmill Players CIO was formed. They wish to continue in post and can do so if the relevant paragraph in the Foundation Document is amended by omitting the "3 year requirement."

A change to the Foundation Document can be agreed by the membership at an AGM if at least 75% of those present vote for the change. The "three year requirement" in the Foundation Document exists as a recommendation from The Charity Commission but is not obligatory for the Windmill Players CIO.

The requirement for one third of the Trustees to retire at each AGM will remain. For those Trustees to whom this applies at AGMs from 2025 onwards, the opportunity will continue to exist for them to be re-appointed at the AGM if they wish to be considered for re-appointment and if the membership agree by a **majority** vote of those members present.

Motion 1

The Motion for you to approve and which is supported by the 5 Trustees in post at present is:

Paragraph 16 of the Foundation Document should be amended by removing the second sentence and retaining the first sentence as shown below:

- Any person who retires as a charity trustee by rotation or by giving notice to the CIO is eligible for reappointment. A charity trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a fourth consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year.

Background to Motion 2The quorum for Trustee meetings

A further change to The Foundation Document is proposed by the Trustees and this relates to a quorum for Trustees when they wish to reach a decision on a matter relevant to The Windmill Players CIO.

The minimum number of Trustees for the CIO to operate is three. (Paragraph 12 3 (a) of the Foundation Document).

The maximum number of Trustees allowed is twelve. (Paragraph 12 3 (b)).

At present there are five operational Trustees and a sixth person is standing for election at the AGM This is Liz Danielewicz who is a past chairperson of The Windmill Players. The present Trustees support her application.

The Foundation Document at Paragraph 19 3 (a) shows how a quorum for meetings of the Trustees to have an implementable decision is quantified. It shows " a quorum is five charity trustees or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity trustees, whichever is the greater". With the number of Trustees being five (perhaps six) this paragraph is very difficult to operate because it means that decisions cannot be made unless all of the five Trustees at present in post (or five of the six Trustees if a sixth Trustee is appointed) are present at a meeting. By changing this paragraph a quorum will be easier to achieve because it will be half or just over one half of the Trustees in post.

Motion 2

The Motion for you to approve (again a majority decision of the members present) is:

"Paragraph 19 3 (a) of the Foundation Document be replaced by:

(a) No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the decision is taken. The quorum, if there is an even number of Trustees in post, will be half the number of the Trustees in post. If the number of Trustees in post is an uneven number, then the quorum will be the nearest number to over one half of the total number of Trustees in post. The Trustees may, from time to time, change their definition of a quorum as long as the revised number for the quorum is more than one half of the number of Trustees in post. A charity trustee shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which he or she is not entitled to vote. (b) Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote. (c) In the case of an equality of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote."

June 2024

THE WINDMILL PLAYERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1196878

Accounts



The
Windmill
Players Thornton
Cleveleys

AGM
2023
REPORT
PACK



A Message from our President

Welcome to the 2023 A.G.M of the Windmill Players and I say again it is a great privilege to be President of this super Drama Group.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Trustees, Officers and Committee for their tireless work and commitment this past year which has been hard with all that has been involved with moving to our new venue.

I am confident the future of the Windmill Players looks positive with the increased membership and the talent I saw in Angela's Theatre Workshop production at Thornton library.

The Windmill sails will keep turning.
Maureen Mccrea



Secretary Report for AGM – 2023

A welcome to all our members to the first AGM to be held in our new studio location “Starlight Studios”, our new home since January / February 2023.

We were excited to introduce all our members to our new studio location at the Mince Pie Evening in December; we would like to extend our thanks to all members for supporting our Social Event in June to officially welcome everyone to the new studio.

When we received notice to leave the old studio, various options and locations were considered; we are pleased with our new premises at Starlight Studios, which has all we were looking for in terms of accommodation, location and cost. It is also giving us valuable links with the owner and members of the dance school and musical theatre company, which we are pleased to be able to develop.

The past 12 months since the last AGM have been successful, exciting and also eventful for the Windmill Players.

Our plays presented at Thornton Little Theatre have been well-received; we’d like to extend congratulations to Denise Flynn for her NODA nomination (Best Supporting Female in a Drama) for her role as Florence Boothroyd in ‘Billy Liar’. Our second play of the season, ‘Ladies Down Under’, was a popular follow-up to ‘Ladies Day’ presented the previous year, and received a very positive NODA review. And our third play, a thriller ‘The Incident Room’, was directed by one of our newer members, attracting many new members to the Windmill Players; a glowing NODA review praising the production, direction and characterisation has since followed.

We’ve had much involvement in community events, including our ever-popular Murder Mysteries in local libraries, and presentations for the WI. Members continue with their valuable support of N-Vision’s talking newspaper. The Theatre Workshops continue to be successful with many new attendees. Members of the Trustees and Committee attended the Y11 Awards at Millfield School, as the Windmill Players sponsors one of their awards annually, and we are seeking to develop further links with the school.

We continue to adhere to all the new procedures and policies, terms and conditions from the licence holders to enable us to perform their plays.

Over the past 12 months, Wyre Theatres have made changes to their own policies regarding payments (including deposits) for hire of Thornton Little Theatre; they have also made changes to their times for hire of the theatre. We have necessarily, therefore, had to make our own changes to days and times of rehearsals and performances during play week to reflect Wyre Theatres’ new policies, and to keep our costs at a minimum. These changes include reducing the number of performances to 4 per play, including a Saturday matinee; we have also had to change our performance start time to 7pm; and ‘get-ins’ will now be happening on Sunday afternoons. To offset some of the new costs from Wyre Theatres, we have increased our ticket prices per play to £12.

Thornton Little Theatre has been provisionally booked for all 2024, 2025 and 2026 plays.

We have welcomed 14 new members; we now have 58 members.

We’d like to thank all members and Friends of the Windmill Players for their support this year.

Cath Edmonds, July 2023



Directors' Group Report

The role of the group is to manage and facilitate the calendar of our forthcoming productions. This means everything from reading plays submitted by potential directors and advising on their suitability for performance, to agreeing dates for play readings, auditions and rehearsals to avoid diary clashes.

The group has three members currently; Angela Hudson, Di Timmins and Colin Johnston. We met five times last year and assisted where required with the three productions:

Billy Liar directed by Angela Hudson and Louise Evans

Ladies Down Under directed by Colin Johnston

The Incident Room directed by Harry Chambers

The last (a modern true crime drama based on the Yorkshire Ripper investigation) was a real departure from Windmill Players' usual fare, but the group believed it was an excellent piece of theatre, and so it proved.

We have continued to perform our acclaimed Murder Mysteries (written and directed by Di) at local libraries during the last two weeks of September. These have been - along with Angela's Theatre Workshops - an excellent training ground for less experienced actors, and to allow everyone to hone their improvisational skills.

We have had new and established directors approach the group over the past few months with some exciting ideas for future plays and we are now firming up productions into 2025. These don't always come to fruition so please approach us if you have a burning desire to direct, and a play that you feel is right for us!



Report on “FRIENDS OF THE WINDMILL PLAYERS” for the AGM 2023

As soon as each play is cast, the Friends' Secretaries write a letter to the Friends of the Windmill Players (comprising of those formerly on our Patrons list, our Life Members and those on the Mailing List). This letter is sent out either by post or email, informing our Friends the dates of the Production with a short synopsis of its theme, and telling them that it is now advertised on Wyre Theatres website, and how they can book tickets.

A reminder is sent out to those on email about four weeks before each Production, reminding them about booking, if they haven't already done so.

We are finding that the list of those receiving notification by email is growing steadily all the time – they join by accessing the link on our Windmill Players website.

We recognize that a number of our audience perhaps leave it to the “last minute” to book seats, and that reminders and good publicity (on social media and with printed flyers) bring in those who book seats on the night at the Box Office. We do feel that our audience numbers are slowly starting to pick up after the lockdowns.

Linda Whitworth and Pauline Powell



THEATRE WORKSHOP. ANNUAL REPORT for August 2023.

The Workshop opened again in September 2022 and worked steadily each Wednesday throughout the term.

Just before Christmas we presented “An Evening with Noel Coward” in Thornton Library. We had lots of fun working on the comedy numbers, and our grateful thanks go to “Elsie” who played her keyboard.

Our weekly classes continued after Christmas and during this time I have seen some excellent class work. In May, Emma Davies came to give us a Master Class on “Mime and Physical Theatre” which, I know, the members enjoyed very much.

During March 2023, and alongside the Wednesday workshops, some of the members began rehearsing “Is Witchcraft a Crime”. This was part of the Library’s CRIME MONTH and again was performed in the library. The presentation, set in the round, was based on Margaret Atwood’s poem “Half Hanged Mary” and was based entirely on improvisation. This was an interesting challenge for us and a learning curve for me. Grateful thanks to Jack Evans for his innovative and atmospheric “sounds”. If anyone missed this and would like to see it, the Workshop members will be performing again in various Libraries in July.

We have welcomed several new members this year, most have supported our plays. Some have joined the Windmill Players; some would like to act with them, and some have already been in a play.

The members pay £3 to attend these sessions, and we have therefore contributed approximately in excess £1,200, since September.

We have, without a doubt, had a very successful year, and our grateful thanks go to all who have supported us, particularly to CHARLOTTE, from Starlight.

THANKYOU.
Angela Hudson.

THE WINDMILL PLAYERS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

ASSETS

HSBC Current Account	4,831
HSBC Savings Account	14,199
HSBC Money Market	-
Cash in hand	1,221
	<u>20,251</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Balance b/f	25,590
Profit/(Loss) for year	- 5,339
	<u>20,251</u>

In accordance with instructions given to us, we have prepared without carrying out an audit, the above financial statements from the accounting records of The Windmill Players and from information and explanations given to us.



Miller Roskell Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
17 Victoria Road East
Thornton Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 5HT

10 NOVEMBER 2023.

**THE WINDMILL PLAYERS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

Overall P&L

Billy Liar - Profit	2,101.48	
Ladies Down Under - Profit	987.41	
Incident Room - Profit	211.74	
Other income	5,751.89	
Other expenses	- 14,402.41	
Agreed correction	11.34	See Alison E-mail - variance agreed with committee

Profit/(Loss) - 5,338.55

THE WINDMILL PLAYERS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

RECEIPTS	£	PAYMENTS	£
Billy Liar			
Subs		Theatre Hire and Commission	1,756.20
Tickets	5,010.00	Licence	516.00
Programmes		Scripts	123.98
Raffle	462.90	Costumes	-
Royalties refunded		Set	550.72
Donations	<u>35.00</u>	Printing, Publicity and Banner	387.53
	5,507.90	Other	<u>71.99</u>
			3,406.42
Ladies Down Under			
Subs		Theatre Hire and Commission	2,958.80
Tickets	4,990.00	Licence	510.00
Programmes		Scripts	87.26
Raffle	569.00	Costumes	125.98
Donations	<u></u>	Set	426.29
	5,559.00	Printing, Publicity and Banner	391.52
		Other	<u>71.71</u>
			4,571.59
Incident Room			
Subs		Theatre Hire and Commission	2,903.20
Tickets	4,110.00	Licence	408.00
Programmes		Scripts	137.14
Raffle	340.90	Costumes	49.84
Donations	<u>33.00</u>	Set	215.01
	4,483.90	Printing, Publicity and Banner	293.54
		Other	<u>265.43</u>
			4,272.16
Other receipts			
Members subs	1,045.00	Other payments	
Additional donations	230.52	Studio Rental	6,775.00
Interest	123.67	Gas and Electricity	1,907.07
Workshop Subs	1,160.70	NODA insurance	422.30
Prior Year Little Grimley sales (see note 9)	2,930.00	NODA membership	190.00
Murder	<u></u>	Donations and Social	332.19
Mystery		Fire report and safety equipment	218.00
donations	<u>262.00</u>		
	5,751.89	Other equipment	723.03
		Bank Charges	93.40
		Moving Expenses	486.75
		Other Expenses	502.18
		Future plays	1,060.00
		Little Grimley theatre and set cost:	<u>1,692.49</u>
			14,402.41
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><u>21,302.69</u></u>	TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u><u>26,652.58</u></u>
Profit/(Loss)	<u><u>- 5,349.89</u></u>		

THE WINDMILL PLAYERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1196878

Accounts



THE WINDMILL PLAYERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2022

**To be held at The Studio, rear 21 Fleetwood Road North, Thornton-Cleveleys
on Thursday, 25th August 2022 at 7.30 - refreshments beforehand from 7pm.**

To All Members -

We wish to invite you to our 2022 AGM. The documents contained in this email will hopefully explain what has been happening with The Windmill Players since our last AGM.

You will all know that we were not able to operate as a functioning theatre group from the first lockdown in early 2020, after our production of 'The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery', through to 'Celebration 75!' our compilation of extracts from past plays, which we performed in autumn 2021. We were lucky enough to form a link for that production with Cleveleys Park Players, who allowed us to use their Church Hall. During the period of lockdown a number of us were able to spend some time having play readings on Zoom, and in the better weather, socially distanced in gardens.

Although we were not able to use Thornton Little Theatre during lockdown we are now re-established there from our February 2022 production of 'Ladies Day', followed in June by 'An Evening in Little Grimley', and finally this year in October we will be performing 'Billy Liar'.

Having obtained support from you, the membership, for our becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, this took place in December 2021. Since then the Trustees have continued to manage the affairs of The Windmill Players, and the objects of the Windmill Players as shown in our constitution are:

- to advance education in the subjects of Drama and Musical Theatre performances for all in the local community
- the promotion of the art of Drama and its understanding and appreciation for the public benefit, in particular but not exclusively, by the delivery of Theatre productions and Workshops

You will find with this letter:

An explanation of the structure of the CIO as it applies to The Windmill Players

Reports from the different sections of the Trustees – we hope you will be able to find time to read these before the meeting

The Agenda for the AGM

If you have any questions about any of the reports, or any submissions, proposals or interest in vacancies, please contact David Baxter by Thursday 18th August on:

daviddbaxter@aol.com

We very much hope to see you at the AGM.

From your Trustees.

STRUCTURE OF THE CIO AS IT APPLIES TO THE WINDMILL PLAYERS

Intention

Since becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in December 2021 the Trustees have continued to manage the affairs of the Windmill Players and now wish to re-arrange the way in which these operations are managed in line with Charity Commission approved advice.

The Rules

The Constitution which we use is one provided by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) and it was approved by the Charity Commission. In this Constitution (or "rules") we need to have at least three Trustees who are accountable for the operations of the Windmill Players CIO. We have nine at present. A third of the Trustees have to "stand down" each year. This allows for new Trustees to be appointed thus allowing a flow of new people and ideas. A Trustee who stands down can, however, be re-appointed at the AGM should he or she be prepared to continue in post and if the membership agree.

The people involved

For the coming year 2022/23 more than three Trustees wish to stand down. They are: Angela Hudson, Alison Hollas, Di Timmins, Pauline Powell, Cath Edmonds and Linda Whitworth. This leaves as Trustees: David Baxter, Louise Evans (a newly appointed Trustee) and Jack Evans.

An Organising Committee

From those Trustees who stand down Alison, Di, Pauline, Cath and Linda are willing to operate as an organising Committee for the Windmill Players CIO. Such an arrangement is provided for in the Constitution. This arrangement will ensure continuity of key areas of the Windmill Players CIO namely: finance, play selection and direction, ticketing and communications. Angela will not be on the organising Committee but will continue to manage the Drama Workshop and Wardrobe.

What you can do to help

It would be useful to increase the number of members on the organising Committee. In particular we need someone to take on the role of Social Secretary and another to deal with Health and Safety and Fire Safety issues. Going further, an Assistant Treasurer would be very useful.

If you would like to become involved with the organising Committee, please contact David Baxter: daviddbaxter@aol.com

The Organisation from 2022

The picture which emerges from this is as follows:

- A group of Trustees who have overall accountability for the effective and efficient operation of the Windmill Players CIO
- An Organising Committee that takes responsibility for key areas of the Windmill Players' activities including play selection, communications, ticketing, wardrobe and props management, scenery construction, the Drama Workshop and community events.
- The full membership of the Windmill players, both acting and non-acting.

Liaison between these groups shall be flexible and effective.

REPORTS TO MEMBERS

From our President

“What a year it has been, the highlight being our 75th Celebration production with masked audiences, a special birthday, new life member and very sadly loss of members and friends of the Windmill Players.

Due to Covid it’s been a very difficult time for the Society and I personally would like to thank most sincerely the Committee for all their hard work and dedication to the Windmill Players, especially David and Di. Without these dedicated people we wouldn’t be here today and I hope the members realise the time and effort they put into the running of the Windmill Players.

I am very proud and honoured to be President of the Windmill Players and long may they continue- so onward and upward.”

Maureen McCrea

2022 AGM - Secretary Report

A big Welcome Back to all our members and friends after a difficult couple of years. We extend a Welcome to our 2 new members, Harry and Malcolm. The total number of members for the year 2021 – 2022 is 47. We also welcome a new NODA rep: Mr Nathan Benson accepted our invitation to the June 2022 play within just a few days of taking up his new post.

The pandemic appears to have had an impact on ticket sales, and the way (and timings) in which our audiences purchase their tickets for performances. Having analysed patterns for ticket sales, and hearing feedback from Windmill Players members, we are trialling a change to our traditional Saturday evening performances. Our October 2021 play for 'Celebration 75', held at Cleveleys Park, gave us the opportunity to try a Saturday matinee, which was successful. We will be trialling this for the Saturday performance at Thornton Little Theatre this coming October and will continue to watch ticket sales patterns to make other possible changes to theatre bookings in the future.

Dates for performances at Thornton Little Theatre have been arranged until June 2024.

We have spent time ensuring that new legalities are now being followed to comply with new licencing regulations – you may have noticed new wording on programmes, banners, advertising, websites and social media (from our June 2022 play), which reflects the new demands being placed upon us by licence holders.

Cath Edmonds

2022 AGM - Directors Group

The role of the directors group, consisting of Angela, Jack and Di, is to plan and facilitate productions, both in our main 'home' of Thornton Little Theatre, and elsewhere. We were able to organise The Windmill Players' return to the stage in early November, 2021 with 'Celebration 75!'. This performance acknowledged our 75 years of existence, and despite not being in our usual home we were pleased to accept the kind offer of a temporary stay at Cleveleys Park Methodist Church Hall. Our 25+ performers, 6 directors and numerous crew were delighted to have the opportunity to perform again.

In February we welcomed back Colin Johnston as director for the comedy, 'Ladies Day'. Colin had begun directing ready for June 2020 when the country went into lockdown just after 'The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery' in February 2020, so it was good that we were able to offer him the first slot in 2022. The remaining productions for 2022 have directors from the directors group itself, as it seemed better to allow other volunteers, and in some cases directors new to us, sufficient time to prepare. Thus, in June we saw the two Little Grimley plays - 'Lockdown In Little Grimley' and 'Murder In Little Grimley' (directed by Jack and Di) and Angela is already well on the way of producing 'Billy Liar', with the help of Louise.

We also have a number of directors who have offered their services through 2023 and well into 2024, so we are in the enviable position of not being short of volunteers!

In addition, the Murder Mysteries are now booked in at local libraries for the last two weeks in September, and again we have some new faces taking part. These productions form part of our community involvement as well as offering a different kind of experience for both performers and audience. Sadly, we were unable to take part in Tram Sunday this year as the usual facilities were not available to us, and at the suggestion of Left Coast (Arts group who co-ordinate that aspect of the day) it was decided to move our contribution forward to 2023.

The directors group is always open to suggestion for plays, directors and performances, and anyone with ideas is encouraged to contact Angela, Jack or Di.

Di Timmins

2022 AGM - Community Events

Members of the Drama Workshop and Windmill Players participated in the commemoration of the birthday of Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood on 8 May 2022 at the Affinity Outlet. This was a light-hearted performance of the story of Fleetwood and was well received by members of the public and the organiser, Healthier Fleetwood. There is an ongoing Project with Healthier Fleetwood which connects to the National Health Service and concerns communication between patients and health care professionals.

The Murder Mysteries, which are very well supported and enjoyed in the Community, will be performed late in September 2022. A link with "Just Good Friends", which is a community group based in Lytham, has been re-established and arrangements are being made for their involvement with a Murder Mystery. The partnership with N- Vision for the Talking Newspaper continues.

David Baxter

2022 AGM - Legal Matters

We continue to use the Studio at Back 21 Fleetwood Road North for rehearsals, meetings, storage, scenery preparation and social events. The present contract for hire is under review and we continue to benefit from a suitable, well maintained and well positioned location. We take the safety of our members seriously and have improved our arrangements for providing risk assessments, health and safety and fire safety issues.

David Baxter

2022 AGM - Friends of The Windmill Players

During the lockdowns, we were kept busy informing our Patrons and those on the Mailing List, either by letter or email, where we were up to and how we hoped to welcome them back when restrictions had lifted.

Because our Patrons paid the yearly subscription of £60 in advance of our October-June season of plays, and because "All My Sons", which was scheduled as our June 2020 play, had had to be cancelled, we found ourselves writing to our Patrons in November 2020, offering to reimburse £20 of the £60 they'd paid for the previous season. We're delighted to report that practically all of them donated their fee to the Society, and we had some very encouraging messages of support.

With this experience in mind, as we encouraged people to come back to the theatre and looking to the future, the Committee decided that we would no longer separate Patrons paying a yearly fee, from Mailing List members paying play by play. Instead, both groups would be called "Friends of the Windmill Players" and pay for their tickets each play.

December 2020 saw us sending a Christmas card, either by letter or email, to our Friends, and it was with great thankfulness, that we were able to write to them, inviting them to Celebration 75! in November 2021 at Cleveleys Park Methodist Hall, and back to Thornton Little Theatre for our February and June plays this year.

Before our February play, the Trustees had already decided that from this coming season, the booking of tickets would be completely controlled by Wyre Theatres, and we informed our Friends of this new initiative when we wrote to them about booking with us for the June play "An Evening in Little Grimley".

However, our work hasn't entirely come to an end!! We will continue to inform our Friends about three months before each play that it is now advertised on Wyre Theatres website, and booking is therefore open for them to book early to get priority booking.

Linda Whitworth and Pauline Powell

2022 AGM - Theatre Workshop

The Windmill Players Theatre Workshop opened its doors again last October 2021. Since then, the membership numbers have grown steadily, and we now have 17 names on the register.

At Christmas the members gave a presentation called "Strictly Jane Austen" in Thornton Library. The costumes and props were all sourced from our own wardrobe. It was a huge learning curve for us all and I believe the library raised about £90 on the door.

In the spring some of the workshop members took part in some "outdoor theatre" at the Affinity Outlet shopping centre. Fully costumed in Victorian dress their presentation told the story of The Pioneers of "Early Fleetwood". The script was written by David Baxter. Again, this was a learning experience, and we all had a lovely day.

During the summer term we ran a six-week course on Shakespeare. There were mixed feelings about this subject, one or two members hated it, and some didn't want it to end. However, everyone worked very hard and produced some excellent work.

All in all, we have had a successful year. Some of our members have gone on to perform with other groups, and some have joined The Windmill Players as members.

I would like, therefore, to thank the members of The Windmill Players for their support, firstly for coming to watch the performances and secondly for the help you have given with the publicity, and the badges. We are now looking forward to next year.

First session, Wednesday the 7th of September.

Angela Hudson

2022 AGM – Wardrobe

The Windmill Players wardrobe opened again in October 2021 to provide costumes and accessories for the members.

This working year we have also provided a costume hire service to other groups, which included a school in Rochdale, Fylde Coast Players, The Christie Musical Theatre Company, and the Anonymous Players.

Altogether, and to include the sale of some unused items, we have taken approximately £230, in donations, since October.

Over the years a wardrobe of costumes has been created for all types of performers, and we are now able to provide a varied range of costumes from period to fancy-dress.

Opening hours, Mondays 7.30pm to 9pm, Tuesday 9.30am to 11am or by appointment (07507205833)

I hope you will agree that the wardrobe is a valued asset to the group.

Angela Hudson

2022 AGM – Props Room

OBJECTIVE: To sort, tidy and check contents of all Prop boxes.

All breakable items are being wrapped in bubble wrap rather than newspaper.

Having regard to Health and Safety, I am not overfilling the Props containers as a lot of them are extremely heavy. I am taking this precaution as I wouldn't like anyone to injure themselves. This, of course, would involve the purchase of more plastic containers but I think it's a worthwhile expense

All containers for Props are being numbered and a new Props list compiled. (The original one I was working on has disappeared!) So unfortunately, it is taking me longer to catalogue the items we have in stock as all boxes have to be emptied and checked and then the contents re-wrapped.

Anything that hasn't been used for years to be disposed of either by selling or donating to Charity.

To organise the removal of any large items which we can't donate, sell or use, together with any Workshop rubbish. This can either be collected by a rubbish removal firm or a Skip if the Council would allow this to be placed near our premises for 1 or 2 days.

FUTURE GOALS

All Props used for any play to be listed in the Props book and when returned checked back in, ticked, dated and signed.

After any play, all Props to be returned to the appropriate boxes in a clean condition, as I have found dirty cups, saucers, etc., which I am having to wash prior to storing.

Anyone who would like to donate items to the Props, please ask if we actually need it and not just leave it in the props room.

I envisage all the above to hopefully be completed before rehearsals commence for the February '23 Play.

Janet Pinder

2022 AGM – Provisional Finance Report

Windmill Players

Registered charity

Draft Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 30 June 2022

(The reason why this report is provisional, and some figures for 'An Evening In Little Grimley' are estimated, is because we are awaiting final confirmation from Wyre Theatres)

Receipts C75!	£	Payments C75!	£
Tickets	2500.00	Theatre hire	750.00
Raffle	343.00	Costumes, props and set	25.12
Programmes	36.80	Programmes	47.50
Donations	16.00	Printing, banners and publicity	232.39
		Licences	960.00
	<u>2900.80</u>		<u>2014.98</u>
Ladies' Day		Ladies' Day	
Tickets	5510.00	Theatre hire	1766.67
Raffle	471.00	Commission	408.00
Programmes	58.50	Costumes	94.50
Donation	0.65	Props	279.79
		Set	237.53
		Programmes	72.00
		Printing, banners and publicity	335.15
		Licence	450.00
		Scripts	67.68
		Gratuities	30.00
		Misc	39.99
	<u>6040.15</u>		<u>3780.32</u>
An evening in Little Grimley			
Tickets	4710.00 (est)	Theatre hire	1766.67 (est)
Raffle	431.00	Commission	305.00 (est)
Programmes (complimentary)	00.00	Costumes, set and props	38.45
		Programmes	72.00
		Printing banners and publicity	377.20
		Licences	360.00
		Scripts	107.00
		Gratuities	30.00
		Misc	62.81
	5141.00		3119.13
Other receipts		Other payments	
Members subs	1165.00	Insurance	422.30
Donations	70.00	NODA membership	117.00

Interest	3.96	Gas and electric	1231.32
Sales of props and costumes	270.00	Fire safety/health and safety	683.98
Wednesday Workshop	990.46	Donations and gifts	185.75
	<u>2499.42</u>	Studio rental	6000.00
		Misc	605.44
			<u>9245.79</u>
Total receipts	<u>16581.37</u>	Total payments	<u>18160.22</u>

Overall P&L

C75!	885.82
Ladies' Day	2259.83
An evening in Little Grimley	2021.87
Other income	2499.42
Other expenses	9245.79
Profit/(loss)	(1578.85)

The Windmill Players

Annual General Meeting - Thursday 25th August 2022

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Introduction, Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status and the new structure.
3. Secretary's Report
4. Director's Group
5. Community Events
6. Legal Matters
7. Friends of the Windmill Players
8. Theatre Workshop
9. Wardrobe
10. Props
11. Provisional Financial Statement 2021/22
12. Elections

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served from 7.00pm and the AGM will start at 7.30pm.

As reports and accounts have been submitted in advance the time allocated on the agenda to each committee member will be used to feedback on any questions/comments relating to their areas of responsibility.

£20 subs (reduced fee) are due for 2022 - 2023

**Windmill Players
receipts and
payments
2021/2022**

receipts	item	amount	total	payments	item	amount	total
Celebration 75!				Celebration 75!			
	tickets	2500			venue hire	750	
	programmes & raffle	384.8			commission	0	
	donations	8			costumes	0	
			<u>2892.8</u>		set	25.12	
					props	0	
					programmes	47.5	
					printing & publicity	232.36	
					licences	960	
					scripts	0	
							<u>2014.98</u>
Ladies' day				Ladies' day			
	tickets	5660			theatre hire and commission	2004.6	
	programmes & raffle	529.5			costumes	11.99	
	donations	0.65	<u>6190.15</u>		set	211.65	
					props	394.08	
					programmes	72	
					printing & publicity	335.15	
					licences	450	
					scripts	67.68	
					gratuities	30	
					food	39	
							<u>3616.15</u>
Murder in Little Grimley/Lockdown in Little Grimley				Murder in Little Grimley/Lockdown in Little Grimley			
	tickets	1660			theatre hire and commission	0	
	raffle	431			costumes	0	
	donations	0	<u>2091</u>		set	22.62	
					props	16.03	
					programmes	72	
					printing and publicity	377.8	

licences	360	
scripts	107	
gratuities	30	
food	62.81	<u>1048.26</u>

other receipts	members' annual subs	1165	
	Wednesday workshop subs	989.46	
	other donations	340	
	bank interest	3.96	
			<u>2498.42</u>

other payments	studio rental	6000	
	gas & electricity	1231.32	
	NODA insurance	422.3	
	NODA membership	117	
	donations and gifts	185.75	
	bank charges	64.64	
	fire report & safety equipment	790.04	
	other equipment	353.12	
	misc	46.42	
			<u>9210.59</u>

total receipts **13672.37**

total payments **15889.98**

Overall P&L	
Celebration 75!	877.82
Ladies' day	2574
Little Grimley	1042.74
other income	2498.42
LESS other payments	9210.59
loss	-2217.61

