

## Item 4

### **Chairman's Report 2022-2023**

I am so pleased to be able to report on shows we have performed this year! After so much disruption since 2020 we are definitely BACK!

We started with the November 2022 show "The Sound of Music", directed by Phil Courage with daughter Kate as Musical Director and Georgiana Snelling as choreographer. This show was originally planned for November 2020 at the Arc so it was much-delayed and plenty of re-planning took place to adapt it for The Civic. The whole cast worked extremely hard in the short rehearsal period, and as usual Phil's set made use of the difficult space perfectly. As well as the principals, the chorus of nuns sounded amazing and it was wonderful to have two sets of such talented children.

We were back at The Civic in April 2023 with a much-revamped version of our planned concert now named "A Walk Through The West End". Revue shows like this are really hard work due to the sheer number of songs, but it does give a really wide range of people the opportunity to perform songs we may not be able to stage as a full musical. There were beautiful soulful moments as well as full-on chorus numbers with energetic choreography. This show was led by the wonderful Anna Mazan, and we also welcomed Nick Goodall as Musical Director. Anna and Nick were supported by Sarah, Daisy and Lou to create a show that had the audience dancing in the aisles!

Anna leapt from adults to children and directed "Matilda The Musical Jr" with Frankie Walker and Lou Knight as Musical Director. From an initial 80+ children who auditioned they whittled it down to a cast of 44 who had some initial rehearsals in June before a one-week Summer School in August followed by two performances at St Augustine's School. Tickets sold out in a week and we had to put in an extra row of seats to accommodate everybody. The quality of performance was outstanding, especially for such a short rehearsal period. We had an army of helpers through the rehearsals and performances, thank you – we couldn't do it without you!

We've now started rehearsals for the next show "My Fair Lady" which will be performed at The Civic on 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> December, directed by Phil Courage and welcoming back Helen Heaton as Musical Director. Anna is again our choreographer, it's great to have somebody who is so patient. It's a really strong cast and I'm really impressed that some of the principals are already off the book (mostly!). Tickets are available directly from The Civic.

We were so impressed by the main hall at St Augustine's that we will be returning there for our 2024 shows, there's raked seating, changing areas, and wing space. We will be performing "Sister Act" at the end of May/beginning of June, with Sarah Davies making her directorial debut and Musical Director Helen Heaton. For October/November 2024 we will be performing Disney's "The Little Mermaid", directed by Matt Heaton with Kate Courage as Musical Director.

We are already looking at shows for 2025, announcements will be made when licences are confirmed. The refurbishment of Trowbridge Town Hall has started which will turn the middle floor (where the gallery is) into one large space with flexible raked seating for around 250 people. It is hoped that it will reopen in mid-late 2025.

We very sadly lost the wonderful Joan Baggs recently at the grand old age of 97. She and her husband Jim were with the society at its reforming in 1975, and Joan has been supporting us for as long as I can remember. She served on committee for a number of years, but of course she was best known as being a marvel with a sewing needle. She would know exactly what was in our wardrobe that would fit somebody (without measuring), always adjusting or repairing costumes during show week as well as making some costumes from scratch. In the days when we would hire backcloths for shows at The Civic we had to take

up the hems as it's very low, that's a lot of fabric to hand-sew! Even when her health declined in recent years she would always enjoy coming along to watch and help if she could – she was always very particular about bows! Thank you to Sandra and Karen for keeping an eye on Joan and bringing her along when she could no longer drive herself. She will be very greatly missed by all who knew her, we will be dedicating “My Fair Lady” to her.

On a more joyful note I am delighted to announce that we have received Rose Bowl nominations for all three of the shows we have performed this year. For “The Sound of Music” we have been nominated for Best Music & Orchestra and Best Publicity Material, and Daisy has been nominated for Best Actress (Musical) for her role as Maria. For “A Walk Through The West End” we have been nominated for Best Revue/Pantomime/Variety and again Best Publicity Material. “Matilda Jr” has two of its performers nominated, Lorretta Iles for Best Youth Actress as Matilda, and Alex Ball for Best Youth Actor as Bruce. The Awards Ceremony is on 26<sup>th</sup> November in Bristol so if anybody would like to attend please let me know.

We have had an amazing year, it feels like we have a really strong and supportive society and I am very grateful to have so many people who want to step up and take on roles which help with the running of the group. Thanks to all our backstage crew in so many ways – costume, props, sound, lighting, etc. Thanks go to the Committee for being so pro-active, and to Nigel who is hopefully a bit happier with our bank balance than last year! There are financial pressures on everybody at the moment and hobbies such as ours can be seen as a luxury. However singing together is proven to have such a positive effect on mental health that it could be seen as an essential part of life. I have been part of this society for well over 30 years, and on committee for most of that. Whilst I want to step down from the responsibilities of Chairman I couldn't imagine not having this society in my life. Thank you.

## TROWBRIDGE MUSICAL THEATRE

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## Item 5

# Treasurer's Report 2022-2023

### Treasurer's Annual Report for the Year 2022/2023 (01/09/22 to 31/08/23)

#### **Introduction**

Firstly, thank you to all those who have helped with dealing with the financial affairs of the society, and particular thanks to Claire for her great help with all aspects of cards, cash and cheques.

We have had three successful productions this year, Sound of Music, A Walk through the West End, and Matilda, thank you and congratulations to all involved, there have been some massive amounts of hard work by some individuals, well done.

#### **General Accounts**

The General Accounts are where we detail all of the Society's activities outside of the shows we complete in a year. This year they resulted in a deficit of £1845. This is more than last year but the society has been more active.

#### **Income:**

Interest on our Shawbrook investment has still to be put into the accounts.

We haven't managed to claim for Gift Aid this year, this is a task still outstanding and could do with some assistance.

'Easy Fundraising' and Amazon web-site sales contributed about £126, similar to last year, thank you to all who purchase through these channels.

#### **Expenditure:**

Insurance cost was back to normal.

The new scenery store is comparatively very expensive, we really do need somewhere from a friendly farmer along the lines of Kettle Lane but in better condition.

Continuing thanks to Andrew, the website costs are now paid directly regularly from our HSBC account and usually cost £5.99 per month.

The sheet "Bank Reconciliations" helps us deal with payments for past shows that actually occurred in this financial year and make provision for payments not yet invoiced, that will occur in the next financial year, although incurred in this one.

It continues to be my aim to reduce the number of cash and cheque transactions, to replace them with bank transfers, which is the cheapest method for the society to receive and pay money, so if you can pay your subs and buy tickets etc. via bank transfer then please do so, and if you need paying for any expenses, this will be done directly into your account.

#### **'Sound of Music'**

Due to the amazing ticket sales and generous contributions from some individuals in terms of no fees, this showed a surplus of £2462.

#### **'Walk Through the West End'**

Due to the amazing ticket sales and once again, generous contributions from some individuals in terms of no fees, this showed a surplus of £1304.

## **‘Matilda’**

At the moment the accounts are showing a surplus of £6399, but most of the big bills have yet to arrive so this figure is not representative.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, this has been a very successful year with some fantastic and popular shows, the society is in a healthy position financially so well done to all!

May I thank all those who have helped me with the Treasurer’s job, in particular Claire who has often dealt with the cash and diligently kept spreadsheets of all transactions, and Graham Pictor, who has helped and advised me with the accounts, and Matt and Helen for putting up with receiving the post and bringing it round!

The coming year financial year will be my last year as Treasurer, so anyone who would like to take over is welcome to work with me during this financial year and then fully take over in September 2024.

Nigel Shires.  
Honorary Treasurer.  
13/10/23. V1.