

THE PLAYHOUSE, BACKWELL

Registered Charity No 293300

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mrs F M P Milton (Acting Chairman)

Mr A C Johnson (Hon. Treasurer)

Miss C Buckley (Hon. Secretary)

Mr S D Batt

Mr J R Coupe

Mrs M K Gould

Miss A Milton - Riddiford

Mrs M Milton

Mrs S Pain

Mr S J Riddiford

TRUSTEES

Mr A J Milton

Mr T L Stevens

Mr I A Thompson

The Playhouse, Backwell (more commonly known as Backwell Playhouse) is an unincorporated body operating under a Constitution and Rules last amended in 1985. It has nearly 450 members who support its objectives and pay a small annual subscription. It is run by a Management Committee of not more than 12 members who are elected by the members for a three-year term of office at the Annual General Meeting. The committee may also co-opt any member onto the committee for the period up to the next AGM. New committee members are sought from the general membership by invitation and through regular contact with members.. The committee members elect the officers from amongst their number after the AGM each year. The Management Committee usually holds meetings approximately six times a year.

The Playhouse, Backwell
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Backwell
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www.backwellplayhouse.co.uk

Report of the Management Committee

We have to begin this report with news of the sad death of Terry Milton just after the accounting year-end of the Playhouse. Although not unexpected, this was obviously a terrible blow both to his family and to the Playhouse. It is 15 years since Terry joined the Playhouse Management Committee and brought his existing acting group, The Hedley Players, to the Playhouse to form the nucleus of a new Playhouse Theatre Company. Over that period Terry has directed about 50 productions at the Playhouse both for adults and, in the earlier years, a separate Youth Group. These have varied from musicals to straight plays with all being of a consistently high standard as Terry always refused to compromise on quality. He directed the last Theatre Company production at the Playhouse which was in November 2019. This was 'The 39 Steps' – a play based on the book by John Buchan. It is fitting that this was one of the most successful productions put on at the Playhouse for many years. It was so popular with our audiences that an extra performance was arranged at very short notice and even this was very well attended.

Alongside this, the first six months of the year under review saw a continuation of the successful pattern established over recent years. The Film Section had full membership and thanks to the hard work of Tim Lewis and Tina Andrews was having another popular season. The third main area of activity at the Playhouse, of course, centres round the work done with children. 'Alicat Children and Theatre', the company run by Alison Milton Riddiford, offered classes in music and drama to children from age 4 to 16. As always, these classes were much enjoyed by the children with regularly feedback from parents about how the classes give the children greater confidence.

However all this activity came to a sudden and complete halt in March with the advent of Covid-19 and the ensuing lockdown. Apart from some basic maintenance, the Playhouse was closed for the second half of the year and this has meant that our regular sources of income all dried up overnight. As detailed in the Treasurer's report below, to compensate for this enforced closure, we became eligible for and received a Government grant of £10,000. This grant was obviously very welcome. However at the time of writing this report, the Playhouse remains closed. Like those of all theatres and similar venues, the activities that normally take place at the Playhouse are not easily made compatible with 'social distancing' and there seems no real way of knowing for how much longer this situation will continue. The worry must be that the longer the Playhouse remains effectively closed, the harder it will be to reconnect with and motivate our volunteers and supporters. We can but hope that more normal times will return soon.

Treasurer's Report

At first sight the accounts for the year look very encouraging. As highlighted in the Committee's report, the production of 'The 39 Steps' proved very popular and good audiences ensured that it made a very worthwhile profit. In addition, shortly before the lockdown, we were grateful to receive a grant of £560 from Backwell Parish Council as a contribution towards the cost of the additional stage lighting that we installed last year. Taken together with the Government grant of £10,000 from the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund, this has resulted in our cash reserves at the year-end standing at a record level of over £28,700

This means that we will be able to sustain the loss of all regular income in the short term but the longer term situation is completely uncertain. The Playhouse certainly cannot continue indefinitely with zero income coming in. All we can do is keep our expenditure down to the minimum and hope that our reserves are sufficient to carry us through to better times.

Alan C Johnson – Hon. Treasurer

THE PLAYHOUSE, BACKWELL (Registered Charity No. 293300)

Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31st August 2020

(year to 31st August 2019)

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>
Income	£		£
Annual membership subscriptions	3064		3448
Surplus on Productions Account (note 1)	3002		2511
Surplus on Film Section Account (note 2)	2951		1741
Catering receipts	2492		5499
less: Catering costs	<u>-1223</u>		<u>-2605</u>
Surplus on catering	1269		2894
Premises & equipment hire	<u>2100</u>		<u>6363</u>
	<u>12386</u>		<u>16957</u>

Expenditure

PRS and PPL	296		733
less: Recharged	<u>0</u>		<u>-60</u>
	296		673
Insurance	2352		2026
Repairs and maintenance	2478		2698
Printing, publicity & stationery	271		418
Postage	0		318
Licence (premises)	180		180
Property taxes and utilities	641		779
Electricity	4518		4553
Cleaning	580		1048
Internet and Wi-Fi	600		0
Card payment fees	124		124
Sundries	<u>75</u>		<u>301</u>
	<u>12115</u>		<u>13118</u>

Surplus for the year	<u>271</u>		<u>3839</u>
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Movements on General Reserve for the year to 31st August

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>
	£		£
Balance brought forward	19107		18691
Grants, donations & fund-raising	10564		5135
Surplus for the year	<u>271</u>		<u>3839</u>
	29942		27665
less: Capital Expenditure (notes 3 and 5)	<u>-1264</u>		<u>-8558</u>
General Reserve at the end of the year	<u>28678</u>		<u>19107</u>

THE PLAYHOUSE, BACKWELL

Balance Sheet as at 31st August

	2020	2019
	£	£
General Reserve	28678	19107
Payments in advance	30	6482
	28708	25589
Represented by:		
Bank balance	28708	23589
Cash held by Theatre Company Director		2000
	28708	25589

Notes to the Accounts

1) Productions Account

SHOW TITLE	Admission receipts + programmes £	Production costs £	Surplus £
The Odd Couple		155	-155
The 39 Steps	4902	1745	3157
TOTAL	4902	1900	3002

2) Film Section Account

Subscriptions:-			Cost of films	Surplus
Annual	Temporary	Total	£	£
£	£	£		
4199	132	4331	1380	2951

3) Capital Expenditure

	£
Scaffolding Tower	235
Auditorium heaters	1029
	1264

4) The accounts have been prepared on a cash basis except that certain payments received in advance at the year-end have not been taken to the Income and Expenditure Account. The Balance Sheet does not incorporate the value of land, buildings, equipment, fixtures and fittings owned by the Playhouse.

5) Costs of maintenance that do not represent a significant improvement to the premises or equipment have been charged to the Income and Expenditure Account. Expenditure that represents a significant improvement has been charged to General Reserve.

Report of the Auditor

I have conducted an examination of the accounts of The Playhouse, Backwell ('the Playhouse') for the year to 31st August 2020. The accounts are the responsibility of the Committee of the Playhouse. I certify that the accounts are in accordance with the books of account of the Playhouse and, in my opinion, the accounts read together with the notes thereto represent a true and fair view of the state of the financial affairs of the Playhouse as at 31st August 2020.

David Mortimer

18th October 2020