

THE PLAYHOUSE, BACKWELL

Registered Charity No 293300

Annual Report and Accounts for the year 01/09/2023 – 31/08/2024

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

J Schaefer (Chairperson)

F Milton (Hon. Treasurer)

B Hooper (Hon. Secretary)

J Coupe (Deputy Chair)

C Heaven

R Fenton

M Halstead

TRUSTEES

A Milton

L Wharram

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 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
23 Mariners Drive
Backwell
Bristol
BS48 3HT

REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Playhouse has continued to provide a venue where rehearsals and performances can be carried out by the in-house theatre company, AliCaT children's theatre classes, and visiting groups, such as Stepping Out, Nailsea Musicals, Creative Kidz, Bristol Youth Musicals, Ship & Castle, and solo artists such as the Cycling Poet, and Alison Neil.

In October, the in-house theatre company produced "The Wind In The Willows", directed by Jon Coupe, followed by "Spygame" in April, directed by Mike Halstead. Our latest show is coming soon, "A Bolt from the Blue", directed by Fiona Milton. Play-readings in the weeks leading up to the start of rehearsals have been fun social events as well as helping to choose the shows. It is always marvellous, the way a show brings people together with their different gifts and skills to produce something bigger than its parts, with the benefits to wellbeing that such connection with others provides.

The April play for next year has been written by Dee Parker, a recent arrival to the Theatre Group, who will also be directing the show. More about Dee later.

The Playhouse is very proud to have a Film Club that meets monthly to see a movie selected by the membership, and also hosts regular Comedy Nights. Both these events bring together people who enjoy not only the show, but also the company of their fellow audience members.

This year we have had a couple of events to raise awareness of the Playhouse; first the Backwell Summer Fun Day on Backwell School playing fields, where large numbers of people passed through and were reminded of our presence in the residential cul-de-sac. In September we held an Open Evening to show off the improvements to our premises and encourage some cross-pollination between the Film Club and the Theatre Group. This was so successful we plan to repeat it in the future.

The premises have been extensively improved over the past twelve months. Richard and Beatrice have proved skilled at grant applications, and we have been awarded funds which included a significant sum from North Somerset Council.

We now have two functional dressing rooms, plus a shed and a lean-to in which to store furniture, scenery and props. After essential roof-strengthening, the original prop store is now a rehearsal room so that more than one group can use the premises at one time. Brutal decluttering, the hire of skips, and Helen Coupe's determination to sort the props has meant that we are more aware of just what treasures we have and where they are. Backstage there is a new toilet and kitchenette. The audience toilets have been updated and are a more pleasant experience. Even the paint store has had a face-lift! What an asset Richard Fenton has turned out to be; he really "gets things done" and we are so grateful to him.

We have recently had solar panels installed to steward resources and reduce expenditure.

Inside the theatre itself, our summer "Tech Week" gave Mike Halstead and Jon Coupe space to perform checks and maintenance on the technical aspects of lighting and sound, as well as applying the new seat numbers!

The bar is cheerfully and efficiently run by Mary Gould. The premises licence has this year been switched into her name following an application to North Somerset Council.

Tim Lewis, who has been the Film Club Chair for many years, has stepped down, and we are grateful to him for all that he has done for the many members Film Club serves. Les Wharram has taken on the role in his place, and his presence on the Management Committee lends communication and continuity between the two arms of in-house users.

We have had to increase the fees for Playhouse membership and we hope that, hearing about all the activity that has been going on, despite the general rise in cost of living, members will be understanding of the increase.

For the future:

- Dee Parker has agreed to stand for election onto the committee
- We are looking into the possibility of “Baby Cinema” (the films are to entertain the carers!)
- Improvements to the fence, and the trench to prevent flooding
- Accessibility improvements – toilets, seating in the theatre, carpark
- Regular members’ evenings – watch this space!
- Further grant applications in order to improve the premises further

Our constitution states that the Chair must stand down after three years, so my term has come to an end. I have reluctantly decided to come off the committee, which has been such a pleasure to be part of. The Playhouse is truly blessed to have such dedicated and skilled committee members who go about the business of running it on a voluntary basis, (often alongside paid employment and raising families), with good humour and commitment.

Jenny Schaefer

23rd October 2024

Treasurer's Report 2024

Wow – here we are at the end of a fantastic year at The Playhouse!

The Theatre has seen so much structural, decorative and technical improvement this year that our visitors and regular customers have expressed their delight with all the changes. Please see the notes on capital expenditure to see just what has been achieved by Beatrice and Richard, and there have been many hours of unpaid work undertaken by Mike and other members of the committee.

We continue to be very grateful to all the groups and individuals who support the Playhouse – who keep things 'ticking over'. We are also very grateful to North Somerset Council for the £20,000 grant: well done to Beatrice and Richard for securing this.

Our greatest area of expenditure has once again been electricity, but thanks to another grant secured by Beatrice and Richard, we have been able to put in solar panels. This work has already been completed, but the grant and costs will appear in our 2024 – 2025 accounts.

Fiona Milton

30th October 2024

Auditor's Report 2024

I have audited in depth the Sage software records and accompanying back-up documentation that make up the accounts of 'The Playhouse. Backwell'. The accounts remain the responsibility of the committee, I am satisfied that the accounts bear a true and accurate reflection of the financial state of The Playhouse, Backwell. The accounts audited are up until 31st August 2024.

Catherine Jones (AAT level 3)

30th October 2024

The Playhouse Backwell (Reg charity no 293300)

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st August 2024

Income	2024	2023	
Annual theatre membership	176	408	
surplus on inhouse productions	1486	2512	
fundraising events	1590	1260	
surplus on film club	3456	3537	
bar	6815	4336	
outside hire	8483	6839	
	22006		18892
Expenditure			
PRS & PPL	473	443	
insurance	2089	2013	
advertising	50	0	
repairs & maint	432	514	
gardening & skip	795	1083	
Print & stationery	0	6	
Property taxes & utilities	285	427	
electricity	12332	12974	
cleaning	1210	1574	
website & internet	721	684	
card payment fees	383	308	
sundries	672	553	
	19442		20579
Surplus for the year	2564		-1687

Movements on General Reserves for the year to 31st August 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Balance b/fwd	40506	47224
surplus for the year	2564	-1687
	43070	45537
less capital expenditure	23259	5540
grant for capital expenditure	20000	0
adj prepayment / accrual	-509	509
	<u>39302</u>	<u>40506</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
General reserve	39302	40506
represented by bank balance	39302	40506

Notes to the accounts**Capital Expenditure**

Men's dressing room	12247
storage sheds	7615
backstage toilet	2268
kitchenette	1129
	23259

Surplus In-house Productions

	Tickets	Costs	
Wind in The Willows	2622	2452	170
Spygame	2166	850	1316
			1486
Surplus on Film Club	6318	2862	3456
Surplus comedy fundraiser	2880	1290	1590

Outside Hire Breakdown

Nailsea Musicals	1728
Alicat	4631
Paul Simcox	609
Alison Neil	688
Steppin out	270
GMK dance	99
Verse cycles	120
Creative kids	338
	8483