

NODA 2022 Review



President's Report Nick Lawrence

Congratulations to all our members on another wonderful year of varied theatrical activities. Once again there has been a wide variety of presentations from the lavish musicals to the locally based pageant. It has been my privilege as your president to see many excellent performances and to attend some vibrant regional meetings. As I travelled about the country, a major highlight has been attending the exciting regional conferences. Each region gathers in a different way, but the unifying factor is the joy with which our members celebrate the achievements of clubs large and small.

The presidential year started with a most enjoyable party at Plymouth, where I was honoured to have representatives from all over the country in attendance. We had a most enjoyable weekend catching up on what has been going on and taking part in a number of business and social events. The AGM came to an end with the celebratory gift of Life Membership to Iain Douglas, Wyn Mason and Trevor Mills: each having given more than twenty-five years as a representative of the Association. After my inauguration, at the close of the meeting, we were treated by the new president to a Devon Cream Tea, although I think some people preferred it Cornish fashion. I was delighted to have my photograph taken with the regional committee members before their annual meeting.

Unfortunately, I have been restricted in how much travel I could do this time around, but I have still managed to attend 95 shows and functions. I have visited every region, and seen some amazing productions from *The Yeomen of the Guard* in little Hornby to 9 to 5 in Chelmsford. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, in Durham, proved to be extra exciting as the leading man had voice problems, but in the true tradition of the theatre a member of the company stepped forward and sang fabulously while the actor portrayed the character. The four and five year old nuns in *Sister Act Jnr*, in Newport (Wales), who met me in the interval, returned to their dressing room and informed their chaperones that they didn't know what it was all about but "He's called Nick and he has a big necklace". The Portsmouth Players are privileged to use the King's Theatre and were looking forward to displaying a fabulous dragon in *Shrek*. When the costume proved unusable, they used its head and created a wonderful three person stylistic dragon worthy of *Warhorse*. Amazing things happen every day in the world of amateur theatre.

In the summer, NODA once again celebrated all that is good in theatre today with another successful Summer School. Held at Yarnfield Park, students old and new had the chance to learn from active professionals the tricks of the trade, and are brought up-to-date with techniques and styles used in the major theatres of the country. Members are inspired to go back to their clubs and

drive them forward with tried and tested methods. If you have not attended, speak to your councillor about the possibility of a bursary and come brush up your skills.

I have had to miss out on some visits and I must express my apologies to each society I have had to disappoint. Your president is interested in all you do, and it was most frustrating that I was not able to accept every invite and had to pull out of some planned visits. My thanks go to the Vice President, Christine, for stepping in for me at the North West Conference and the AIMS weekend in Killarney. She kindly also made some society visits for me where the distance proved too great in an afternoon from Devon. I wish her well for the coming year.

As NODA approaches its 125th anniversary, your councillors have been considering how successfully they follow in the footsteps of our Lancastrian founders. An independent survey was commissioned and my thanks go to all the societies and members who took the trouble to reply to it. We had a very good turn-out. Plans are afoot for the future advancement of NODA and its support for you. I'm certain you will hear all about it in the very near future.

My best wishes to you all in the pursuit of excellence in every production. Keep up the hard work. It is worth it in the end. Thank you for all you do for your local communities. I'm sure the ovations you receive assure you of this.

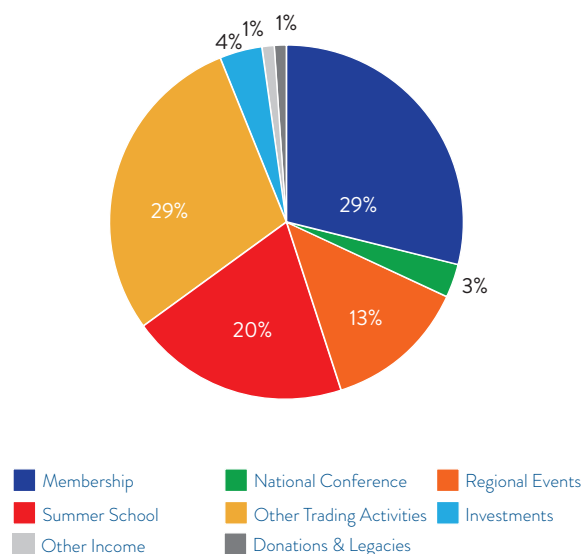


NODA East Gala - President, Nick Lawrence, presenting best youth performer awards

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

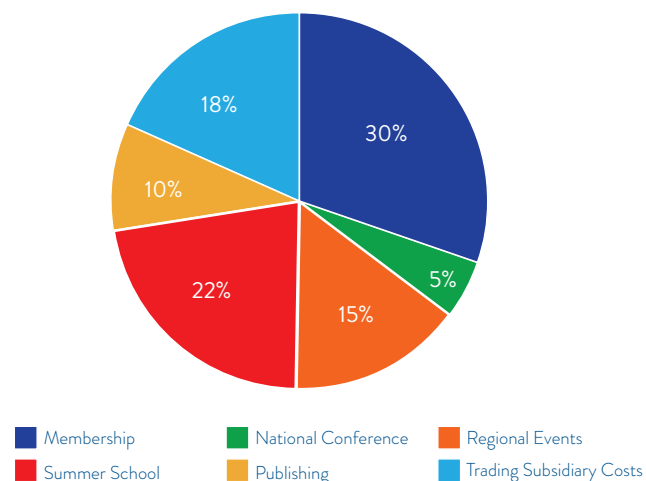
Income and Expenditure 2022

Income	2022	2021
Donations and legacies	3,056	3,263
Charitable activities		
Membership	168,721	152,733
National Conference	17,230	14,346
Regional events	74,926	987
Summer School	115,278	7,503
	376,155	175,569
Other trading activities	168,102	144,889
Investments	21,111	14,234
Other income	5,201	3,398
Total income	573,625	341,353



Expenditure

Raising funds		
Trading subsidiary costs	120,686	110,085
Charitable activities		
Membership	197,243	146,326
National Conference	34,047	33,727
Regional events	101,710	13,938
Summer School	148,043	36,605
Publishing	58,519	56,088
	539,562	286,684
Total expenditure	660,248	396,769
Net (loss)/surplus before other gains/(losses)	(86,623)	(55,416)
Net gain/(loss) on investments	(58,461)	20,131
Net movement in funds	(145,084)	(35,285)
Total funds brought forward	1,073,219	1,108,504
Net movement in funds	(145,084)	(35,285)
Total funds carried forward	928,135	1,073,219



Financial Performance

2022 saw income increase significantly, as activity continued to build during the year with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, allowing many groups to begin performing again. As a result of subscriptions being based on previous year ticket sales, there was less of an increase due to many productions having to be cancelled or postponed in 2021. Once again, costs were carefully monitored and controlled and, had it not been for a significant drop in the value of investments the results for the year would have come in around the budgeted projections. Full details can be found in the published annual accounts which are available on request from NODA Head Office.

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Due to the increasing length and detail of the auditors' report, to comply with Charity Commission Regulations, it is not possible to include the report in this summary. However, the report from Azets Audit Services will be made available at, or immediately after, the Annual General Meeting. For the purposes of this report, the trustees are pleased to confirm that the audit was successfully completed and the information in this report is consistent with financial statements.



Chairman's Report Ian G. Cox

It is my pleasure, for the second year to present our annual report and re-emphasise that NODA is totally committed to providing the best and most accessible range of services for the benefit of all our members directly and indirectly.

2022 was a year of encouragement and positivity as we emerged from the more damaging elements of COVID-19.

So important to NODA and amateur theatre are our volunteers, to whom I extend grateful thanks for their commitment and dedication in supporting and working with society, group and individual members each and every week of the year.

Our success is also linked to the hard work and input of our team at Head Office led by Chief Operating Officer, Dale Freeman. I would like to personally thank every team member for their energy, commitment and consistency in helping drive NODA forward.

Some of my personal highlights from our activity this year include:

- Sourcing a creative agency to support our marketing ambitions.
- Undertaking a comprehensive membership survey.
- Retaining membership in challenging conditions.
- Initial stages of a new youth development programme.

Achievements and Performance

NODA continues its strategy of exploring the potential for new and improved services for members. During 2022, NODA engaged the services of Indigo, to survey our members and

analyse the benefits we offer. This has formed the basis of an organisational review, which will ensure NODA's future for the coming decades.

Membership at 31/12/22

	2022	2021
Groups/Associates	1,992	1,880
Individual/Joint/Life/Corporate	690	729

Income & Expenditure

Whilst our membership numbers have increased, our structure is based on previous year's ticket sale revenues, meaning that due to Covid-19 restrictions in 2021, many groups, who prior to the pandemic were in our higher membership bands, are still in Band A and therefore a lower income was generated. In 2023, we hope to see a return to pre-COVID-19 membership bands and therefore a significant increase in income.

The resumption of events in full has resulted in expenditure rising back to pre-COVID-19 levels

NODA Theatre Summer School

The residential theatre summer school returned to in person teaching in 2022, attracting 172 students from across the NODA membership. This is one of the ways in which NODA fulfils its educational objectives.

National Conference

This important event in our calendar was held in Plymouth, on 8th October 2022.

Regional Events

All regions held their own conference and/or AGM returning to in person events. Some activities were held online, including regions holding training workshops and award events.

Advice

NODA continues to provide advice both on a one-to-one basis or through its published fact sheets. The NODA Legal Helpline is provided by Counterculture LLP and Health and Safety Advice by NODA Safe. All are used on a regular basis by members.

Website & Publishing

During 2022, our magazine 'NODA Today', saw three editions published which were circulated online and by post. This was supported by national and regional newsletters.

The website is continually improving and offers access to an increasing range of information and services. Our factsheets are proving a sound source of information for members. The website recorded 189,369 visits in the 12 months to 31st December 2022, compared with 178,305 visits in the 12 months to 31st December 2021. This was an increase of 6.2%, reflecting the increase in show reports and general NODA activity during this period following the end of the pandemic.

Fundraising

Fundraising is undertaken by the charity and monitored by the trustees. There are no external fundraisers. The CIO has received the support of the Benefact Group with a donation to support a youth development programme.



Midsummer Nights Dream - The Forth Act, NODA Scotland

Programme and Poster Competition

Each region holds its own Programme and Poster competition, all to the same rules as published on the website, with the winning entry in each category going forward to the national competition. The national winners and runners up for 2021, were announced at the National AGM in October.

The rules for the competition were reviewed and the new criteria launched for programmes and posters for productions taking place from 1 January 2022.

NODA Limited

NODA Limited, our trading arm, generated a profit of £43,416 which was used to support the activities of NODA CIO.

1537 long service awards during 2022 were awarded, including 226 youth awards and certificates compared with 794 in 2021. NODA awards are in recognition for service in the dramatic arts and are available to all NODA affiliated groups and individual members. A Commendation Award is available for those who do not meet the criteria for a long service award, such as paid officials.

The dedicated pantomime website (pantoscripts.org.uk) with the facility to examine scripts, order perusal copies and complete licensing arrangements has been made available all online in 2022.

Income on Royalties and Awards was affected by the pandemic, though insurance commissions not as severely as other trading activities. Groups are still encouraged to insure their assets with the continuation

of their public liability insurances. During the last two years NODA Insurance has been positively supportive of insured groups.

COVID-19 - Extended Impact

2022 was a challenging year with the impact of the pandemic extending well into the trading period, though we can look forward to a more balanced year in 2023. The pandemic, though diminishing, continued during 2022, to affect activities of the CIO and its members, albeit to a much lesser extent than in the previous two years. One key impact being a proportion of productions running for shorter periods and unfortunately several groups driven to closure.

Future Plans

The coming 12 months will see a revised phase in our rolling 5-year plan to include:

- A new exciting marketing and branding strategy.
- Enhanced volunteer training programme.
- Further investments in technology and website design.
- Improved social media communications with our members.

There are also further exciting plans that are in their very early stages, and I look forward to sharing these with you all soon.

Thank you all for another excellent year. I look forward to continuing to break barriers in 2023/24 with you all.

National Operatic and Dramatic Association Registered CIO - 1171216

Nick Lawrence - National President
(appointed 08/10/22)

Gordon Richardson - National President
(resigned 08/10/22)

Christine Hunter Hughes - Immediate Past President (resigned 08/10/22)

Nick Lawrence - National Vice President
(resigned 08/10/22)

Ian G. Cox - Chairman of Trustees

Stuart McCue-Dick - Vice-chairman of Trustees

John Barnes - Life Member representative

Michael Hastilow - Life Member representative

Jacquie Steadman - NODA Theatre Summer School Chairman

Tessa Davies - Regional Councillor, East

Jules Jones - Regional Councillor, East Midlands (appointed 19/11/22)

Nigel Hancocks - Regional Councillor, East Midlands (resigned 08/10/22)

Pamela Armstrong - Regional Councillor, London

Peter Oliver - Regional Councillor, North

Leslie Smith - Regional Councillor, North East

Andy McNicholas - Regional Councillor, North West

Stuart McCue-Dick - Regional Councillor, Scotland

Kay Rowan - Regional Councillor, South East

Graham Liverton - Regional Councillor, South West

Sharon Davies - Regional Councillor, Wales & Ireland

Andy Brown - Regional Councillor, West Midlands

NODA Limited

Registered Company 241572

Eric Smart - Chairman of Directors

Ian G. Cox - Chairman of Trustees

Fred Piggford - Director

Neil Maidman - Director

Christine Hunter Hughes - Director

Pamela Armstrong - Director

Michael Hastilow - Company Secretary

Principal Office

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Peterborough
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PE2 7UH

Patrons

The Lord Lloyd-Webber
Connie Fisher

Auditors

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Peterborough
Cambs
PE1 2SP

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank,
4 Brindleyplace
Birmingham
B1 2HB

Principal Staff

Dale Freeman - Chief Operating Officer

Robert Williams - Marketing & Publishing Executive

Michelle Callicott - Finance Manager (joined May 22)

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