

NODA 2023 Review



President's Report Christine Hunter Hughes

As we are nearing the end of our 125th year, I step down as your NODA President, but what a year I have had! I have been absolutely delighted and honoured to have seen a total of 182 shows up and down the country, including visits to Wales, Scotland and Ireland. I have seen shows covering every genre and visited just about every type of venue from professional theatres, community theatres, schools, village and community halls and even a couple of marquees. There was even one which included a ride on a vintage steam train to see a production of, what else, *The Railway Children*. I also sent approximately 45 'Break a Leg' cards to societies who had invited me, but I was unable to attend because I was booked out for the whole of their particular run. I somehow managed to have my photograph taken with almost all of the societies that I visited – and put them all onto the NODA President Facebook page, in the hope that member societies could follow my wanderings up and down the country. This of course has given me the opportunity to chat briefly with the cast, crew and often committee of the societies, which has been as interesting as it has been educational, including a chat with a stage manager who, having taken up all the space in his garage to build a large elephant, was wondering what he was going to do with it now! I have been so warmly welcomed into

each NODA Family for the evening I have been with them. I find it quite impossible to vocalise exactly how proud and honoured I feel to have been able to serve NODA in this way, and how very, very much I have enjoyed it, so much so I feel quite guilty.

I have been in absolute awe at the talent and dedication of everyone involved, the casts of course, but also the technical and stage crews, who often design and build sets and props, or spend hours trailing round charity shops to acquire costumes and more props. I know that we all know that this happens, but to see it day in, day out, up and down the country is a stark reminder of just how many people are involved and enjoying amateur theatre, and, of course, long may it continue.

At every stage, and on every stage, and behind every stage, are passionate, committed people whose involvement

with 'our hobby' is a major part of their lives, providing, as it does, a whole range of emotions to keep us all grounded!

I think all I can really say at this stage of my journey is thank you to my friends and colleagues on NODA Council, for allowing me to serve as president once more; and an even bigger thank you to you, our NODA members, for inviting me and making me so welcome. Especially those who stayed on stage at the end of a production 'when you just want to get the costume and the make-up off', to stay and chat and share experiences so that I have been able to make a record which I hope you will share. Thank you all, so much.

Christine Hunter Hughes
NODA National President
2023 - 2024



WBOS - Love Never Dies



North East Gala - Bridlington



Staged Right Productions - Barnum

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Income and Expenditure 2023

Income	2023		2022	
Donations and legacies		6,652		3,056
Charitable activities				
Membership	235,669		168,721	
National Conference	8,891		17,230	
Regional events	183,135		74,926	
Summer School	123,514	551,209	115,278	376,155
Other trading activities	179,937		168,102	
Investments	32,519		21,111	
Other income	8,688		5,201	
Total income		779,005		573,625

Expenditure

Raising funds				
Trading subsidiary costs		124,528		120,686
Charitable activities				
Membership	214,531		197,243	
National Conference	22,648		34,047	
Regional events	204,013		101,710	
Summer School	154,732		148,043	
Publishing	63,990	659,914	58,519	539,562
Total expenditure		784,442		660,248
Net (loss)/surplus before other gains/(losses)	(5,437)		(86,623)	
Net gain/(loss) on investments	6,948		(58,461)	
Net movement in funds		1,511		(145,084)
Total funds brought forward	928,135		1,073,219	
Net movement in funds	1,511		(145,084)	
Total funds carried forward		929,646		928,135

Financial Performance

As a result of activity finally returning to pre COVID-19 levels, 2023 saw another significant increase in income particularly membership subscriptions and regional events. This resulted in increased costs, however, these were carefully monitored and controlled leading to a much-improved financial outcome for the year. Again in the value of the investments resulted in a small surplus for the year. 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, to present our annual report in our 125th anniversary year. Following the culmination of two years’ work, in 2024, we have developed a new vision for NODA of the future. At the heart of our new strategy is a challenge; and it is one to embrace if we are to ensure that NODA fulfils its potential and has the greatest impact going forwards. That challenge is to make sure that NODA is - and is known for and respected for being - relevant, visible and valued.

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 personally like to thank every team member for their energy, commitment and consistency in helping to drive NODA forward.

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

- The continued work on the NODA ‘rebrand project’ that will launch at this year’s AGM.
- Retaining membership in challenging conditions.
- Continued progress on a new youth development programme.

Achievements and Performance

The overriding strategy for the period was for the CIO to be proactive in contacting members to offer and provide increased direct support, as well

as continuing to explore opportunities for joint working.

Membership at 31/12/23

	2023	2022
Groups/Associates	1,945	1,992
Individual/Joint/Life/Corporate	586	690

Income and Expenditure

Whilst our membership numbers have decreased slightly, our structure is based on the previous year’s ticket sale revenues, meaning that a return to pre-COVID-19 activity levels in 2022 has resulted in a significant increase in membership subscription in 2023. Almost all other areas of income also increased as activities returned to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Expenditure was well controlled and, whilst increasing, did so at a slower rate than income resulting in a small surplus for the year.

NODA Theatre Summer School

The residential theatre summer school attracted 178 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 Preston, on 16th September 2023.

Regional Events

All regions held their own conferences and/or AGMs. Some regions held additional events throughout the year, including award ceremonies and training 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 and Publishing

During 2023, 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 continues to offer access to a range of information and services, including the opportunity for members to publicise their productions in the ‘What’s On’ section as well as online access to pantomimes. The website had 223,260 visits in the 12 months to 31 December 2023, compared with 189,369 in the 12 months to 31 December 2022. This was an increase of 17.9%, reflecting the increase in show reports and general NODA activity during this period as things were recovering after the pandemic.



SOS Presents - Seussical. Credit Peter Nicholson Photography

Fundraising

Fundraising is undertaken by the charity and monitored by the trustees, including seeking grants from external sources. The CIO has received the support of the Benefact Group with a donation to support a youth development programme.

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 2022, were announced at the National AGM in September.

The rules for the competition will be reviewed during 2024, and the new criteria launched for programmes and posters for productions taking place from 1 January 2025.

NODA Limited

NODA Limited, our trading arm, generated a profit of £51,468 which was used to support the activities of NODA CIO.

1,452 long service awards during 2023 were presented, including 215 youth awards and certificates. 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) is fully accessible, with the facility to examine

scripts, order perusal copies and complete licensing arrangements.

Groups are still encouraged to insure their assets with the continuation of their public liability insurances. During the last two years, NODA Insurance continues to be positively supportive of insured groups.

Future plans

At our National Gala at Plymouth in 2024, we will be launching our newly refreshed brand image, alongside our new website. This launch is the culmination of two years' work, starting back in May 2022, with our Membership Survey. Along the way, we have worked with industry professionals including Indigo Limited, Boardroom Consulting and EDIT Brand Studio, to ensure our new vision and mission meets the needs of our organisation, but helps us to stay relevant and visible for the next 125 years. We will talk about this project more at the AGM on Saturday 28th September.

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 2024/2025 with you all.

National Operatic and Dramatic Association
Registered CIO - 1171216

Christine Hunter Hughes - National President
(appointed 16/09/23)

Nick Lawrence - National President
(resigned 16/09/23)

Gordon Richardson - Immediate Past President (resigned 16/09/23)

Graham Liverton - National Vice President
(appointed 16/09/23)

Ian G. Cox - Chairman of Trustees

Stuart McCue-Dick - Vice-chairman of Trustees

John Barnes - Life Member representative

Gordon Richardson - Life Member representative (appointed 16/09/23)

Jacque Stedman - NODA Theatre Summer School Chairman

Tessa Davies - Regional Councillor, East

Jules Jones - Regional Councillor,

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

Christine Hunter Hughes - Director

Pamela Armstrong - Director

Michael Hastilow - Company Secretary

Principal Staff

Dale Freeman - Chief Operating Officer

Robert Williams - Marketing & Publishing Executive

Michelle Callicott - Finance Manager

Liam Nixon - Marketing and Membership Services Assistant

Heather Knapp - Administrator / Secretary

Principal Office

15 The Metro Centre
Peterborough
Cambs
PE2 7UH

Patrons

The Lord Lloyd-Webber
Connie Fisher

Auditors

Azets Audit Services
Ruthlyn House
90 Lincoln Road
Peterborough
Cambs
PE1 2SP

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank,
4 Brindleyplace
Birmingham
B1 2HB

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