

# NODA 2021 Review



## President's Report Gordon Richardson

At the closing of one of the most memorable years in my life, I reflect back on my journey and how NODA is faring in the wider world through the eyes of its president and its members.

My journey started on September 11th 2021, at my inauguration where we all gathered in Durham, on the banks of the River Wear, and in the shadow of the cathedral. That, of course, is not the start of my journey, which started when I took on the role of vice president, around March 2019, with the intention I would be inaugurated to the presidency in 2020. That was deferred for a year, because of a certain global pandemic, whilst my good friend, and current incoming Vice President, Christine Hunter Hughes, served for two years yet only effectively had five months in the role.

Therefore, when I was inaugurated it was almost like a rebirth. Amateur theatre, and in particular NODA members, were seeing the first green shoots of rehearsals being planned; hesitant first productions coming to stage after a hiatus of two years, and a faltering optimism of new hope for the hobby we all love.

Of course my presidency and my nature couldn't proceed without a modicum of irony. My very first visit was to LIDOS in Leeds, four days into my tenure, where, after a global pandemic, I saw a production of a society self-penned musical called *Plague*. Although the production's title was a bit of a 'worry' the show itself was spectacular - full of humour, pathos, intrigue and catchy musical numbers.

There was a certain reticence of audiences to return to the theatre at first, but soon audiences were flocking back as though the pandemic hadn't occurred. Sadly, some of our membership didn't make it and folded; some of our society's members succumbed to the virus. Encouragingly, some new societies have formed out of activities formed in 'lockdown' and have put their trust in NODA by joining the association.

As I've travelled the country - and believe me I have travelled, covering over 25,000 miles - I've seen an eagerness to perform together again. Like every year, there are the 'popular' shows and I could almost prompt without a script for *Shrek*, *Kinky Boots* and *Calendar Girls the Musical*. Indeed, I was privileged to attend the opening night amateur première of *Calendar Girls* in the village of Grassington, North Yorkshire, only seven miles from the village of Rhyllstone, where the original calendar girls took that brave decision that has sparked so many 'alternative' calendars since. All the original calendar girls attended, and it was a privilege to talk to many. Beryl Bamforth's son Mark, took part in the production in the role of 'Rod' which added to the poignancy, as the role of 'Jessie' was created after her.

Those that know me know how much I dislike trains, yet the long and arduous journeys were worthwhile by the 'prize' at the end. One such journey consisted of eleven and a half hours on a train, four station changes to end up in St Ives in Cornwall to see two fabulous productions by Kidz'R'Us. Another memorable journey was seeing a matinee of *Evita* in Portsmouth, followed by a production of *Calendar Girls (the play)* up in Lerwick, Shetland some 28 hours later.



Grassington Players - *Calendar Girls* première

Youth has figured heavily in my visits with a wonderful performance of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* by Encore Youth Theatre in Winchester, *We Will Rock You* by Big Bad Wolf Productions in Falkirk and again by Whitehaven Theatre of Youth to name just three. We can be assured that if youth are nurtured then we can be confident in the future of amateur theatre.

Not content with travelling the country, I managed to find time to actually perform in a cameo role for Caprian Theatre in Gateshead, in May, as 'Tinsworthy', a slightly demented, bombastic, elderly man - I was assured, 'no acting required'.

The bond between NODA and AIMS remains stronger than ever with me visiting Killarney in Ireland and my counterpart, Rob Donnelly, visiting NODA Summer School and accompanying myself on a visit to see a youth production of *Shrek* in Worcester.

Of course the business of NODA hasn't taken a back seat and I've continued to take my seat on council throughout the year. There have been some very dedicated people ensuring that NODA is strong and ready to take on the demands of post pandemic life.

I've loved every moment, even the train journeys, as I've had the privilege of being your national president. I now (reluctantly) hand the 'bling' over to good friend, Nick Lawrence, in the sure and certain knowledge that he will represent you and have as much enjoyment as I have had.

Thank you all.

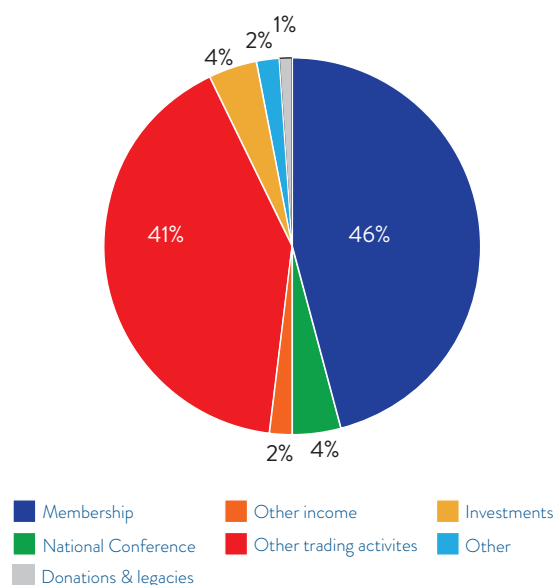


Gordon Richardson, Mayor of Worcester and Rob Donnelly - President of AIMS

# National Operatic and Dramatic Association

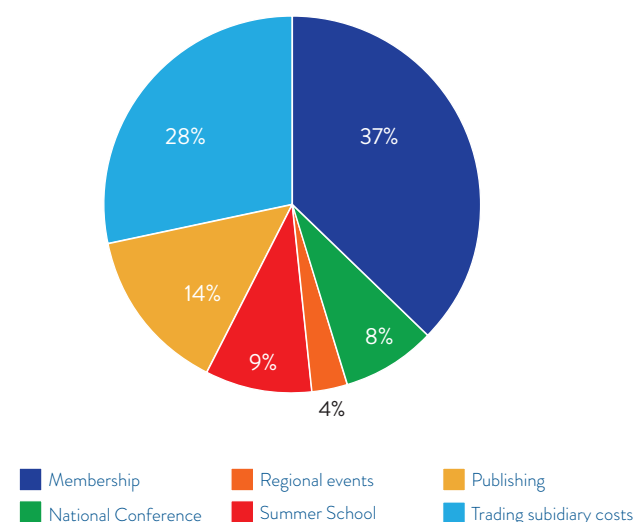
## Income and Expenditure 2021

Income	2021	2020
Donations and legacies	3,263	1,529
Charitable activities		
Membership	162,290	197,543
National Conference	14,346	121
Regional events	987	142,571
Summer School	7,503	12,200
	<u>185,126</u>	<u>352,435</u>
Other trading activities	144,889	155,974
Investments	14,234	15,844
Other income	7,398	14,750
<b>Total income</b>	<u><u>354,910</u></u>	<u><u>540,532</u></u>



## Expenditure

Raising funds		
Trading subsidiary costs	114,085	99,735
Charitable activities		
Membership	146,326	135,263
National Conference	33,728	7,133
Regional events	13,938	154,831
Summer School	36,605	29,720
Publishing	56,087	48,427
	<u>286,684</u>	<u>475,109</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u><u>400,769</u></u>	<u><u>475,109</u></u>
Net (loss)/surplus before other gains/(losses)	(45,859)	65,423
Net gain/(loss) on investments	20,131	(27,381)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<u><u>(25,728)</u></u>	<u><u>38,042</u></u>
Total funds brought forward	1,108,504	1,070,462
Net movement in funds	(25,728)	38,042
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u><u>1,082,776</u></u>	<u><u>1,108,504</u></u>



## Financial Performance

Like similar organisations across the country NODA experienced a significant drop in income during 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was most significant in relation to regional events, due to local and national restrictions, and in subscription income due to lower ticket revenue for member groups on which subscription rates are based. As a result of careful cost controls and an increase in the value of the investments, the outcome for the year was significantly better than had initially been anticipated. 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 MHA MacIntyre Hudson Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors 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

Since receiving the honour last September of being elected chairman, I am delighted to present my first annual report, in its fresh style and format, which I hope you will enjoy reading.

The impact of the pandemic in 2021, was still being felt by us all in the first 6 months of the year, as it continued to curtail in-person activities both for the association and members. Council and its sub-committees retained an effective meeting schedule using the now familiar Zoom and other platforms.

I would like to thank all my colleagues for their hard work and perseverance, particularly our dedicated team at Head Office in Peterborough. Following the reduction in staff numbers in 2020, we are indebted to them for being fully operational as we came out of the pandemic. The protocol, up until July, of working from home, enabled the provision of a full and comprehensive service to our members who increasingly were facing their own many and varied challenges.

## Achievements and Performance

### Membership at 31/12/21

	2021	2020
Societies/ Associates	1,880	2,004
Individual/ Joint/Life	729	781

We remained in constant contact with our membership during that period, among other things providing updates on government legislation, and answering a plethora of enquiries from our members, to whom we are eternally grateful for supporting us throughout this period.

NODA continues its strategy of exploring the potential for new and improved services for members.

### Income & Expenditure

Expenditure for the year was curtailed in line with our income. This was most significant during the first half of 2021, as a consequence of the downturn in regional events and show visits. All internal meetings took place via Zoom, saving travel and accommodation costs for both the trustees and regional representatives.

### Volunteer Conference

Valuing our volunteers and how we could maintain the service offered to members remained a key focus. Targeted training for our regional representatives and committees, including from external speakers, provided additional knowledge to enable them to further enhance support for our members. As part of this conference, we launched the first phase of our 5-year plan to our volunteers and this is continuing to evolve.

### Legal Helpline

The Legal Helpline continued to be an extremely useful resource for our members particularly with COVID related legal queries.

### Back to the Stage!

To help our members with the legislation and the daunting job of getting their societies back to some kind of normality, NODA Safe provided an invaluable risk assessment template entitled 'Back to the Stage'. This has proved, without question, invaluable to our members in terms of returning to the theatre.

In addition, the NODA Safe advice line continued to be used by members for

both specific and general health and safety issues. We have also introduced a series of accessible online courses, on the safe use of equipment on stage, which have proved invaluable to all members.

### Lobbying

We continued, from the previous year, to lobby the government at all levels to recognise, not only NODA as the leading voice in amateur theatre, but also to acknowledge the important contribution of amateur theatre to the economy, cultural life of the country and the health benefits of this important sector.

### NODA Theatre Summer School

Provides the association with a vehicle with which to meet its educational objectives. The residential theatre summer school in 2020, had to be replaced with an e-summer school. It was successful, although it lacked the personal interaction so valuable to students. The school for 2021, took a similar format. Discussions are in an advanced state for a residential school for 2023, under the directorship of Sarah Osborne. A number of bursaries will be available to make the school more affordable for members.

### National Conference

Postponed from 2020, NODA's National AGM & Presidential Gala was held in Durham in September 2021. This important event in our calendar was attended by 120 delegates.

### Regional Conferences

In 2021, three regions were able to hold their events welcoming members in person. Other regions held their AGMs and conferences virtually.



Shrek the Musical - Angles Theatre



## 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 2021, 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 178,305 visits in the 12 months to 31st December 2021, compared with 252,733 visits in the 12 months to 31st December 2020. The lower figure due to fewer show reports and lower general NODA activity during this period.

## 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 2019, were announced at the National AGM in September 2020 and presented in 2021.

The rules for the competition have been reviewed and the new criteria will be effective for programmes and posters for productions taking place from 1 January 2022.

## NODA Limited

NODA Limited, our trading arm, generated a profit of £30,804 which was used to support the activities of NODA CIO.

NODA members, who had taken out NODA insurance, were fortunate to have cover against a pandemic situation included. Submitted claims received settlements in excess of £1.5 million to our members.

794 long service awards during 2021 were issued (763 in 2020) including 149 youth awards and certificates in the year compared with 1,252 in 2019. NODA awards are in recognition to service in the dramatic arts and are available to all members of NODA affiliated societies. A commendation award is available for those who do not meet the criteria for a long service award, such as paid officials.

The pantomime website is now live ([pantoscripts.org.uk](http://pantoscripts.org.uk)) with the facility to examine scripts, order perusal copies and complete licensing arrangements all online.

## COVID-19 and 2021

The pandemic has overshadowed all our activities since March 2020, and has resulted in a different way of working as highlighted in the Trustees' Report. With the relaxation of the rules, and with an eye to the safety of members and audiences, we have experienced a gradual return to a more normal level of activity.

## Future Plans

Progress will be rapidly progressed to implement a revised rolling 5 year plan, the key element of which is a survey and results led membership drive.

## National Operatic and Dramatic Association Registered CIO - 1171216

**Gordon Richardson** - National President  
(appointed 11/09/21)

**Christine Hunter Hughes** - National President  
(resigned 11/09/21)

**Ian G. Cox** - Chairman of Trustees  
(appointed 11/09/21)

**Michael Hastilow** - Chairman of Trustees  
(resigned 11/09/21)

**Stuart McCue-Dick** - Vice-chairman of Trustees  
(appointed 11/09/21)

**Ian G. Cox** - Vice-chairman of Trustees  
(resigned 11/09/21)

**John Barnes** - Life Member representative

**Michael Hastilow** - Life Member representative  
(appointed 11/09/22)

**Jacquie Steadman** - Summer School Chair  
(appointed 11/09/22)

**Tessa Davies** - Regional Councillor, East

**Nigel Hancocks** - Regional Councillor,  
East Midlands (appointed 11/09/21)

**Nanette Lovell** - Regional Councillor,  
East Midlands (resigned 11/09/21)

**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 (appointed 11/09/21)

**Ian G. Cox** - Regional Councillor, West Midlands  
(resigned 11/09/21)

## 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

**Gordon Richardson** - Director

**Michael Hastilow** - Company Secretary

## Principal Staff

**Dale Freeman** - Chief Operating Officer

**Robert Williams** - Marketing & Publishing Exec.

**Chris Cotton** - Finance Manager (left 08/04/22)

**Lisa Sculthorp** - PA to the COO and Chairman  
of Trustees (joined 5/7/21) (left 05/01/22)

**Jessica Simpson** - Marketing Assistant (joined  
23/08/21) (left 24/02/22)

**Beverley Clark** - Administrative Support (left  
04/01/21)

**Richard Hutchinson** - Membership Services (left  
28/02/21)

## Principal Office

15 The Metro Centre  
Peterborough  
Cambs  
PE2 7UH

## Patrons

The Lord Lloyd-Webber  
Connie Fisher

## Auditors

MHA MacIntyre Hudson Chartered  
Accountants & Registered Auditors,  
1 The Forum, Minerva Business Park,  
Peterborough  
PE2 6FT

## Bankers

Unity Trust Bank,  
4 Brindleyplace  
Birmingham  
B1 2HB