



Review 2020

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre



President's Report

Christine Hunter Hughes

As the end of my unique, biennial term of office draws to a close, I cannot help but be a little saddened for every single one of our members for the effects that the pandemic has had on us all: the cessation of rehearsals and cancellation of planned shows, with all the

heartache, not to mention work and expense that that entails. COVID 19 has certainly had a profound effect on all our lives

That said, there have been some good and positive things to have taken root. They do say that necessity is the mother of invention and how well that has been proven over the last 18 months by individuals and societies alike!

I would like to start by thanking our Head Office team, who, of course, have been working from home, but still encouraging and supporting members, and council members, with lots of help and assistance (and patience) on all kinds of issues. However, the technical aspect does spring to mind, with a virtual Summer School in 2020, and another one arranged for 2021, and a virtual Volunteers Conference – Valuing our Volunteers. So, thank you to Dale and the Head Office Team, to Jacquie and Sarah for Summer School and Ian and Dale for the Volunteer Conference.

Initially societies arranged quizzes, play readings and general get-togethers online, proceeding to virtual performances. Just recently, as lockdown was ending, 'mixed' performances with a few people appearing on stage live, in front of a cinema-type screen showing a mass chorus filmed separately at home or out in fields and open public areas. The whole thing being live streamed as well to a socially distanced audience. A real tribute to every single member of the group – with a special mention to the 'techies' who put together and synced the whole production – superb!

At the same time, we know of several societies who have taken the opportunity to review their own policies and procedures, and perhaps undertake some additional training (provided by NODA of course) – all essential stuff but sometimes finding the time to do this can be an issue.

Personally, many of us have become very experienced (perhaps more than we would have wished) at Zoom meetings. The huge bonus being, certainly as far as AGMs were concerned, that many more people have been able to attend, and, on a very personal level, I have read a bedtime story to my grandchildren in London via Skype every night – which has been wonderful.

My predecessors have spoken at length about the visits they have made and the warm welcome they have received from so many NODA families across the length and breadth of the country, and I echo that sentiment. Although, for obvious reasons the numbers have been much, much fewer but the welcome just as warm for my long-suffering husband, David and myself. Without exception, everyone made us feel so very welcome and part of their NODA family. My thanks and commiserations to all the societies who had invited us then had to cancel, but I feel certain you will all come back stronger than ever and prove over and over again the old adage that the show can (and MUST) go on.

Our hobby, along with so very many other things, has suffered perhaps more than most, as each society offers all the social benefits just belonging brings to so many. The friendship, camaraderie, tolerance and the invaluable sense of belonging and community – not forgetting the sheer good fun that our hobby affords us – with the icing on the cake being able to entertain audiences, and now carefully, we can start to get back and continue to offer all those things to our NODA family. In these uncertain times I am convinced of one thing – that amateur theatre WILL and must survive. How could it not with SO many committed and passionate people?

It would be pointless to say that I am not disappointed we were unable to meet with so many more of you, but in view of the huge changes and challenges we have all encountered this last 18 months, it was simply not possible. However, I was and am honoured and proud (and still slightly awed) for the last 2 years to have been able to serve you as The National President of NODA. Our association of hugely passionate and committed people – all of whom are 'Inspired by Amateur Theatre.'

Christine Hunter Hughes
NODA National President 2019 - 2021

Our team at Peterborough



Dale Freeman
Chief Operating Office

Now in my 5th year as NODA's COO, I'm so pleased to report that NODA has managed to continue to be relevant to our members and amateur theatre in general, despite the recent challenges that COVID has given us. Our members' needs of us have changed since the beginning of the pandemic, and I am proud to say this organisation has adapted considerably to fulfil those needs.

We have all missed the social aspect in many ways during the pandemic. For me, the absence of the physical regional conferences has been one of those I have sincerely missed, particularly meeting our wonderful, inspirational members from across the country. Here's to the next 12 months and, we hope, a much better 2021 - 2022! Dale's address is dale@noda.org.uk



Lisa Sculthorp
**PA to the Chief Operating Officer
and Chairman of Trustees**

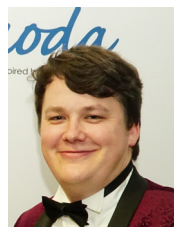
Lisa recently joined NODA with 30 years plus experience as a PA working in the Pharmaceutical, Space and Travel Industries.

She has a passion for art, making and decorating cakes to designing button pictures and creating cards for all occasions using die cuts and stamping techniques. Other interests are going to the theatre, music festivals and travelling the UK.



Chris Cotton
Finance Manager

Chris joined NODA in 2018, bringing with him 14 years experience working in accountancy practices. He is responsible for all financial matters from bookkeeping and credit control through to preparing statutory accounts. Chris's email address is chris@noda.org.uk



Rob Williams
Marketing and Publishing Executive

Rob has been involved with theatre since being at school, first on stage, then technical design before finally moving into theatre management. Having worked in both professional and amateur theatres, he brings a wealth of marketing experience to NODA. More recently he has worked in marketing with the UK arm of an agricultural machinery manufacturer (He does say that at times they were more dramatic than theatre people!). He is still heavily involved with his local amateur group both on stage and directing. Rob is responsible for the publication NODA Today and all things marketing within NODA. Rob's email address is rob@noda.org.uk

Report of the Trustees for the Annual General Meeting of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association Charitable Incorporated Organisation Charity No. 1171216

This Report covers the 12 months to 31 December 2020. The over-riding strategy in the year has been to be proactive in making contact with members, to offer and provide increased direct support as well as continuing to explore opportunities for mutually beneficial joint working arrangements.



The pandemic curtailed all activities of the association and its members with all venues closed to public performance from March 2020. Our usual programme of visits to member societies and show reports did not take place. In May and June, we put online a number of training videos/courses which were available to all members. The demands on Head Office for advice on performances was intense and we lobbied the appropriate government departments championing the cause of Amateur Theatre.

As announced at the last AGM, the 2020 subscriptions were extended to 31 March 2021, to redress some of the reduction in service. We anticipate 2021 subscription income to be somewhat lower than in 2020, and have budgeted accordingly.

Our trading subsidiary has been affected by the pandemic with income from royalties and awards being almost nil from March of 2020. Insurance commissions have been affected, but not as severely as other trading activities. Societies still require to insure their assets and continue with their public liability insurances. NODA Insurance has been positively supportive of insured societies pursuing abandonment claims during this difficult period.

Vision

Going forward we have been working on plans to ensure that the vision for the NODA is that amateur theatre is successful and sustainable, providing a range of opportunities for people to develop their skills, and ensure enjoyment taking part in theatre, at all levels, can be achieved.

Mission

NODA's mission is to support the education and information needs of individuals and organisations, with high quality services and products that contribute to the success of amateur theatre, as well as encouraging appreciation of the sector by participants and audiences alike.

We aim to:

- Give a shared voice to the amateur theatre sector.
- Help amateur societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance.
- Provide leadership and advice to enable the amateur theatre sector to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

NODA structure

NODA has an elected council, comprising 11 councillors, the Chairman and President and two life members, who have been Past Presidents. Because the presidential term was extended to two years, the Vice President was co-opted to Council. Each councillor represents a region, and each region has a committee which, through its network of Regional Representatives, provide a vital link to the association's grass roots working with societies to sustain and promote amateur theatre in their part of the country. We started the year with five staff members at our Head Office based in Peterborough. With the reduced activity during 2020, two were furloughed for much of the year.

Be inspired by amateur theatre

Founded in 1899, 'to protect and advance the interests of operatic and dramatic art and of societies engaged therein', our membership continues. 2051 society members and 758 individual enthusiasts staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in venues ranging from the country's leading professional theatres, to village and community halls and many other performance areas.

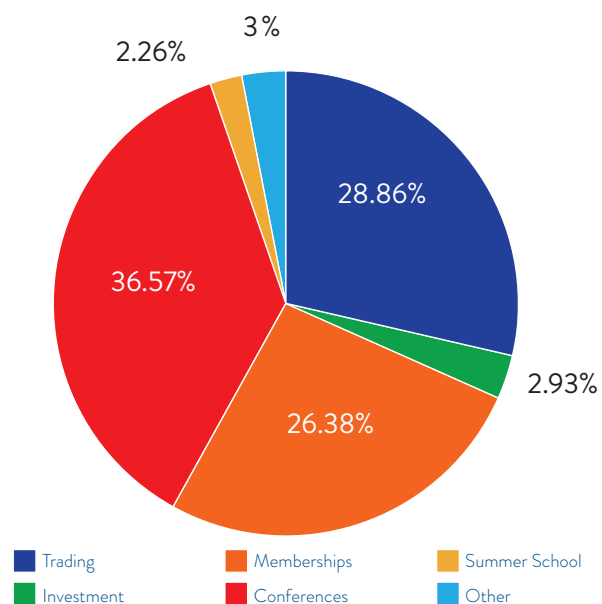
Highlights

The Chairman's Report details many of the highlights of these last 12 months including the effect of COVID19 and the Finance Report details our financial position.

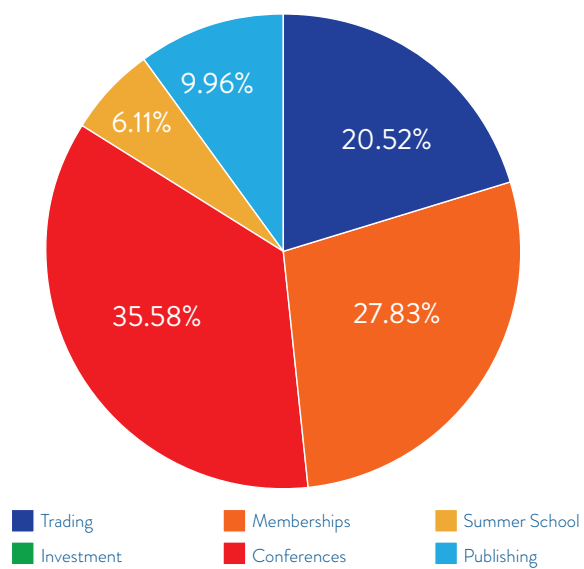
Income and Expenditure

This chart shows how income and expenditure were allocated in 2020

Income 2020



Expenditure 2020



National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Summary consolidated statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 December 2020 (for the year ended 31 December 2019)

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2019 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £
	for the year ended 31 December 2019			for the year ended 31 December 2020		
Income from						
Donations and Legacies		974	974		1,529	1,529
Other trading activities (including subsidiary)		220,976	220,976		155,974	155,974
Investments		16,930	16,930		15,844	15,844
Income from Charitable activities						
Membership		258,037	258,037		142,571	142,571
National conference		14,262	14,262		121	121
Regional events		197,348	197,348		197,543	197,543
Summer school	3,250	139,682	142,932	3,500	8,700	12,200
Other incoming resources		9,821	9,821		14,750	14,750
Total incoming resources	3,250	858,030	861,280	3,500	537,032	540,532
Expenditure on						
Raising funds						
Trading subsidiary costs		98,384	98,384		99,735	99,735
Charitable activities						
Membership services		206,607	206,607		135,263	135,263
National Conference		34,565	34,565		7,133	7,133
Regional events		221,390	221,390		165,831	165,831
Summer school	3,200	170,791	173,991		29,720	29,720
Publishing		57,061	57,061		48,437	48,437
Total resources expended	3,200	788,398	791,598		486,119	486,119
Net income before other gains and losses	50	69,632	69,682	3,500	60,913	64,413
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed asset investments		41,201	41,201		-27,381	-27,381
Net movement in funds	50	110,833	110,883	3,500	34,542	38,042
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds at 1 January 2020	1,927	957,652	959,579	1,927	1,068,485	1,070,462
Total funds at 31 December 2020	1,977	1,068,485	1,070,462	5,477	1,103,027	1,108,504

Summary balance sheet

As at 31 December 2020

	The group 2019 (£)	The charity 2019 (£)	The group 2020 (£)	The charity 2020 (£)
Fixed Assets				
Intangible assets	28,000	28,000	24,000	24,000
Tangible fixed assets	144,923	144,923	138,266	138,266
Investments	678,155	678,255	650,774	650,774
	851,078	851,178	813,040	813,040
Current assets				
Stock	19,276		12,967	
Debtors	229,003	215,962	51,208	56,712
Cash at bank and in hand	343,589	303,423	351,611	319,084
	591,868	519,385	415,786	375,796
Creditors				
Amounts falling due within one year	-372,484	-322,416	-120,322	-102,747
Net current assets/liabilities	219,384	196,969	295,464	273,049
Creditors due after more than one year				
Net assets	1,070,462	1,048,147	1,108,504	1,086,189
Funds				
Restricted funds	1,977	1,927	5,477	5,477
Unrestricted funds	1,068,485	1,046,170	1,103,027	1,080,712
Total funds	1,070,462	1,048,147	1,108,504	1,086,189



Chairman's Report

Michael Hastilow

The report for 2020 is for a twelve month period. With lockdown commencing in March, most of the face to face activities of the association were curtailed. Council and its sub-committees have met regularly, courtesy of Zoom.

The number of staff at Head Office remained unchanged during

2020, however following the lockdown in March 2020, and the cessation of normal theatrical activity by member societies, there was little work for Beverly and Richard to undertake and they were furloughed for large portions of the year. Richard made the decision to retire and left us in February 2021 and Beverly left us on 4th January 2021. Rob Williams and Dale Freeman have worked closely to deal with the difficulties societies encountered as we progressed through the pandemic. Initially it was abandonment, the deferment of licences as planned performance dates came and went, and then the interpretation of differing rules in each of the devolved regions.

Achievements and Performance

- The benefit of social media was utilised to cover all aspects of NODA's activities and to keep us in touch.
- Members continued to use the Legal Helpline to their advantage.
- NODA Safe advice line continues to be utilised by members for both specific and general health and safety issues. We have introduced a series of accessible online courses on the safe use of equipment on stage and we have produced a freely available checklist for a safe return to rehearsal and performance.
- Fact Sheets are still a sound source of information for members.
- Newsletters are circulated at regular intervals.
- NODA Today has continued the format of incorporating articles from regions into the whole, making for more interesting reading.
- Improvements to our website are almost complete.

- We have reviewed our pantomime portfolio, removing many outmoded scripts and introducing new ones. The Panto Scripts website is now operational.

Membership

At	31/12/20	31/12/19
Societies/Associates	2,051	2,147
Individual/Joint/Life	758	872

NODA Theatre Summer School

To many this is the jewel in our crown. It 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 2022 under the directorship of Sarah Osborne. A number of bursaries will be available to make the school more affordable to members of member societies.

National Conference

NODA's National AGM & Presidential Gala planned for 2020, was postponed and the presidential term was extended by a year. The AGM was held virtually and attracted a larger attendance than in past years.

Regional Conferences

In 2020 only two regions were able to hold their conferences before lockdown was imposed. The regional AGMs and conferences held subsequently were virtual.

Advice, representation and recognition

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. 763 long service awards, including youth awards and certificates were made in 2020, 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. For those who do not meet the criteria for a long service award, such as paid officials, NODA does offer a commendation award.

Website

The website continues to be improved and offers access to an increasing range of information and services.

The pantomime web page (Panto Scripts) is now live and it is possible to examine scripts, order perusal copies and complete licensing arrangements all online,

The website had 252,733 visits in 2020, compared with 385,000 visits in 2019. A reflection of the effect of the pandemic on NODA and our members activity.

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. The awards will be presented this year 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.

COVID-19 and 2020

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 hope to see a gradual return to a more normal level of activity. It will not be until 2022, that we will see a full return.

Fundraising

No national fundraising initiatives were undertaken in 2019.





Finance Report (2020)

The Consolidated Accounts (audited by MHA Macintyre Hudson) have been prepared in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The audited accounts were approved by Council on 26th June 2021, copies are available from the Peterborough Head Office. The accounts cover the twelve months to 31 December 2020, the comparative figures cover the twelve months to 31st December 2019.

Income for the year (including £15,844 from investments) is £540,532 compared to £861,280 for 2019. The cost of running the association amounts to £475,109 (2019 £791,589) giving a surplus before gains or losses in investment values of £65,423 (2019 £69,682). At 31st December 2019, a revaluation of our investments showed an unrealised loss in value of £27,381 (2019 a gain of £41,201)

Profit from NODA Ltd was £56,239 for 12 months to 31 December 2020, compared with £122,592 in 2019. The profits of NODA Ltd are donated via gift aid to NODA (the charity).

- Trading Subsidiary (NODA Ltd). The profit achieved in the year is considerably less than the amount budgeted.
- Insurance commissions of £119,790 were received in the year.
- Investment income of £15,844 is marginally below our budgeted expectations for the year.

- Governance costs, although no longer require to be shown separately, were £27,761. (In 2019 £43,287).
- National Conference was held virtually in 2020, the net cost was £7,012 (2019 £20,303)
- Regional conferences/events. This category includes regional conferences, regional and district awards, regional workshops and district meetings. The overall net cost for 2020, was £12,280 and compares with £24,042 for 2019.
- Summer School, in 2020, held as an e-school, the net costs of Summer School £21,020 (2019 £36,898),
- Publishing Print and Electronic Newsletters and Magazine spend was £48,427 (2019 £57,061.)

The "Summary Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities" and the "Summary Balance Sheet" included in this review for the year ended 31 December 2020, are extracted from the NODA consolidated accounts, copies of which may be obtained from the NODA Head Office in Peterborough.

Council are therefore reporting that, at 31 December 2019, the net consolidated worth of NODA CIO, your association, was £1,108,504 (2019 £1,070,462) and Council recommend the adoption of these accounts at the AGM on 11th September 2021.

Council propose that this report will be taken as read at the AGM, but that questions will be invited to be submitted either prior to the AGM (preferred) or from the floor at the AGM.





National Operatic and Dramatic Association - 1171216

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisors for the Period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

Trustees

Christine Hunter Hughes, President,
Gordon Richardson, Vice President,
Michael Hastilow, Chairman
Ian G Cox, Vice Chairman
John Barnes, Life Member representative
Nick Lawrence, Life Member representative,
Jacqueline Stedman, Immediate Past President,

Tessa Davies, Regional Councillor, East
Nanette Lovell, Regional Councillor, East Midlands
Pamela Armstrong Regional Councillor, London, (Appointed 19 September 2020)
Andrew Rogers, Regional Councillor, London (Resigned 19 September 2020)

Peter Oliver, Regional Councillor, North (Appointed 19 September 2020)
Gordon Richardson, Regional Councillor, North (Resigned 19 September 2020)
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 and Ireland (Appointed 27 June 2020)
Jordan Spencer, Regional Councillor, Wales and Ireland. (Resigned 27 June 2020)
Ian G. Cox, Regional Councillor, West Midlands

Principal Staff

Dale Freeman - Chief Operating Officer
Chris Cotton - Finance Manager
Robert Williams - Marketing and Publishing Executive
Lisa Sculthorp - PA to the Chief Operating Officer and Chairman of Trustees (joined 5 July 2021)

Beverly Clarke, Administrative Support (left 4 January 2021)
Richard Hutchinson, Membership Services (left 28 February 2021)

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National Youth Co-ordinator
Mike Mullen

Principal Office - 15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough, Cambs, PE2 7UH

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

Patrons - The Lord Lloyd-Webber, Connie Fisher

NODA Limited

NODA Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of the association) - Registered Number 241572

Registered Offices 15 The Metro Centre , Peterborough, PE2 7UH

Directors - Eric Smart (Chairman), Fred Piggford, Neil Maidman, Christine Hunter Hughes, Ian G Cox, Michael Hastilow



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