



For every stage
Annual report 2024



Everybody's Talking About Jamie
Blackpool & Fylde Light Opera Company



President's report

Graham Liverton

Where does one start to sum up this year as president of our wonderful organisation of NODA.

I have been mistaken for the mayor many times and congratulated (or otherwise!) on the town or city we are in at the time. Once a small boy thought I was the prime minister and most memorably, a small girl, introduced to me by her music teacher, went back to her mother and said, in hushed tones: *"I have just met the King, he shook my hand."*

It has been the most wonderful experience to meet so many splendid societies and individual members, not only an honour and privilege but very humbling.

Going around, as Ann and I have been doing, visiting so many and meeting so many, all with the same interests, has been truly amazing. We have been warmly welcomed and the hospitality given has been tremendous.

Reflecting on the past twelve months, I am overwhelmed by the dedication, talent and sheer passion that radiates from every corner of our community. From the smallest village hall productions to the grandest theatre stages, the spirit of NODA lives in each curtain call, every shared rehearsal and in the friendships forged behind the scenes.

Throughout this year, I have witnessed first-hand, the resilience

and innovation that defines our societies. In the face of challenges, they have responded with creativity and unity, ensuring that the arts not only survive, but thrive. The stories told, the laughter shared and the moments of collective joy have left an indelible mark on my heart.

As president, I have been privileged to see the extraordinary commitment that each member brings—not only to their own performances, but to the wider cause of keeping theatre alive and accessible for all. Your efforts inspire not just admiration, but a profound sense of gratitude.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey, for welcoming me into your societies and for

reminding me of the transformative power of the arts. Together, we have celebrated achievements both great and small, and created memories that will long outlast my tenure. The shows have been great, the different parts of the country, fascinating and we will be revisiting many areas that we would like to see more of, but the most wonderful part has been the people we have met, kind, generous, impressive, funny and oh so memorable.

I am very impressed with the youth groups that I have seen and the confidence they have shown in their performances expressing a whole range of emotions, way beyond their years. The singing has been incredible. We can be assured that NODA's future is safe in their young, but very capable hands. When speaking to them after a performance I told them that the joy and satisfaction that comes from treading the boards will continue long after this particular show is ended, all through their lives and in their DNA, at university, college, employment or whatever they choose to do, right up to middle and old age. There is no greater or more satisfying and fulfilling hobby than performance in all its aspects.

Over this year, I have been very fortunate to coincide with the release of *Let The People Sing*, *Les Misérables* which Cameron Macintosh has licensed to adult societies in eleven areas of UK to

perform to celebrate forty years of Les Mis, I have seen five out of the eleven, each one being remarkable in different ways, just marvellous! Seeing societies working together on these productions supporting one another was a real joy to witness!

This last year, as well it seemed that *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* together with *Everybody's Talking about Jamie* were the flavour of the moment. Fourteen *Chocolate Factories* but never tiring of the show because each one was different! And the same with Jamie!

Summer School was for me very interesting, as I have never managed to attend due to work and family commitments. To see what the students had achieved over the week, in all aspects of theatre was extremely impressive. It is an important week in the NODA calendar, which many attend every year to renew old friendships and form new ones. The camaraderie was simply a joy to see and long may Summer School continue!

I wish to thank the Chairman, Ian Cox, fellow councillors and past presidents for the help and encouragement I have been given and of course Dale, and his staff, for their unfailing support and good advice.

I also want to thank Christine Hunter Hughes and Gordon Richardson

for their kindness of opening their homes to Ann and myself to be able to stay with them when visiting the Northwest and the North region. Their generosity knew no bounds and both of us are extremely grateful to them for the oases in a desert of Travelodge's and for the miles they have driven us on so many occasions. They are both dedicated to NODA; I knew them as fellow councillors, now they are very dear friends. Thank you so much! Also, to others who have helped make our visits to their region so enjoyable.

Last year, I said when becoming president that you would have two for the price of one! My darling wife Ann has been not only my strength but she has been my chauffeur and secretary I could not have been your President without her. We have travelled thousands of miles and seen musicals, plays, concerts, award ceremonies and AGMs. Over that period, Ann has driven every single mile! She is simply the best and I am extremely lucky to have her in my life.

Looking ahead, I am filled with hope and excitement for what the future holds. Our theatre communities are vibrant and woven with the threads of dedication, passion and boundless creativity. Each rehearsal and every new production is a testament to the power of collective endeavour.

As we approach a new season, let us carry forward the lessons learned and the friendships forged. May we continue to nurture the next generation of performers, stage managers, directors and enthusiasts—those whose imaginations will shape the stages of tomorrow. I encourage everyone, whether seasoned veteran or newcomer, to embrace every opportunity, take creative risks and support one another in spirit and action.

Let us remember that theatre is not simply about the performances, but about the connections we make—the sense of belonging, understanding and joy that radiates from the stage and into our lives. Together, let us champion inclusivity, innovation and the enduring magic of live theatre, ensuring its flame burns brightly for years to come.

I wish our new President, Kay Rowan, every success. I am sure she will be a fine president and ambassador.

Graham Liverton
NODA National President



Shakespeare in Love
The Bradfordians

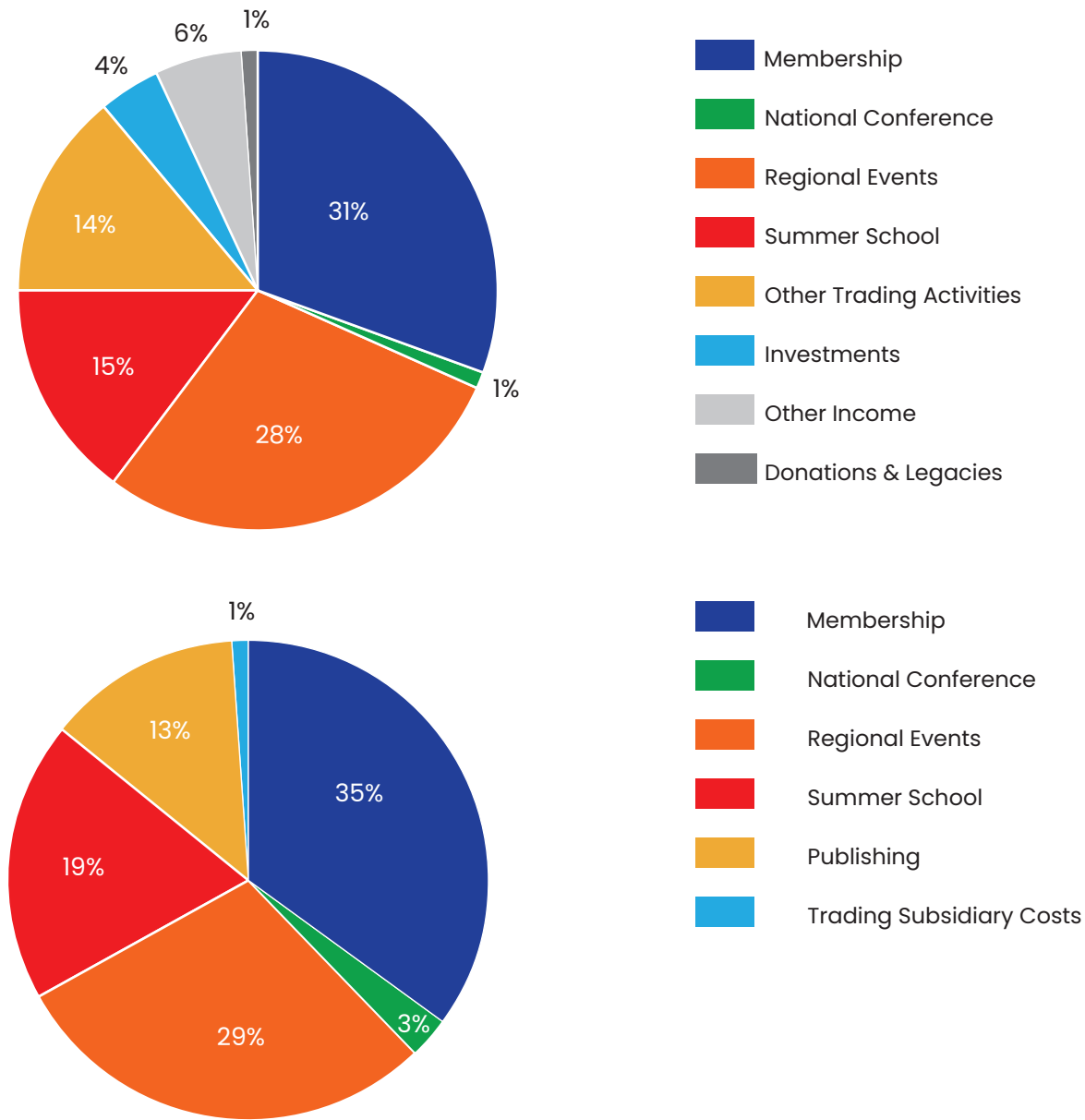


Income and Expenditure 2024

Income	2024		2023	
Donations and legacies		13,834		6,652
Charitable activities				
Membership		276,204		235,669
National Conference		7,115		8,891
Regional events		261,701		183,135
Summer School		133,791	678,811	123,514
				551,209
Other trading activities		123,899		179,937
Investments		31,997		32,519
Other income		49,689		8,688
Total income		898,230		779,005

Expenditure

Raising funds				
Trading subsidiary		6,081		124,528
Charitable activities				
Membership		316,216		214,531
National Conference		25,895		22,648
Regional events		266,893		204,013
Summer School		172,638		154,732
Publishing		117,907	899,549	63,990
				659,914
Total expenditure		905,630		784,442
Net (loss)/surplus before other gains/(losses)		(7,400)		(5,437)
Net gain/(loss) on investments		777		6,948
Net movement in funds		(6,623)		1,511
Total funds brought forward		929,646		928,135
Net movement in funds		(6,623)		1,511
Total funds carried forward		923,023		929,646



Financial Performance

There was further growth in activity across nearly all areas, resulting in a significant increase in total income for the year. Costs rose correspondingly in line with this increased activity and, although they were effectively managed, a small deficit was recorded. Our investment portfolio performed well despite challenging market conditions, once again showing a small gain in value. The full annual financial statements, offering a comprehensive overview, are available upon 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

As NODA's 125th year draws to a close, I'm pleased to present this summary of key activity across what has been a very busy and productive twelve months.

Recognition

My sincere thanks go to our dedicated volunteers and the head office team, led by COO Dale Freeman, for their tireless work. Their professionalism and passion continue to drive the organisation forward.

Importantly much appreciation to you our members- your passion for theatre is the reason we exist and an inspiration to us all

Achievements

The launch of our new branding has been a major highlight. Widely welcomed, it reflects a modern, forward-thinking NODA and supports our goal of appealing to a broader membership, with added focus on youth.

The vibrant new identity is now in place across our website, literature, certificates, trophies and social media—creating a clear and consistent face to take us into the next decade and beyond.

Events

Members continue to embrace opportunities to celebrate achievements, awards and milestones at regional events and AGMs across all 11 regions, with ever-

growing attendance.

The NODA National AGM and Conference in 2024, was held in Plymouth.

Collaborations

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of our strategic partnership with Lloyd & Whyte, who, for the benefit of members, deliver a wide range of quality insurance solutions specifically designed for the theatrical and operatic communities.

ProArts+ continues to meet an ever growing demand from members by providing legal advice, expert guidance and strategic support.

We are also actively exploring a potential new patronage.

Membership

	2024	2023
Groups/Associates	1,943	1,945
Individual/Joint/Life/Corporate	597	586

While membership decline has slowed, we are now beginning to see signs of growth—particularly as benefits such as discounted insurance and DBS access are more widely promoted.

The introduction of Band F has supported income, and careful financial management has given us a stable position.

Education

NODA Summer School continues to thrive, attracting both new and returning students. Conferences and online resources further support learning, networking and best practice sharing.

Communication

NODA Today remains a key communication tool, in both print and digital formats. New contributors, including consultant and former CEO Mark Pemberton OBE, are helping raise NODA's voice at national level, importantly, with a process of engagement through government channels.

Website

Our newly launched website provides enhanced support to members, including legal guidance, publicity tools and pantomime scripts.

It recorded 306,000 visits in 2024 (vs. 223,260 in 2023), representing a 37% increase, reflecting improved member engagement.

Awards

We issued 1,309 long service awards, including 161 youth awards.

All awards are now administered through the CIO, with the exception of insurance commissions, which have seen significant growth.

Future plans

2024, saw the implementation of major governance improvements: A new Constitution and Byelaws, Standardised Terms of Reference and improved compliance monitoring.

New policies will be introduced to ensure consistency across activities, especially around budgeting.

In closing

As I prepare to step down as chairman, I find myself reflecting not only on this past year, but also on the privilege of serving in this role. To have led NODA through its 125th anniversary has been an honour beyond words, and I leave

with immense pride in what we have achieved together: a stronger organisation, a refreshed identity and a renewed confidence in the future.

My own journey in amateur theatre began back in 1963, as a founder member of a local society. To be awarded Life Membership at last year's AGM was both humbling and deeply meaningful—a reminder of the friendships, shared values and lasting impact that amateur theatre has across our communities.

I have been fortunate to witness first hand the passion, commitment and resilience that define NODA and its members. Most of all, I am grateful for the friendships formed, the dedication shown and the shared love of theatre that means so much to us all.

As I hand over to my successor, I do so with confidence in NODA's future and with heartfelt thanks to everyone for their contribution to all we have achieved together. I offer my successor, and the board, my very best wishes for every success and fulfilment as they lead NODA into its next chapter, knowing they will be warmly supported by our dedicated volunteers, members and staff. I look forward to continuing contributing and supporting the NODA family in the years ahead.



Macbeth
Tolethorpe

National Operatic and Dramatic Association Registered CIO - 1171216

Graham Liverton - National President (appointed 28/09/24)
Christine Hunter Hughes - National President (resigned 28/09/24)
Nick Lawrence - Immediate Past President (resigned 28/09/24)
Kay Rowan - National Vice President (appointed 28/09/24)
Ian G. Cox - Chairman of Trustees
Stuart McCue-Dick - Vice-chairman of Trustees
John Barnes - Life Member representative (resigned 28/09/24)
Gordon Richardson - Life Member representative (resigned 28/09/24)
Jacquie Stedman - NODA Theatre Summer School Chairman and Life Member representative (appointed 28/09/24)

Tessa Davies - Regional Councillor, East
Jules Jones - Regional Councillor, East Midlands
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 (resigned 28/09/24)
Matthew Heaton - Regional Councillor, South West (appointed 28/09/24)
Sharon Davies - Regional Councillor, Wales & Ireland
Andy Brown - Regional Councillor, West Midlands

Principal Staff

Dale Freeman - Chief Operating Officer
Rob Williams - Marketing and Publishing Executive
Michelle Callicott - Finance Manager
Liam Nixon - Marketing & Membership Services Assistant
Heather Knapp - Secretary/Administrator

NODA Limited

NODA Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Association.
Registered Number 241572
Registered office - 15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough, PE2 7UH
Directors - Ian G Cox, Dale Freeman (Appointed 1 October 2024), Eric Smart (resigned 1 October 2024), Michael Hastilow (resigned 1 October 2024), Christine Hunter Hughes (resigned 1 October 2024), Pamela Armstrong (resigned 3 April 2025)

Principal address

15 The Metro Centre
Woodston
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
United Kingdom
PE2 7UH

Auditor

Azets Audit Services
Westpoint
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
United Kingdom
PE2 6FZ

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank
Four Brindley Place
Birmingham
B1 2HB

© 2025 National Operatic
and Dramatic Association
Registered CIO 1171216
Registered Company 241572



Jesus Christ Superstar
Hull Musical Theatre Company