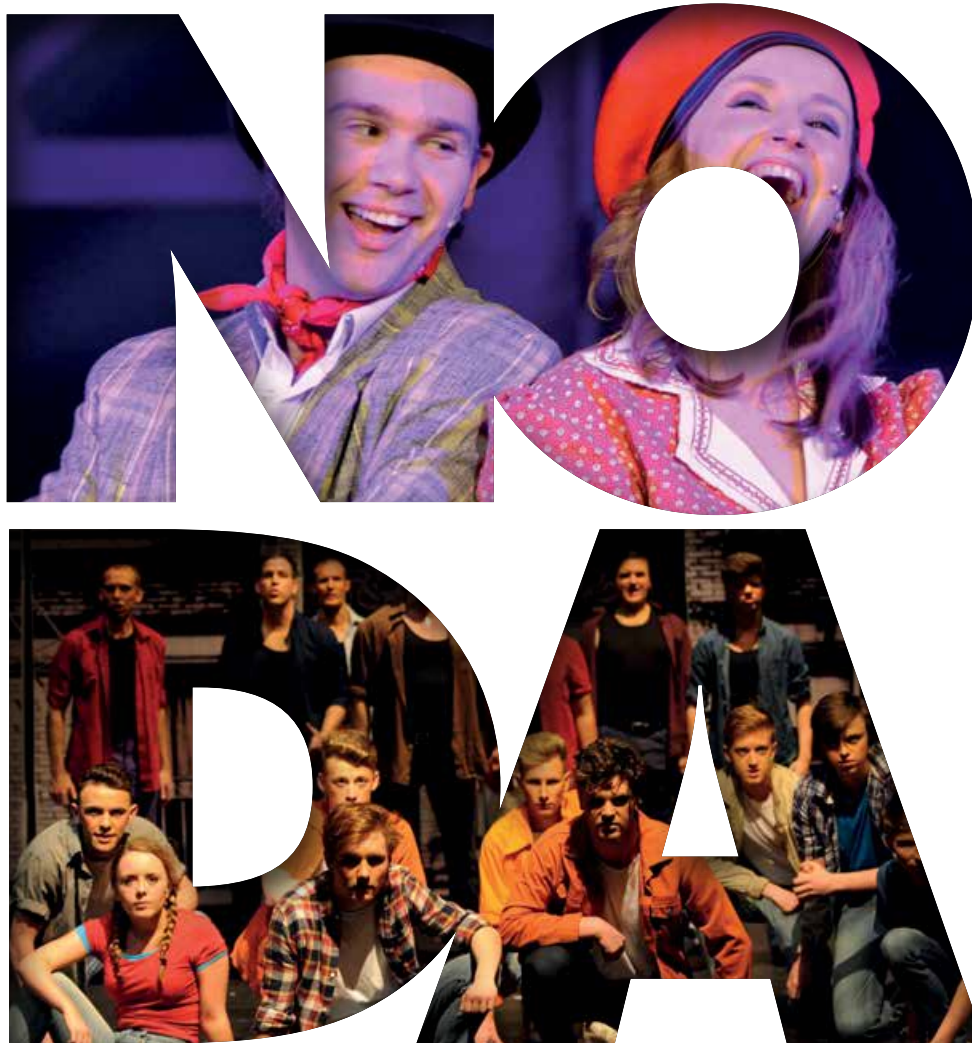


*noda*



annual review **2015**

# SNAPSHOTS OF 2014/15

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Be inspired by amateur theatre



NODA Youth Councillor Phil Barnett was chosen from thousands to appear in The People's Strictly for Comic Relief in March 2015 as part of the BBC's Red Nose Day celebrations. The show featured six inspirational people who had been nominated by friends and family. Phil was nominated by Kidz R Us the youth theatre company for 6 to 24 year olds that he set up in St Ives. The group has seen some young people through tough times whilst for others it is a fun hobby with a few taking the skills learned into the West End of London. Phil said being on the show was a dream come true and he certainly did his Kidz – and NODA – proud!

In 2014 NODA was announced as the official partner of Panto Day an annual celebration of professional and amateur theatre going back to 2011 – helping to establish and promote the first ever National Survey of Amateur Pantomime. It told us, in case you didn't know, that the most popular panto in 2014 was Aladdin – what's that? Oh yes you did!



Lindisfarne Players were lucky enough to have Ray Cooney visit a rehearsal of his son Michael Connery's play Cash on Delivery. He quietly observed the cast commenting "Well done. You're going to get a lot of laughs". He gave the actors some good advice and good naturedly posed for photographs and signed autographs.

Leeds Children's Theatre, one of the longest running theatre groups dedicated to the inclusion of children in theatre celebrated its eightieth anniversary in 2015.

Leeds Amateur Operatic Society (LAOS – The Musical Theatre Company) founded in 1890, celebrated its 125th Anniversary with a Grand Celebration Dinner and Ball.

A Civic Award was presented to Mary Carter and Janice Harvey in recognition of their continued dedication to the Gorleston based youth group Dusmagrik.

In September Falkirk Opera were poised behind the curtain waiting for the Act II overture when it was replaced by a fire alarm! The venue was evacuated safely with the only damage done by the rain dampening the cast's hair and makeup – but not their spirits!

Two Cumbrian Societies joined forces to commemorate the First World War by staging a new play 'Tommy's Story' with help and support from the Heritage Lottery fund.



Merriman Theatre Group was one of 12 theatre groups and dance schools from across the country invited to perform at Her Majesty's Theatre in London as part of a national youth theatre gala. They performed the 'Jellicle Ball' from CATS and had a fantastic experience.

Pendle Hippodrome Theatre volunteers received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The highest award given to volunteer groups in the UK. Three operatic societies bought the almost derelict theatre in 1978 and painstakingly restored it over more than eight years.



Stamford Amateur Musical Society (formerly Stamford Amateur Operatic Society) and Gateshead amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society both celebrated their 110th anniversary.

Members of Wellington Arts Association Operatic Society were invited to perform in Torres Vedras Portugal. They gave three concerts which also saw them combining with the town's youth choir to sing in both Portuguese and English.

NODA welcomed a second Patron Connie Fisher alongside existing Patron Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber. Connie said, "Performance has been a huge part of my life since a very young age and so I recognise the importance of the arts in giving people a creative outlet, building confidence, making friends and having fun."





## President's report

### Chris Ingram

It is often said that the only two things which are certain in life are taxes and then death – perhaps a somewhat morbid thought. However Council believe that there is a third certainty in life which is change and the management of that change. Change is not an easy animal to grasp let alone manage, and we are all

aware of the old adage “If it ain’t broke don’t fix it” but this may be interpreted as “Ignore problems and they will go away” There are many businesses which were late to recognise that the services they offered did not reflect the changing needs of their customers. The four big supermarkets and M&S are all examples of this and although they are now responding to their challenges the process has been and continues to be painful. Some retailers, such as Woolworths, Austin Reed and BHS did not or could not respond and they have gone to the wall.

In 2015 Council realised that our customers, our members, had changing needs and that NODA would have to change in response to these needs otherwise NODA and perhaps our members could follow the path of some major retailers and cease to exist.

In late 2014 we introduced a new Customer Relations Management (CRM) system which was implemented in 2015 – now our Finance programmes are able to “talk” to the CRM, streamlining many processes and reducing errors and duplication. We also realised our web site is clunky and not very user friendly – the information is all there but I am sure we have all experienced problems finding it! A new website is planned which will be built onto the CRM System and this will allow the website to be more interactive with respect to on-line payments and members updating their own contact information.

NODA is currently an unincorporated body which is a registered charity and this status is essentially unchanged since the date of our first registration as a charity, unfortunately this status is no longer fit for purpose. Council are investigating the potential for NODA to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which will not only limit the financial liability of trustees and members but also allow NODA to be more flexible in respect to our stated charitable aims and how we can offer services to our members. We hope to put a draft proposal to the AGM for approval in September.

Further Council have agreed to a root and branch review of our governing and management structure, which has been essentially unchanged for several decades. I personally have been a NODA volunteer for over 40 years and during that time we have occasionally tweaked our structure but it has never been subject to major review and change. Council believe that now is the time to review our structure with input and advice from outside NODA as well as our own membership. It may be that the conclusion of the review is essentially no change is required but it may be that we need to agree significant changes to our structure to make NODA fit for purpose in the 21st century.

We face challenging times.

Finally as I enter the final quarter of my Presidency I can report that Mary and I have seen many wonderful productions throughout the country as well as attending 9 out of 11 regional annual general meetings and associated celebratory/awards events. My sincere apologies to both Wales & Ireland and London which I was prevented from attending by illness and holiday respectively. I can however report that Amateur Theatre is in good heart, performing to ever higher standards as demanded by both our audiences and ourselves.

Thank you to everyone for your very warm welcome and hospitality extended to Mary and me – it was always very much appreciated.

**Be inspired by amateur theatre!**



## Vision

The vision for the National Operatic and Dramatic Association is that amateur theatre is successful and sustainable, providing a range of opportunities for people to develop their skills, and enjoy taking part, at all levels.

## 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 theatre groups 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.

## 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 with 2,185 society members and 1,119 individual enthusiasts staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in venues ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls.

## NODA structure

Each of NODA's 11 regions is headed by a Councillor who sits on the ruling body of the Association (the National Council). In turn, they are supported by a network of regional representatives and committee members who provide a vital link to the grass roots of the association. NODA is administered from the registered head office in Peterborough by knowledgeable and friendly staff.

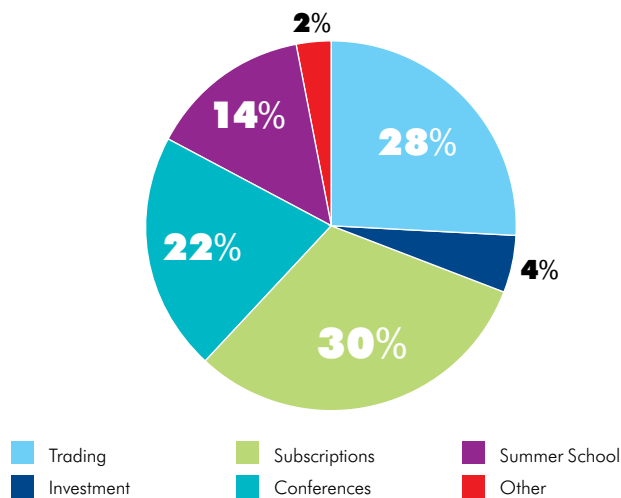
## Highlights

- ★ North project/Sage Gateshead was held to encourage new writing for the Amateur theatre and showcased a new musical 'KING PIT'.
- ★ Theatrefest 2015 took place in the Gaiety Theatre on the Isle of Man in October, this was a showcase of new writing which included NODA members as well as people from the professional theatre.
- ★ The new membership database went live in October 2015 and member detail successfully transferred from the old system. Investment continues in developing a new website to be launched in 2016.
- ★ NODA's National AGM and Presidential Gala took place at The Queens Hotel, City Square, Leeds on 27th September 2015.
- ★ Over 200 students attended the 2015 Summer School held at the University of Warwick.

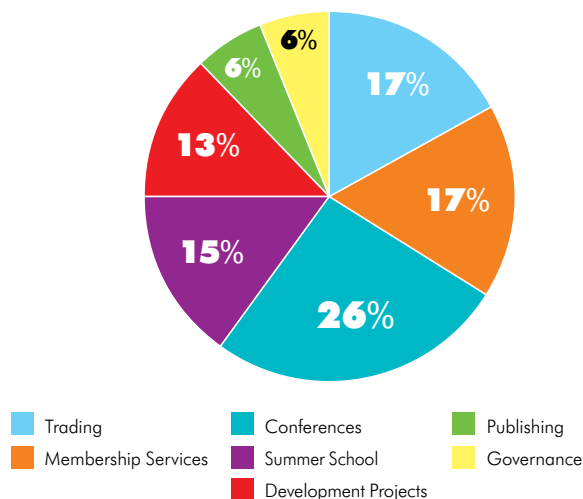
## Income and expenditure

These charts show how income and expenditure were allocated in 2015:

### Income 2015



### Expenditure 2015



## National Operatic and Dramatic Association

### Summary consolidated statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2015

	Restricted (£)	Unrestricted (£)	2015 Total (£)	2014 Total (£)
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	-	4,915	<b>4,915</b>	805
Other trading activities - inc subsidiary	-	230,694	<b>230,694</b>	210,862
Investments	-	32,835	<b>32,835</b>	36,913
<i>Income from Charitable activities</i>				
Membership	-	249,659	<b>249,659</b>	248,882
National conference	-	6,038	<b>6,038</b>	14,171
Regional events	-	173,541	<b>173,541</b>	151,098
Summer school	-	116,583	<b>116,583</b>	107,694
<i>Other incoming resources</i>	-	7,703	<b>7,703</b>	23,808
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		821,968	<b>821,968</b>	794,233
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
<i>Raising funds</i>				
Trading subsidiary costs	-	150,170	<b>150,170</b>	139,840
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Membership services	-	151,008	<b>151,008</b>	130,461
National conference	-	23,340	<b>23,340</b>	41,191
Regional events	-	213,131	<b>213,131</b>	226,245
Summer school	-	140,587	<b>140,587</b>	128,429
Publishing	-	56,068	<b>56,068</b>	42,588
Development projects	-	119,596	<b>119,596</b>	79,178
Governance costs	-	52,886	<b>52,886</b>	75,546
<b>Total resources expended</b>	-	906,786	<b>906,786</b>	863,478
Net expenditure before transfers	-	(84,818)	<b>(84,818)</b>	(69,245)
Transfers between funds	1,927	(1,927)	-	-
Net income before other gains and losses	1,927	(86,745)	<b>(84,818)</b>	(69,245)
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed asset investments		(18,627)	<b>(18,627)</b>	29,603
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	1,927	(105,372)	<b>(103,445)</b>	(39,642)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds at 1 January 2015	-	918,966	<b>918,966</b>	<b>958,609</b>
<b>Total funds at 31 December 2015</b>	1,927	813,594	<b>815,521</b>	918,967

## Summary balance sheet

For the year ended 31 December 2015

	The group		The charity	
	2015 (£)	2014 (£)	2015 (£)	2014 (£)
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	<b>145,681</b>	137,200	<b>145,681</b>	137,200
Investments	<b>619,929</b>	760,056	<b>620,029</b>	760,156
	<b>765,610</b>	897,256	<b>765,710</b>	897,356
<b>Current assets</b>				
Stock	<b>8,416</b>	18,280	-	-
Debtors	<b>142,779</b>	122,445	<b>145,944</b>	130,856
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>150,296</b>	89,913	<b>121,112</b>	54,022
	<b>301,491</b>	230,638	<b>267,056</b>	184,878
<b>Creditors:</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year	<b>(246,566)</b>	(208,928)	<b>(234,545)</b>	(185,582)
Net current assets/liabilities	<b>54,925</b>	21,710	<b>32,511</b>	(704)
Net assets	<b>815,521</b>	918,966	<b>793,207</b>	896,652
<b>Funds</b>				
Restricted funds	<b>1,927</b>	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds:				
Unrestricted funds income	<b>727,308</b>	814,053	<b>706,921</b>	791,739
Revaluation Reserve	<b>86,286</b>	104,913	<b>86,286</b>	104,913
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>815,521</b>	918,966	<b>793,207</b>	896,652





## Chairman's report Fred Piggford

As in previous years, the Association has been keen to explore links and development opportunities with other organisations. A number of pilot projects have been funded from reserves for this purpose but have contributed to the deficit for 2015. Operating costs have been

managed within budget, supplemented by profits from our trading company, NODA Limited, which increased its contribution to the Association by 13%.

Future planning has agreed to maintain operating costs and activities within revenue from subscriptions and trading income whilst recognising that development work must be funded from reserves and/or external funding sources.

The amateur theatre sector continues to be at the heart of creative activities in communities throughout the UK, and in a constantly changing environment, there is continued commitment from NODA to review membership services and develop new ways of working to support members in their hobby.



## Achievements and performance

The over-riding strategy for 2015 was for the Association to be more proactive in making contact with members to offer and provide increased direct support, as well as continuing to explore opportunities for joint working with third party organisations.

NODA continued its strategy of exploring the potential to improve services to members:

- ★ Health and Safety Advice line called NODA Safe continued to offer online resources as well as workshop training and a telephone/email advice line;
- ★ A pilot introducing online First Aid training to members, was expanded to include all members.
- ★ The use of social media by NODA, with an increased use of Twitter and Facebook in particular, continue to prove more effective than ever in improving all-round communication with members. It was noted during the year that for the first time, email and online contact between NODA members and the Peterborough based staff is now greater than contact by telephone. NODA issued regular newsletters and topical tips to its members.
- ★ North project/Sage Gateshead was an event to encourage new writing for the Amateur theatre that took place as part of the NODA North pilot scheme. This was to involve members in NODA North and showcased a new musical 'KING PIT' which NODA hope to license in 2016.
- ★ TheatreFest 2015 took place in the Gaiety Theatre On the Isle of Man in October. Originally called the Festival of new Writing for the Theatre this was a showcase of new writing which included NODA members as well as people from the professional theatre. It was attended by many NODA members and again NODA hopes to be able to license some of the work in 2016 TheatreFest was co-sponsored with the Isle of Man Arts Council.
- ★ We hope with both these events that there will be further opportunities for NODA in the future.
- ★ The new membership database went live in October 2015 and member detail successfully transferred from the old system. Investment continues in developing a new website to be launched in 2016.
- ★ The NODA Legal Helpline, provided by JMW LLP, was maintained to enhance the advice service for members.
- ★ An increasing amount of informal advice and guidance was also provided to members by the professional staff team on a range of commercial and contractual issues.
- ★ All Trustees received further training in governance and financial planning, to ensure an understanding of, and compliance with, the roles and responsibilities of charity trustees, as well as improving NODA's communications with members.



## Membership

Societies/Associates .....	2,185
Individual/Joint .....	1,119

## NODA Theatre Summer School

As part of its Education and Training programme and in line with its educational objective, NODA continued with the residential Theatre Summer School, held 1st to 8th August at the University of Warwick. The provision of bursaries by NODA is an essential component of the success of these events giving people who would otherwise be unable to afford them the opportunity to attend.

Courses in all areas of theatre and off-stage disciplines such as choreography, video production, lighting design and design on stage were held.

## National conference

NODA's National AGM and Presidential Gala took place at The Queens Hotel, City Square, Leeds on 27th September 2015. This was linked to a (self-funded) Gala Dinner and Ball with music from the Joe Loss Showband with Singing Stars.

## Regional conferences

All regions held their own conference during the year. These varied from one to three day events, dependent upon the support within the region. Nine of the eleven regions incorporated a performance awards scheme, normally as a part of the Regional AGM event, to encourage improved performance standards by their member societies. Over 4,000 people who are passionate about amateur theatre attended these events.

Most Regions held workshops in both technical and performance skills thus enhancing the skills of its members. Many of these involved youth, which NODA is very keen to increase and promote throughout the country.

All regions held a number of networking events (known as NODA Evenings) each covering one or more districts – the prime purpose of these events was to disseminate information to members, receive feedback and statements of need from members and well as encouraging networking between members.

## Advice, representation and recognition

NODA continued to play a vital role as an advocacy body with the Chief Executive sitting on the advisory board of Voluntary Arts England. He also attended meetings of National Drama Festivals Association and meetings with other umbrella bodies to develop joint advocacy plans across the voluntary arts and culture sector.

1,794 long service awards including youth awards and certificates were issued compared with 1,508 during 2014 to recognise their contribution to amateur theatre. NODA awards are available to all of NODA affiliated Societies to present to their own members.

## Magazines

NODA Today was published three times in 2015. Highlights included articles on Learning Lines; Costume fitting, and Stage Manager's essential toolbox and how to get the most out of your director, as well as the regular round-ups from Regions celebrating members' long service, exceptional performances and up-coming events.

## Website

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 scripts, and other items. The website also offers the facility to book online for the NODA Summer School, and to join or renew membership of the Association.

The website had 274,552 visits in 2015 compared with 252,711 in 2014 (207,552 visitors in 2013, 167,518 in 2012, 163,408 in 2011, 110,783 in 2010 and 123,093 in 2009). Number of individual visitors was 167,651 compared with 154,498 in 2014.

## Programme and poster competition

Each region held its own programme and poster competitions, the winning entries going forward to the national competition. The national awards ceremony was held at the National AGM in September.

## Fundraising

There were no national fundraising initiatives this year.

## Finance report

The Consolidated Accounts (audited by MHA MacIntyre Hudson) are prepared to conform to SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) as required by the Charity Commissioners.

The audited accounts were accepted by Council at their meeting on 28th April 2016 and copies are available on request from Peterborough Head Office.

We are reporting an operating loss in the year ended 31st December 2015 of £86,745 (2014 £69,246) plus a loss on revaluation of investments of £18,627 (2014 gain of £29,603) gave a total loss of £105,372 (2014 £39,643).

Profit from NODA Ltd increased to £80,524 in 2015 compared with £71,022 in 2014, a 13% increase, which is donated via gift aid to NODA (the charity).

- ★ Trading subsidiary (NODA Ltd). As stated above the profit from NODA Ltd increased by 13% compared to 2014; although sales income was down by £3,500 on the previous year.
- ★ Insurance commission of £138,051 received in 2015 included a profit share element of £25,700 indicating that the campaign (in cooperation with NODA Insurance) to promote safe working in Amateur Theatre could be having a positive effect.
- ★ Investment income. This was down this year (£32,835) compared to 2014 (£36,913) mainly because we withdrew some funds to support activities.

- ★ National Conference. In 2015, the net cost of the conference was £17,302 compared with a deficit of £27,020 in 2014 after the format was changed significantly.
- ★ Regional Conferences/Events. This category includes regional conferences; regional workshops and district meetings. The overall net cost of Regional events was £39,590 compared with £75,147 in 2014 with over 4,000 members giving their support.
- ★ Summer School. The net cost of Summer School amounted to £24,004 (£20,735, 2014) being bursary support and allocated administration costs.
- ★ Publishing. Print and electronic newsletters and magazines spend has increased to £56,068 compared to £42,588 in 2014.
- ★ Governance Costs have reduced to £52,886 from £75,546 in 2014.

This Annual Review 2015 financial pages “Summary consolidated statement of financial activities” and the “Summary balance sheet” are extracted from NODA Consolidated Accounts, which will be available on the NODA website ([www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)).

Council is therefore reporting at the end of 2015 that the net worth of NODA, your Association, was £815,521 and Council recommend the adoption of these accounts at the AGM on September 24th 2016.

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

## Reference and administrative details for the year ended 31 December 2015

Trustees			
Chris Ingram (from 26 Sept 2015)	<i>President</i>	<b>Regional Councillors</b>	
John Barnes (to 26 Sept 2015)	<i>President</i>	Don McKay	East
Michael Hastilow (from 26 Sept 2015)	<i>Vice-President</i>	Nanette Lovell	East Midlands
Chris Ingram (to 26 Sept 2015)	<i>Chairman &amp; Vice-President</i>	Jacquie Stedman	London
Fred Piggford (to 26 Sept 2015)	<i>Life Member Representative</i>	Gordon Richardson	North
Fred Piggford (from 26 Sept 2015)	<i>Chairman</i>	David Streeter	North East
Derek Grattidge	<i>Life Member Representative</i>	Christine Hunter Hughes	North West
John Barnes (from 26 Sept 2015)	<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Gordon Blackburn	Scotland
Robert Lumsden (from 26 Sept 2015)	<i>Life Member Representative</i>	Kay Rowan	South East
Robert Lumsden (to 26 Sept 2015)	<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Nick Lawrence	South West
		Derek Grattidge	Wales & Ireland
		Michael Hastilow	West Midlands
		Phil Barnett	Youth Development

Principal staff			
Anthony Gibbs (resigned 14 January 2016)	<i>Chief Executive</i>	Dale Freeman	<i>Membership Services Manager</i>
Bronwen Stanway	<i>Executive PA</i>	Antonia Gray	<i>Membership Services Assistant</i>
Sue Cuthbert	<i>Finance Officer</i>	Susannah Herzog	<i>Marketing Assistant</i>
Beverly Clarke	<i>Finance and Administrative Assistant</i>	Hazel Allerton	<i>Finance and Administrative Assistant</i>

<b>Honorary Accountant</b>	<b>Honorary Solicitor</b>	<b>Bankers</b>	<b>Solicitors</b>	<b>Auditors</b>
Vacant	Christopher Harper	Unity Trust Bank Nine Brindleyplace Birmingham B1 2HB	GRM Law 1 Bedford Row London WC1R 4BZ	MHA MacIntyre Hudson Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors 8-12 Priestgate Peterborough PE1 1JA



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Be inspired by amateur theatre

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Web: [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)

[facebook.com/NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation](https://facebook.com/NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation) | [@NODAtweets](https://twitter.com/NODAtweets) | [youtube.com/OfficialNODA](https://youtube.com/OfficialNODA)

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NODA Ltd is a registered company no. 241572, registered office 15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough PE2 7UH