

Droitwich Theatre & Arts Club LTD
Annual General Meeting – Informal Reports
2022-2023



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Chairman's Report – Anne Lane

After the “Pandemic Years” it was good to get the Theatre back to normal working practice. Possibly the social highlight of the year The Diamond Anniversary Ball was held on a beautiful warm evening in July at Droitwich Golf Club. Dressed in our finest we enjoyed an excellent meal and danced until midnight to a live band.

The financial season begins in April so it was “Charlies Aunt “ which strictly began the 22/23 season. This was reported in last year's report.

In house productions began with “Legally Blonde” directed by Mel Brown. The show was fast and upbeat appealing to our younger patrons and containing some new members in the cast, many staying with us for later productions. This show was nominated for a NODA award.

Agatha Christie resumed her place in the September play slot. Jenni Sinclair gave us “Spiders Web” set in the home of a Foreign Office diplomat it reminded us of “what a tangled web we weave when once we practice to deceive” An excellent cast took us on this wonderful journey of who did it and what's going to happen next.

During October Andrew, Laurence and Lois gave us “Broadway To Piccadilly Songs from Stage and Screen”. Designed to celebrate our Diamond Anniversary we were treated to songs from musicals that will probably never become available for the amateur stage. A popular concert and another NODA nomination.

The new year brought our annual Pantomime back in its usual spot. Cinderella was written by our own John Birchley, full of traditional characters and a highly unusual transformation scene. Directed by John and Anne with Keith and Ben in the pit and Kirsty in charge of choreography. The cast ranged in age from 8 too well over eight and Kirsty provide the “ah” factor with her baby dancers and the “wow” of her seniors. The principals and chorus worked extremely hard and produced an excellent show. Returns were excellent with 99% of tickets sold.

Whenever we have school aged children in productions we have to go through the hoops set by our Local Children's services . This means that children have to be licensed to perform. Kathryn Hooper is our Children's Officer and organises all the paperwork, she then has to organise Chaperones to look after the children during performances. We are fortunate to have a number of licensed chaperones who are members of the theatre. Thus saving us from paying outsiders.

Children's Theatre continues and proves to be as popular as ever. During the season we have welcomed some new script writers form our own membership. Glynis Smith has a rota of directors but is always happy to welcome new actors, directors and writers to her team. CT forms an important role as we introduce very small children to the theatre. If you've never been involved get in touch with Glynis, it's great fun.

It's wonderful to report that Paul Steele has got “Beginners” up and running again, their performance of “Aladdin” was wonderful the “beginners” performed well and need to be congratulated They also performed a Showcase for their parents earlier in the year and are now in rehearsal for Disney's “Frozen Jr” which will be performed before Christmas, do please support them if you can.

Great to report the Norbury Youth Theatre has also reformed. They meet on a Wednesday evening with Fiona Andrews and her team. Would you believe that already they need more men?

With our two youth sections up and running and gaining members it's good to know that we have youngsters starting their journey with The Norb.

Congratulations to Ange and her Cinema team. This last year has seen some excellent films and good audiences. I'm sure the new heating system helps. Very often the films are chosen in advance by the audience.

Every Tuesday during term time 10 ladies of a certain age take part in Rhiannon's Tap Dancing Class. These classes are tremendous fun and the ladies even put on a "showcase" for the scrabble club at the end of term. They have now embarked on a class for Modern Dance straight after tap and somehow still have the energy to natter over coffee at the end of class! If you are interested to know about these classes please get in touch with Anne.

The theatre would not function without our magnificent Backstage and Tech team. The sets they come up with are incredible and always well commented on by reviewers. No request seems to faze them. Both Sound and Lighting work their artistic flare. We always get thanks from visiting companies on the way the Backstage and Tech teams go out of their way to help them and provide the desired effects to each individual production. We are so lucky to have such a talented group of people working just for us.

You may remember that last year I reported that our Tech team had been involved with a lighting scheme at Christopher Whitehead School in Worcester. In recent months because of the work introduced by our team the school has been a grant to upgrade the rest of their theatre facilities.

The Social committee have introduced "Open Mic Night" which is proving extremely popular and attracting new members to the theatre. These evenings are great fun and encourage folk to just get up and have a go. As well as vocalists we have enjoyed performances by instrumentalists and poets. Are there any magicians out there? There have also been two quiz nights again well attended and great fun, except the music played backwards round!! Look out for details of more Social Date nights in the report from the social committee. Its great way to get to know other members of The Norb Family.

The new Marketing Team have moved us into the 21st Century and introduced TiK Tok to their arsenal for promoting productions. These work alongside the more traditional methods. Facebook is extremely useful and of course email. The brochure is still produced three times a year but is no longer posted to individuals unless they request us to do so but it can now be viewed online. This saves us a fortune in postage and printing and we are doing our bit in saving the planet. The team are always looking for new ways to promote our productions.

The theatre is well represented at town events. However, we always need people to come along to the festivals to hand out promotional material and speak to the public about our little theatre in the heart of Droitwich. You meet some fascinating people, it's great fun. Please sign up for a shift you can.

The theatre still provides costumed characters for the Town Walks but once again we could do with more volunteers if you are interested please have a word with Anne.

Kirsty Purvis manages our FOH rotas with amazing efficiency, John Birchley is FOH Manager and Alan Lane runs the bar. Until recently the box office was run by Keith Slaughter. Sadly Keith passed away earlier in the year and the box office team are struggling to keep the box office open. There have been times this year when volunteers have cancelled holiday and social plans to cover duties FOH this shouldn't be necessary. WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS. Can YOU HELP?

This year we have welcomed more dance schools than ever and has been a delight to have them and their families. We are becoming the theatre of choice for more and more theatre companies both amateur and professional. We once again welcomed the Worcestershire One Act Play Festival for the local heat and semi-final. This is good news for us financially but puts a strain on our backstage and FOH teams, so once again WE NEED YOUR HELP.

One of the many delights this year has been to welcome students from local schools to visit the theatre. Chawson First School brought a group to experience a theatre, many of the children had never been to one. They had a tour around, had “a go” on stage and learned both a song and a dance. There was a slightly different experience for children for St. Joseph’s first school when they used our facilities to see a Christmas film, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the ice cream bought by the school. New College Worcester brought along a few students studying for their GCSE “Theatre Studies” exams. The students were all visually impaired so this was a new experience for our “Tour Guides”. The guides were invited to join the audience at the college’s end of term production of “James and the Giant Peach”

The Scrabble Club continue to meet on Tuesdays and the U3A on a Monday once a month . There have, however, been challenges with the building this year, Graeme’s report will give you a brief run down. However, I would like to acknowledge the time and dedication Graeme has devoted to sorting out the problems.

The theatre has been represented at Civil Services for both Worcestershire and Wychavon Councils.

Polo Shirts are still available to order and we will be introducing Norbury Hoodies very shortly. Order forms are available in the foyer.

Over the past year Theatre Council have welcomed Gordon Lush as our new Company Secretary and Ann Waters as Theatre Council Minute Secretary.

It’s always nice to report Theatre Success and this year we have once again had great success at The NODA presentations. Productions nominated for awards were “Snow White”, “Legally Blonde” and The Jubilee Concert. Programmes nominated were for “Charlie’s Aunt”, “Legally Blonde” and “A Bunch of Amateurs”. “Snow White” won Best Pantomime . The programme for Charlie’s Aunt won the best basic programme cup and the one for “Legally Blonde” won best programme and will now go forward to the national final at the NODA conference later in the year.

The cups are on display in the old sweet kiosk. Congratulations to all involved in the shows nominated and also to Miles who produces our art work and programmes.

All in all another busy, successful and enjoyable year. My thanks to the members of Theatre Council for their support and hard work, we have had many challenges this year but got through them by working together.

Front of House – John Birchley

Since September 2022 we have managed to staff all scheduled events but this has too often involved very late pleas to fill gaps or involved stewards doubling up on duties. We no longer ask for volunteers to staff the sweet kiosk, these are sold on the coffee bar. Almost every time I go to the wholesalers something has gone up in price.

According to my calculations round about fifty members have stewarded this year and ten of these have also Duty Managed. After consultation we recently removed more than thirty names from the weekly email list. These were people who had either never volunteered FoH or had not volunteered since the pandemic. A number of new stewards have also come forward. Either Anne Lane or I will usually speak to the cast of large productions to encourage them to volunteer as stewards, this has met with some success. We need to keep adding to the list as large cast productions often include Front of House volunteers on stage, no-one can be in two places at the same time. We constantly need Front of House staff as without them we risk not being able to keep our audiences safe. An appeal to add to the list of Duty Managers had encouraged four potential DMs to come forward, one of whom has already shadowed a DM.

Although I inform St John's of all our events up to three months in advance they have not always been able to provide cover; they too are struggling for volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered FoH. I am grateful again for the invaluable help of Kirsty Purvis with the rotas with weekly emails and posting on the Facebook group and gentle reminders about any gaps we need to fill.

On a final, sadder note this year we have lost Stuart Sowton who Duty Managed as only he could and Keith Slaughter who quietly went about things in the Box Office. We miss both these gentlemen and the contribution they made to the Norbury.

Marketing – Sandra Luff

This year we formed a new marketing team to undertake the enormous role of promoting our theatre. It has been a year of fusing both new and old marketing ideas, with lots more we would like to explore.

We have worked on a new process to help each show receive the same level of publicity. We have allocated a person from the marketing team to work with each director and plan out how best to market the show, using the different methods of communication including both traditional and new. We have established a Norbury TikTok profile, with varying degrees of success.

We did an advertising campaign which contributed to the best-selling pantomime on record (99% sold)

We have been able to implement a plan for children's theatre, which is consistent and enables the next show to be advertised as the audience is leaving.

We decided to move from 2 to 3 brochures this year, Jan – April, April – September, September to December, which the marketing team have produced and enabled the distribution of.

We have been liaising with suppliers to reduce the amount of waste produced by promotion materials.

We have had a presence at local events where possible, Christmas light turning on in Droitwich, Worcester Carnival with more planned for later in the year.

This year has mainly been groundwork, building foundations on which to build on, learning and developing and we believe that with the great team we have now and hopefully some more members to help, we should be able to achieve an even better result moving forward.

Our future plans include :-

- Website re-design
- Establish an electronic Norbury Newsletter
- Expansion of the Marketing Team

So, if you are interested in joining our happy team, please let us know, we would love to hear from you, just email marketing@norburytheatre.onmicrosoft.com

It's going to be exciting!

Many thanks go to all members of the team who have made this possible and the members of the theatre who helped by sharing our Facebook posts, gave out leaflets, put up posters etc.

Diary and Outside Hires – Ben Thompson

This AGM marks my first time reporting on this area of our theatre, having taken on the role of coordinating our outside hires last September. It's a role I've really enjoyed, mainly because it allows me to be constantly reminded of the great facility that we are so lucky to be able to offer out to other societies, and our excellent team of volunteers that come with it. Reporting just on the period from September 2022 to the financial year end, we welcomed around 10 external productions to our stage, ranging from one-night-only tribute acts in the case of the highly-successful Abba Sensation (already booked for next year), to dance schools, youth theatres and am-dram societies very similar to our own.

Looking ahead from March 2023 to March 2024 we continue to welcome the familiar groups and societies back to our stage that have come to call the Norbury 'home'. We are also looking forward to working with some new groups, including Showtime Dance Academy, the Neil Coley Big Band, Starbuck Theatre, Nuworks Theatre and Astwood Bank Operatic Society (ABOS). Being able to supplement our own programme with pieces from our visiting companies adds colour and variety for our members and, crucially, attracts new visitors and performers to us.

I've spent considerable time this year working with Theatre Council to streamline and standardise our fees and booking process in an attempt to make things as straightforward as possible for both ourselves and our hirers. There's still some work to be done here, but feedback so far has been positive. Our hire fees have seen a slight increase – a reflection of rising costs – but we are still highly competitive and more affordable than many other performance venues in our market. The accounts show that hire of our venue raised an income of £40,000 last financial year. That's a significant number, which allows us to invest in our building and our facilities and also allows us to take some risk with our own productions without wondering if we will still be here next year if they don't perform as well as forecast financially. Our building is a big responsibility but a fantastic asset.

Hiring out the theatre would not be possible without a lot of help from our fantastic team of volunteers, with main focus on our FOH and backstage teams. The majority of their time actually goes into supporting our outside hires, not our own productions, and it's important to find the right balance between making maximum use of our venue without overstretching our volunteers.

This year we've welcomed Jess Dutton into the role of Internal Diary coordinator. In this role, working closely with Stage Committee, Jess is responsible for scheduling our internal productions and all of their associated rehearsals. I'm grateful to Jess for her help

As a society we are so privileged to have our theatre. Those of us who have been involved with the Norbury for a long time will sometimes criticise it – myself included! 'The pit is too small, the ceiling is too low, the stage is too deep, the seats are uncomfortable...' – we've all said it. But, going back to how I opened – being in this role and working with people who don't see it day in, day out, and who often don't have their own performance venue, you get to see how much they would love to have what we have and what we are able to offer as a tool to help other societies develop and flourish.

Social – Sandra Luff

This year we have trialled a series of new Social events, including Open Mic Nights and Quizzes. We saw over 40 members attend both the Christmas quiz and the Summer Quiz with 'The Young Ones' crowned as our winners. The Open Mic Nights have been an overwhelming success and proven to be popular with members and non-members alike; We have had comedians, poets, singers and instrumentalists, all showcasing the talent that the Norbury has to offer.

We still have one more Open Mic Night planned for the year on 22nd of July and we welcome all members and friends to take part or just come and watch. The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who has attend our social events this year and made them such a welcoming environment. We would also like to thank Ben Thompson and Anthony Hunt for ensuring the tech for the Open mic nights run without a hitch.

Moving forward, The Socials Committee have devised a list of Social Dates so that you can put them in your diary nice and early. they are as below:

- 19th August 2023 7:30pm, Sing along with Ben Thompson at the piano
- 16th September 2023 7:30pm, The Norbury Wardrobe Showcase. Our wonderful wardrobe team have put together a Catwalk showcase with our members as the models, so you can all see what the Norbury Wardrobe has to offer. Did you know you can hire costume from us for a special event or another production?
- 4th November 2023 7:30pm, Open Mic Night
- 2nd December 2023 7:45pm, Christmas Quiz Run by 'The Young Ones'
- 3rd February 2024 7:30pm, Sing along film (TBC awaiting licencing information)
- 9th March 2024 7:30pm, Open Nic Night, Parts I Will Never Play. An Open Mic Night with a Theme. It must be a piece either spoken or sung from a show that you will never be able to play that part. E.g. A female singing a traditionally male song or singing a child's song when you are 40, or a character of a different ethnicity.
- 27th April 2024 7:30 pm, Summer Quiz (Writers will be the winner of the Christmas Quiz)
- 15th June 2024 Lido Park. Picnic in the Park and Treasure Hunt. We will be having a Treasure/ Scavenger hunt in the Lido-park followed by a big picnic which is appropriate for all ages.
- 20th July 2024. End of Season Party. Details to be confirmed closer to the time.

Once again, a big thank you to our members for getting involved and making this such a successful year for Socials here is onwards and upwards.

Stage Committee – Emma Waters

I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who has supported me during my first year running stage committee; the Stage Committee was completely overhauled with new members in November 2022, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the members of the Stage committee for their hard work and dedication.

We started off this season back in September 2022 with 'Spiders Webb' an exciting Agatha Christie classic, directed by Jenny Sinclair. A wonderful performance by all involved but a special mention must go to Hugh Raymer for stepping in last minute to perform not only his role, but fulfil another person's role, seamlessly.

In October we concluded our 60th Anniversary celebrations with a bang with the concert 'Broadway to Piccadilly, Songs from the Stage'. Directed by Andy Brown, with music by Laurence Nicholas and choreography by Lois Press. The concert saw members young and old, take to the stage for a musical mix up of songs. From high energetic numbers such as 'A Musical' to slow, emotional ballads, chocked full of harmonies namely 'You Will Be Found'. The concert proved to be a success and once again, highlight the talent that we have at The Norbury Theatre.

Beginners on Stage performed in their rendition of 'Aladdin Jnr' in November 2022. Anyone that saw the show can agree we have some magnificent rising stars. I would also like to give a big thank you to Paul Steel and Grace Duggan for leading the Beginners and all of the chaperones who made this possible.

Next up was Panto: (On no it wasn't, Oh yes it was!). We welcomed back the dynamic duo of John Birchley and Anne Lane to direct Cinderella, written by John. The production team was finished by Keith Lewis and Kirsty Purvis who were Musical Director and Choreographer. With panto regulars and new members alike, it was a show full of fun, dancing and even a proposal. If the audiences leaving excited and happy and asking if they can book for next year's panto weren't enough, this was also our highest selling pantomime yet at 99%. Great job all around!

So, with all the above, what's next I hear you ask?

We begin the autumn season in September in the Skylight Room with 'PM.COM' a Comedy written by David Robertson. A truly funny play about what might happen if the everyday man decided to run for Prime Minister. The cast are already working hard and underway with rehearsals.

For our musical in October, we welcome 'Oklahoma' by Rogers and Hammerstein. With Jimmy Hill directing, Emma Waters taking care of choreography and Laurence Nicholas as musical director. The cast are already well underway with rehearsals and working incredibly hard; publicity has also started with a performance at Worcester Carnival. With a cast of 35, this show will have you laughing and crying and is not one to be missed.

Following Oklahoma, The Norbury hosts a classic, 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo, directed by Julie Fischer. A moving story in which a young soldier, 'Tommo' looks back on his brother's death during World War One. With some already creative ideas flowing for this the Auditions take place on the 23rd July so if you want to get involved, please speak to Julie. On 2nd December 2023, our Beginners on Stage superstars are back and looking forward to performing Disney's Frozen Jr. With the show already cast and the children having performed at the Worcester Carnival, it looks to be a truly incredible show.

We then move on to our January pantomime, 'Sleeping Beauty' which has written and being directed by Fiona Andrews alongside Ben Thompson as musical director and Kirsty Purvis as choreographer. By the time this report is read, the production will be cast and they will begin the pantomime journey in September. Good Luck to everyone involved.

Looking forward to 2024, we have some absolutely brilliant shows lined up:

'Little Shop of Horrors' in June 2024 – directed by Paul Steele, alongside Laurence Nicholas as musical director and Lois Press as choreographer.

'A Prescription for Murder' by Norman Robbins – directed by Jenny Sinclair.

'Calendar Girls the Musical' – directed by Anne Lane, assisted by Ann Mayor, and musical director Ben Thompson.

We are still to confirm plays for March and September 2024 but once confirmed, these productions will be communicated.

Over last year and this year we will currently have had 2 original pieces of theatre performed, 5 new directors, 1 new choreographer and 4 new assistant directors which has been wonderful to see at the Norbury. If you or anyone you know would like to pitch a musical or play for 2025 or pantomime for January 2026 please get in touch with me: e.waters@norburytheatre.onmicrosoft.com

If you would like to pitch here are the dates we are accepting pitches on:

14th November 23 - play pitches 2024/2025

12th December 23 - musical pitches 2025

12th March 24 - pantomime 2026

I'm so excited to see what the future brings and looking forward to welcoming new members to the Norbury family.

Technical – Ben Thompson

I'm pleased to say there isn't as much to report from the technical department this year as there has been in previous years. Improvements and investments that we've made in previous years have meant that we've found ourselves in a position where we've been able to have a quieter year.

We have been fortunate to welcome a number of new members to the tech team and still have some others who have yet to work on a show.

Over the next year we will be looking to identify ways in which we can invest in our sound and lighting equipment to ensure that we are able to supplement our shows as best as we can.

Anthony has worked hard to build a new lectern which automatically connects to the projector and cinema system, as well as enabling us to easily live-stream events such as information evenings. This has been well-used this year by both ourselves and the U3A. The Skylight Studio has been relaunched this year by the social committee and is now home to regular Open Mic nights. This has given us an opportunity to add a little more tech into the room in terms of sound and lighting and it really has become a great little performance space. We look forward to staging PM.Com in there later this year. We have improved our use of Ticketsource, including giving people the option of purchasing add-ons to their tickets such as programmes and drinks direct at the point of sale. We have also optimised our internal graphics to make them look clearer and more professional on the platform. Ticketsource is

now embedded directly into our own website, thus ensuring that it is always displaying our latest productions.

We have continued to develop our use of the Microsoft suite of products to help make running some of the internal management of the theatre more straightforward. We are making more use of SharePoint in a move towards becoming a bit less dependent on paper, and also to ensure that the theatre has control over who can access restricted documents such as scripts and scores, thus protecting the individuals and the theatre from falling foul of any licensing or copyright rules.

We are looking into improving the sound for cinema and have approached some specialist companies to see what they can offer. Again, we will need to raise funds for this. We have enjoyed loaning equipment to local schools for their productions, including Witton Middle School. Moving into this year we will be looking at improving the layout of the tech box to make it easier to work in and identifying what spend is needed to keep our lighting and sound rig as up-to-date as we can.

Youth Sections – Paul Steele

The Beginner's on stage have had a busy and successful year of performances and looking forward to the future. Following a reformation of the group in 2021 the children took to the stage for two sold out performances of Aladdin Jr. We had some fantastic reviews and more importantly the children enjoyed, what was for some, their first stage experience.

We then welcomed Grace Duggan to the group as a leader to assist me in the running of Beginners. Grace has been an invaluable asset to the group and the children and I have really enjoyed having her on board.

In May 2023 we re-instated the annual 'Beginners showcase' so all the children had an opportunity to show off whichever talent they wanted to (within reason!). This was ran as a private show for families of the group with 2 complimentary tickets and a small charge for additional tickets to cover the costs of the show. The extra money made is to be added to the allocated youth fund. All the children got involved and the show was a great success.

Following the showcase we recruited for new members as a few members decided to move on to other projects. We welcomed some new members following this and we held auditions for our next show, Frozen Jr. to be performed in December 2023. This show has now been fully cast and we have begun rehearsals. We have welcomed Rebecca Fearnley, Alison Chorley, Ellen Fearnley and Lois Press to the team for this production and I would like to thank them for their time and efforts so far. Our two Elsa's and some of our children went to the Worcester Carnival on the 1st of July to perform 'Let it Go'. We received some great feedback from attendees of the carnival and the children were pictured in the Worcester News.

The Norbury Youth group was restarted following the 2023 pantomime by Fiona Andrews assisted by Emmie Collins and I would like to thank them both for the time they have invested so far. The group is currently small in number so of any members are aware of any children/young adults age 14-18 interested in the theatre please refer them to Fiona. I have been a long to a few sessions and it has been great to see the members working on their improvisations and mimes.

Our young membership continues to grow following the COVID years and we hope to continue to help the progress of our children and solidify their interest in the arts. They are the future of the theatre and it has given me great pride to able to work with them these past years.

Norbury Bar – Alan Lane

Another good year on the bar making a profit of £4,735.

We have noticed that wholesale prices are rising and we have had to increase some of our prices over the last few months to ensure a reasonable profit. It is our intention during August to review all our prices for the coming season

Approximately 66% of our purchases are on credit cards and we also take credit cards for purchases on the tea and sweet counter, ice creams and programs, the till in the bar can then show the sale made for each item to enable monies to be allocated correctly.

The biggest problem is finding staff to help on the bar there are only 5 volunteers who help out on a regular basis and unless we get more people to help there will be times when the bar will not open for some performances

If you would like to help on the bar please contact me, training will be given.

lanedroitwich@btinternet.com

Maintenance – Graeme Sinclair

No major works have been completed within the last twelve months.

The Rehearsal Room was decorated during our shut down period last August and the Crush Lounge (between the Foyer and the Auditorium) is being decorated this August.

Our electrical system is currently undergoing it's five yearly inspection and will be brought up to date with any standards that have changed to ensure we keep up to date with current legislation.

Our next planned are of major works is the glazed pitched roofs that cover wardrobe and scene dock area to try and stop any leaks there prior to the onset of winter

As usual, over the summer close down, we will be carrying out various smaller general maintenance tasks as we do every year. If you would be able to spare some time to help with this, please let us know.

Wardrobe – Grace Duggan

Wardrobe has grown dramatically over the last 18 months since I took over as Head of Wardrobe from the amazing Jo Lush. I am very excited for the journey we are taking and how we are moving the wardrobe forward with a new lease of life.

We have currently costuming outside school productions including; Droitwich High School's Beauty and The Beast, Tudor Grange' Sixth Form Production and Witton Middle School' production of Pantastic as well as other local theatre groups in the area. This has given them the opportunity to provide their students with productions which may not have otherwise taken place due to funding. This has also in turn brought donations to the wardrobe department.

Since I took over wardrobe, our wardrobe team were able to costume the 2023 Pantomime (Cinderella) Good Night Mr Tom, 9 to 5, Aladdin JR and we continue to costume Children's Theatre each month.

Wardrobe is now becoming more and more used which really is great to see and we also have many shows in the pipeline for 2023/24 including Pantomime 2024 (Sleeping Beauty) Oklahoma and Frozen JR. This continues to grow with the support of Emma Waters who has added to all director notes that wardrobe has to be used first before hiring from external.

In July we took part in a wardrobe photoshoot with three photographers. This was a great opportunity to get some well needed photographs of the costumes we currently hold so we can start to build a catalogue for new directors of upcoming shows. We are grateful for everyone who came to assist.

My team and I are currently planning a catwalk to showcase of our current costumes and accessories from our growing wardrobe collection. This will take place on the 16th September 2023 at 7:30pm. I hope this will bring excitement to existing members and directors. If anyone would like to be involved please let me know.

Graeme is currently in liaison with Norbury House regarding the wardrobe roof due to the leaks that are have been coming through. Norbury House has currently just taken on new Management so this will be reviewed with them in due course. This does continue to be an issue we face in wardrobe which has caused clothes damage and water ingress. We hope that for 2023/24 we are able to plan to move forward with getting this fixed as an urgent matter.

I would like to give a special thank you to Alison Chorley and Rebecca Fearnley who have been assisting me with wardrobe. I feel very lucky and privileged to have built such a great and loyal group of helpers aka 'The Wardrobe Hotties!' who regularly offer to help and support and would like to personally thank each and every one of them as I would not be able to achieve all this without them.

If anyone would like to assist with wardrobe please get in touch as any support is greatly appreciated.

National Operatic & Dramatic Association (NODA) – Melanie Brown

We remain affiliated to NODA and proud of the recognition received within show reports and awards.

Our Regional Representative continues to be Chris Davies who has attended most productions over the previous 12 months. Should Chris not be available Bruce Wyatt has attended and covered the production. Andy Brown continues to be the Regional Councillor covering the West Midlands and a trustee of NODA.

The West Midlands conference, AGM and awards for 2022 took place in May at The Core Theatre. These events were attended by a small number of members from The Norbury. Other members were also present representing societies within the region. The entertainment involving a full house of society members was carried out by musical director Laurence Nicholas.

Details of nominations and award winners is available on the West Midlands home page of the NODA website.

www.noda.org.uk/regions/west-midlands

- Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs won best panto.
- Charley's Aunt and Legally Blonde programmes were both winners in two of the different classes.
- Nominated productions Legally Blonde and Broadway to Piccadilly
- Nominated programme – Aladdin Jr
- Nominated poster – A Bunch of Amateurs

The date of the 2024 event will be announced by the end of the month – look out for this and get it in your diary.

Last month we were pleased to welcome Nick Lawrence, the National President of NODA to a performance of 'Anything Goes'. Nick's Facebook page stated:

“Supported by a smoothly efficient technical team and a detailed 30's sounding band, the cast pulled out all the stops for a fun-packed evening.”

NODA continues to publish a regular magazine NODA Today. This can be read online including a recent article written by John Birchley. This publication and other are available online.

