



Frodsham Players AGM 2024 Chairman's Report

2023 proved to be another exceptional year for Frodsham Players artistically, financially and socially. Three high quality productions, all of different genre, were delivered by 3 different directors. Each production had exceptional audience numbers, with "sold out" notices being posted on a regular basis. A total of 1002 people attended the three productions over the year - a truly exceptional figure. Each production also received nominations from either CTG or NODA which is testimony to the hard work of the directors, cast and crew. It is only fitting that you have been recognised in such a way. The benefits of membership of CTG & NODA cannot be underestimated and the fact that we are now being nominated for, and winning, awards is, I believe, leading to a greater number of people wanting to join us. This year we have attracted new acting and production members and I extend a warm welcome to you all.

Working with different directors also provided valuable learning points which we can use for future productions. With this in mind, the committee are working on a "terms of reference" document detailing key information for guest directors. We are also in the process of updating our child protection policy to ensure that we operate to the most recent guidelines.

Unfortunately we continue to have issues when rehearsing & performing at the Community Centre, most of which arise due to the fact that this is a shared space. As a committee we continue to strive for a resolution to these problems.

Financially, the year was very successful and resulted in a significant surplus being generated, despite a modest loss on "Great Expectations". It is important that we continue to generate a year-on-year surplus and we must remain focussed on costs at all times. Significant efforts have been made to reduce the costs of rehearsal space and are thankful that the Guide HQ and Castle Park Arts Centre for their help with this.

The decision to both increase ticket prices and no longer absorb the booking charges associated with Ticketsource also made a significant contribution to the surplus.

We have also received a grant allocation from CWAC and are extremely grateful to Cllr Mike Garvey for his support.

As a group, we continued to network with and support other societies. Thanks are due to Harlequins, Chester Little Theatre and Ashton Hayes for their assistance with costumes, props and equipment over the last year. We continue to support Helsby Players with the loan of equipment for their productions. We also provided lighting equipment & technical support to a jazz evening at the Parish Hall.

Socially, we have had an excellent year with regular quizzes, play readings, theatre visits and an excellent Christmas Lunch at Kash 22. It is also excellent that members are gathering after rehearsals on a regular basis.

The year was, of course, tinged with sadness as we lost our Honorary President and long-time member Gill Burd. A long-term member with over 40 appearances to her name, Gill will be remembered fondly and deeply missed by all who met her.

It is important that we remember that one of the aims of Frodsham Players is to provide a safe space for experienced actors and newcomers alike. We take pride in seeing people develop in our safe space and we provide support to all our members. This is an essential part of our activities and we should be proud of what we do. We must also ensure that we continue to do this.

We look forward to the year ahead with three very different productions: "Accidental Death of an Anarchist", "The Three Musketeers" and "Holmes and the Ripper." Good luck to all involved. Looking further ahead, we are excited at the prospect of reprising "Breaking the Code" at Theatre Clywd in 2025.



Finally, I would like to thank the officers and members of the committee for their hard work and support again this year. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

Ian Lancaster
28 February 2024.