



Chairman's Report 2023 AGM

2023 has been a very busy and successful year for the Players:

We staged 3 Productions staged in 3 consecutive months:

- Camp Theatre's *Murdered to Death* in October
- Ian A'Court's *A Little Box of Oblivion* in November
- Stella Stothart's *It's A Christmas Cracker* in December

It was an exhausting time for the committee with a couple of us also taking part on stage.

All performances were very well received and all helped top up the Players' piggy bank

In addition we also ran the BBQ at the Regatta which, as many of you know is our biggest income generator. Many thanks go to Jill and Tony Hulatt for organising and managing the running of the BBQ on our behalf. It was a demanding, fun and rewarding occasion.

It should also be noted that through our endeavours we have now increased our mailing list to over one hundred recipients who are happy to receive our notices on anything Ditsum Players.

As funds come in they also go out - and we remain focused on the fact that it isn't about profit it's about providing great entertainment for all involved whilst maintaining sufficient funds to stage the next production.

At the tail end of the year we had to replace our sound console, which had finally given up the ghost. *Thanks to John Stothart with sourcing a new replacement.*

In our endeavours to comply with health and Safety we had the stage lighting inspected. A fault on the cabling was rectified but it was also identified that two of the spotlights will need replacing.

And we are very proud this year to have made donations to Dartmouth Caring and Dartmouth Food Bank.

Looking Forward:

Camp Theatre will be returning in the autumn. There will be another Christmas Cracker in December and then early in the New Year Inka Gabriel is looking to stage a grown up's panto.

Election of Committee

Gail, Stella and I will not be standing for election to the next committee. At this point we would be asking for nominations to form a new committee however, before doing so we want to give you a choice on the best way forward for Ditsum Players.

The Players has of course been built on the backbone and passion of Industry professionals in drama and the arts. I'm thinking about the likes of Ron Travers, Pat and Paul Heighway, Paul Vincent, John Stothart, Jon Pusey, Linda Cookson, Paul Riley and others.

Sadly some of those individuals are no longer with us and those that are have understandably stepped back from their involvement. (They've served their sentence but are still on parole)

As a consequence staging a major production is now that much more difficult. A major production invariably needs the experience of a Director. This is reflected in the fact that almost all of our recent productions have been 'party piece' type performances or through travelling theatre – they're quite simply easier to put on and have great appeal.

Going forward 'if' a big production is to take place we think the way they are organised would need to change.

In my email issued to all on March 4th I referred to the changes in the village demographics; ageing profile, permanent residence and lifestyle changes. These changes have made it increasingly time consuming and difficult for the committee to attract active involvement, particularly with behind the scenes requirements. We have made a number of appeals for support but to little avail.

As an alternative formula that the committee believes to be more sustainable and to help ensure the perpetuity of the Players we have come up with a new operational structure - in tune with the circumstances already detailed. Replacing the committee would be a Facilitations Team in which Gail, Stella and I would be happy to be nominated. (Refers to FT Operational Framework)

Essentially the new structure aims to spread the high workload associated with staging a production between the organisers of a play and the new facilitation team.

The Key components would be;

- Book keeping and financing of a production
- The allocation of profit
- The use of the database for mailing purposes
- The maintenance of the website and archive of productions
- Allocation of task responsibility in staging a performance

So, now it's time to deal with the business of deciding the best route forward :- A new committee or the facilitation team.

As we are still governed by the constitution let's start by asking if there are any nominations to form a replacement committee?

Thank you for coming this evening and your continued support.



Chairman for Ditsum Players