

# The Garden Suburb Theatre

(Charity Number: 1009309)

## Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

### Charitable Purposes

Amateur theatre group promoting education and training in the theatre through producing at least five staged productions a year, including one outdoor show, as well as rehearsed and unrehearsed play readings. High involvement of local community and fund raising for local charities.

### Review of Activities

- **Past productions since last Oct**

We again almost failed to fill our October slot at the Gatehouse,) but at the last-minute Teresa Poland stepped up to direct **The Games Afoot**, a hilarious spoof with a complicated set and excellent performances. This production also ended up going to the Isle of Man for the Manx Easter Festival aof Plays nd won a number of very well deserved awards

We then followed with **Calendar Girls**, directed by Miriam Clark (ably supported by Andy Farrer and Debbie Lane) involving a huge amount of fun with a good number of roles for our very talented mature female members. I'm delighted that the show was so successful, playing to sell out performances, including an additional matinée.

Because The Phoenix was not available to hire over the season, we couldn't have our traditional juniors' slot in February, so instead we staged **The Ladykillers**, Dave Barron's first foray in direction for GST. This was a twist on the classic 1955 film starring Alec Guinness. It also had a marvellous, complex set and excellent performances and was our third comedy of the season.

We then followed in April with an incredibly sophisticated and stylish modern version of Moliere's **The Misanthrope** ably directed by our third new director of the season, Nina Meinzer, hugely enjoyable and filled with lots of young and enthusiastic new members.

Our outdoor show was a twist on **Macbeth**, directed by Sarah Overall, with the twist being a female **Macbeth** and a male "Lord" Macbeth along with other role genders swapped. Again, we had strong performances, excellent staging and really good audiences.

Compared to 21-22 it really was a very strong, season with a good variety of shows and our audiences seemed to have come back to us in their droves.

Our only hue regret over the past year is that we didn't have a full production for our juniors but huge thanks to Mary Musker for helping to fill that gap by organising the brilliant **Play in a Day** for 20 of our Juniors in July, which was much enjoyed by all who attended.

- **Social events**

- We had a great **Xmas quiz party** in December '22 organised by Colin and Teresa with a classic John Colmans' quiz and some top quality play snippets from our very talented members
- Colin also kindly organised a majestic **Spring Social** for us which had performances of a few coronation themed previous GST productions in it and we were joined by a few appreciative HGS residents as well.
- Finally, we've had our regular **Wednesday socials** running throughout the year, many thanks to Colin for organising these for us, they are very much appreciated by the regulars who attend.

- **Playreadings**

With the assistance of a grant from Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, for which we are grateful, we were able to make the two rehearsed play readings in the year free to attend and open to the general public, which led to good attendances for the two readings this year.

We also held two unrehearsed play readings in member's homes.

## **Organisation**

Day to day administration of the group is through an annually elected General Committee ("GenCom").

After all the turmoil and business of the past two Covid ridden years, it was good to be able to focus on more normal business as usual GST GenCom business through 22-23:

1. We were concerned that the change of management at the Gatehouse with John and Katie retiring at Christmas would mean that our bookings might be jeopardised but we are thrilled that Annlouise and her partner have taken over, and we continue to have an excellent working relationship with her
2. We are still very focused on recruiting, encouraging and training members to work backstage and ran a couple of training sessions:
  - Firstly, we held an **SM workshop** run by experience professional Justine in May organised by Teresa
  - This was swiftly followed by a **Sound workshop** in June, run by Dave Barron and organised by Mary Musker.

The upshot of both was that we now have a small team of people who feel more confident in these aspects and we have decided to try and put some focus on getting buddy ups for every show we do. A less scary way to learn, on the job.

3. **Website review** was a big and very successful project headed by Mary Musker and Anjali Hall throughout the year, and I'm delighted that Mary has now designed a fabulous new website for us on Squarespace which will be easy to update going forward. It looks great! It's still in test mode but we hope to launch it asap. Mary and

Anjali have recruited and trained a small team of volunteers to help update the content – massive thanks to Lynn, Fiona, David, Jo, Teresa, Saria, Adam, Mary B, Miranda and Natalie for volunteering to help.

4. **Costumes and Wig sorting** – Adam and Colin (and also Diana and Frances) have made great strides in sorting out what we have in our stores, and planning, with David, to create a photographic catalogue of what we have for use in future

## Financial Review

The headline is that last year was, financially speaking, exceptional. As well as being artistically successful, every one of the full slate of five productions made a profit thanks mainly to some excellent audience figures at the shows, certainly the first time this has been achieved in recent years.

The first was *Calendar Girls*, which for a December show made an exceptional profit of £3,729. It became clear early on that all four scheduled performances were going to sell out, so an additional matinée was arranged, which also almost sold out.

*The Ladykillers* also sold well and achieved a profit of £1,368.

*The Ganes Afoot* and *The Misanthrope* made small profits thanks to them being less expensive shows.

The other show making a large profit was *Macbeth*. The show also attracted large audiences – 625 in total and a profit of £4,468.

Overall this meant that the five shows made a combined profit of £10,012. This is an exceptional figure. The profit for a season's shows has not reached five figures before, and it is unlikely to be matched this year. We don't judge the success of a show by how much profit or loss it made. I've always thought we should aim to put on a balanced season, and shouldn't avoid plays because they are expensive to produce or will make a loss.

Turning now one page forward to the profit and loss account.

You'll see our general costs for the year – our overheads – are £5,684. This is greater than the membership subs received. And so we have to rely on reserves and profits from shows to cover this

Our income overall was £35,304 and out costs £27,658, leading to a profit for the year of £7,646 for the year, as against a loss the previous year of £4,193.

As for Outward Giving, over the year, we were able to facilitate donations of £956 to our chosen charity, North London Hospice. This came from being more assiduous in rattling the collecting buckets at shows, particularly *Calendar Girls*, where the play chimed with this cause, and the liquidation of the 100 Club.

All this means that at the end of the year, when, once the profit has been brought to the balance sheet, our funds totalled £46,972.



**THE GARDEN SUBURB**  
**● THEATRE ●**

Charity No 1009309

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 AUGUST 2023**

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**THE GARDEN SUBURB THEATRE  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	<b>2022-23</b>		<b>2021-22</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		2,934		1,514
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash at Bank	4,223		3,797	
Cash On Deposit	38,897		33,524	
Debtors	-		-	
Front of House & Merchandising Stock	36		-	
Prepayments & accrued income	882		621	
	44,038		37,942	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors	-		-	
100 Club Prize Money	-		130	
Accruals	-		-	
	-		130	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		44,038		37,812
		<b>46,972</b>		<b>39,326</b>
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>				
As @ 1st September 2022		23,976		27,169
Costume Fund		15,350		15,350
Profit for the year		7,646		(3,193)
		<b>46,972</b>		<b>39,326</b>

I have carried out an independent examination of these Accounts and in my opinion they give a true and fair view of the financial position of The Garden Suburb Theatre as at 31st August 2023.

**A.R. Ashman**  
Independent Examiner



We declare that these Accounts are correct and have been approved by the members of The Garden Suburb Theatre.



**Miriam Clark** Chairman

**Chairman**



**Anjali Hall** Secretary

**Secretary**



**David Lane** Treasurer

**Treasurer**

**THE GARDEN SUBURB THEATRE  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

	2022-23	2021-22
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	5,562	4,928
Less: Members Ticket Sales	<u>2,904</u>	<u>2,964</u>
	2,658	1,964
Bank Interest	381	22
Easy Fundraising & Amazon Prime	177	174
Donations	185	78
Grant from HGS Trust	500	-
Third Party Costume Hire	110	50
Profit/(loss) on Activities:		
Productions	10,012	3,000
Studio Productions	(874)	31
Socials/Xmas Party	91	(316)
Old Friends with Love	-	(521)
Isle of Man Drama Festival	<u>90</u>	<u>-</u>
	9,319	2,194
<b>Total Income</b>	<u><b>13,330</b></u>	<u><b>4,482</b></u>
<b>Overhead expenditure</b>		
Fees, Subscriptions and Donations	632	407
Insurance	1,420	1,090
Printing and Stationery	-	10
AGM	95	151
Postage and Telephone	-	30
Miscellaneous	2	735
Bank Charges	61	93
Little Wood Hut Rent & Maintenance	180	542
Free Church Hall rental after allocation	2,188	2,340
Garage Costs	780	1,170
Depreciation	340	316
Costume Storage	200	791
Write back (costs from prior year)	<u>(214)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u><b>5,684</b></u>	<u><b>7,675</b></u>
<b>Profit/(loss) for the year</b>	<u><u><b>7,646</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>(3,193)</b></u></u>
<b>Outward Giving</b>		
Money collected in buckets at shows	826	-
100 Club from Balance Sheet	<u>130</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>956</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>
Less Donations to North London Hospice	<u>956</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<u><u><b>-</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>-</b></u></u>

