TOPS CHAIRMANS REPORT 2026

On Monday 18th March 2024, I inherited the position of Chairman of TOPS. This was not by any stretch a plan on the peripheral but regardless was prepared to take on the challenges ahead. We were at that time a society without a home; dwindling membership, and with next to nothing in our bank account. Therefore, the only way to move the group forward was to hit the ground running. Since that time, I have been able to secure a cheap reliable residency at the Scout Hut for our rehearsals as well as changing our rehearsal days & times to Wednesdays and Sundays to accommodate greater membership; as well as providing ongoing great productions & concerts for its members to perform in.

I'm extremely proud of the productions we have so far produced in my time as Chairman. "School of Rock" which proved to be a great money earner as well as including children and inspiring them to join us in the future, as well as our "Sherman Brothers concert" which was such a fun passion project of mine. We were then able to not only make audiences laugh but also cry in equal measure as our production of "Calendar Girls" proved, and my heartfelt thanks to Ian & Clare for their tremendous work as the creative team. With that being mentioned, I am delighted that we have been awarded BEST PROGRAMME DESIGN for Calendar Girls, which was presented at this year's NODA awards.

Our latest production of "COME FROM AWAY" will be a crowning glory moment for TOPS in my eyes. As soon as I saw the rights become available, I applied without hesitation, usually trusting my gut and not only was it an absolute privilege to be one of the first societies in the UK to be granted permission, but what a theatrical feast it was to produce and get performed by such an outrageously talented troupe! A massive thank you once again to Clare who led our onstage orchestra and cast to new vocal heights; Liane for assisting me in where to put 12 chairs on a revolve and for Annaleise in how to operate a revolve. After continuous standing ovations and fantastic reviews, it was the icing on the cake that the production would therefore be nominated for Best Musical at this Years Noda awards which we sadly did not win but nonetheless should be incredibly proud to still be recognized. Something to come away with this production was the ability to transform the Thameside Theatre stage into a totally different format to what we were used to in previous years and allowing us to think outside of the box when it comes to staging our future productions.

Moving forward, I'm absolutely thrilled that the whole group are currently enjoying the much loved and rarely done "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers". This was a decision taken by myself to produce a classic with scope for everyone to be involved in. This will be performed in June at the Thameside Theatre with rehearsals currently underway. Furthermore, to accommodate even more members in their spare time and in response to feedback, we decided to implement a change to the rehearsal times and venue on Sundays which are currently at 5pm-9pm at Abbots Hall Primary thanks to Angela Phillips for organising. This venue change is proving a great help when requiring more space to perform and moving forward should in my opinion be considered as a permanent rehearsal venue.

To date, during my 2 years as Chairman, we have got to rock out with some of the most talented young performers in Thurrock, tell the world about the amazing work of the Sherman Brothers, spread sunflower seeds of joy into the hearts of our audiences, stage an award winning musical on a 5 metre revolve, preparing to perform a classic musical consisting of a record breaking 16 men, and then if that's not enough, we'll be one of the first adult societies in the UK to let it go in Disney's Frozen the musical later in November.

I believe I achieved everything I had promised at the AGM 2 years ago and now with a healthy membership and steadily growing bank account which should see us in good stead for the future, I believe TOPS to be in a much better position than it was when I was given the role. Being Chairman for me has undoubtably been very rewarding and for those that have been on committees know just how much graft is required in keeping the ship afloat. I would like to thank all my committee and members past and present for their tireless contributions and commitment to TOPS.

With all that in mind, very much like Mary Poppins, the children are saved, the nurseries have been tidied and with a change of wind, the time is right for me to leave with my umbrella. So, it is with that, I have made the decision to step down as Chairman. On a personal level, this is the right decision for me, and I hope to have your full support in this; and to ensure a smooth transition, I will be happy to continue as acting Chairman until "SEVEN BRIDES" is over at which that time, the newly appointed chair and committee will have had enough time to prepare and officially take on the role in June ready for "Frozen".

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who makes TOPS a fun, positive, friendly, welcoming and successful society.

LUKE COLDHAM – TOPS CHAIRMAN

20-45-45 83179648	Expenditure	Income
DEFINITION		
Advertising & Printing CFA	£ 177.57	
Arts Council Subscriptions	£ 20.00	
Band payment GG	£ 1,620.00	
Band payments CFA	£ 2,205.00	
Costumes	£ 119.92	£ 119.92
Easy Fundraising 1		£ 47.50
Easy Fundraising 2		£ 46.97
Easy Fundraising 3		£ 22.92
Email domain subscription	£ 87.00	
Email domain subscription payme	£ 172.52	
Fund transfer between accounts		£ 4,500.00
Gifts	£ 48.50	
Lighting	£ 180.00	
Lloyd and Whyte committee insu	£ 325.88	
Lloyd and Whyte public liability i	£ 283.14	
Membership fees		£ 900.00
Microphone hire CG	£ 400.00	
Microphone hire CFA	£ 575.00	
Musical Directors Fees CG	£ 1,100.00	
Musical Directors Fees CFA	£ 1,300.00	
NODA subscription	£ 237.50	
Performance rights (CFA)	£ 4,356.14	
Performance rights deposit (CFA)	£ 500.00	
Performance right (SB4SB)	£ 500.00	
Performance rights (Frozen)	£ 500.00	
Programmes CG	£ 118.57	£ 303.20
Programmes CFA	£ 186.23	£ 388.31
Props	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Raffle (Tops in Time)		£ 130.00
Raffle (CG)		£ 303.21
Raffle (CFA)		£ 388.30
Repairs - plug	£ 12.49	
Repairs - keyboard	£ 37.07	
Royalties/Licensing CG	£ 3,355.20	
Set design/scenery CG	£ 384.48	
Scout Hut Hire Jan-March	£ 728.00	
Scout Hut Hire April-June	£ 1,170.00	
Scout Hut Hire July-September	£ 1,300.00	
Script fee charges (CFA)		£ 25.00
Show fees (CG)		£ 840.00
Show fees (CFA)		£ 900.00
Stage revolve - deposit	£ 630.00	
Stage revolve - final	£ 2,502.00	
Storage unit (TCP)	£ 1,120.00	
Theatre Hire CG Deposit	£ 1,432.50	
Theatre Hire CG Final payment	£ 4,669.50	
Theatre Hire TIT	£ 821.00	
Theatre Hire CFA deposit	£ 1,338.00	
Theatre Hire CFA	£ 5,220.00	
Theatre Hire SBFSB deposit	£ 1,860.76	

Ticket sales (CG)		£ 14,012.10	
Ticket sales (CFA)		£ 18,220.11	
T-Shirts (CG)	£ 310.00	£ 235.00	
T-Shirt (CFA)	£ 325.00	£ 175.00	CHECK
Tuck shop		£ 34.00	
Van hire	£ 248.00		
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	-£ 885.43		

136.78

Business Premium ME		
20-45-45 00071803		
	Expenditure	Incom
Interest		£ 30
Transfer 1	-£ 500.00	
Transfer 2	-£ 1,100.00	
Transfer 3	-£ 2,900.00	
TOTAL		
	-£ 4,500.00	£ 30

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Statement of funds held by TOPS on Stage
Registered Charity 1150139

20-45-45	**83179648**	01.01.25 12 months	31.12.25 12 months	
		£8,023.95	£7,138.52	-£885.43

20-45-45	**00071803**	01.01.25 12 months	31.12.25 12 months	
		£4,516.40	£46.93	-£4,469.47

Statement by Independent Examiner

I have examined the financial records of TOPS and hereby certify that the detials represent a true and accurate record of its affairs during the past year.

Name **Mathew Jack**



Dated **03.10.2026**