**THE ILKLEY PLAYERS CLUB**

Notice is hereby given that the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Ilkley Players Club will be held on Wednesday 22nd June 2022 in the Wildman Theatre – and also by Zoom – at 7pm. Zoom log-in details will be supplied nearer the time.

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. President’s opening remarks
3. To receive and approve the minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting
4. To receive the report of the Chair
5. To receive the Treasurer’s report (verbal)
6. To elect the officers and committee for 2022/23
7. To appoint the independent examiner for 2022/23
8. Any other business

**ILKLEY PLAYERS LIMITED**

Notice is hereby given that the 21st Annual General Meeting of Ilkley Players Limited will be held on Wednesday 22nd June 2022 in the Wildman Theatre – and also by Zoom – immediately following the AGM of the Ilkley Players Club. Zoom log-in details will be supplied nearer the time.

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. President’s opening remarks
3. To receive and approve the minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting
4. To receive the reports previously made available
5. To elect the officers and trustees and ETC committee for 2022/23
6. To appoint the independent examiner for 2022/23
7. Open Forum

**Papers included here:**

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**AGM Minutes**

**Tuesday 15th June 2021, via Zoom**

**Apologies:**

Steve Mason, Richard Speight, Julia Wilson, Janet Park, Chris Cundell, Kay Vann, Jean Carroll, Mark Simister, Gilly Rogers, Mike and Nourie, Tina and Tony Richardson, Margaret Hellewell

**Present:**

Bruce Piper, David Park, Geraldine Woodhouse, RH, Heather Cheetham, Christine Castle, Gordon Williamson, Colin Waterman, Samantha Hill, Jonty Hawkes, Cari and Phil Marston, Anne Gilmour, David Wallbank, Ian Wilson, Stephen Brown, Tim and Ann Mutton, Jay Cundell-Walker, Liz Hall, Dennis Keith, Cath Laughey, Rosie Bond, Rebecca Carter, Brenda Jones, Roger and Barbara Davy, Richard Neale, Andrew Leggott, Jo Matthews, Dick Hebbert, Stephen Brown, Vani Midgley, Justine Sowden, Ian Taylor, Jo Matthews, John Parris, Richard Babb, Maura Fisher Peake

**Welcome**

President Dick Hebbert (DH) welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded participants of Zoom etiquette to be followed. He invited us to remember Geoff Newton, who has sadly passed away this year. Geoff acted in many productions at the Playhouse and was also Treasurer.

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**Minutes from the Ilkley Players Club 39th Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes from the 38th Annual General Meeting**

These were received and approved.

Proposed: Ian Wilson

Seconded: David Wallbank

There were no matters arising

**Report from the Chair, Jonty Hawkes (JH)**

This was as circulated, with the following key points highlighted by JH:

* The bar has been closed all year
* Stock has been sold off for a small loss
* Fundraising has raised a good sum

DH stated that it is important to consider the Club as an integral part of the Playhouse, stressing the important contribution it makes, both economically and socially. Fundraising by the Club has raised £4k and our congratulations and thanks go to Jonty and his team for making this happen. The Playhouse is very grateful to them for all their hard work.

JH concluded by making an appeal for volunteers and encouraged people to step up and also encourage others to do so.

**Treasurer’s Report (verbal)**

Bruce Piper (BP) congratulated Jonty and his team for their fundraising efforts.

BP informed members that there is £19k-£20k currently in the Club account and this will be transferred to Ilkley Players Ltd in due course this year.

**Election of Committee for 2021/22**

It was proposed that the Committee remain as is:

Jonty Hawkes, David park, Lee Midgley, Chloe Walker, Sue Piper, Dennis Keith and Rosemary Howard.

This was unanimously agreed by those present.

There were no further volunteers.

**Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2021/22**

BP confirmed that an Independent Examiner is not required for the Club accounts. No further action necessary.

**Any Other Business**

None.

The meeting closed at 19:17

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**Report From The Club Committee [Bar] – June 2022**

The committee elected at the AGM in 2021 was David Park, Lee Midgley, Chloe Walker, Sue Piper, Dennis Keith, Rosemary Howard and Jonty Hawkes. At the first meeting Jonty Hawkes was elected Chairman, Sue Piper Secretary.

The year (ending March 31st) was once again affected by Covid. Due to social distancing we had smaller audience figures when we first re-opened and even when we were allowed full auditoriums the audience figures remained low due to people’s concerns over Covid. Bar sales have however been better than we would have expected from the audience figures with a profit of nearly £9,000 from the bar and coffee bar. The card machine has helped increase sales, tight stock control has reduced ullages and careful buying for a number of products has helped ensure a good profit margin.

We have changed our soft drinks supplier to J. L. Brooks, some beers are now supplied by Ilkley Brewery and Martinez continue to supply our wines. Stock shortages have been a problem since re-opening but things are improving and on the last delivery there were just a couple of items that were not available.

We have introduced a number of new products including Amstel lager, Fever Tree tonics and Cawston Press cans. Our range of premium gins continues to prove popular, especially when combined with our ‘double up’ offer. We currently have a ‘Cactus & Lime’ gin, Slingsby’s Rhubarb gin & Aber Falls Premium gin. We will shortly have an alcohol free gin (once an optic becomes available). If there is anything you would like us to stock then please let me know.

From an environmental perspective the Club Committee took the decision this year not to stock any bar products in plastic bottles unless there is no alternative. We now recycle all cans, glass, cardboard and plastic wrap. Our plastic/acrylic glasses are all re-useable and you can take them into both our theatres.

Thank you to our bar and cafe volunteers who are doing a really good job … but we desperately need more. If you can help then please get in touch with me; we operate a “buddy” system for training and you would be fully supported in learning the ropes. If you helped before Covid but are now nervous having not done it for 2 or 3 years then get in touch and we will organise a refresher duty with an experienced person.

The Lockdown Library (now called The Monthly Book Sale) continued throughout the year and raised an additional £2,000 for the Club. Thank you to all those who supported the library either by buying or donating books. It continues to open once a month, if you would like to be included in the email circulation then please email me.

Jonty Hawkes

jonty@directsave.net

(Club Committee Chair)

**Minutes from the Ilkley Players Limited 20th Annual General Meeting**

**Apologies**

There were no further apologies to those detailed previously for the Players Club Meeting.

**President’s Opening Remarks**

The President, Dick Hebbert remarked that at last year’s Zoom AGM, we assumed that this year’s meeting would be back in the Wildman. Hopefully this will be the last time the AGM is held on Zoom, but it is worth bearing in mind, when organising future meetings, that there are some advantages to the online format – namely that some members who may not be able to attend in person are given access to the proceedings.

It has been a difficult year and, whilst we are in the fortunate position of being relatively financially secure, we have a future challenge of bringing audiences and so revenue in.

It has been a year of constant readjustment – especially for Jay and Justine, who have risen to the challenge and we now have a summer programme of plays and a full season start planned for September.

We should take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked so hard, with dedication and enthusiasm, to keep things on track:

Becky Carter (Publicity), Andrew Leggott and Lisa Debney (Green Room), Richard Speight and Andrew Wallbank (Technical), Sasha and Rosie (Wardrobe and LTG) – and Sam Hill and Chris Cundell who, off their own initiative, have worked hard on fundraising - with Chris also contributing greatly to decorating the Playhouse.

Special thanks to those “in the front line”:

Jay Cundell-Walker, who has produced and managed an ever-changing artistic programme.

Justine Sowden, who has worked alongside Jay, as well as dealing with the complexities of staff furlough and theatre bookings.

Bruce Piper, who has taken our worst fears of the Theatre running out of money, procured grants and kept us on a sound financial footing.

We owe a great debt to them all.

In a time of adversity, the theatre has brought us all together and everyone has demonstrated a wonderful spirit – thank you all.

Special thanks and mention to Sheila Morgan, who has moved back to Wales to be near her son. Sheila manned the Box Office for many years – of which she was a “strict mistress”! We are very grateful for all the work she did for the Playhouse. This includes working hard to train in the skills required for her to become a stalwart of the Working Party. We send her our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

A special thank you and mention also to David Park who is stepping down as Chair of Trustees. David originally served as Secretary and soon became the “go to man” for everything to do with the Playhouse. We will greatly miss the depth of his knowledge and his wisdom during a crisis. He was a steady hand on the tiller and an expert in the Playhouse Constitution, training, Front of House and Club Committee, to name but a few. Thank you David for all that you have done. You will be greatly missed on the Board.

David Park then stated that he would like to thank all the colleagues he has worked with on various committees, especially Justine and Bruce who are irreplaceable.

Dick Hebbert then continued to say that he has now served two and a half years as President and will now be stepping down to join the Board of Trustees. He stated that he and the Trustees are delighted that Sam Hill has agreed to step forward into the position of President and extended her a warm welcome.

This concluded the President’s Opening Remarks.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the last AGM were approved;

Proposed: Phil Marston

Seconded: Dennis Keith

There were no matters arising

**Reports**

**Artistic Director’s Report – Jay Cundell-Walker**

In addition to the written report, previously circulated, Jay said the following:

A lot has happened over the last year! We are going ahead with the 8x8x8 plays and Picnic at Hanging Rock. The 8x8x8 plays are sold out Thurs-Sat and so we are now opening on Wed. 30 tickets are on sale for each performance to allow for social distancing.

“Tuesday” is a casualty of the ongoing Covid restrictions. As an alternative, the film will be played to the cast with one parent each.

The summer programme has been devised to test the waters – to see who is coming in to watch and allow bar staff to test new guidelines for working.

Thanks to the Play Reading and Casting Committees. For the time being, there will be no re-election of officers.

We still need more volunteers! We have had a little flurry of interest recently and hope that this continues.

There were no questions

**Theatre Manager’s Report – Justine Sowden**

In addition to the written report, previously circulated, Justine made the following comments:

Despite all the challenges of the past year, the hardest thing has been not seeing everyone. We inspire each other and it is our mutual commitment and dedication that results in success.

We’ve weathered the storm but need everyone’s support now to make our re-opening plans a success, especially as there may be a hesitancy in returning for members, audiences and volunteers.

Renewals of membership have been the same as last year and we are ready to go – with September planned and booked. We are cautiously confident that we will be able to open both our theatres fully in the Autumn.

A big thank you for everyone’s loyalty, encouragement and trust.

There were no questions

**Treasurer’s Report – Bruce Piper**

In addition to the written report, previously circulated, Bruce had this to say:

Our aims over the last year have been to a) maximise state aid; b) Generate as much income as possible through fundraising; and c) minimise outgoing costs whilst retaining staff and infrastructure

We have received over £100k through grants, government aid and fundraising. With regards to the latter – we are indebted to Jonty Hawkes who has been instrumental in our fundraising efforts. We have utilised furlough and kept a tight rein on our overheads.

Of the received £54k Arts Council Grant, we have spent £35k to date but have now had approval that we may carry the balance forward for use in the first quarter of the next financial year.

We currently have £119k in the Playhouse account – with another £19k to be transferred across from the Club account.

Going forward, 3 different scenarios have been considered. Thanks to Jody Kendall, our accountant, who has been fantastic throughout.

Thanks also to Richard Neale and Janet Park for setting up and managing the 100Club, which continues to bring money in.

And thank you to members, who have donated a very generous £8k.

There were no questions

**ETC Chair’s Report – Geraldine Woodhouse**

In addition to the written report, already circulated, Geraldine spoke as follows:

Thanks to Justine, David Park and Jay for their care, enthusiasm and energy and to all the members of the ETC for making things happen.

The ETC are working towards making roles clearer to encourage people to step forward and volunteer. They are also looking at diversity to ensure that the Playhouse is equally welcoming to everyone.

Special thanks to Julie Domaille, Janet Park and Richard Neale for all their hard work.

There were no questions.

**Publicity Report – Becky Carter**

In addition to the written report previously circulated, Becky said:

We are working hard to get publicity rolling again – although we have also worked hard to publicise those activities that have been happening during lockdown.

On this note, thanks and appreciation to: Wander and Julie for tidying the prop store and Conal and Rosie for help decorating.

There were no questions.

**Secretary’s Report – Vani Midgley**

In addition to the written report already circulated, Vani commented on how the post had opened her eyes to all the hard work that happens in the background to keep the Playhouse going.

There were no questions.

**Technical Report – Richard Speight**

There was nothing to add to the report already circulated and no questions from members.

**Greenroom Report – Andrew Leggott**

In addition to the written report already circulated, Andrew commented as follows:

The Greenroom has been trying to keep participants together as much as possible over the last year. From September until May, this was done via Zoom and then sessions moved back into the Wildman but with masks and social distancing.

Last Saturday, Senior numbers were back up to 23 but only 11 Juniors were present. We need more of the latter (children aged 8 to Year 7), especially as more of the current Junior cohort will move up to Seniors in September.

“Tuesday” was rehearsed on Zoom and a film made of the production. There will be a showing of this, which will also give the 5 members of the cast who have not yet met the others in person, the opportunity to do so.

We are optimistic regarding Treasure Island going forward.

There were no questions.

**Wardrobe – Rosie Bond**

In addition to the report previously circulated, Rosie stated:

The first costume hire since Wardrobe re-opened happened last week.

Wardrobe is preparing to costume the productions currently in the pipeline.

 There were no questions

**Little Theatre Guild – Rosie Bond**

In addition to the report already circulated, Rosie raised the following point:

Our membership to the LTG has been very valuable over the last year. It has been very useful to share experiences with other organisations in a similar position and we have made good use of the information that has come through.

Dick Hebbert reiterated the value of being a member of the LTG and suggested that Rosie would be grateful of help and encouraged members to get in touch with her if they would like to get involved.

**ETC Rule Amendments**

Proposed ETC Rule Amendments were circulated to members in advance of the AGM.

Questions raised:

Ian Taylor: How can finances be managed when a production is on without a Deputy Treasurer?

Jay Cundell-Walker replied that there is tight budget for every production and that this is laid down at the pre-production meeting – and that she is very firm about holding the purse strings!

There were no further questions and the ETC Rule Amendments were passed with unanimous approval.

**Election of Officers, Trustees and ETC Committee for 2021/2022**

The current ETC committee members were listed as follows:

Artistic Director – Jay Cundell Walker

Publicity Director – Becky Carter

House Director – Richard Speight

Co-opted members – Steve Mason (Fringe) and Cath Potts (Wardobe and Fundraising), Janet Park and Julie Domaille

Club representative – Jonty Hawkes

It was agreed with unanimous approval that these members would continue in their roles – although it was noted that Jay will leave her post in 2 years’ time and it would be wise to begin considering candidates to replace her as Artistic Director.

The current Trustees were listed as follows:

Richard Hebbert, Vani Midgley (Secretary), Felicity Woodhouse, Colin Waterman, Bruce Piper (Treasurer), David Wallbank.

All trustees, with the exception of Bruce Piper will roll over until next year. Bruce confirmed that he was happy to stand for Treasurer for a further 2 years. This was unanimously approved.

DH proposed that Sam Hill stand as the next Ilkley Playhouse President. Sam thanked DH for his proposal and the Trustees for their endorsement. She stated that she understood that she has some rather illustrious shoes to fill and knows that all past Presidents have invested deeply in the Playhouse and care about it a great deal. She stated that, as President, she would take every opportunity to gather feedback from all Playhouse members, work to enhance inclusivity and ensure all members feel welcome. She will also support the Playhouse’s public profile, securing financial health moving forwards.

It was unanimously agreed that she should take the post.

**Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2021/2022**

David Collier was proposed and it was unanimously agreed that he would take the role.

**Open Forum / Any Other Business**

Sam Hill informed members that the ETC has been doing some work investigating cost savings. One big outgoing cost is the cost of posting programmes out. In a poll of 25 members, 23 stated that they would be happy to collect their programme from the Playhouse. She enquired what those members present at the AGM thought about this idea.

Roger Davy responded that, whilst stuffing actually provides a nice social outlet for members, he was sure that the stuffing team would understand the benefits of programme collection and that their help would only be required in a limited capacity going forwards.

Maura suggested that the programmes to be collected be placed in the front lobby so that members do not have to ring the bell.

Ian Wilson stated that the AGM provides the opportunity for members to approve the actions of the committees – and suggested that each committee’s reports should be approved by the members by being nominated, seconded and voted upon. The Trustees and the President to look into this before next year’s AGM.

Vani Midgley informed members that the Charities Commission has raised the need for an Environmental Trustee. She requested that members consider whether they might be interested in the role.

Jay Cundell-Walker welcomed back Gordon Williamson. She stated it was great to see him back and thanked him for all the work he has done for the Playhouse in the past. She suggested that he would be a great point of contact and mentor for anyone interested in set design. Gordon thanked everyone for their support.

**Closing remarks from the outgoing President**

DH summarised that the Playhouse has survived the past 18 months in decent shape and that our new task is to meet future challenges and get back to where we were pre-Covid. He stated that we should learn from the last 18 months to consider what we can do to accommodate the “new normal”.

The meeting concluded at 20:35.

**Reports**

**Financial review 2022 – Bruce Piper, Treasurer**

The attached financial statements show the state of finances for the Playhouse. Another strange year. The Playhouse reopened in September 2021, play attendances started slowly and have still a long way to go before they reach financially secure levels. Events and lettings recovered faster and by the last quarter were operating at pre Covid levels. Overheads returned to c 90% of pre covid levels as we restarted the theatres but we were reliant upon substantial grant income once again and a tax rebate via the Theatre Tax Relief scheme to keep the Playhouse cash reserves intact.

The final balance (£6k) of the Arts Council grant which we were awarded in the previous year was received along with a £13k support from the local council via the Local Restrictions Grant and a further £6k from the covid Jobs Retention Scheme. We have now received over £130k of support over the two years through these three schemes. This has meant that the theatre has been able to restart trading with a full staff contingent after the most dramatic set of trading conditions in its history.

The Playhouse has benefited significantly this year through the successful application of a reclaim of tax credits under the Theatre Tax Relief scheme. This is a scheme which we have become progressively more aware of in recent times and through the employment of a specialist tax consultant we were able to reclaim over £40k.

Local fund raising has also contributed and the 100 Club and lock down library between them raised over £6k in the year, hopefully this will be a level of income we can rely on for the future.

Overheads, whilst still under strict scrutiny, have returned to c 90% of pre covid levels as the theatre became fully operational in September 2021. There were no exceptional items.

Thus, despite theatre performances, particularly in the Wharfeside theatre, struggling to return to pre covid levels, a profit of £14k was made in the year due to the second year of support from national /local schemes and the benefit of the theatre tax reclaim.

Cash balances have as a result actually increased by £25k in the year. Hopefully theatre audiences will soon start to return to ensure the Playhouse returns to an ongoing sound financial position.

**Artistic Director’s Report to AGM for period March 2021-March 2022**

This has genuinely been a roller coaster ride with huge successes and great disappointments. But throughout it has been characterised by hard work and determination, by great teams pulling together and with enthusiasm to get live theatre back up and running. This report needs to be read in conjunction with the play summary financial report.

We opened for business almost on the first day that we could and ran a summer Fringe season with events every two weeks. The audiences returned and we had many sell outs, albeit to socially distanced reduced audiences.

The summer Fringe programme was:

*8x8x8 Playwriting Festival* 23-26 June SOLD OUT £1122 profit

*Tuesdays – a National Theatre Connections production*. 2& 3 July with a matinee on the 3rd SOLD OUT

Picnic at Hanging Rock 6-10 July plus matinee 91% £776 profit

*The Children* 20-24 July plus matinee 88% £776 profit

*Bard in the Yard*- Macbeth and Twelfth Night August 28, 29 in the Wildman, and 30th in the Manor House. 100% £455 profit

*Flamingoland* Sept 23-2575% of a full audience £1383 profit.

*Maryland* 18&19 November 57% £412 profit (a rehearsed reading charged at £5)

All these figures were the best I had at time of writing.

Tickets in the Wildman were charged at £10- an increase from the old prices but as people happily paid this amount, we have retained the £10 price for Wildman shows into 2022.

The autumn programme opened with a very popular production of *The Hollow*. Ticket sales were good for a September show (69%). *All My Sons* was a fantastic production but Covid uncertainties led to less good ticket sales (51%) and by the time we performed *Treasure Island* there was a substantial drop off in attendance (41%)

Sadly, *Frost Nixon* came at the absolute height of a new wave/ variant and it was actors who were anxious about mixing. As a result, this production was cancelled and our long-term plans meant we were unable to reschedule it in the foreseeable future.

I was very fortunate that the play I directed in February *Here I Belong*, did make it to fruition. It was very well received with some sell out nights, and two socially distanced performances offered. This play was entered into the Wharfedale Festival. (81%) £1952 profit. The financial year was rounded off by *Hound of the Baskervilles* back in the Wildman*.* There was improved attendance for this fantastic, whacky production which absolutely hit the spot for audiences needing a break from illness and war. We did offer one socially distanced performance for this play but from that date we have returned to offering full capacity. Attendance was 62% and final profit £5565.

Massive thanks go to all the directors, actors and crews who have battled on despite such difficult times. It is sometimes so draining to be rehearsing without a full team due to isolation and everyone has kept remarkably cheerful. My personal thanks go to Janet Park who, against all odds, continues to come up with a backstage team for all our plays. Fortunately, the tech team is growing slowly so that is very good news. They can now share the burden and as Richard steps back there are several skilled people to take on this role. Also, thanks to Sacha, Kath and Cathy who deal with so many of the costumes over the season. Obviously massive thanks also to the office staff, the front of house volunteers, bar staff, working party and the sewing room pixies who chat away while undertaking essential alterations and doing the endless ironing.

We have a confirmed spot for Minack in July 2023 which is good news and a great financial boost for the Players coffers, but this trip is turning into a very expensive one now for those of us who go. And the changing financial climate is affecting some of our actors, many of whom are thinking carefully before deciding whether to commit to a long commute. The world is a new one, which we have to accept and many actors move from group to group, cherry picking the parts. This is where we are; in a competitive world and this year in particular, many groups have cast earlier than us and we are now left throwing our net wider and wider in order to attract good casts for our plays. The challenges go on. Fortunately for the 2022-23 season we have a number of new directors, giving us an excellent shot in the arm of new talent.

But the biggest challenge for us in 2022-3 is reviving the audience numbers. Covid, lockdown and isolation have had many different impacts, but in Ilkley it has definitely affected our traditional Wharfeside audience. There have been lots of new faces attending, which is great, and lots of new people coming to the Wildman for plays and events, but without that local audience we won’t be seeing the HOUSE FULL signs that we need in order to balance our books. And I won’t even mention the rising costs of heating. So again, the same old plea. Please come to the plays- try a season ticket. Tell your friends. Give every play a chance, you never know what you will enjoy until you see it. Support your local Arts. You know what they say. Use it or lose it!

And on that note, why not join our play reading or casting committees, or even both. We are looking for new names TONIGHT after which I will be putting together the new committees.

And finally, a quick reminder that I am now approaching my final year as AD. I will step down in September 2023. If you want to be the new AD, just come and chat. If you want to suggest someone, then please let me or any of the committee know. We will need nominations by this time next year at the AGM. But if anyone wants to work with me before then, just let me know.

Thanks so much for all your support. Jay

**Theatre Manager Report – AGM (financial year 2021-2022)**

At last year’s AGM, we were reflecting on the impact of our closure due to the pandemic and preparing to reopen our doors after an incredibly difficult period. This year has not been without its constant challenges but thanks to our determination and a whole team effort, we succeeded in reopening our wonderful theatre as soon as government guidance allowed. Looking back, it is quite remarkable how much we have achieved; how much we have packed into our calendar to create the momentum needed to make our theatre lively and bustling once more.

We came back bold and brave. Trailblazing, along with other Little Theatre Guild members who made the decision to reopen…Many theatres remained closed until September. We worked very hard to ensure that our safety precautions and numerous covid risk assessments were in place to welcome back our members and patrons to socially distanced performances from June in the Wildman Studio. The results were rewarding with our *8x8x8s* proving a huge success with sold out performances and an extra night added, and together with *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *The Children* and *Bard in the Yard* we were off to a great start… Special thanks to Jay Cundell Walker, our Artistic Director.

From September, restrictions were lifted, and we were able to offer a full season in the Wharfeside Theatre and Wildman Studio. We were all buoyed by the attendance for *The Hollow*. However, by December we were feeling the effects of a new covid variant, and reluctantly *Frost/Nixon* was cancelled.

It has continued to be a bumpy year with several setbacks due to covid, and unpredictable play attendance. Like all theatres, we have seen changes in audience purchasing patterns, particularly for our Wharfeside productions. New habits have formed, audiences prefer to wait until nearer a production rather than commit in advance. Patrons have been more confident in returning, whilst members have been slower.

But despite the difficulties, we have succeeded in delivering an entertaining arts programme within a welcoming atmosphere of which we should be very proud, especially under such exceptional circumstances. Our achievements are due to the outstanding teamwork across all areas of the Playhouse. Everyone has pulled together: members, volunteers, trustees, and staff. Thank you to every single person who has contributed in some way this year.

**Events and Hires**

Over the last five years, I have developed our audience profile by offering dynamic programming of high-quality events across theatre, film, music, dance, comedy, poetry, presentations, and festivals. We have become one of the only regular music venues in Ilkley. Keen to get back to where we left off before lockdown, I scheduled as much as possible around our own productions and it paid off…

We have seen consistently well attended events in the Wildman Studio, particularly music gigs which have regularly sold out. This is a notable achievement in a year when we had less events due to only six months of trading in the financial year, several events were cancelled due to the coronavirus and there was no income from the Ilkley Literature Festival. As disappointing as the cancellations were, we remained resilient, picked ourselves up and kept going, and the last quarter saw us operating at pre pandemic levels.

Some highlights from the year include several music events. Chris Bannister kicked off the season with his exceptional performance of John Denver songs – he brought with him a new audience, and was quickly followed by Fire and Rain, Laurel Canyon Union, and Soul Train’s sensational sell out show. The Art of Simon and The Rob Dylan Band kindly donated a large portion of their takings to the Playhouse as a contribution to the tough time we had faced and to thank us for all our hard work in bringing back live events.

I have welcomed several new bands to the Wildman: Jon Palmer Acoustics, Brotherhood of Troubadours featuring Baz Warne from The Stranglers, Cilla and the Swinging 60s who sold out within days of going on sale, and we are delighted to be showing the film *Flee* as part of Refugee Week 2022. Three touring theatre companies performed plays which attracted brand new audiences: *Call Me Dusty* a play with music, and *The Circle of Life* sold out quickly, and *Letter to Boddah*  was an exciting collaboration with professional actors Tom Gibbons from The Archers and Dean Smith from Waterloo Road.

Perhaps the ultimate highlight for many of our members was *An Evening with Alan Titchmarsh*, our very own Patron. The Playhouse was buzzing with lots of members returning for the first time since lockdown. Special thanks to Alan for his steadfast support, and Roger Davy for helping to organise it. And to all our fantastic front of house and backstage volunteers who help to make all these events happen.

Our regular hires remained loyal and returned when their members were ready. My thanks go to the Ilkley Film Society, U3A Voyagers, U3A Environment, Vintage Fair, SS Indian Dance Academy, Skipton Building Society, Bradford Council, Outside the Box and Macmillan Cancer Support. A new Sewing Group joined us, and we hosted a Climate Action Ilkley event. Our Poetry and the Novel, and History of Art courses continued, and we held a U3A Yorkshire Day and a Castles Day, Election Polling Station days, Vintage Fairs, Stagefright Comedy Clubs to name a few, including successful private parties. Niccola Swan is kindly bringing back the Film Club. The Grove Bookshop are keen to continue with their new author event venture. And we are delighted to be welcoming back the Ilkley Literature Festival for 11 days in October. The diary is looking good!

**Community**

I am proud of our arts and cultural endeavours and our presence within the community. Once again, we worked with local learning support and dementia groups, ensuring that our programme of events included a relaxed performance of our Christmas production, *Treasure Island*. Relationships with local schools have continued with Ilkley Grammar regularly advertising our productions via their newsletters, and the presentation of our Drama prize at the Year 11 prizegiving evening.

Our Christmas Coffee morning attracted several new stallholders and received excellent support from members and the public who gathered to watch performances from our talented Greenroom students. Huge thanks to Andrew Leggott and Lisa Debney. It was great to see the return of the President’s Party - a celebration of our wonderful volunteers and staff. Next year, I would like to host an Open Evening, like the one in 2019 to showcase a variety of volunteering roles as part of our publicity drive to attract more volunteers.

I have continued to work with Outside the Box, the Manor House, Ilkley BID, Business Forum and Community Action Bradford and District. Outside the Box will be using the Wildman for a performance by their drama group of The Mad Hatter’s Tea Party in June, and we are hosting a lunchtime reception for the Ilkley Business Forum members in the new year. My relationship with SS Indian Dance Academy from Bradford has continued to grow – we have scheduled a performance in November for members and patrons; until now, their performances have been for family members only.

Many thanks to David Park and Phil Johnson who ran a well-attended fire evacuation training evening for our front of house volunteers, staff, and members. We are planning to offer a first aid and defib training course in the autumn. Thank you to Andrew Walbank who has kindly revised the Fire Evacuation Plans throughout our building. And to Richard Speight, Chris Cundell and Paul Chattwood who have provided constant support whilst we were without a Facilities Manager.

**Publicity**

We have made further improvements to our website with the addition of a Gallery page of our productions and full list of all our productions this year. Thank you to Rosie Bond for providing this historical list. Thanks to Becky Carter who has kindly continued to write her wonderful reviews for our plays. Photography is running smoothly under Carol Butler’s leadership. Our social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram has continued to grow under the expert guidance of Elsa Tuxworth. We have maintained a good press profile with a weekly ‘What’s On’ article in the local newspaper, and radio interviews, thanks to Caroline Mutton. One satisfied customer contacted BBC Radio Leeds after hearing Gayle Lofthouse interview Jay Cundell Walker about The Cracked Pot: “*Hello Gayle, a few days ago you had a lady on who told us about a play called The Cracked Pot in Ilkley. On the back of that I went to see it. Absolutely hilarious, fantastic production and fantastic place.... please put a shout out to Ilkley Playhouse for a great evening.”*

We have developed a relationship with Drystone Radio and Rombalds Radio (online and on air). Our productions and events are regularly featured on Ilkley Chat and our plays and events are listed in the Discover Ilkley ‘Things to Do’ section and Bradford Tourism online, along with the Sparkling Bradford brochure, Bradford Visitor Guide, and the Ilkley Business Forum brochure. We are registered with the Volunteering Ilkley website where we advertise our volunteer positions. We featured our advert in a special supplement to commemorate the Queens Jubilee in the Ilkley Gazette, Craven Herald, Keighley News and the Telegraph and Argus. Directors have been encouraged to assign one of their cast members as the ‘Play Champion’ to help promote their production with backstage footage.

Our members receive a ‘What’s On’ email fortnightly from Cath Laughey, and I am currently producing our Autumn/Winter brochure which has been instrumental in attracting new audiences and hires through our door. Damien O’Keeffe has kept our members entertained throughout the year with his wonderfully edited newsletter… Many thanks to you.

The office has continued to provide daily support for the publicity of all our plays, social and external events and prepare all posters and flyers for distribution. The season brochures, bookmarks, play programmes, posters and flyers are all created by the office with support from Moorprint. We have delivered targeted marketing of specific groups and societies for whom a play or event may appeal. Thank you to our team of regular volunteers who help on stuffing days and who distribute our play marketing materials. We are grateful that our programme advertisers have stood by us.

Membership has been ably handled by Rosalia Roberts. It has remained steady with a slight increase in renewable single and joint memberships. We have introduced a Season Ticket which offers an opportunity to guarantee your preferred seat and day of the week by booking all eight of our Wharfeside 2022/2023 productions and get one free.

I would like to thank our fantastic committed part-time employees. What a team! They have all embraced the changes, gone above and beyond to ensure our smooth return in terms of office admin, box office, rotas, membership, publicity, maintaining and cleaning the building, and supporting our volunteers. It is a pleasure to work with each of you. Special mention of Heather Glendenning who worked meticulously to ensure that deep cleans were carried out daily in line with government guidance. I would like to take this opportunity to mention Paul Heron who is our new Facilities Manager. Paul joined in May and replaced Ian Sargeant who left earlier this year. My thanks go to Ian for all his hard work during his six years at the Playhouse. And I am delighted to announce the promotion of Cath Laughey to Senior Box Office Manager. You will know Cath from the box office and through her regular emails about the Front of House rotas. Cath has worked hard to improve the box office system and is very deserving of this promotion. Congratulations, Cath!

A big thank you to Geraldine Woodhouse who is stepping down after four years as Chair of the Executive Theatre Committee. We have faced many challenges together. I will miss her knowledge, insight, respect, integrity, and exemplary leadership.

**Justine Sowden May 2022**

**Chair of ETC Report: AGM 2022**

It has been another busy year with a wide-range of agenda items and some demanding decisions.

We have continued to work on developing awareness of ways to encourage **openness and diversity**. We want to make the Playhouse an ‘open playhouse’ for our wider community and a place in which everyone can contribute and feel valued. We have looked at ways to open discussion about this with all the departments and committees in the Playhouse from Casting to Working Party and beyond and we want to address all aspects of openness and inclusion. This is an-going and permanent part of our philosophy for the future.

We would also like to focus more on how to become ‘greener’ and anyone of you who could help us with this, please step forward!

We are continuing to **redefine roles** and this is starting to come together but we still need more volunteers to take on a number of these positions. The Playhouse continues to evolve and the demands on all our volunteers have grown, with recent *‘events’* having taken their toll. We owe Richard Speight a huge debt of gratitude for keeping the technical side going whilst also taking responsibility for a lot of aspects relating to the building itself. The role of Technical Director has now been stream-lined and we hope we will have a team of people, willing to support all areas of lighting and sound. With a new Facilities Manager in place, the role of House Director now has more of a focus on Front of House and Volunteer experience. However, this role is still vacant but we thank David Park and Phil Johnson for their continued training sessions and support in this area.

On that note I would like to welcome and thank Cath Walsh, mother of Ash and Conal (both well-know to the Playhouse!). Cath has agreed to take over leading our Safeguarding and Chaperone responsibilities: a really important and key aspect of the Playhouse. Thank you, Cath. She has already brought a lot energy and insight into the role.

We also still need a Secretary for ETC, a Social Director and indeed a Chair of ETC. As I have found out, volunteering for any role is challenging but it is enormously rewarding so please think about what you could do! There are many, many areas you could be a part of!

Actors are generally very visible but many of our volunteers are often invisible to audiences and indeed different groups of the Playhouse. The Wardrobe workers who beaver away upstairs, and downstairs, sewing, hiring, sorting and dressing all the plays; the generally silent prompts, the bar staff, coffee sellers, set dressers and many more. There is a place for everyone!

On that note, I would like to take a moment to thank two wonderful women who have volunteered here for decades doing coffee and programmes and who have finally hung up their aprons: Sue Brown and Paula Mason. Many of you will recognize their lovely smiles and welcoming presence; some of you will know their names but many won’t. Their contribution has been quiet, unassuming and invaluable. They will always be a part of the Playhouse! Thank you, ladies!

We are developing ways to make **casting** a more fun, comfortable, inclusive and sociable process and this has been seen already in our workshop sessions for Mrs. Warren’s Profession, Beryl and Charley’s Aunt. These sessions have been well-attended; they have been fun, varied and entertaining: many participants have fed back very positively about them. They are useful for directors and old and new members alike and we hope they will become a popular and permanent feature.

Our main focus is now on maintaining as **high a standard** as we can for all aspects of our productions, be they in the Wildman, as part of the Fringe, in the courtyard of the Manor House or in the Wharfeside. Production values are key to bringing in new audiences, as well as satisfying our regulars. It is increasingly challenging to get a full cast, all the technical skills and expertise required as well as directors, willing to give so much of their time to guiding and developing a production. It is a mammoth task. However, we are really excited to have a number of new directors ready for our new season and every production will be supported and encouraged to be ambitious and exciting.

I have spent a lot of time **talking to members** about their involvement in the Playhouse, their gripes and concerns as well as their pleasures and positives. There are always areas in which we can do better and we have really tried to address these and look for ways to solve issues. Although some concerns are more difficult to resolve, what was truly common to all my discussions, was the loyalty and commitment of all members to the Playhouse: to our past, to keeping our current plays as good as possible and to ensuring our future. That really was the main message and it was wonderful to hear.

I have tried to make the ETC a **more open forum for discussion**. I would still like more members involved in our discussions and meetings and I would like every committee represented. This does, however, add more time and effort on to people who are already giving us a lot of their time and effort so it is another on-going task. However, the development of openness and discussion is definitely in place.

A huge **thank you** goes to Jay Cundell-Walker for her energy and drive: she convened the Reading Committee who read so many plays and then worked through all the applications from potential directors; she attended Casting meetings, ETC meetings, and had goodness knows how many meetings with directors and others over the year. I am sure she will be thanking all those members of all those key committees. Everyone on Working Party, publicity, the newsletter, wardrobe, backstage (stage management, prompts), our photographers, our set designers and dressers, members of casting, reading and the ETC deserve to be applauded for their massive commitment to the Playhouse: all are volunteers who make great things happen.

I cannot finish without giving a public and heartfelt **thank you** to our incomparable Theatre Manager, Justine Sowden. Most members and a lot of our audiences will know her and recognize her welcoming smile and greetings. However, her role goes so much deeper and wider. She has been a massive support to me and ETC, and probably every single committee, never mind her own staff team. She works tirelessly for the Playhouse: we are incredibly lucky to have her.

I began by **mentioning challenges** and I’m sure Jay and others will have referenced some of this year’s. I don’t think the next year is going to be without its own demands either but with Minack on the horizon and a season of exciting and varied plays, I hope you will continue to spread the word and support Ilkley Playhouse in every way you can!

Geraldine Woodhouse

Chair of ETC

**Technical and House Joint Report 2022**

This will be my final report as Joint House and Technical Director as I feel the job is better served by more people and a team for Technical.

**House Report**

We lost our facility director due to family commitments and thank Ian Sargeant for his support over the last few challenging years. Good news, we have employed a new person Paul Heron who is finding his way round our venue and helping keep us tidy and working.

The new house lights are working well along with the new cleaners /working lights to aid cleaning and working in the auditorium and have been welcomed by Heather Glendenning and other users and will save us energy as they’re all LED.

We have had issues with locking up the building for productions but hopefully we are going to fit a key safe to allow bar staff to lock up when we do not have other keyholders available.

If you are a keyholder, before you leave, please make sure someone can lock and secure the building correctly. Also, if you are locking up make sure all fire doors are shut and lights and equipment is switched off.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this report, I do not want to continue with the House Director role as my own workload is demanding but I am happy to show the new person around and do a handover and be on the phone or email to give advice on any problems which cannot be resolved.

**Technical Director**

Thanks to the Technical Team for providing cover and set up for our in-house productions and outside hires. We are always wanting more people to assist our core team and training will be given.

We would like to carry out a full test of the technical infrastructure. As a venue we will have to start to upgrade our lantern and infrastructure as traditional halogen lamps are not being manufactured due to lack of demand. We will come up with an action plan to start updating the infrastructure, not only fittings but also the power and control infrastructure as new equipment requires better selectivity of overcurrent protection.

Many thanks for your support.

Richard Speight

**Publicity Report 2022**

Publicity is key to the success of the Playhouse and since the reopening in September we have tried hard to make sure that our plays are publicised prominently and across a variety of platforms.

We are currently a very small volunteer team of just three although are ably supported by Justine Sowden, Caroline Mutton and Cath Laughey from the playhouse office. The volunteer team manages the photographers and social media output as well as reviews and other print articles related to playhouse events. Our social media output has been managed brilliantly by Elsa Tuxworth who has created a range of entertaining and varied campaigns to bring our productions to the widest audiences whilst the photographers have been co-ordinated by Carol Butler who is doing an excellent and very efficient job. Carol also organises the photography and display of head shots which are displayed for each production. We have also been very glad of the support from Genni Debney, who produced some excellent short rehearsal films to supplement our output and these have been very well received.

Elsa is leaving the team at the end of the Summer to take up her well-earned place at Drama School. Enormous thanks are due to Elsa, who managed to produce such vital and vibrant social media feeds whilst juggling at least two jobs and the onerous demands of the drama school audition process! We will miss her. We are delighted to be welcoming Frances Kaye to the team who will be taking over the role. However, we are well aware that we are still in great need of further bodies to complete a range of jobs.

Whilst not now on the committee, Ann Mutton, with regular support from Carol Butler, continues to fulfil vital roles in supplying the town display boxes with new information and advertising. Roger Davy continues to help with the advertising and manages the now reduced ‘stuffing’ afternoons with regular help from Tina, Tony, Rita and Rosie. We are further indebted to a team of poster, flyer and brochure deliverers, who make sure that new advertising is distributed to shops, theatres and businesses.

Our publicity currently is across Facebook – both a members’ page and a public page. We have a regular feed on Instagram and Twitter is updated regularly. In addition, we have a weekly page in The Ilkley Gazette, edited by Caroline Mutton, promoting all of our events and we feature on BBC Radio Leeds when Gayle Lofthouse interviews our directors.

We are also continuing to push having a ‘play champion’ – preferably a cast member who is always ‘on the scene’, who can provide rehearsal insights, photos and snippets of information for each play, which can be fed into our social media feeds. In addition, our letter to directors, sent at the outset of productions will give guidance as to how to maximise information and output for each play.

More support is being actively sought by the publicity committee and ideas for promoting productions are always welcome. We acknowledge that nationally, theatres are growing back their audiences more slowly than we would like, following the pandemic, but we are also confident that the new season that we are putting out, will have great appeal to our core audience as well as encouraging new ones.

**GREENROOM ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

**Membership** Following our period on Zoom, due to Coronavirus, we were back in the Playhouse, running separate Junior (8 - 11) and Senior (12 – 18) Classes from 8th May 2021.

Class numbers had suffered because of the period of zoom presentation and the temporary combination of the groups. However, the Senior class has now returned to a healthy 25+ per week. Eight Juniors moved up to the Senior Class in September 2021, leaving a tiny Junior Class, which is gradually recovering – at the time of writing, ten per week. (But very talented and enthusiastic!) More, please!

From September 2020, the fees have been set at £50 per term (£45 for additional siblings), although there was a reduction during the “zoom” period.

**Tutors** This was the twelfth year the writer (Andrew Leggott) had led the Greenrooms, and the fifth year for Lisa Debney. There were no guest tutors over this period.

**Activities** We try to continue to provide variety in our games, exercises and improvisations. However the glee with which “old favourites” are met is very encouraging. A second chance? One notable addition to the repertoire recently was the rehearsal and presentation of the “Play within a play” section from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, so the Bard has not been neglected in our curriculum.

**Annual Production – Senior Class**  The Wharfeside Production of “Treasure Island” took place after a year’s delay in December 2021. This involved 16 Senior Greenroomers, including four who shared parts, notably one Female and one Male Jim Hawkins (different but both highly effective!) Nobody who wished to be in it was refused a part. They were supported by eight excellent adult cast members, giving support and encouragement and setting a fine example. Lisa and I codirected, and we were both delighted with the result – choice of play, set, costumes, Playhouse support – all were outstanding. Only public support was poor, probably due to the pandemic.

There will be no Youth production in December 2022. Instead we will be entering again in The National Theatre Connections Project for Spring 2023, following “Chaos” in 2019 and the Covid-hit “Tuesday” in 2021.

**Annual Production – Junior Class**  There can be no Junior Greenroom Production at present, as the numbers are simply not sufficient. Instead we aim to present a Summer Open Display Case in 2022, similar to the Christmas Coffee morning, to give performing opportunities.

**Christmas Coffee Morning Performances** These took place as ever at the Christmas Coffee Morning in December, and were surprisingly well supported considering the poor audiences for “Treasure Island”. They have always proved popular, and serve the dual function of populating the Coffee Morning, and giving the youngsters another opportunity to perform on the main stage.

***ANDREW LEGGOTT and LISA DEBNEY April 2022***

**Ilkley Playhouse Wardrobe Report for 2021-22**

Ilkley Playhouse has an extensive in-house stock of costumes in the wardrobe, which are available for hire to the public and other amateur theatre groups. Sacha Denney-Rodwell is the manager of our costume hire department and she has support and help from Jill Coulson with our other regular volunteers. If you have visited us up on the 3rd floor, you will see there is a wonderful stock of costumes from all periods, which has been put together over many years.

Currently the hire side is run alongside the supervision of the wardrobe and obviously the two areas need to be closely linked. We aim to use the stock to costume our own plays and it provides funding towards future wardrobe provision for the theatre.

We eventually reopened costume hire at the theatre with new hygiene and social distancing regulations from summer 2021. Work has also continued all year from Sacha and her hire volunteers to reorganise stock and maintain the costume hire area. Details of costume hire arrangements are on our web-site, [www.ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk). For future reference, our hire stock can be viewed on Instagram and we can take enquiries by phone and email. Contact: Sacha Denney-Rodwell on 07842 846968, or ilkleycostumes@hotmail.com, on Instagram:@ilkleycostumes. Costume hire is currently at times by appointment only, enquiries via the above contact details for Sacha Denney-Rodwell.

In relation to plays, we are costuming from stock if we can or hiring in and each play needs a “costume co-ordinator” to work with Sacha and the ladies of the wardrobe. A plea from us, we are still looking for additions to a small team to take and share responsibility and carry out this role for plays during the next play season as well as during 2021-22? All plays are “costume plays”, whichever period they are set in and the role of Wardrobe involves co-ordinating with the director, set designer and dresser from pre-production onwards and with the cast during rehearsals for fittings and then during the run of the play.

 The Playhouse was host to another two of Jill Coulson’s Saturday Vintage Fairs in autumn 2021 and April 2022, which were very successful events. There is another Vintage fair planned for a Saturday at the end of October 2022.

Alterations, some making of costumes, providing accessories, laundry, ironing etc. are the responsibility of the “Sewing room” and take place at the Playhouse on Wednesday evenings. We welcome new recruits to this very valuable team, who work all year round to maintain our stock, if you have an interest in sewing or costume? please contact us via the Playhouse office. We are very grateful to all our helpers, who have been involved in costume hires, sewing room and maintaining and costuming plays throughout this challenging year.

**Rosie Bond , on behalf of the Wardrobe group, April 2022**

**Little Theatre Guild Report for 2021-22 for Ilkley Playhouse**

**From Rosie Bond, LTG Rep**

The Little Theatre Guild grew out of a common idea that independently controlled amateur theatres might benefit from regular meetings to discuss problems, experiences and standards. The idea was first mooted in the 1930s and on 18 May 1946, nine theatres came together to establish the Guild. It now represents 125 member theatres that control and manage their amateur theatre companies with an annual audience of over 650,000 patrons and a turnover of approximately £4 million. Ilkley Playhouse has been an LTG Member since 1972.

The LTG’s web-site can be found at **‘www.littletheatre.org’** and they issue quarterly newsletters and an annual yearbook listing all member theatres and their productions.

The **LTG National Conference and AGM 2021** was due to be held in **Southport Little Theatre** in **Southport** in **May 2021;** again, due to theatres lockdown last spring, the team felt that they had no option but to cancel the event. I did attend an **on-line mini-conference and AGM on 15th May 2021** at which we discussed experiences of theatre closure.As well as an on open forum, members were asked to provide snippets of entertainment to show off what they had been doing in lockdown. At the LTG Chairman’s request, we gave extracts in a short video of our greenroom cast performing **Tuesdays**, the National Theatre production in collaboration with York Theatre Royal. My thanks go to Lisa Debney and Andrew Leggott, the co-directors for setting this up for us to participate.

Like Southport, the Carlisle Green Room were very keen to host the LTG Northern Region Conference in autumn 2021 but felt that in the current circumstances this was just not possible and no conference took place.

This year, I am pleased to report that the **LTG National Conference and AGM 2022** is able to be hosted in **Southport** from 13**th to 15th** **May 2022** at **Southport Little Theatre**. I am booked to attend for the weekend along with our President, Samantha Hill and Jonty Hawkes, Chair of the Club Committee.

The theme of the Conference is **“Theatre on the Edge**”, which is probably where most theatres have been during the last two years. There are optional workshop sessions on the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Sustainability, “The Way Forward after COVID” and several Performance theatre sessions.On the Saturday evening the chosen production is four of the original episodes from ‘*The Vicar* *of Dibley’*. The keynote speaker on the Sunday will be Tim Firth, the dramatist and playwright for TV and film. The **AGM and Open Forum** and Conferences are a great opportunity for networking with other theatres, keeping updated, sharing experiences and having an enjoyable theatre weekend.

**Carlisle Green Room Club** are again due to host the **LTG Northern Region Conference** this autumn from 14th to 16th October 2022 at West Walls Theatre in Carlisle.

As your LTG – Rep, you are very welcome to contact me by email for any queries on ‘rosiebond@btopenworld.com’ or please check the noticeboards in the theatre for details of future LTG events.

**Rosie Bond, LTG Rep Ilkley, April 2022**

**Report from the Secretary to the Trustees**

The past year has illustrated the value of flexibility, outside-the-box thinking, innovation – and above all, commitment. Ilkley Playhouse’s staff and volunteers have gone above and beyond to get the Playhouse back on track after a difficult time.

Further work is required to make this next year is a successful one. In order to accomplish this, it is vital that we recruit more volunteers. A number of positions are currently available both on the Board of Trustees and on the Executive Theatre Committee. It is vital to the success of the Playhouse that these position are filled as quickly as possible.

I would like to reassure anyone wavering about stepping up:

* All roles are well supported by the other Trustees and ETC members. You will definitely not be chucked in the deep end and left to flounder!
* The majority of roles are not overly time consuming and so can easily be fit around busy lives. Meetings are arranged flexibly around people’s commitments. The amount of work you choose to do between meetings is very much up to you.
* You will have the privilege of shaping and building the Playhouse that we all love.

I encourage all members to seriously consider stepping up and volunteering. We all want our Playhouse to flourish and prosper – and volunteering to help is the commitment required to make this happen.

Thank you to all volunteers who have contributed over the past year – either behind the scenes, backstage or on committees. And thanks, of course, to our dedicated and resilient staff.

Vani Midgley

**END**