AGM
5th September 2023
Chantry Centre

PRESENT: Frankie Telford, Andrew Telford, Christine Darlaston, Mel Cole, Jono Smallridge, Mike Graham, Catherine Hamilton, Fred Mint, Calum Sharp, Chris Darlaston, Ray Chaney, Andy Hunt, Val Lockley, Beth Davison, Sarah Hodge, Scott Sharp, Helen Desosia, Helen Whitehead, Rachel Howgego, James Easey, Craig Hewlett, Wendy Nolan, Damian Kenny, Lou Buckle, Pete Wiggins, Sian Graham, Louise Graham, James Rolfe

APOLOGIES: Ann Bussey, Graham Clarke, Karen Forster, Rob Hall, Ken Hitchings, Kathryn Mcnicholas, Sarah Morgan, Ann and Clive Orchard, Tanya Rome, Claire Smallridge, Alan Stansfield, Alice Walton, Stuart Whitman, Katrina Wyndow

1	**Chairman's Welcome, Apologies:** Frankie welcomed everyone and Mel gave apologies, recorded above.
2	**Approval of Minutes:** There were no issues arising and the minutes were proposed by Mike Graham as being a true record, seconded by Jono Smallridge. All in agreement.
3	**President's Report:** Welcome and apologies from me for not attending rehearsals as usual due to John's ill health. However, I saw both Chitty Chitty Bang Band and the Junior's production, Bugsy Malone, both of which were excellent and very much enjoyed. Chitty was the best show ever and the most difficult I believe with a car and a motorcycle to be manoevered on and off our small stage. The producer was Emma Hitchings, MD Rachael Howgego, choreographer Val Lockley and costumes were designed by Wendy Nolan, assisted by Ann Bussey and teams. The stage managers were Mike Graham and Sarah Hodge who managed this very difficult s how with great efficiency. Congratulations must go to Emma for tackling such a show and making it a success. Bugsy was very well done. Some juniors were on stage for the very first time, it was Mike Graham's first production, Damian Kenny was MD and wardrobe was organised by Lou Buckle, assisted by Wendy Nolan and Ann Busy and Ann Orchard. The

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	choreographer was Louise Graham. We had excellent audiences for both shows and made a very good profit. My thanks go to all the members of the committee who worked really hard over the past year in their various jobs. But special thanks must go to Frankie Telford, our Chairman, who seems to take on extra responsibility, especially when members are ill or not present for other reasons. I believe we should have more committee members as assistants to take over in these instances. I have mentioned this to Frankie, and I think it's something we shall be working on in the coming year. Please think about making yourself available in these instances if you possibly can. Can I wish everyone success and enjoyment in the coming year and thank you to all those who have worked so hard in the past year.
4	**Junior DODS Report:** Our Junior Season this year started the Monday after the panto. 50+ children turned up. Damian, Louise and Mike put them through their paces and due to the nature of the show Marching was the highlight of everyone's week. We choregraphed them to march crossing over, in lines, in circles and this was done every week for the first few months. We had 48 children auditioning and we cast the 53 parts with everyone having a named part and what a hard job it was to cast the children. In the end we had 46 children performing Bugsy Malone. Staging slightly different with a runway and lots of splurge. Damian was fantastic teaching the songs and the sound in the end was fantastic with some brilliant solo performances. Louise's choreography was new, fresh and a nice interpretation for the show with easier bits for the chorus and tap and more complicated moves put in for the dancers. They are a really talented bunch and we had quite a few Year 7's that in a few years will be looking to get parts in pantos etc. It was great fun to do and thank you to everyone that was involved and I really do apologise for the mess!!!!!

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5	**Stage Director's Report:** What a year! Helen Whitehead took on her first Stage Management role with the Junior Show in July. All on the floor with some hired scenery from Cheltenham with the letter blocks. Jono Smallridge returned to stage management for the Play - Allo Allo. A box set with little additions such as the cinema and we had to make a piano for the Café scene. Pantomine Snow White was stage managed by myself – a nice traditional panto with a welcome return for a slapstick scene with some fantastic props and costumes also made for the show. And then the musical!!!!! When Andrew messaged me and said that Chitty was available for amateurs- I was quite excited and thought excellent and was straight online to find a car- which I did. And then the stress started. And didn't end until the first dress rehearsal. Jointly managed by Mike and Sarah this was a mammoth effort and I want to say a massive thank you to all the members who helped to get the scenery, costumes and props in and out again, to those who fixed the broken pieces and for the patience while we were setting up. It was a fun show to do- exhausting but good fun. We are a dwindling backstage crew- on a Tuesday evening we only have a few people- Mike, Jono. Helen, Mel, Sarah, Fred, Ken, Thomas and Meg. We really need more people- we need people who would be interested in stage managing, props, painting. We are still based in Frampton. Please if you are not in a show - please drop me a message and come along. We are very short of people and each year it is getting lower and lower. The situation is the same for wardrobe.
6	**Treasurer's Report:** The accounts have been circulated to you – one of the downsides of being a charity is that the Charity Commission require our accounts to be in a particular format so that they can see the charitable and non-charitable cash flows separately. They also do not want to see Accruals and Prepayments so I cannot present full figures for shows in the accounts as they mostly run over two financial years, so, what is shown in the accounts, is the actual expenditure and income between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023. You will see that the accounts refer to restricted and unrestricted funds – restricted funds refer here to money formally allocated to the workshop project – unrestricted funds are not allocated to specific projects. What a year! Most years we make a small profit on play and Juniors, a big profit on the pantomime and a loss on the musical – this year every production made a big profit

with the result that, over the year, The DODS is nearly £20,000 better off than this time last year. I have posted Profit & Loss accounts for each of the shows on DODS members FB page but the bottom line is

Matilda Jr	£4,311
'Allo 'Allo	£5,242
Snow White	£13,276
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	£7,043
Bugsy Malone	£3,587

Note that, from 'Allo 'Allo onwards rehearsal room costs have been allocated to the show, previously they were treated as an overhead for the society. Those of you who are quick with mental maths will have worked out that the overall profit on productions adds up to more than the improvement in our finances – only part of the income from the two junior shows actually falls within the financial year we are reporting and membership income (about £3,000) does not cover the cost of running the society (about £12,000 a year before we do anything) – insurance (£900)– rent of Frampton workshop (£4350)– rent of wardrobe space (£2,000) and accountancy fees (£1,100) being the major costs.

So, a tremendous year that leaves the treasurer smiling. However, such years are rarities – I do not recall another year that comes anywhere near to this financially. Clearly, this year, we have put on a programme of events that appeals to everyone, the trick will be to do this every year which is easier said than done – suitable suggestions please!

We acknowledged the support of the Town Council for the £2,000 grant towards Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Now, an administrative appeal – if you are claiming expenses please do it by email to treasurer@the-dods.com – send me a photo of the receipt and let me have your bank sort code and account number - I only pay out by Bank Transfer these days– if you are giving me money please put it in an envelope with a note of what it is for.

These reports are in draft format and, once the final reports are received from the accountants, Ray Chaney proposed and Helen Whitehead seconded that Andrew signs them off formally.

7 **Appointment of Examining Accountants:**

Andrew is looking into using a different sent of accountants so at this stage is not asking for support of a particular accountant. This doesn't need agreement from the AGM so Andrew will move forward with this in the next few weeks.

9	**Chairman's Report:** As you have heard we have had a very busy and successful year which has been a very fitting way to celebrate 70 years of The DODS. As usual there have many upsets and ups and downs along the way but we made it. And still have Stepping Out to go although part of our program for next season. As the financial year ends on June 30th the official Start of the year is the Junior Show but you heard all about that last year. So 'Allo 'Allo really started the season and was enjoyed by the cast and well received by our audiences. Next came Snow White and we had a few problems as Calum went off on paternity leave and assistant director Alice was ill but fortunately Gemma, Laura and Damian continued with rehearsals and it was a week later so all was well until and the dress rehearsal when illness struck, but true to the adage 'The Show Must Go On' it did and again very well received by our audiences who enjoyed all the slap stick comedy. As you have heard next came Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, the most profitable show DODS has ever staged, but also the most nerve racking and taxing show ever. But once again everyone pulled out all the stops and it happened, with an enormous amount of work from Emma at the helm on stage, coping with 2 sets of children, Rachel keeping everyone tuneful and Jan Hunt working with the children, Val putting everyone through their paces, Wendy and team costuming, and Mike, Sarah and team dealing with all the backstage complexities. A true triumph all round. Then we had a show of 'firsts' Bugsy Malone. The first time the cast had coped with a thrust stage, which is a totally different experience as you feel exposed; Mike had directed, Louise had choreographed, Will had taken over on sound and Lou taking the costume lead. Helen Whitehead in charge of backstage and Damian MDing with infinite patience and encouraging the young people to gain confidence. You all made a great team. The main social event of the year was our 70th Anniversary Celebrations. It had been decided to mark our 70th Anniversary in a way that would give an opportunity to include as many people as possible, embracing current members, past members and juniors. Thanks to Mike, Sian, Helen and Jono and helpers, it was a great success. I have had many messages from those who attended saying how much they had enjoyed it. For those who were not able to join us there was an excellent display of programmes , posters and photos from past productions, we were extremely lucky with the weather as we were in the Chantry Centre garden in the afternoon with thunderstorms happening all around us. We had Helen and team organising cream teas and Mike and Jono serving cocktails. Rachel did a grand job providing music all afternoon. We then had the presentation of Society Awards followed by a buffet from Belle's Kitchen and dancing or continued chatting in the garden late into the night as it was so warm. Now what do we have in store well Stepping Out directed by Ken Hitchings in October, Ken and his cast have been working hard all summer and now tickets are on sale so please pass the word around. Sleeping Beauty in January, written and directed by

	Alice Walton assisted by Calum, Calendar Girls the Musical in May, directed by Helen Desoisa and Scott Sharp following on from their success in made in Dagenham. The Juniors will be performing Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat in July with Gemma Artz and Laura Brocklesby taking charge. So another full year. As I have said before we really do need the members who are not actually involved in a production to support it, no one waves a magic wand and things happen. We do not have a hidden band of elves ready to jump into action and come to the rescue. We need people to help in all areas, if you feel you cannot commit on a regular basis come and help show week, front of house, backstage, chaperoning or just buying a ticket to support your fellow members. All areas are in need of additional help especially chaperoning at the moment, and I know the wardrobe team could use some help trying to sort the costumes more rationally you do not have to sew just sort things you are asked to. As I said Tickets are on sale for Steeping Out and Dawn who is organising the FoH rota has already put out a post for volunteers. Please speak to one of the Trustees to find out how you can help. A reminder that move in for Stepping Out is Saturday October 7th and we shall need help as there is only 1 male cast member. Just a quick update on what is happening at the Chantry Centre. You will possibly have noticed when you came in there is no ceiling in the corridor as all the old asbestos tiles have been removed over the summer and the area outside the Hall toilets has been changed, some of the oddities of the position of light switches have been sorted. We also have a new storage area for the BOX OFFICE in the old cleaners' cupboard at the back of the Hall. We continue using several ways of selling tickets for our productions, mainly online but I will be at the Chantry Centre on a few Wednesdays and Saturdays prior to performances. The pattern of our ticket sales has changed dramatically this year with many more people leaving buying tickets until the last minute and then complaining they cannot sit where they really wanted. In the week leading up to Chitty Chitty Bang Bang we were selling about 60 tickets a day, with a similar pattern for Bugsy. I should like to thank everyone who has contributed to make the year a success. Please continue and recruit more people. And a last thank you to the Trustees who have managed the Society this year. Thank you all and have a good year. .
10	**Nominated Charity for 2023/2024:** It was agreed this would be The DODS Workshop Fund. Bucket collections this year have raised just over £1,000.

11	**Election of Trustees:** With the new rules as a Charity, three Trustees need to stop down but can seek re-election. Those who stood down were Mel Cole, Jono Smallridge and Mike Graham.
	The following trustees remain. Frankie Telford Andrew Telford Fred Mint Ken Hitchings Calum Sharp Catherine Hamilton Trustees re-nominated as follows:- Mike Graham: Nominated by Mel Cole, seconded by Jono Smallridge Jono Smallridge: Nominated by Mike Graham, seconded by Mel Cole All Mel Cole: Nominated by Jono Smallridge, seconded by Mike Graham New Trustees Nominations as follows:- Emily Mathison: Nominated by Peter Wiggins, seconded by Catherine Hamilton Craig Hewlett: Nominated by Emma Hitchings, seconded by Ken Hitchings All in favour of the above being duly appointed as Trustees of The DODS..
12	Frankie Telford advised that the president is an honorary position and, as Christine Darlaston is willing to remain, she does not need to be voted in.
13	Ray proposed a thanks to the Trustees for their hard work. There being no other business, the AGM was closed.

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