

## Treasurer's report

Rupert Jordan

Costs came in for 6 productions during the last financial year, though only 3 of those productions belonged to that year: *Flare Path*, *A Christmas Miscellany* and *Jack & the Beanstalk*.

Kathy Young kindly organised *A Christmas Miscellany* as a charitable event for Royston Museum (where it was performed). It therefore appears only as costs in our accounts – which are tiny. The time and energy devoted by the Youngs also made it a very enjoyable social event for the other CADS members involved!

Our mid-year productions usually produce a deficit, and *Flare Path* was no exception. It cost over £2000 extra (=c.70% more) to stage than the previous year's *Ghost Writer* (£1000 more across costumes, scenery and so forth; plus £1000 extra for venue hire - more on that below...). However, whereas *Ghost Writer* (for which we had lowered our usual ticket prices to £8) attracted the smallest audience for many years, *Flare Path*'s audience was unusually large (almost beating 2016's *Abigail's Party*), despite the committee's decision to increase the price significantly (to £12/£10)! The final result was a c.£1000 deficit (compared to a larger £1500 deficit for *Ghost Writer*).

Our pantomime was again the financial success that we've come to expect, setting another new record for our largest audience (above 1300). The production costs were £500 lower than the previous year (due mainly to the scenery, which cost less than half of the previous year's all-time high!). Refreshments had a bumper year – netting £300 extra, for only average costs. Ticket receipts were also the highest ever; but unfortunately not by as much as we had expected – due, alas, to a mistake by your humble Treasurer... This year, the committee decided to increase ticket prices for *Jack & the Beanstalk* by approximately 20%. Unfortunately, since I mistakenly took £10/£5 as the previous basis (instead of £10/£7), the 20% increase to £12/£6 gave the Concessionary price in reality a decrease (of 14%) from previous years – for which I apologise. And after the previous year's more beneficial ratio, the proportion of concessions and complimentary tickets also returned to its slightly higher norm, partly due to charitable giveaways. As a result, our receipts did increase, though only by £400. Altogether, despite the venue hire again costing over £1000 extra this year, the result was a surplus which, pleasingly, is still slightly higher than that for the previous year's *Robinson Crusoe*.

More must be said about venue hire. Despite the rosy conclusion of our meetings with KJAR's headmaster and his finance coordinator last year, we expected the venue hire to increase anyway – and on inspection of their breakdown of costs, we've come to believe that these new costs are reasonable. However, they are nevertheless extreme: hire for our September show rose from £1530 to a whopping £2724 (a 78% increase), and our pantomime from £2219 to £3371 (a 52% increase). It was in part the expectation of this which led the committee to increase our ticket prices in advance.

The year's extra costs included a vocal workshop, and investment in two new assets: a new border above the mid-stage blacks, and a new display stand to replace the old dilapidated one. The addition of air vents to our storage containers (for a one-off total of £50 + much sweat on a very hot day by Phil Rowe) has reduced our existential costs in future by £150 per year, to roughly £1500 (and should also protect our costumes from rot). Paid member subscriptions were suddenly our highest for at least ten years (£745). The parish church was grateful for our charity collection of £111, and we donated £180 to Aurora Care & Education (to a fund for special occasions at Meldreth Manor).

The year's bottom line is a deficit of £3000 – but that includes 2 invoices for venue hire relating to the previous year. Summing across those 2 years, in practice we made a surplus of £700 in each year.

Finally, thanks again to Barbara Perry for inspecting our accounts.