

Annual General Meeting Chairman/President's Report 2026

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Marlow Players in our 89th year.

This has been another wonderful year for the Players. The performances of Murder Mysteries and a new Christmas special, directed by Gloria were followed in the Spring by an outstanding production of *Twelfth Night* directed by Andrew Stafford with a cast of 19, including new actors alongside our oldest members. Audiences were ecstatic. May saw a very successful visit from Les Baladins, attracting an audience of over 80 including school parties studying A Level French at greatly discounted rates. The summer was filled with social events and workshops, studio maintenance, wardrobe maintenance, website updates, refining our sales methods and widening the reach of our publicity and recruitment. The Studio remains an enviable facility and is maintained in excellent sound condition.

For all of this I want to thank the members of the Committee, who have taken on specific responsibilities, such as Health and Safety, Safeguarding, producing posters and programmes, maintaining ticket source and sum up and Paypal, painting and constructing the set, hosting BBQ and communal meals and the Baladins, and stage management and directing. I thank them all for their massive contribution, and include Georgina, who has been most effective as Publicity Manager and Dan for help with hefty tasks and arranging the hire of The Danesfield Arms as a party venue.

Underpinning all our successes has been a strong business Manager, Sally Stafford, who will give her report shortly. I know that we owe to her the reduction in electricity charges, collection of subscriptions and the astute management of accounts.

During the year we have acquired new members, mainly actors, and Hilary has been a very active respondent as Membership Secretary to all enquiries. Her replies present us as exciting, active and fun.

The evenings at Liston Hall and for private performances for the National Trust, organised and directed by Gloria have been packed out and are immensely popular to watch and enjoyable to play. *Twelfth Night* was a sustained effort over three months, recruited four new actors, drew fine performances from so many, challenged us all in exploring new acting methods, and language, and was an artistic success, with rapturous responses from all who saw it. It did not attract such large audiences as its immediate predecessors, but it was a real triumph. We had a new lighting man, Wolfie and a new sound man, Paul, to add to a strong backstage crew, dedicated actors and a great FOH team. Brian, Josh and Andy prepared and with others assembled the set and we are grateful for the trailer which Josh provided. My thanks too, go to the staff at Great Marlow School.

My thanks to all who have contributed to a very successful year.