



**Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting of the Chipstead Players
Charitable Incorporated Organisation,
held on 4th June 2025 at The Courtyard Theatre**

**Anne Thorn, Chair, opened the meeting at 8:05 pm
67 members were present in the room.**

1	Apologies for Absence were received from Paul Dickinson, Nikki Thomas, Kate Thurlow, Graham House, Ida West, Elayne Teague, Will Harris, Simon Kennedy, Ian Grayson, Geoff Brown, Suzi Whittle, Noel Harris, Jill Kiss, Rick Thompsett, Pauline Beckley, Eve Manghani, Susie Timms, Sue Loosley, Debs Brooks, Susan Marinakis, Louise Delaney, John Shepherd, Britt Adams, Cllr Shelley Newton, Anne Gregory, Sarah Pearson, Alice Grant, Mary Morgan, Lauren Milsom-Harris, Beth Brooks, Meryl Jones, Jack Randall and Geoff Thorn.
2	Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting – June 13th 2024 Copies were displayed on the notice board after the meeting and the Minutes have been approved by the Executive Board. Agreement was asked for by the chair and given by the members present at the meeting.
3	Chairman's Report As attached , this was read by Anne Thorn, Chair. The report was proposed by Jon Laws and seconded by Anne Franks. Agreement was asked for and given by the members present at the meeting.
4	Finance Director's Report Phil Wright presented the accounts for 2023-2024 to the meeting. His report is attached . Members gave a round of applause to Anne Franks for the hard work obtaining the council grant. The report was proposed by Mel Morgan and seconded by David Kay. Agreement was asked for and given by the members present at the meeting.
5	Election of President For the post of President, there was one nominee – Kate Perry – She was Proposed by Nick Foster. Seconded by Britt Adams. Chair announced that Kate Perry was duly elected.
6	Election of Executive Board members a) Officers The term of Office of Philip Wright, Director of Finance, expires on 31st August 2025. Philip Wright offers himself for re-election at this meeting, for a further period of 3 years from that date. Only one nominee – Philip Wright Proposed by Anne Franks. Seconded by Britt Adams. Chair announced that Philip Wright was duly elected.

	<p>b) Other Trustees</p> <p>Emma Brown, having been co-opted as a Trustee since the last AGM, retires with immediate effect and offers herself for re-election for a period of 3 years from this date. Emma Brown is proposed by Michael Rahman and seconded by Gillian Haig.</p> <p>The term of Office of Britt Adams, Charity Trustee, expires on 31st August 2025. Britt Adams offers herself for re-election at this meeting, for a further period of 3 years from that date. Britt Adams is proposed by Jane Foster and seconded by Michael Rahman.</p> <p>The term of Office of David Perry, Charity Trustee, expires on 31st August 2025. David Perry offers himself for re-election at this meeting, for a further period of 3 years from that date. David Perry is proposed by Jane Foster and seconded by Nick Foster.</p> <p>In the absence of any other nominees the Chair declared them all duly elected.</p>
7	<p>ELECTION OF BAR COMMITTEE</p> <p>Nick Gane, Jane Foster, Terry Bryden and Susan Marinakis offer themselves for re-election, all four nominees having been duly proposed and seconded and in the absence of any other nominees. Chair announced them all duly elected to the Bar Committee.</p>
8	<p>Appointment of Auditor</p> <p>Nichols carried out an Independent Examination of the accounts for 2024, in accordance with Charity Commission rules, and we propose that they should be responsible for future audits.</p> <p>The proposer was Hillary McNevin and seconded by Ian Brown.</p> <p>Agreement was asked for and given by the members present at the meeting.</p>
9.	<p>Report from The Centenary Committee</p> <p>David Perry presented the Centenary Committee report and reflected on what a significant and memorable year it had been. He acknowledged the many individuals who made valuable contributions, including Kate Perry, Sue Wheeler, Charlie McCarthy, Jonathan Laverock, Jane Foster, and Britt Adams.</p> <p>He noted the enthusiasm with which people supported the centenary—even purchasing commemorative bricks before seeing what they looked like. Emily and Millie Champion were congratulated for winning the competition to design the centenary merchandise logo.</p> <p>Bradley Adams was recognised for suggesting and spearheading the Memory Wall project in the theatre, which successfully engaged a wide range of people. A centenary brochure was also produced, featuring interviews with members. Special mention was given to Sue Wheeler, the longest-serving member of the Chipstead Players.</p> <p>A major highlight of the year was Bradley Adams' <i>Cart Play</i>—his original two-part production involving members of the group. The first act was performed in the Peter Aubertin Hall, and the second act took place on Longshaw Lawn. David shared how rewarding it was to experience the performance and extended heartfelt thanks to Bradley.</p> <p>The Youth Theatre also made a strong contribution with their performance of <i>100</i>, organised by the Youth Panel.</p> <p>Charlie McCarthy's <i>Break a Leg</i> documentary was another standout, featuring an interview with the writer of <i>Uncle Ebenezer</i>, conducted by Charlie and Jonathan Laverock. The documentary was shown following the <i>Barrels and Carols</i> event in December.</p> <p>All in all, it was a year full of activity and creativity, which raised over £8,000. Commemorative bricks are still available, and the theatre is also celebrating its 30th anniversary—with merchandise still on offer.</p>

10.	<p>Report from The Youth Panel</p> <p>Oliver Horle presented the Youth Panel report and invited the seven Youth Panel members in the audience to stand and be recognised as a team. He emphasised the importance of keeping younger members active and engaged in theatre through a variety of workshops and activities.</p> <p>Oliver expressed his gratitude to everyone on the Panel, as well as other members who have contributed to the success of the Youth Theatre.</p> <p>Highlights from the year included a Halloween workshop and a Murder Mystery event. A backstage workshop was also held, giving younger members the opportunity to try out various backstage roles—a session that was thoroughly enjoyed. Special thanks were given to Charlie McCarthy for organising the workshop, and Charlie in turn thanked the backstage crew members who helped run each individual workshop.</p> <p>Looking ahead, more workshops are planned, along with a summer social and another Halloween workshop. Oliver asked everyone to support and invite younger members to attend these upcoming events.</p>
11.	<p>Artistic Director's Report</p> <p>Julie Cumbo began by thanking the Artistic Panel: Jane Foster, Michael Rahman, Louise Delaney, and Paul Falconer, as well as Lauren Milsom-Harris, who recently joined the panel.</p> <p>She expressed hope that members had enjoyed the past season, noting the team's aim to offer a diverse mix of plays. Julie also extended heartfelt thanks to those who undertook PA (Production Assistant) duties throughout the year and encouraged more members to consider signing up for PA roles in future productions.</p> <p>While a couple of performance licences were unfortunately withdrawn at the last minute, and some changes in directors occurred, the season is now moving forward with a strong line-up.</p> <hr/> <p>Upcoming Productions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dracula (September 16th – 20th) – Directed by Maddie Anstee and Olivia Thynne Maddie and Olivia explained that the production is fully cast, with 15 members aged 14 and up, including three newcomers to the theatre. A well-attended read-through saw over 40 participants, and a social event has helped the cast get to know each other ahead of rehearsals. • The Unfriend (November 3rd – 8th) – Directed by Julie Cumbo. Julie stepped in as director after the original director had to withdraw. The play, a hit in Chichester and later the West End, features a cast of 7, including 3 lead roles and 2 teenage parts. The read through was well attended on 3rd June and auditions are upcoming. • Sleeping Beauty (January 7th – 11th and 14th – 17th) – Directed by Beth Brooks Julie read a message and synopsis from Beth, who couldn't attend the AGM. This adaptation is a unique twist on the classic fairy tale, originally performed at the National Theatre. There are 11 roles, ensemble parts, and numerous backstage opportunities. The read-through is scheduled for 22nd July. • Dixon and Daughters (February 23rd – 28th) – Directed by Anne Gregory Anne also couldn't attend, so Julie shared a synopsis and a brief message from her. The play requires 6 actors and features strong comic elements. Members are encouraged to attend the read-through and auditions. The read-through is scheduled for 23rd September. • The Wolves of Willoughby Chase (April 14th – 18th) – Directed by Charlie McCarthy. Based on the children's book by Joan Aiken, this visually rich production includes about 15 roles. The play promises a creative experience, with opportunities for on-stage sound effect work. The read-through is scheduled for 11th November.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stepping Out (May 25th – 30th) – Directed by Ian Brown A lively play featuring music and tap dancing, <i>Stepping Out</i> includes mostly female roles (with one male part). Ian provided background on the play's history and explained that the 2022 version will be used. Emily Foster will choreograph, with tap classes offered ahead of rehearsals. A pianist would be a valuable addition if available. The read-through is scheduled for 20th January. • Curtain Up on Murder (July 6th – 11th) – Directed by Lesley Crowther-Smith Lesley presented a synopsis of this mystery play, which includes 8 roles—5 women and 3 men—with a good range of ages. Lesley brings directing and acting experience from both KADDs and The Gage Players. The read-through is scheduled for 3rd March.
	<p>Julie concluded by thanking Louise Delaney for her ongoing support and reminded members that handouts detailing the upcoming season and read-through dates were available. She again encouraged members to sign up for PA duties where possible.</p>
12.	<p>Presentation of the Keeley Plate Edwina Marrow, Chairman of the Keeley Plate Committee, presented her report (attached). The award for the season 2024-2025 is given to Céleste Rose-Valmary. Last year's winner, Sam Gower, presented her with the award.</p>
12	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Maddie Anstee announced that the Chipstead Flower Show will take place on 12th July. She is looking for volunteers to help man our stall on the day and asked that anyone interested pass their contact details to her.</p>

The Chairman announced the meeting duly closed at 9:31pm.

Attachments: Chair's Report
Finance Director's Report
List of plays for 2025-26 Season
Keeley Plate Report