

Committee 2026/27

Peter Hawkins (Chairman)
Becky Marsden (Secretary)
Emily Brough (Treasurer)
Chris Hockaday
Jackie Pearson
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Welcome to a brand new season – one which promises to offer members old and new, another year of making great community theatre together, entertaining our ever growing audiences and above all, providing fun, fulfilment and friendship.

To ensure that we ALL get the most out of our new season, and the very best out of each other, we have a collective responsibility to understand and adhere to our values and expectations, so please take a moment to read and digest the following information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail – hello@moatplayers.co.uk

This account is checked daily by the committee.

Website – www.moatplayers.co.uk

Members are invited to be included in both our social, and our current production Whatsapp group. Please request to be added if you are not already.

Like us or join the group on facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/TheMoatPlayers>

Follow us on twitter @TheMoatPlayers

OUR MEMBERS

Our members ARE the group. Without members, we have no shows, no community, no group.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF OUR MEMBERS?

COMMITMENT

- To enter into a production is a commitment. Therefore, all cast members should be sure that they are able to dedicate the time and effort required, inside and outside of rehearsals, before committing to a show.
- Cast members should ensure they are aware of and commit to all performance dates prior to the commencement of rehearsals for any given production.
- Members should do their utmost to attend all rehearsals. If too many rehearsals are missed the director reserves the right to remove any member from a production and recast their part.
- If you are unable to attend a rehearsal, the current director must be informed prior to the rehearsal at the earliest opportunity. Unexpected absences have a huge impact on rehearsal schedules.
- Rehearsals are held on Thursday and Sunday evenings commencing at 7.30pm until 10pm (unless otherwise stated). Members are expected to arrive on time to ensure a prompt start. (We may occasionally hold additional meetings, which are announced, as and when necessary. This includes backstage work on certain Sunday afternoons where help is required where possible, by every member).

- A dress rehearsal is treated as a performance; therefore it is unacceptable to miss this unless you have previously discussed this with the director of the production and it has been agreed.

RESPECT

- All members are expected to show respect, courtesy and consideration to all individuals involved within the group as well as any visitors we may welcome to the hall. Any negative behaviour towards other members will not be tolerated.
- Noise in the Hall during rehearsals should be kept to a minimum to allow those on stage to hear directions and other members. This includes mobile phones which are a distraction, which we would ask to put on silent during rehearsals.
- Unless input has been requested by the production Director, no member should 'direct' other cast members whilst on stage. Please understand that this undermines the Director and can cause embarrassment to the cast member. The ONLY exception to this is if the action of the cast member poses a health and safety risk.
- Members are asked to respect the casting decisions made by the current Director and any queries around this should be raised in an appropriate manner.
- All members are asked to contribute towards the tidying of the hall and the stage area at the end of rehearsal. This includes washing up mugs, throwing away rubbish, and putting away chairs and equipment. Many hands make light work!
- All members must treat all group property with care. We have some expensive equipment which should not be 'left on the side'. If you are unsure about how to put equipment away properly, please seek advice from our backstage team.
- Eating and drinking on stage is not permitted either during rehearsals or during productions.
- Smoking is not permitted in the Church Hall at any time.

PROFESSIONALISM

- All members are expected to display professionalism at all times. Yes, we are an amateur group, but we pride ourselves on professional standards.
- Members are asked to accept direction and production decisions made by the Director and to take any constructive criticism with good grace and in the way it is intended (ie. for the good of the production).
- If a member has a concern or grievance of any kind, at any time, this should be reported to a member of committee immediately, either in writing or in person. If the member does not feel that the concern or grievance requires an official response from committee, it should not subsequently become topic of conversation with other members during rehearsal time.
- All members should be aware of, understand and adhere to the group's Safeguarding Policy.

OUR COMMITTEE

Our committee is elected by our members and take on the voluntary task of ensuring the smooth, compliant and safe running of the group and its activities.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF OUR COMMITTEE?

COMMITMENT

- Committee members are expected to commit to attend monthly meetings, outside of rehearsal time, to discuss the current production, any compliance issues or any other business related to the current season.

- Committee members are expected to be contactable throughout the season, even when not directly involved in the current production.
- Committee members are expected, where possible, to assist with performance dates whether backstage or front of house.
- Committee members commit to ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment.

RESPECT

- Committee members should be approachable to all members of the group and be willing to assist members with any queries, concerns or grievances they may have.
- Any concerns officially raised by members of the group will be taken seriously by committee and dealt with respectfully.
- Any conversation with a member of the group regarding personal issues, should remain confidential unless the member gives permission for it to be shared with the rest of the committee. The only exception to this should be in the case of a potential safeguarding concern.
- Committee members are expected to remain alert and observant, particularly during rehearsal time, to ensure the well-being of our group members.

PROFESSIONALISM

Committee members are expected to display professionalism at all times, setting a good example to the rest of the group in their behaviour and conduct.

OUR DIRECTORS

Our Directors volunteer their time to put together and produce our shows. All members have the opportunity and are encouraged to step forward to take on this role.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF OUR DIRECTORS?

COMMITMENT

- It goes without saying that taking on the Director's role is a huge commitment. Our Directors recognise this and therefore commit to dedicating the time and effort necessary to put on a great show.
- Our Directors are expected to start the planning process early, involving all the necessary production team and being clear of what is expected of them.

RESPECT

- Our Directors are responsible for creating a good, harmonious and supportive working environment, based on a mutual respect.
- Our Directors should give all members reasonable opportunity to audition for parts / songs where possible, and subsequently work to the strengths of each person.
- Our Directors understand the varying range of skill and experience within a cast and will work with everyone with the same level of respect, consideration and patience.
- Our Directors should be reasonable in their demands on time, energy and enthusiasm from cast and crew, and be approachable to those who may feel overwhelmed by the production process.

PROFESSIONALISM

- Our Directors will remain professional throughout the rehearsal process, displaying the same behaviour and conduct that is expected from all members.
- Whilst the rehearsal process can be a frustrating one at times, our Directors are expected to remain calm and provide feedback in a constructive and positive manner.

- In return, our Directors should be receptive to feedback from cast members, providing it is presented in an appropriate way.

GENERAL INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The agreed Subscription Fee for the forthcoming season is due by the 29th September 2024, unless you have discussed an alternative payment plan with Becky. (Participation in the Group's activities is not permitted until the Treasurer receives full payment or commitment to pay in instalments).

Adult Membership = £60 per season

Youth Membership (10 – 18) = £35 per season

(Payment can be made in instalments – please speak to Becky to agree a payment plan)

HONORARY MEMBERS

A current list of honorary members can be obtained upon request from the Secretary.

GROUP'S PROPERTY

No Moat Players property can be borrowed without the prior permission of a member of the Committee. Any items borrowed from backstage should be returned either on the final night of a production or a.s.a.p. Any items purchased by the Moat Players remain the property of the Group and should therefore also be returned backstage. This also includes scripts.