

## **Chairman's Report March 2022**

Firstly, welcome to St Andrew's Pantomime Group AGM for the year 2021/22, and isn't it great to be back!

I finished last year's report by offering optimism that hopefully we wouldn't have to lie dormant for another year, and we didn't. Mother Goose went full steam ahead. Ordinarily I would, at this stage of my report, offer up the positive headlines about great feedback and high audience numbers ... and this year will be no different.

Yes, audience numbers were down, 72% of total sales as opposed to over 95%, which was expected given the circumstances although we perhaps started our concerted Social-Media push a little late. However, feedback was good, except for one or two comments that it was just a fraction too long – those people should have been around when my epics were performed – and most of all cast, crew and audiences seemed to have a whale of a time.

Of course, over 20% less sales could and should have hit us hard financially, however Leeds Utd's loss was our gain. With Calvin Philips being out injured he clearly had more time to focus on his community work, to which end the signed shirt he donated to us raised over £900, which filled the coffers nicely. A big thank you to Calvin for his generosity. After that boost, and a little tighter hold on expenses, our distributable profit is £10,136.65 which is actually a little more than we had following Goldilocks in 2020.

In this year's report I wanted to make special mention of a Group stalwart who is stepping down. Jane has been our Front of House Manager for many, many, many years ... about 720, I think. During that time, she and Caroline have taken on not just ticket sales, but also sweets and refreshments and the unenviable task of audience management. I wish she could go on forever bringing her own inimitable style to that very important role, I'm sure we all do. But Jane, and indeed Caroline, deserve a rest ... but not too much of one because they will be back running the Coffee and Tea stall. So, with the Conlon family and friends reprising their excellent effort from this year running the sweets, we will be left short only of a Front of House Manager, which we will talk more about in a little while. So, thank you Jane and thank you Caroline, you will be sorely missed.

Another person that I wanted to offer thanks to at this meeting is Donna. Donna has been with the Group for many years in fact she is very much part of a Pantomime Family along with her mum, dad, sister Louise and children. Donna has performed in several of our shows, and latterly has been Secretary to the committee for many years, but with other priorities filling her life now she had decided to step down. So thank you for all of your hard work over the years Donna.

So, like I said at the start, we are back! Hopefully with bang. 2022/23 will see our next show, Cinderella, being performed for the first time in 11 years, and Rachel has taken on the mantle of Producing the show.

So, on that note I will finish as we move into show season 2022/23 and look forward to keeping Pantomime in the Community into!

**Simon Forster, Group Chairman March 2022.**