

Summary:

Richings Players are a not for profit theatre group who have been putting on productions in the Ivers for more than ninety years. We applied for £2,000 for a new cyclorama to project lights on to and £600 for a new floor cloth to go on the stage. This was to replace old equipment that was no longer fit for purpose enabling us to sustain the quality of our productions. We spent £1,083.92 and plan to procure some curtain runners with a cost of about £200 to hang the cyclorama from.

How your project went:

The project was successfully completed and we are very happy with the outcomes. The board funding was used to procure two specialist items. As an amateur society we did not have experience with procuring these items in the past and had to invest the time to research options and find suitable suppliers. One of the challenges was agreeing the measurements of the stage they would be used on as we usually only access that during our productions and were reliant on getting input from one particular member of the society, this resulted in delays. We were hoping to be able to buy accessories at the same time as the drapes and had not realised that the drape suppliers did not stock the corresponding accessories. Through the procurement process we managed to find additional suppliers and procure more robust products for a lower price realising some savings.

Impact on the local community:

We recently staged a production of Robinson Crusoe in Iver Village Hall. It attracted more than 675 audience members across five performances. Through this show Richings Players provided the local community an opportunity to connect with each other as well as encouraging the youngsters in the audience to appreciate the arts. There was a large cast including a large number of young children with some of these having their first opportunity to perform on stage. Their involvement will have helped them grow in confidence, develop new skills and feel more engaged. In the past many members have come back for other productions and / or gone on to a career in the arts. The new cyclorama was a perfect backdrop to our staging, for example we projected ships rigging onto it to complete the effect of our ship. The new floor cloth was a significant improvement on our previous one with the latex backing and tighter weave providing a secure base for our dancers and helping to avoid trips or slips. Overall the production was well received by cast and audience members alike. Thanks for your support, it really has enabled us to raise our game and put on productions to be proud of.

