

Wells Operatic Society Limited
minutes of the meeting held on
11 June 2012

COMMITTEE

Richard Wright, Gerald Eyers, Mark Wall, Pauline Perrin, Alan Hooley, Sharon Edmonds, Ken Edmonds, Doreen Grant, Lyn Jones, Graham Brown, Norman Cowell and The Mayor of Wells

1. **Apologies** - Lyn Jones
2. **Minutes of the last meeting and AGM** - agreed
3. **Matters Arising**
 - Improving pit and orchestra area - consideration of Lottery grant and Arts Council grant application - **PP & RW ongoing**
 - The alternative heating/air conditioning system: Work has been completed and payment made. Review of operating success - **RW**. The system seems to be very good. Instructions are in the box. **RW** to contact installation firm to check on routine maintenance and service book for filter changes etc.
 - Outside bar door repairs - **MW ongoing**
 - Billboards to be made to fit posters obtained by **GE** - **MW**. Billboard design is being established. **GE** to produce a 'guide'
 - Lighting desk and window replacement - **MW & GB ongoing**
 - Youth Theatre - progress check - **DG**. **RW** wrote to Sarah Neale on 14 March and chased it on 28 March but has not had a substantive response. **DG** has attempted to follow up with no success. Our general concerns are that we are not clear about the future of the Youth Theatre, its financial situation or its perceived commitment to the parents of the children involved. **RW** to write again to find out the situation
 - Dinner Dance Review - Sandra Marshall prepared a report for the committee. Generally the DD evening was seen to have been a great success and although there were some areas of concern the format is expected to continue next year. Many thanks to AH and Sandra for their work in making a great night.
 - AGM Report/feedback - no issues
 - The Big Snap -**KE** will organise a photo for the bar.
 - Cold Comfort Farm - Review - **RW** great! £1269 box office takings, most tickets were sold on line
 - Cinderella Awards Evening - Review - **GE** 19 nominations and 7 wins excellent. Well done to everyone. Full details are on the board
 - Simon & Garfunkel Sing-along - 17 June - cancelled due to lack of numbers. We will try again next year
 - Repainting of the bar - **SE** to test some ideas before the next meeting.
 - Purchase of three new 'timps' (drums) - **RW** Sheila Ross has written to the committee, she has suggested that we purchase 3 from Yeovil Town band (who are replacing theirs). The committee agreed that storage was the main issue and that this probably meant 'no' **RW** to talk to Sheila to check price and explain storage problem.
 - Use of the theatre mailing list. It was agreed that active members of the society would automatically be included in the web based email system. This should mean that more members will receive 'club based' information, **RW** to talk to Chris Spray.

4. Correspondence

- RW received a letter from Elliot Lever on 23rd May 2012 warning of vision impairment and mild autism, which could lead to minor health and safety issues. **RW** has spoken and written to Elliot to explain that the responsibility of H&S remains with the individual. All members have a responsibility to look after themselves as well as others around them. The committee discussed some H&S issues and in particular the backstage corridor, which is often cluttered. **MW** particularly pointed out the problem of the steps outside the stage left exit. It was agreed that **MW** and **RW** would notify stage managers that the corridor should be kept clear and the steps removed (unless specifically needed for a short term task). **GE** to provide a notice.
- Swans in Wells - **RW** - It is now unlikely that we shall look after a swan this summer
- Email received from Lisa Cope who wishes to run a Charity Night in the theatre on 24 November 2012 - she asks if the hire fee can be discounted and could the bar open? It was agreed to waive the hire fee. A bar should be available (depending on volunteers). The theatre will keep the bar takings. **RW** to contact Lisa

5. Treasurer's Report - PP

- Sale of shares with Barclays Bank - ongoing
- Divers - a regular, annual, invoice will be set up
- Sound of Music - profit £2263. Well done to all
- Credit card transactions. PP has been monitoring the cost of the card machine, broadband and related charges. The £1 fee made for booking tickets taken during the last year just about covers this cost. The £1 fee will continue.
- Final Accounts for 2011 are on the board.

6. Membership

- New members - Ordinary - Elliott Lever
Ordinary - Louise Baker
Ordinary - Maria Furze (nee Olpeanu)
Ordinary - Matt Townsend
- Arrangements for next Carnival Curry 16th November 2012 night - ongoing - **AH**
- Big Lunch for Sunday 3 June - a very good event, lots of fun, cake and rain! Thanks to all those involved

7. Publicity

- Animal Farm Publicity, all in hand - **KE & RW**
- The Big Snap picture should appear soon in the Journal.

8. Theatre Renovations

- Downpipe - **MW** ongoing
- Code lock on front door and remove crash bar - **MW ongoing**
- Use of the container - **MW** needs a good clear out. Agreed to have a container sale and BBQ on **August 5th**
- Lighting in workshop and hanging sockets **GB** ongoing
- N R Bishop electrical engineers will be asked to check phase connection of new air conditioning unit. **MW**

9. Production/Trifold/Hire

- **Animal Farm, July 4-7 2012** Director - **Lois Harbinson**, Producer - **RW, SM** and set design - **Catherine Tucker**, Programme **Sarah Kendall**, publicity - **KE & Sarah Kendall**, Costumes - **Louise Baker**, Lighting -

Pete Ross, Props - **Charlie & Pat Watkins**, Prompt - **Joanna Hartley**, Rehearsal schedule **done**, Budget **done**, Ticket price **£9 & £7**

- **A Little Night Music Sept 5-8 2012** - Director **Lois Harbinson**, MD - **Sheila Ross**, Choreographer - **Emma Body**, Producer - **Lucy Plant**, Programme and publicity - **?**, Stage Designer - **Catherine Tucker**, Stage Manager - **?**, Costumes - **Kate Hathway**, Lighting - **Graham Brown**, Props - **?**, Prompt - **Freda Brown**, Rehearsal schedule- **Agreed**, Budget **TBA**, Ticket price **TBA**
- **October Play** - any volunteers?
- **Panto - December 15-22 2012** Rumpelstiltskin written by **Vicky Orman**, **RW** Directing, **Vicky Orman** Producing, **Nick Barlow** MD, **Dave Papworth** SM, Lighting - **Graham Brown**, Prompt - **Freda Brown**, Sound - **Pete Ross**, Adult Choreography - **Kim Fisher**, Child Choreography - **Judi Neale**, Rehearsal Schedule - **TBA**, Budget - **TBA**, Ticket Price - **TBA**.
- **February 21 - 23** - One act plays? Tba
- **Anything Goes - April 22nd -27th 2013** - **GE** directing; **TE** - choreography, MD - **Sheila Ross**, Producer -**?**, Programme and publicity - **?**, Stage Designer - **?**, Stage Manager - **David Papworth**, Costumes - **?**, Lighting - **?**, Props - **?**, Prompt - **DG**, Rehearsal schedule- **TBA**, Budget **TBA**, Ticket price **TBA**
- **June (date to be confirmed) - The Wiz**- Youth Theatre
- **July 17 - 20** - A play? **KE** is looking at a Terry Pratchett play possibly 'Mort'
- **September 11 - 14 2013** - Musical play?
- **October 23 - 26 2013** - Play?
- **Pantomime December 14 - 21 2013**
- **Spring 2014** - **KE** is looking at **Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**
- **Spring 2016** - **Ken Edmonds** has suggested that we consider 'Kiss Me Kate' as this is the 400th year after Shakespeare's death. Other Shakespeare productions might also be considered for this year. Ongoing.

10. Training

- Sewing Group - going really well, very popular
- New Directors Course - **DG** has been on a SFD workshop day, very good, led by Philip de Glanville £15 a head. He would be willing to run something here if we wanted it.
- Mark McGann acting day at the Merlin - v good. **DG** will write a piece for the next In house magazine.
- **Bicton Weekend 20 - 22 July** - The Committee are happy to support the cost of this if Members are keen to go. Details on the Bar notice board and Trifold.

11. Show Reviews

The Jersey Boys, Prince Edward theatre London, the story of Frankie Valli and the four seasons. Very good - **DG**
Wicked at the Apollo Victoria, London - an excellent show **PP**
Beggar's opera by White Horse Opera, Devizes, a little slow, needing a scene change, but very good. **PP**
Mozart's the Magic flute - Bath Festival, **PP**
Cold Comfort Farm, here, **RW** and a host of others - very good, creative and inspirational.

12. Any Other Business

- Black Chair Productions - 23 June - **GE** to email details out to members
- Moth treatment - Brian Roberts from Service Care is coming on Tuesday June 19 and Wednesday 20 June. Kate Hathway will monitor and supervise.
- Costumes to catalogue - The costumes have been carefully sorted and will now go through a cataloguing process. DG has assembled some 'rules and guidelines' drawn up by the group. To display in the Theatre handbook and on the wardrobe door.
- GE presented a proposal (detailed by Rob Rogers) for changes to the theatre's sound system. It was noted that we had looked at various options in the past and for various reasons decided not to proceed. The audio system has degenerated and we now really need to look at this again. It was agreed to go ahead with a working group to investigate the requirements further and present a cost analysis to the committee next month. Working group - GE, Rob Rogers, GB, AH, KE
- PULSE Gas certification need to be renewed **RW** to arrange.

13. Date of next meeting -16 July 2012 and then 13th August 2012