

Wells Operatic Society Limited
Minutes of the meeting held on
23 April 2012

COMMITTEE

Richard Wright, Gerald Eyers, Mark Wall, Pauline Perrin, (Gordon Scott), Alan Hooley, Sharon Edmonds, Ken Edmonds, Doreen Grant, Lisa Cope, (Co-opted Patrons Secretary), Graham Brown, Norman Cowell and The Mayor of Wells

1. Apologies Pauline Perrin,

2. Minutes of the last meeting - one amendment (section 6 'the Big Snap'), Chris Spray had no knowledge of his volunteering for this, apologies, RW to follow up, the remainder agreed

3. Matters Arising

- Improving pit and orchestra area - consideration of Lottery grant and Arts Council grant application - **PP** to follow up in the next meeting. Heritage lottery fund etc **ongoing**
- The alternative heating/air conditioning system: Work will start on 23 April: **RW** applied for a discretionary grant from Wells City Council and they have provided a cheque for £1,000 - **RW**
- Outside bar door repairs - **MW** ongoing
- Billboards to be made to fit posters obtained by **GE**, now the size has been established **MW** to make new boards. It was agreed the poster designs must have very clear lettering.
- Lighting desk window replacement - **MW & GB** ongoing
- Youth Theatre - some concerns - RW wrote to **Sarah Neale** on 14 March and chased it on 28 March but has not had a substantive response **DG** to follow up - particularly regarding the children's' payments
- Patron's Secretary - **Lyn Jones** has confirmed she wishes to stand and a nomination form has been completed

4. Correspondence

- Email received from **Gordon Scott: Sue** has joined a choir and **Gordon** is a volunteer lockkeeper for four locks in Stone
- **RW** has been invited and will attend the Mayor Making Ceremony on 18 May
- Megan Whittey, co-ordinator and organiser of the Swan's Promotion in Wells has asked that one of the swans be placed in the car park at the Theatre. This was agreed, there will be no cost to the Theatre
- A request for annual parking was received from Andrew Tucker. Agreed. Cost is £300pa. **GE** to organise a permit and invoice.
- Sandy left a message in the Hotbox congratulating those involved in the one act plays - she suggests we do more.
- Bar staff are asking for a new basket for the dish washer, and new glasses. Agreed, **GE** to talk to Gill Kerton

5. Treasurer's Report - PP

- Sale of shares with Barclays Bank - **ongoing**
- The Sound of Music - very good stats - 98% attendance, taking £9,486. Although we have not had the final costs it looks like a profit of about £1000, which is really great. Interestingly our on-line sales were the highest ever - with 70% of people buying tickets through our website.
- Show Budgets and targets. **GE** presented details of show targets and how they are set.

6. Membership

- The committee formally noted with sadness the death of Frank Thomasson last month. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Aileen and the family.

- New members - none
- Patrons - Rotary has now become a Theatre sponsor, paid £100 and booked tickets for Cold Comfort Farm (10 tickets discounted 20% for each show)
- Dinner Dance dates and arrangements - 25 May 7pm for 7:30pm start, formal dress code, buffet meal, possibly subsidised, bar and music to run to 11:30pm. Tickets will be £17.50. **AH** unable to go and **Chris Spray** will take over organisation
- AGM Friday 11 May 2012 reports:- Past production -**Sharon Edmonds**, Forthcoming productions - **Doreen Grant**, Theatre improvements etc - **Mark Wall**, Youth Theatre - **Sarah Neale** (tbc), Entertainment and Social report - **Alan Hooley** (to be read by someone on his behalf as he will not be able to attend), Catering arrangements - **Sharon** and **Ken**, Wine and drinks. Nominations have been received for all posts on the committee - except the Theatre Administrator. **RW** to remind membership.
- Roy Bevan Award - 'reminder to vote' to be sent out
- NODA Awards. There are 5 this year.
- Sunday 20 May 3pm **Big Snap** - all members have been informed: **CS** will be asked if he can help provide some seating, maybe a rostrum and layout for about 100; **KE** to confirm photographer as Jason Bryant
- Arrangements for next Carnival Curry night - ongoing - **AH**
- Big Lunch for Sunday 3 June - **TE** ongoing **GE** to remind

7. Publicity

- Fosse & Mendip News - **KE** feedback regarding Sound of Music we are waiting to see if there is an invoice.
- Local Reach - A5 community magazine - ongoing - **KE**
- Wells Museum, Thanks to Catriona and Catherine Tucker for taking this link on and organising materials for display.
- Arrangements for annual programme adverts - **KE -ongoing**
- Cold Comfort Farm publicity - posters and flyers now available - **RW**; no need for a banner; Bill Board posters -use A3 prints
- **GE** to arrange publicity material for 'Black Chair' production in June.

8. Theatre Renovations

- Downpipe - **MW** ongoing
- Code lock on front door and remove crash bar - **MW** ongoing
- Use of the container - **MW** - we need to arrange a day for clearance, ongoing

9. Production/Trifold/Hire

- **The Sound of Music, 16-21 April 2012:** feedback and review: - very good everyone praised this successful show. The children were excellent, as was the casting. Our thanks particularly to Gill, Darren and Chris Spray. Well done!
- **Bristol Old Vic - Cold Comfort Farm** - 30 May 2012 confirmed - **RW, FOH** - Marcel and Jackie, **NC** to organise Box Office
- **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 Boddy**, Producer - **Lucy Plant**, Programme and publicity - **?**, Stage Designer - **Catherine Tucker**, **SM?**, Costumes - **Kate Hathway**, Lighting - **Graham Brown**, Props - **?**, Prompt - **Freda Brown?**, Rehearsal schedule **agreed**, Budget **TBA**, Ticket price **TBA**
- **October Play?** - **MW** has some ideas, ongoing
- **Panto - December 15-22 2012 Rumpelstiltskin** written by **Vicky Orman**, **RW** Directing, **Vicky Orman** Producing, **Nick Barlow** - MD, **Dave Papworth** - SM, Lighting - **Graham Brown**, Sound - **Pete Ross**, Adult choreography - **Kim Fisher**, Child choreography - **?** Rehearsal Schedule - **TBA**, Budget - **TBA**, Ticket Price - **TBA**.
- **Feb 21-23 One Act plays?**
- **Spring Show, April 15th-20th 2013** - Anyone interested? Any ideas? Robert and Elizabeth? (**NC**), Into the Woods - **Sondheim?** (**SE**)

- **June** (date to confirm) **The Wiz** - Youth Theatre
- **July 17-20** a play? **Any volunteers?**
- **September 11-14 2013** - **musical play any ideas?**
- **October 23-26 2013** **Play**
- **Pantomime Dec 14-21 2013**
- **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 - this is really going well; lots of good feedback. Thanks to Sarah Briton

DG is going on a first time director course - with Mark McGann - very exciting!

11. Show Reviews

MW - Sweeney Todd at the Adelphi Theatre, London. Michael Ball was excellent but surpassed by Imelda Staunton. A great show.

MW - Matilda at the Cambridge Theatre, London. A really good refreshing, good fun, high quality show.

GE - Formby, Lyme Regis, one man show - turned out nice

DG - Top Hat, Bristol Hippodrome with Tom Chambers - good fun show with loads of glitzy tap dancing!

GB - Fascinating Aida, Octagon Yeovil. Witty, sassy, quite a show.

12. Any Other Business

- Cinderella Awards Evening - list on the board. See GE for details.
- Divers may wish to hire rehearsal room and bar for fundraising quiz night, agreed. Contact **GE**
- S&G sing along day 17th June - TE organising this. Notices are up. The Animal Farm tech will not involve cast
- Repainting of Bar - back on the agenda to sort out. **SE**
- Photography - KE thinks that Jason Bryant might be interested in taking show photos
- Video for panto, Richard Harris has agreed to do this. RW and GB to arrange.
- NC asked that he should be given website authority to issue complimentary tickets for shows - agreed RW to inform Chris Spray

13. Date of next meeting -11 May (AGM) and 11 June and then 16th July