

Wells Operatic Society Limited
Minutes of the meeting held on
23rd June 2008

COMMITTEE

Richard Wright, Gerald Evers, Mark Wall, Gordon Scott, Lisa Cope, Terry Delaney, Alan Hooley, David Papworth, Chris Spray, Jenny Hailes, Doreen Grant, Tina Evers and The Mayor of Wells, Mrs Christine Borastero

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies received from Lisa Cope, Doreen Grant

RW thanked **GE** and **TE** for their work over the last few years.

GE circulated contacts list to update – corrected version to be sent out with minutes

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed with one correction – it should have been recorded that **GS** made the suggestion that the planters and tubs be completely removed from the front of the theatre – thus making life easier and removing the need for a volunteer to tend the 'potio'. The committee agreed to offer the 'job' to the membership at the AGM, as a first step. (see note below)

3. Matters Arising

Kate Hathway has volunteered to take on the role of tending the front of theatre area.

4. Correspondence

- NODA – Ian Wickens is not standing again as our regional rep (District 8). If anyone is interested in standing for the position - they should talk to **GE** or **RW**, nominations need to be in before **28th July**. See notice board.
- Three requests for tickets to be given as raffle prizes to various local Schools. These were denied.
- St Cuthbert's invitation to the Thanksgiving service on July 20th - passed on to **RW**
- **Fair Trade** - government guidelines booklet added into Theatre handbook **GE**
- Veolia – (waste disposal company) we pay £10 a month for removal of rubbish as well as £2.50 for each blue sack. **GS** said he had some updated information on recycling and waste disposal. **CS** to follow this up and look at the Somerset Recycling Waste Partnership for more information. The committee can then look at how and what we do to recycle. A short discussion about the recycling of products in the theatre – what do we do? **GS** has a contact for removal of waste as charity. Ongoing. **CS**

5. Treasurer's Report

- Finances are fine
- **GS** underlined to all that **ALL** utilities (water, gas and electricity) are going up – so please **turn it off**, do not just put every light on in the building, think and don't be wasteful! Tell everyone. Discussion about low voltage lamps and other energy saving processes and steps towards efficiency.

6. Membership

GE explained that the amended rules (as from the AGM) are now with **RW** and a copy is in the Theatre Handbook in the bar.

The following new memberships were accepted –

Ordinary Membership	Donna-Marie Macpherson
Ordinary Membership	Jamie Symes
Ordinary Membership	Tucker, Catherine
Ordinary Membership	Penny Bonetti
Ordinary Membership	Sue Jones
Ordinary Membership	Anne Scullard
Social Membership	Jean Reeson

7. Publicity

TD – publicity for Habeas Corpus are all in hand. The banner is ready and the cost will be £140 plus £40 to clean. **MW** volunteered clean it.

RW has a new 'stand up banner' for the foyer he will move this to various places about the City.

8. Theatre Renovations

- Disabled access **RW MW**. The proposals with costs were discussed. It was felt that at this time a good clear up and weed was the next step. Problems with access, rubbish and intruders seem to have been better lately, and we don't want to just throw money at it. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation. **MW** will do the weed clearing and then organise a good time for volunteers to clear the passage and tidy the car park.
- Foyer development. **RW** suggests that we put some time into this. **RW** to look at Community Partnership Funding. Suggestion that we bring in an 'outside agency / interior designer' to offer discussion and ideas (a fresh view). **RW** asked that we all email ideas and thoughts to him (copies to GE). **RW** will bring this together and then **JH, TD, Annette Papworth and MW** to meet with a 'designer' to discuss. Ideas can extend to the outside canopy and external sign, lighting, carpet (including main corridor) and box office requirements.
- PIR light outside Chamberlain Street entrance. Angelo has done this. Ask Sandy if the situation is better.
- **CS** will look at a replacement lamp for the front canopy and contact Angelo over replacement.
- Rifle microphones. Details as before - cable and microphones and small amplifier, cost about £800 total. Discussion took place around this. **CS** to look at other options with Simon Blaymires. Committee decided to leave it at present and look again in the future. **AH** and **CS** ongoing.
- **DP** reported that the 'stage maintenance' working party had been looking at the rollers and the front tabs, with improvements, cleaning and renovations. New ropes are required. All ongoing and going well, should be completed by mid September. DP and CS have been looking at various 'fixing points' for the batons in the roof and suggested that 5 new suspension points should be added to the roof structure. This would give a better, safer and more universal arrangement for the hanging of cloths and tabs. Cost £500 agreed. **DP** and **CS** ongoing.

9. Production/trifold/hire

- **Habeas Corpus** 16-19 July 2008 – Dir **RW**. Budget agreed. -A request for travelling expenses by Val Burbidge was denied. Tickets £8 & £6
- **Jack the Ripper** 10-13th Sept. 08 Dir - **AH**. Chor - **Ella Upham**, Lighting - **Graham Brown**, SM - **DP**, MD - **Nick Barlow**. Budget discussed and agreed. Tickets £9 & £8
- **When we are Married** 15-18th Oct. Dir - **Charles Simmonds**, Prod – **MW**. Readings Monday 30 June and Monday 21st July. Auditions Sunday 27th July. Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals until 14 September and thereafter Wednesdays/Fridays. Tickets £8 & £6 **Rehearsal Schedule to follow, Budget to be agreed**
- **Sleeping Beauty** 13-20th Dec 08 Dir – **Gill Kerton**, Choreography – **TE**, Child Choreography – **Sarah Neale**, SM - **CS**, Lights- **Graham Brown**, MD - **Russell Collins**. - GK came to the meeting and presented her budget. This was discussed and agreed. Ticket prices at £8, £7 and £6 **Rehearsal Schedule to follow**
- **My Fair Lady** 20-25th April 2009 – Dir - **Lois Harbinson**, Prod - **GS**, MD - **Sheila Ross**, lighting – **Simon Blaymires**, SM - **DP**. Wednesdays & Friday with some Mon and Weekends as required. **Rehearsal Schedule to follow** - Tickets £10 & £9 **Budget to be agreed**
- **Seussical the Musical** 4th-6th June 2009 'Youth Theatre production' 7 –18yrs, as a Little Theatre production. Dir & Chor - **Sarah Neale** MD - **Russell Collins** **Rehearsal Schedule to follow (Sundays and Tues. or Thurs.)** Starts in Jan 09. There should always be enough adults present ask for check details from SN no bar during reh. Tickets £9 & £7 **Budget to be agreed**
- **Play** 15th-18th July 2009. Anyone interested should contact the committee.
- **Musical** 9th-12th Sept 2009 by Ken Edmonds – **title & rehearsal schedule to follow. Budget to be agreed Tickets £10 & £6?**
- **Play** 21st -24th Oct 2009. Anyone interested should contact the committee.
- **Panto** 12th-19th Dec 2009 – Dir - **Chris Briton**, title to follow – Pos Treasure Island (aka A Vast Behind) Vicky, Katie and Chris are writing, Choreography – **Sarah Neale**, **need SM and MD, title & rehearsal schedule to follow. Budget to set.** Tickets £9 & £8
- **Sept 2010** - Little Lights up part 2? A One Act Play could be second half at another time. **tbc**

10. Training

- NODA Bicton weekend –**TE**. There is quite a lot of interest – 10 members are going for the full weekend with two others for the Saturday course. Total cost £105 is for the weekend, singing and acting course. £25 for the Saturday. As in the past the committee agreed to financially support those members who would like to go. It

was agreed that this year it should be £40 for those going for the weekend and £10 for those on the one day courses. TE expressed thanks on behalf of those going.

Full weekend – Tina Eyers, Lisa Cope, Judi Neale, Sarah Neale, Stacey Dorling, Ivor, Jon Sansam, Jenny Hailes, Emma Dance, Sandra Lewis

Saturday – Julie and Helen Makin

Total financial support by The Society £420

11. Any other business

- **Murder Mystery** proposal from 'Amazing Events' (Nicky Hann). Details with RW. This outside group were making enquiries about the use of the building and facilities. Committee decide that if they wish to hire the building then they need to contact the Secretary. RW to contact and explain the hire charges; we do not hire costumes.
- **Thales programme printing.** AH. Thales are kindly offering to cover our printing costs up to £1000 for the remainder of the year. All communication should be through AH.
- **Urban Motion** - Sarah Neal and Stacey Dorling have put forward a request to hire the rehearsal room to teach 'urban / street dancing'. It was agreed to hire them the room for a trial period – up to Dec 2008. There was some concern over the resulting availability of the Room for theatre productions, but this will be monitored. GE They will propose to start in Sept details to follow.
- **Little Theatre Youth Group** – Sarah Neale and Anna Friend proposed the revival of this venture within the society. An initial outline proposal was circulated, (13-18 year old students, drama, music and dancing, running under our banner, student would need to be Little Theatre members). This was discussed and generally the idea was agreed. More details are to be considered at the next meeting. There were some concerns over entry and exit to the building (codes), emergency procedures and adult supervision, and generally how the society and membership could cope with larger quantities of children in the building – wear and tear, the bar, police checks, the law etc. (MW to look at a lock to push shut on the rear auditorium door this will help closing up in the evening.) Ongoing RW to update Sarah and Anna
- **Summer School Drama Workshops** – Anna Friend. This idea was discussed. There was concern over the realistic time constraints and other issues with the booking of the Theatre. It was agreed that it would not be feasible to run the workshop this summer. RW to reply to Anna.
- **Database.** CS has made considerable progress in this. The committee are to be informed of progress at the next meeting. Ongoing
Due to the time the following issues were not discussed. The Chairman asked that they be carried forward into the next meeting.
- Bulletin/forum via website.
- Website.
- **Calendar/diary.** Please keep GE informed of all proposed bookings.
- Diving Group.
- Theatre Hand Book.
- Adjudicator/Awards Book.
- Archives. And storage - secretary would like a filing Cabinet!!
- Hiring Charges. Consider price increase at the next meeting. GE
- **Membership** class and fees. GE
- Maximising income and profit. / yearly shows budget
- Major projects.
- Raffle? –Who, when and with what?
- **Wardrobe sort out with TE and etc some agreement for the others to look at storage and cataloguing.**
- Feedback on AGM. – c/f concerns raised by Norman Cowell
- Feedback on Dinner Dance. **Set date for AGM and DD 2009. check spotlight for the Cinderella Awards date**

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 23rd July and then Monday 1 September 2008

The Chairman thanked the committee for their attendance. The meeting finished at 10.50pm