

**Wells Operatic Society Limited**  
**Minutes of the meeting on**  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.30pm**

**COMMITTEE**

Richard Wright (Vice Chair), Pauline Perrin, Ken Edmonds, Alisa Creaser, Graham Brown, Lyn Jones, Sharon Edmonds, Mike Scammell, Dave Collyer, Niamh McGrogan, Rob Trayhurn, Gerald Evers  
The President, the Mayor of Wells, Cllr John North.

**Apologies** – Rob Trayhurn, Alisa Creaser, Cllr. John North, Dave Collyer

**1. Minutes of the last meeting** – agreed

**2. Matters Arising**

- a. SOUP fundraising opportunity – **NM** and Sandra will present the pitch on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018. **SE** to post out details and encourage members to support.
- b. Theatre Handbook. A start has been made and some information circulated. **RT** - ongoing
- c. Rotary initiative is to purchase and locate a number of defibrillators in the city. Wells Rotary are currently in discussions with Mendip DC with a view to locating defibrillators possibly adjacent to the various car park ticket machines, our building is also being considered. No decision from MDC yet so everything is on hold. **GE** – ongoing

**3. Correspondence**

- a. Car park maintenance. Andy Chinnock – **PP** – to check to see if this work has been carried out.
- b. Criminal Damage (graffiti in the summer) – **RW** received a letter from the police saying that no further action will be taken.
- c. MDC have sent us a renewal form for Food Hygiene. Agreed not to continue with this because we do not prepare food on the premises. **PP**
- d. N R Bishop have finished the electrical work. (£2600) **GB** to check the details.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Three Musketeers – **PP** the show balance is looking good, ticket sales 95%
- b. Auditorium seating final costs £33,700 +£750 for name plaques, sale of old seats £2000, seat sponsorship (ongoing) £4050 (see also 7a below) **PP**
- c. The Theatre modem use has gone up. **PP** to monitor and ask Nick Barlow to change the password.

**5. Membership**

- a. New members – none after Panto. Reminders will be sent out in the New Year.
- b. Patrons leaflet. **LJ** -ongoing
- c. Social information pack. **NM** -ongoing
- d. Car Park stickers 2018 / permits – **NM** – done. A permit will be given out to all paid up Ordinary members. **GE** to print list ready for January.
- e. Theatre News / What's On sheet – **SE** - ongoing
- f. Fundraising ideas for new seating.
  - 20<sup>th</sup> December - **Carol Singing Night** - members only – profit from the bar to go to the fund, Sheila Ross to play - **NM** 6.30pm start.
  - 31<sup>st</sup> December - **New Year's Eve Party** – members only – profit from the bar to go to the fund, **RW** to find out about live bands (pos. Steve and Burnie) and Karaoke pos. **RW** to set up. **PP** to check bar times. Tickets now available online. **NM**
  - 27<sup>th</sup> January - **Quiz Evening** – **RT** to organise with Terry Ricketts.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> April – **Talent Show**, 2pm onwards, auditions are on Sun 18<sup>th</sup> March, £5 a head tickets, £10 and £5 entry fee – **RT**. Judges now include Tessa Munt. Agreed to start pushing after Christmas and **NM**, **KE** and **RT** will meet to firm up the publicity drive. A close friend of **RT**, Andrew Whitehouse, may offer a main prize of a day looking at restoration of historic Navy/RAF helicopters. Currently they have a Whirlwind - the only flying example in the world - two Wessex 5 and 2 Sea Kings in restoration. The day would culminate in a helicopter flight. **RT**, **KE** and **NM**
  - 16<sup>th</sup> June - **Review and Sketches**, 2pm onwards, £5 a head tickets – **RT** - ongoing
- g. **Dinner Dance** - 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Wells Golf Club £20-25 depending on menu and music **NM**
- h. **AGM** – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

i. **GE** to arrange Roy Bevan and NODA Awards, **RW** to look into other awards.

## 6. Publicity

a. New Logo – **NM / GB** - ongoing

## 7. Theatre Renovations

a. The replacement of the auditorium seating – *final notes*. A massive ‘thank you’ to Ken and Mike and the team, lots of work here alongside everything else. Everyone agrees it looks great. Only positive feedback from audiences during panto week. Apart from the gradual name plaques being installed, all else is done.

b. Stage and Pit development. - ongoing

c. Bar lighting – done

d. PAT testing **MS** - ongoing

e. Stage lights need a new 15A breaker to stop the system tripping out. **GB** – ongoing and relates to the electrical work.

f. Cleaning the bar carpet. **PP** – ongoing into the New Year

g. New signs and billboards at the front of the theatre and on Chamberlain Street. **RW** - ongoing

h. Air Conditioning date, annual maintenance, **RW** to arrange in the New Year (Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 9am). £120 +VAT

i. Repair and roof gully. In bad weather there have been roof leaks over stage left and some of the stage. This work is complete, it was slightly worse than anticipated, but no change to cost. Thanks to Croscombe Roofing. **GE** - done

j. Auditorium heating system. There were some issues during panto week. Most seem to be resolved, but it would be good to review the whole system, especially the vents and air circulation from the pit. **RW** to arrange meeting with Pulse, GB and Angelo.

k. Replace 2 halogen profile spots £2116 Inc. VAT – **GB** – done

l. Tree – white line edge to new surface to discourage cars from driving over the surface edge. **DC Mark Wall** will do the work.

m. Wardrobe floor. – **GE** An extension to the ‘hats’ area in the wardrobe was agreed. GE to talk to Mark Wall and cost.

n. Chamberlain Street doors. Long term damage plus wear and tear means these doors need replacing **GB** to investigate, **RW** check with the fire officer to see if a crash bar is actually needed. Costs to follow.

## 8. Productions/Hire.

**Hires in Dec 2017 and Jan 2018.** See Bar Calendar for details. The person responsible is in bold.

Regular dance hires SWSD x2, Small Steps x 2 - **GE**

Liberty Choir - **GE**

Carol Singing - **NM**

New Year party – **NM**

Elim Church hire – **GB**

Little Shop of Horrors rehearsals – **Nick Barlow**

The London Suite play rehearsals – **Mark Wall & Doreen Grant**

Quiz Night - **RT**

Long Paws Comedy – **GE**

- **December 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2017 - *The Three Musketeers*.** - Review. A huge ‘well done’ to Ken, Nick, Vicky, Julie and all the team for another great panto, lots of great comments. Also a massive thank you to Sally Trayhurn for all her first time duties as FoH manager. Great show, thank you.
- **7-10<sup>th</sup> March 2018** – Mark Wall and Doreen Grant will put on the - ***London Suite* by Neil Simon**. Stage Manager - **Mike Scammell**, Props - **Joanna Hartley Scammell and Vicky Orman**, Sound and Lighting - **Peter Ross**, Costume - **Julia Gear Evans and Doreen Grant**, Set Design and Construction - **Mark Wall**, Prompt - **Doreen Grant, Mark Wall and Catriona Eagle**, Make up – **Helen Makin**, Programme - **Adam Lanfranchi**, Poster Design - **Kathryn Pow**, Publicity - **Ken Edmonds**, FoH manager – **Sally Trayhurn**, Budget - **agreed**, Ticket Price - **£10 and £8**, Rehearsal schedule –**done**.
- **May 15<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) -19<sup>th</sup> 2018** (with a 3pm Matinee on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> i.e. 6 performances) – ***Little Shop of Horrors***. Rights received. Director and Producer – **Nick Barlow**, Choreography - **Eden Simpson**, MD

– **Kelly Simpson**, Rehearsal pianist – **Stephen Shears**, SM – **Mark Wall**, Head of Greek Chorus – **Kate Lynch**, Lighting – **GB**, Sound – **Adrian Mitchell**, Costumes – **Louise Sansam**, Prompt – **Freda Brown**, Props - **Vicky Orman**, **Jo Scammell**, **Mike Scammell**, **Sandra Marshall**, Make up – **Helen and Julie Makin**, Artwork – **Katy Biggs**, **Plant** – **NB**, **Adrian Mitchell** and **GE**, Budget – **agreed**, Publicity - **KE**, Ticket Price – **£12 & £10**, Rehearsal schedule – **done**. FoH manager – **Sally Trayhurn**.

- **Wednesday 6th June** BOVTS West Country Tour. *The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot, adapted by Helen Edmundson. 70/30 split.
- **September 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> 2018** William Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* Director – **RW**, Lighting - **GB**, Mediaeval Musician - **Jonathan Weeks**, Costumes – **Louise Baker**, Stage manager – **Charlie Watkins**, Properties – **Pat Watkins**, Choreography – **Tina Eyers**, Prompt – **Freda Brown**, FoH manager – **tba**, Budget – **tba**, Publicity - **KE**, Ticket Price – **tba**, Rehearsal schedule – **agreed**
- **December 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2018** – *Panto -title to be announced*. Director - **Sharon Edmonds**,
- **March 2019** – RT to have a look at some titles.
- **May 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2019** – **Fiddler on the Roof**. Rights received. Director – **Lois Harbinson**, Assistant Director – **Adam Lanfranchi**, Producer - **Graham Brown**, MD – **Sheila Ross**, Choreography - **Eden Simpson**, SM – **Charlie Watkins**, Set Designer – **Emma Russell**, Lighting – **GB**, Sound – **Adrian Mitchell**, Costumes - **Louise Sansam**, Prompt – **Freda Brown**, **Props - ?**, Make up – **Helen and Julie Makin**, Budget – **tba**, Publicity - **KE**, Ticket Price – **tba**, Rehearsal schedule – **tba**, FoH manager – **Sally Trayhurn**.
- **September 2019** – Any ideas? -
- **Spring Show 2020** – NM is looking at directing **9 to 5: the Musical**, Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton. Nick Creaser has offered to produce. Rights to be investigated. **NM** to present the show to the committee for discussion.

## 9. Training

Bar and FoH training to continue as needed.

## 10. Show Reviews

**GE** – BalletBoyz 'Fourteen Nights' Bath Theatre Royal. Awesome, power and grace. Beautiful and touching.

**PP** – 'Follies' live streaming. National Theatre – excellent. Also 'A Woman of No Importance' part of the Oscar Wild season of live screening via MORE2SCREEN – excellent. Great atmosphere, you really feel like you are there.

**LJ** – 'Don Quixote' in Rome - fantastic!

**RW** – 'Love Actually' film presentation to a live orchestra at the Colston Hall. A great event, really atmospheric with the live music, brill.

## 11. Any Other Business –

**KE** – asked that we consider how the disabled seat(s) might tie in better with the new seating and the box office system. To review at the next meeting.

**GE** – **ST** raised the question of age limits / seat spaces for young children. The situation we have is not clear through the online booking system. **RW** to check out other theatre's policies and see if we can clarify our admittance policy. **GE and RW** to meet with Sally in the New Year.

## 12. Date of next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 then Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February