

Wells Operatic Society Limited
Minutes of the meeting held on
12 March 2012

COMMITTEE

Richard Wright, Gerald Evers, 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

1a The meeting was attended by Charles Burgess, Western Building consultants, Bath. AH had invited Charles to talk through various options for improving the orchestra pit. Consideration covered expansion downward and back under the stage, this would include checking the structure and support of the stage, investigating the water table and making sure the area was correctly lined to protect against damp, (approx £20K 'all in cost'). We discussed looking at other areas such as the wings and louvered doors area (maybe the use of flat screens for communication.) Generally there was support for major works that would allow up to 10 musicians to comfortably occupy an orchestra area. It was also felt that any works below stage must involve the provision for improvements above stage i.e. levelling the stage and wings, possibly giving access to the pit via a rear entrance, and even incorporating a 'trap door'. The cost of the 'project' would rise; but lots more of the membership would benefit from the improvements. We agreed to look into funding, lottery etc **PP** to see what steps need to be taken for this. **AH** to thank Charles for his time and communicate at a later date our decisions.

(The meeting started formally at 7.50)

1. Apologies

- Graham Brown, Norman Cowell, Lisa Cope, Gordon Scott,

2. Minutes of the last meeting agreed

3. Matters Arising

- Improving pit and orchestra area - **AH** see above
- The alternative heating/air conditioning system: The contract has now been confirmed and the work will be carried out between 23 April and 5 May, but will almost certainly start on 23 April and last for a

week. **MW** is alright with this for preparatory work and for finishing off - **RW** ongoing **GE** to inform Sandy

- Outside bar door repairs - **MW** ongoing
- Billboards to be made to fit posters obtained by **GE** - **MW** ongoing
- Lighting desk and window replacement - **MW & GB** ongoing
- Youth Theatre - concerns - **RW** Dates are now-
Thursday 5th April - 6pm-8pm
Sunday 6th May - 10am-12pm
Sunday 3rd June - 10am-12pm
Sunday 22nd July - 10am-12pm
DG will take on the role as 'link' with the committee, she will support Sarah with admin tasks i.e. collecting money and sending out letters. **RW** to write to Sarah
- Patron's Secretary - All discussions have now taken place - **GE & RW** ongoing
- Mothproofing the costume store - quote received from Service Care (£1,145) as a one off treatment but pheromone treatment of £120 per year for two years and thereafter £60 per year would be necessary. Kate Hathway waiting for confirmation to proceed. Agreed
- Costume workshop feedback: doing well, lots of people involved and good clear out. Many thanks to Sarah and her team. ongoing
- Props workshop feedback: Vicky Orman has asked for a budget for plastic storage boxes and for permission to ask Angelo to build a long weapons cupboard and put in additional shelving and a filing cabinet for props storage. Agreed to £200 to support, boxes etc. ongoing

4. Correspondence

- A request for work experience has been declined - **RW**
- **RW** has written to Wells City Council asking for the cost of Wheeler's bill for air conditioning to be paid by them. ongoing
- Graham Brown has asked for approval to buy six 30-litre storage boxes for the lighting box. agreed £50
- Graham Brown has asked for confirmation now (if there is to be confirmation) that the Panto is recorded by Richard Harris for which he will charge members £15 each for a DVD (recorded HD). Agreed
- Gill Kerton has written to suggest that we increase Sandy's money. Agreed £10 an hour.

- St Thomas Women's Fellowship would like help with a Jubilee Sing Along, on Wed 6th June. Details are on the notice board. Any volunteers to make direct contact.

5. **Treasurer's Report - PP**

- Sale of shares with Barclays Bank. ongoing
- We have received confirmation that we have been awarded 15% discretionary grant for rates on top of the mandatory 80%. Many thanks to the City Council
- One Act Plays - income £2307, expenditure £821.81 profit £1485.19. Very successful, many thanks to Doreen and Mark for their vision and hard work. There have been a large number of positive comments for members and audience. **RW** to send out a notice to all members asking for volunteers for a repeat next year.

6. **Membership**

- New members
Peter Carroll - ordinary passed
Lucy Peters - child passed
Harry Peters - child passed
- Patrons - Arrangements with John Lover; President of Wells Rotary: **RW** has explained in full the proposals for sponsorship and **JL** is considering this at the next Rotary Club meeting in about a week's time. **RW** ongoing
- Dinner Dance dates and arrangements - Friday 25th May 7pm for 7:30pm start, formal dress code, seated started and sweet, buffet meal. The committee agreed to continue to subsidise this event. Tickets will be £17.50 **AH** ongoing
- AGM Friday 11 May 2012. **GE** to make arrangements and write to Mayor. Reports:
Past Productions - Sharon Edmonds,
Forthcoming Productions - Doreen Grant,
Theatre Improvements etc - Mark Wall,
Youth Theatre - Sarah Neale,
Entertainment and Social report - Alan Hooley
Catering arrangements - nibbles Sharon & Ken, - wine and drinks Alan. Many thanks.
- Sunday 20 May 3pm The Big Snap - society photograph (bar open from 2pm). **RW** to email members, casual dress, **CS** to do rostrum and layout. **KE** to confirm photographer.
- New Patrons - the feedback from the press article has been very good, with several new Patrons joining.

- Arrangements for next Carnival Curry night - There have been some concerns that the evening was becoming a little unmanageable in some areas. AH talked through some of the issues and suggested 4 areas of control that were needed; the sale of food tickets; the management of the door & guests; the bar and signing in; the preparation and serving of the food. Further discussion is needed before next November. It was agreed to purchase and use plastic cups for the evening. ongoing
- Sewing workshop - the next one is 7 April
- Tina Eyers has volunteered to arrange a 'Big Lunch' for Sunday 3rd June - as part of the Jubilee Celebrations. She will get a team together.

7. **Publicity**

- Fosse & Mendip News, **KE** tried to use these for the one act plays, but publication timings were not suitable, he will continue for the Sound of Music.
- Local Reach - A5 community magazine ongoing **KE**
- **GE** outlined the request from Wells Museum. Details have been emailed out to members. Catherine Tucker and Catriona Eagle have volunteered to look into this. ongoing
- Arrangements for annual programme adverts are being arranged. **KE** ongoing.

8. **Theatre Renovations**

- Downpipe - **MW** ongoing
- Code lock on front door and remove crash bar - **MW** ongoing
- **MW** has concerns about the container and its use and organisation. **MW** to get a team together to look at options.

9. **Production/Trifold/Hire**

- **Trifold** - **GE**
- **Two One Act plays** - reviewed, excellent
- **The Sound of Music 16-21 April 2012** Director - **Gill Kerton**, MD - **Darren Kerton** - Choreographer - **Kim Fisher**, Producer - **Vicky Orman**, SM - **Chris Spray**, Set design/ASM - **Catherine Tucker**, Programme and Publicity - **Katy Biggs** and **Mark O'Callaghan**, Costumes - **Kate Hathway**, **Leslie Roach** & **Sophie Kerton**, Lighting - **Adam Killey** and **Rob Rogers**, Props - **Emma Longley**, Prompt - **Sue Kerton**, Rehearsal schedule **done**, Budget **done**, Ticket price **£12 and £9** no concessions Friday and Saturday. The full cast were auditioned.

- **Bristol Old Vic - Cold Comfort Farm - 30 May 2012** confirmed - **RW, GE** FOH, **NC** to organise Box Office **Marcel and Jackie** FoH
- **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**, Costumes - **Kate Hathway**, Lighting - **Graham Brown**, Props - **?**, Prompt - **?**, Rehearsal schedule **TBA**, Budget **TBA**, Ticket price **TBA**
- **Rumpelstiltskin December 15-22 2012** written by **Vicky Orman**, **RW** Directing, **Vicky Orman** Producing, **Nick Barlow** MD, **Dave Papworth** SM, Lighting - **Graham Brown**, Sound - **Pete Ross**, Rehearsal Schedule - **TBA**, Budget - **TBA**, Ticket Price - **TBA**.
- **Spring 2013** - Anyone interested? Any ideas? Need to choose next meeting
- **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** ntr

11. **Show Reviews**

One Man, Two Guvnors, Adelphi Theatre London, **MW** very pantomime in places, eventually the 'not that strong' joke wears off. Richard Bean's updated version of Goldoni's comic classic.

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, comedy with music and lyrics by Clark Gesner, **DG, KE**, enjoyed it.

12. **Any Other Business**

- **Sound of Music** wishes to use a haze machine for their production. Hire at £162 + VAT or buy at £590 + VAT (Chris Spray/Adam Killey). No provision was initially made for this in their budget. Agreed to fund the hire of this machine. Also,
- Agreed to purchase a new black gauze for Sound of Music **RW**

- Agreed to waive the hire fee for Leanne Franklin's fund raising evening on Saturday 17th March. Many thanks
- **GE** told the committee that Black Chair productions were booked in to perform 2 'shotgun' Shakespeare productions in June - don't miss them!
- NC asked the committee to clarify the arrangements for cast purchase of tickets. It was agreed to open the 'on-line' booking of tickets for members, patrons, and cast 7 days before the public. This might reduce the need for a cast night. These advanced tickets will be for half the seats only, leaving the remaining half fully available to the general public. **GE** has arranged this with **CS**
- Huge congratulations are due to Sam Willetts because on Saturday night, at the David Beach Trophy Awards Evening, he was judged to be best male youth under 21 for his part as 'Stu' in Brenda Bly. Being nominated is a real achievement; being declared the winner is real recognition!

13. Date of next meetings - 23 April, 11 May (AGM) and 11 June

Finished at 10.13, many thanks