

**Wells Operatic Society Limited**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on**  
**16 July 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,** Norman Cowell, Doreen Grant. Alan Hooley and Pauline Perrin (ALNM rehearsal)

**2. Minutes of the last meeting** agreed

**3. Matters Arising**

- Improving pit and orchestra area - consideration of Lottery grant and Arts Council grant application - **PP & RW** have had a look at the papers, **RW** to gather information from various members to support an initial application.
- The alternative heating/air conditioning system: The Rep (Tim Walters) from the installation company gave some helpful instruction about operation and maintenance to **RW, GE, MW, Catherine Tucker and Charlie Watkins**. **MW** asked for a price for a steel 'cage' to protect the outside chilling unit and isolator. £400. Agreed to ask Somerset Forge to supply, we will fit.
- Outside bar door repairs - **MW done**
- Billboards to be made to fit posters obtained by **GE** - **MW**. This has now been accomplished and was successful for Animal Farm. **done**
- Lighting desk and window replacement - **MW & GB** - ongoing
- Youth Theatre - progress check - **DG**. **RW** has arranged a meeting for himself and **DG** with **Sarah** on 18 July. Workshops will start again for Youth Theatre from September 2012 until December. It is now necessary to clarify the 'admission' procedure to the YT. Auditions are now needed irrespective of how long someone has been on the waiting list. Entry into the YT will only grant access to a YT show, and not any other Little Theatre Production.
- Repainting of the bar - **SE** has tested some paint colours, final colours are now decided. **SE** to specify paint colours for **MW** to get 2 quotes for the

work. The aim is to get this done immediately after ALNM.

- Purchase of three new timps - **RW** Committee agreed to purchase TWO at a total cost of £400 we will store and possibly hire out the drums. Review the situation in 12 months.
- Use of the theatre mailing list. It was agreed to ask Chris to 'forcibly enable' this facility **RW** to send out a communication to members.
- Swans in Wells - one has landed in the car park!
- Report from working party for new sound system - **GE** subcommittee minutes are on the board, the full committee discussed the purchase of the equipment and agreed a spend of £5000. **GB** and **Rob Rogers** to do the order. **GB** to arrange mains installation asap
- N R Bishop has inspected the connection of the new air conditioning unit and has cleared it

#### 4. Correspondence

- Email from **Sarah Stott** complaining that there are not enough parts to go around and a number of members like her have been disappointed by rejection following auditions. Committee spent some time discussing this. It was recognised that although we put on many different productions in the year inevitably at times members will be disappointed. However there are always other roles within the Society that need filling by enthusiastic volunteers (FoH, painting, props etc); volunteering for these tasks will be a really good way to keep in touch with the wider theatre membership.
- Request from St Cuthbert's Music festival for raffle prizes. Agreed 2x tickets for the first night of ALNM. **GE** to arrange
- Notice from NODA that our programme for Brenda Bly did not come up to standard for the competition. If we wish to enter this competition in the future we need to check the requirements.
- Sarah Briton as written to the committee to suggest a theatre club to promote the professional theatre in the West Mendip area, project investigation is needed. Possibly as sub group could be formed to need to talk to outside groups. SB to talk to **GE**.
- Catriona Eagle wrote to update the committee over the Wells Museum link; this month the Harry Patch display has been replaced with an Olympic display.

- Catriona reminded committee that there is a problem of chairs slipping off the floor in the upper dressing room. **MW** to investigate.
- Catriona suggested that the Theatre start a choir. The committee are very happy with this, but at the moment do not know of a suitable MD or/and pianist. Catriona needs to talk to **GE** regarding bookings.

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

- Sale of shares with Barclays Bank - **ongoing**
- NODA Insurance renewals (building, content and liability) **completed**
- Animal Farm figures still to finalise
- Compliance details with the credit card regulations are proving to be a pest. **PP** (with Chris Spray) will continue to look at other options.

#### 6. **Membership**

- New members - Layla Carter - ordinary,  
James Sutton - ordinary,  
Richard Wynn-Jones - ordinary (agreed but not paid)
- Arrangements for next Carnival Curry night - ongoing - **AH**
- **Keyboard RW** answered **Sheila Ross's** enquiry by reminding her that the replacement piano was agreed at Committee meeting in February 2011 with a budget of £1,100 - £1,500. Sheila reported that she and Nick will research the position and may have a proposal for Committee on 13 August **RW - ongoing**
- Summer letter due soon to patrons **LJ**
- **Dinner dance** and date 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> (or poss 24<sup>th</sup>) May 2013 to confirm

#### 7. **Publicity**

- Photos of Animal Farm for the press release were not available; producers are reminded to get them to KE.
- Big Snap picture - the committee agreed to purchase an A3 print **GB** to frame **KE** to organise.

#### 8. **Theatre Renovations**

- Downpipe - **MW ongoing**

- Add code lock to the front door and remove crash bar - **MW** approx £150 for the lock plus possibly £60 for the crash bar. Agreed budget to £200 complete.
- Lighting in workshop plus hanging sockets - **GB ongoing**
- Bar mats and glasses have been bought together with a small fridge for the green room (for milk) by Chris Spray and Gill Kerton

## 9. Production/Trifold/Hire

- **A Little Night Music Sept 5-8 2012** - Director **Lois Harbinson**, MD - **Sheila Ross**, Choreographer - **Emma Body**, Producer - **Lucy Plant**, Programme and publicity - **Sarah Kendal**, Stage Designer - **Catherine Tucker**, Stage Manager - **Catherine Tucker**, Costumes - **Kate Hathway**, Lighting - **Graham Brown**, Props - **Emma Longley and Mary Hayter**, Prompt - **Freda Brown**, Rehearsal schedule- **Agreed**, Budget - **Agreed**, Ticket price **£10 and £8**
- **October 24-27<sup>th</sup> Play -?**
- **Rumpelstiltskin - Panto - December 15-22 2012** written by **Vicky Orman**, **RW** Directing, **Vicky Orman** Producing, **Nick Barlow MD**, **Dave Papworth SM**, **Charlie Watkins ASM**, Lighting - **Graham Brown**, Prompt - **Freda Brown**, Sound - **Pete Ross**, Adult Choreography - **Kim Fisher**, Child Choreography - **Judi Neale**, Rehearsal Schedule - **Agreed**, Budget - **TBA**, Ticket Price - **£9 & £7** costumes **Louise Baker and Sarah Briton**, props **Emma Longley and Pat Watkins**
- **February 21 - 23 - One act plays?**
- **Anything Goes - April 22 - 27 2013** - **GE** directing & Producing, **TE** - choreography, **MD - Sheila Ross**, Programme & Publicity - **?**, Stage Designer - **?**, Stage Manager - **David Papworth**, Costumes - **?**, Lighting - **Rob Rodgers**, Props - **?**, Prompt - **DG**, Rehearsal Schedule - **Agreed**, Budget - **TBA**, Ticket Price - **TBA**
- **June (date to be confirmed) - Youth Theatre Show** (title to be decided)
- **July 17 - 20 - A play?** - **KE** is looking at Terry Pratchett's 'Mort'
- **September 11 - 14 2013 - Musical play?** **AH** is interested - possibly **Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum**,
- **October 23 - 26 2013 - Play?**
- **Pantomime December 14 - 21st 2013**
- **Spring 2014 - KE** is interested
- **Spring 2016 - Ken Edmonds** has suggested that we consider 'Kiss Me Kate' as this is the 400<sup>th</sup> year

after Shakespeare's death. Other Shakespeare productions might also be considered for this year.  
**Ongoing.**

**10. Training**

**11. Show Reviews**

- Blackchair's production of 2 Shakespeare plays - excellent, must do again - RW, GE, DG
- Animal farm lots of members saw this and were full of praise.
- School for Scandal GE Bath, very good, witty and fast paced

**12. Any Other Business**

- **GE** offered to investigate the costs of a Theatre Polo shirt - suitable for FoH and bar duties. Ongoing.
- New sockets have been added to the back stage area without agreement from the committee. It is important that we install, record and 'sign off' all such additions to the appropriate standards. MW and GB to investigate and arrange for Bishop's to sign off if needed.
- Marcel's FoH announcement at the start of Animal Farm was greatly appreciated.

**13. Date of next meeting** - 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and then September 17<sup>th</sup>

**Meeting finished at 10.40**