

**Wells Operatic Society Limited**  
**Minutes of the meeting on**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**COMMITTEE**

Alisa Creaser (chair), Ken Edmonds, Kate Lynch, Doreen Grant, Richard Wright, Gerald Evers, Mark Wall, Pauline Perrin, Sharon Edmonds, Lyn Jones, Norman Cowell, Graham Brown, Sarah Neale and The Mayor of Wells

1. **Apologies** Richard Wright, Kate Lynch, Sarah Neale

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

3. **Matters Arising**

- Hearing loop – **GB** now working. Many thanks to Graham and Angelo for all their work.
- Divers' Hut repairs - this should now go ahead, **MW** will oversee the project and keep the committee updated.
- Long term plans for renovation, repair and maintenance – **MW & GE** ongoing
- Orchestra Pit sub-group report – **RW** nothing new to report. Dave Collyer to be asked to record water table level in the test hole. (GE contacted Dave who will report to the next meeting.)
- WW1 show – **PP** reported that although several people have looked at this project we have not been able to find a director. We are very grateful to John Little for all his considerable hard work and research into this production, but unfortunately it looks like it won't be able to go ahead.

4. **Correspondence**

- Letter from a student asking for work experience – GE to follow up.
- Email from Sarah Briton regarding – Social nights, agreed and GE to add to Bar Calendar.
- Email from Sarah Briton regarding – Polo shirts (GE forgot to raise this at the meeting, but a follow-up email came to a decision.) The anticipated the costs being approx. £12.00 per shirt with a set up charge of £25 for embroidery back and front. Agreed to order 12 (4M, 4L, 4 XL) and we will see how they go. Order black with the white logo embroidered on the front, small over the left chest. we will sell the shirts to members at £12 (and collect money for future orders if needed). Money can go in an envelope in the till / safe for Pauline. The shirts can be used Front of House, behind the Bar and Back Stage - but are not compulsory. Sometimes it will not be suitable to wear them i.e. FoH on the Civic Night.
- Email (copied to all committee) from Sarah Briton regarding – update of Bar arrangement - agreed
- Email from Sarah Briton regarding – Costumes. See noticeboard for details.
- Email from Lois regarding possible future productions – see 9 below

5. **Treasurer's Report**

- Rumours – Income £4043 (spot-on projected), expenses £2178 (slightly under projected) giving a very healthy £1863.73 profit. Really well done to DG and MW.
- Goldilocks – Income £11247 (slightly below projected), expenses £3416 (under projected) giving a very healthy £7831.43 profit. Really well done to SE and Vicky Orman  
Both productions achieved above their targets.

6. **Membership**

- 2014 membership payment is now due. Committee discussed the issue of people 'just' renewing membership to gain car parking and early booking privileges. **GE and PP** to compose a letter to all members to try and encourage volunteers into all aspects of the Society that they are joining i.e. 'membership' means volunteering and if you are not seen to be making a contribution you will not

automatically be able to renew. **GE or PP** will place an up to date list of members on the noticeboard each week.

- Dinner Dance, date to set – **GE and AC** have spoken to Louise Baker who is investigating options. Possible dates are Fri. 25<sup>th</sup> April, Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> May, or possibly Fri. 4<sup>th</sup> April. Louise asked that the committee consider the option of moving to the Town Hall instead of returning to the Swan Hotel. Using the Town Hall would give more space, and a different style of location, but would require more work for our own members (organising the bar, catering, decoration etc.). After some discussion it was agreed to ask Louise to make arrangements to return to the Swan. **AC** to talk to Louise.
- Patrons – **LJ**. The number of Theatre Patrons seems to be getting smaller each year. This needs to be a discussion item at a future meeting. The winter newsletter is just about to be sent out, with a reminder to renew, and a copy of the new trifold. **LJ** to compose a section to go in the Stepping Out programme. **KE** to possibly put something in the paper.
- **AGM** – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, Agenda (as last year) - **DG** to chair the meeting
  - 7.30pm Reception of Wine and nibbles in the bar (we need a volunteer to arrange this)
  - 8.15pm AGM in the Theatre Auditorium (**GE** to produce voting members list)
  1. Apologies for Absence (**DG**)
  2. Minutes of AGM 2013 (**GE** to place on the noticeboard 1 month before the meeting. In the absence of a Chairman the Vice Chairman will sign the minute's book.)
  3. Matters Arising (**DG**)
  4. Chairman's Report (We need some report material , **AC** to gather NODA award information, **GE** to complete NODA forms, register and order the Awards, Sharon Upham to arrange Roy Bevan Award)
  5. Members' Reports
    - a) The Pit Project – Richard Wright
    - b) Past and Forthcoming Productions – Sharon Edmonds,
    - c) Youth Theatre – Sarah Neale
    - d) Entertainment and Social report – Louise Baker and Alisa Creaser
    - e) Bar report – Sarah Briton
  6. Treasurer's Report and Appointment of Accountants
  7. President's Address
  8. Election Of Committee and Officers – Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Stage Representative, Theatre Administrator, Publicity Officer, Patrons Secretary, Committee Members (x4)
  9. Any Other Business

**GE** to invite the Mayor, advertise the meeting, prepare details for the meeting, make arrangements for the NODA and Roy Bevan Awards, arrange committee nomination forms.  
Would members giving reports please let **GE** have them electronically. Thanks.

  - New Members – none
  - Car Park stickers, agreed to continue to use the 2012 stickers.

## 7. Publicity

- QR code, this is now available for all advertising. **GE**
- Other advertising, banners etc. are in hand. **KE**



## 8. Theatre Renovations

- Roof quotes – **MW** - ongoing
- The back sink area for washing and storing brushes etc. needs some attention / repair. **GB** to find out what is needed and maybe talk to Angelo about making some improvements.
- **GE** to write to Angelo thanking him for his work throughout the year.
- Solar Panels. **NC** has made some enquiries and is waiting for some more information. However the information so far looks like an investment of £6,600 would put panels on the roof and could return

approx. £850 a year (offset against our electricity bill). Our particular situation means that we would not make the most of the technology because our main electrical consumption is in the evening, and therefore we would not make use of the 'free' electricity generated during the day. The investment would mean 8 years before we saw a true profit. After some discussion it was agreed to put the project on hold, the present time was not right. Many thanks to Norman for his work on this.

- New steps / review of all ladders – **MW** – ongoing
- The Box Office Equipment, waiting for Chris Spray to install. **PP** – ongoing.
- The boiler – RW /GB – we are still waiting for the report. **RW** to investigate

## 9. Productions/Trifold/Hire

- New Trifold in January, any information to **GE** asap
- Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (BOVTS). With no visit last year (due to the Youth Theatre Production) committee were wondering if they would return. Since the meeting RW has confirmed that BOVTS will return on Tuesday 27th May with Feydeau's 'Sauce for the Goose'. Box Office - the usual 70/30 split in BOVTS favour. Ticket prices will be £10 and £7.
- ***Goldilocks and the Three Bears*** – review, really well done to the group and particularly Sharon for all her excellent hard work on her directing debut. An excellent Cinderella review has been posted.
- **March 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 2014** – ***Stepping Out*** by Richard Harris – **Gerald and Tina Evers** directing, **GE&MW** -Set Design, **GB** - Stage Manager, **PR** - Lighting & Sound, **Sharon Upham & Sophie Kerton** - Props, **?** - **Costume**, **DG** – Prompt, Budget - **agreed**, Ticket price – **£10, £8**. Rehearsal schedule – **done**.
- **May 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 2014** – ***Into the Woods*** - **Lois Harbinson** – Directing, **GB** - Producing, **Sheila Ross** - MD, **Catherine Tucker** – SM, **SN** - Choreography, **Louise Baker** - Costumes, **GB** - Lighting, **Pete Ross** - Sound, **Emma Longley** - Props, **Budget – TBA, Ticket Price – TBA**, Rehearsal schedule – **done**
- **September 24<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> 2014** – ***The Accrington Pals***, directed by Lois Harbinson
- **December 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> 2014** – Pantomime - ***Snow White?*** (Possibly written by Vicky Orman), **Ken Edmonds** directing. **GB** – lights.
- **March 2015** – **a play, any volunteers?**
- **May 2015** - ***Spend Spend Spend***, **Brian Epps** – Directing, **RW** - Producing, **Sheila Ross** - MD, **?** – **SM**, **Carol Applegate** - Choreography, **?** - **Costumes**, **?** - **Lighting**, **?** - **Sound**, **?** - **Props**, **Budget – TBA, Ticket Price – TBA, Rehearsal schedule – TBA**
- **September 2015** - **Play or musical? Any volunteers?**
- **May 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**.
- **AC** would like to raise the issue of developing directing opportunities and longer term planning for future shows' at the next meeting.

## 10. Training

- Lighting and sound box training with simplified instructions – **GB** ongoing
- Sarah Briton and Emma Longley will run a Bar training sessions during the Friday social nights.

## 11. Show Reviews

- *Puss in Boots* at Strode – KE, possibly a bit long but good.
- *Cinderella* - not so good, except for the transformation which was impressive – Moorlight - KE
- *Cinderella* at Torquay was quite poor only 8 performers and the local dance troop who had been roped in, weak. Sweet but rather disjointed, nothing to connect the scenes together. NC
- *How the Whale Became* – Linbury Studio, London, with its fascinating score, Julian Philips and Edward Kemp's version of Ted Hughes's creation tales has become an inventive experiment in live theatre, singing very good, music unmemorable. - LJ

- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Noel Coward Theatre, London. David Walliams, very good, funny and worth seeing. AC

**12. Any Other Business**

- Youth Theatre - some concerns. Sarah Neal will be asked to give the committee a full report at the next meeting.
- The theatre's music machines were in a rather tatty condition GE asked that those who use them for rehearsals should return them to the secure cupboard. GE to change the cupboard code.
- The main (and new) sound system power amp, situated in the lighting box has gone wrong and needs returning to the manufacturers, this is in hand. A temporary replacement has been made. GB

- 13. Date of next meeting** – Tuesday February 4th 2014 Chair by MW, minutes by KL, apologies from GE, DG and KE) then early March before the AGM on the 21<sup>st</sup>? Provisionally 10<sup>th</sup> March (chair by SE – just in case we need it.)