

**Wells Operatic Society Ltd.**

**Minutes of the 2018 AGM and Members Social Evening Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**

**7.30pm** Reception of wine and nibbles in the bar, The Mayor, our President, Cllr John North attended.

**8.15pm** AGM held in the theatre auditorium, 33 Full members attended, 7 other

In the absence of a Chairman the secretary welcomed members and the Mayor to the meeting.

**1** **Apologies for Absence.** – Nick Furze, Roger and Jean Reeson, Rob and Sally Trayhurn, Lisa Cope, Kate Lynch, Marcel Wills, Jackie Young, Pip and Margaret Rice, Frank and Penny Bonetti, Silvia Guy, Liz Carey, Jackie and Alan Watts, Jen Hailes and Rob Rogers, Mark Wall, Dick Makin, Gina Cleverley, Charlotte Monkton, Jonathan Miller, Lesley Ricketts.

**2** **Minutes of the 2017 A.G.M.** held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – have been on the bar notice board in the bar.

**3** **Matters Arising** – none, the minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Proposer **Graham Brown** Seconder **Mike Scammell** RW signed the book

**4** **Chairman's report**

As Vice Chairman, I present this report in this the 116<sup>th</sup> year of Wells Operatic Society Limited's existence. The Society is registered at Companies' House (registered number 1377655) and is also a registered charity (number 276308). RW reminded us of the tragic loss of loss of our Chairman Chris Briton, last year.

The society continues to be in good hands, with a healthy membership and high level of productions. NODA Awards for long service (Nicky Hann 10Y) was presented at the dinner dance on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The Roy Bevan award this year went to Niamh and was also presented at the Dinner Dance.

Members of the committee were thanked for their hard work during the year. Special thanks to Rob Trayhurn, Alisa Creaser and Dave Collyer who were not standing for re-election again. Non committee members thanked were Nick Barlow (website) Tina Evers (costume) Angelo Giannetti (maintenance), Norman Cowell (box office) and Sally Trayhurn (FoH).

RW presented some new WAFTA (Wells Amateur Fine Theatre Awards) awards to members for their special contribution throughout the year –

The Angelo Giannetti Award for the Most Cheerful Member to Vicky Orman.

The Peter Beechey Award for an attempt to live permanently in the Theatre to Gerald Evers.

The Benny Williams Award for the Best Accent to Niamh McGrogan.

The Sandra Marshall Award for Most Reserved Member to Sandra Marshall.

The Chris Briton Cup for the Best Female Performance by a man or a woman to Pauline Perrin.

In conclusion the Vice Chairman encouraged us all to volunteer and contribute wherever we can.

**5** **Members' Reports**

**1. Past and Forthcoming Productions** – Sharon Edmonds reminded us of the shows presented last year- Our House, The Crucible, The Three Musketeers and the London Suite. Congratulations to all involved. In the next 12 months we have The Little Shop of Horrors in May. Merry Wives of Windsor is coming up in September, and our 2018 pantomime Aladdin. At the moment we have nothing fixed for March 2019, but next year's spring show will be Fiddler on the Roof, directed by Lois Harbinson.

**2. Patrons report** – Lyn Jones. Currently we have 39 Patrons, most of whom attended the spring show, for the Civic Evening of Our House. They enjoyed a glass of wine and some delicious canapés which were again prepared and served by catering students from The Blue School. This year the Blue School are unable to help so we need some volunteers for Civic night. Could I also remind any programme producer's to contact her for an up to date list of Patrons. It would be good to welcome more patrons, so please spread the word and encourage friends and family to support us in this way.

**3. Theatre developments seats/ wings/ pit.**

RW outlined the various buildings and stage developments that have taken place in the year including; the new auditorium seating, the ongoing problems with the heating, new signs for the front of the building, levelling of the stage, roof repairs, tree tarmac repairs and a planned extension to the costume store. Nick Furze, who was unable to attend the meeting, asked that his report be read out (GE did this). The Stage and Pit Sub-committee thanked the individual work of Sheila Ross, Gina Cleverley and Dave Collyer all of whom have decided to step down. The group need new members to support the development of the Arts Council proposal. NF has made significant progress in forging links with the wider community including Priddy Folk Festival and The Blue School. These connections and potential new users of the building will support a second application.

**4. Social Report** - Niamh McGrogan. The members were reminded of the wide range of social events that took place during the year, including the Dinner Dance, Carnival night and the Carol singing evening. We were all encouraged to support these events during 2018.

**6** **Treasurer's Report and Appointment of Accountants**

- a) Recommend that Webb & Co remain as our accountants and business advisers. Proposer Pauline Perrin, Seconder Sharon Edmonds
- b) All accounts are in credit and the general financial situation is very healthy with our general unrestricted fund increasing by £6620.
- c) We still have £5300 in restricted funds which is money raised for the Stage and Pit Project.
- d) In 2017 our own four productions made a magnificent surplus of £18,500. Theatre hire brought in a further £5200, down on 2016 but membership fees increased by £1500 to £5550.
- e) Bar takings were slightly down so could you all please drink more.
- f) We were able to carry out a lot of work on maintenance and repairs on the building and car park, including levelling the stage, fixing the roof and sorting out the problems we have with the tree.
- g) The other big expenditure was new seating which cost just under £35,000. This amount has been capitalised and if you are looking for it in the accounts you will find it on page 12 under tangible fixed assets, additions to cost. Fundraising activities to offset some this expenditure has been going well, with a magnificent effort from Mike Scammell and his team who raised over £2000 from the sale of the old seats. To date, the seat sponsorship scheme has raised over £5000 but there is still plenty of availability for those of you who would like to see your name engraved for posterity.

- h) I commend the accounts to the meeting and propose that they be adopted. Proposer Graham Brown Seconder Nick Barlow

7 **President's address.** The Mayor, our President, Cllr John North, said it was an honour to be standing here tonight and echoed the members' feelings that we sorely miss Chris Briton, as does the Green Party and the City Council and the City of Wells. Sad event. He reminisced his theatrical past here on our stage and reflected on how far the society had developed over the years. The Theatre is a place where everyone can come and enjoy themselves with good people. A credit to the city. Thanked us for the support we give the City of Wells.

He also suggested we make use of the new bus arrangements in the city – we are now a 'bus friendly city' with many more services starting to run. We might arrange for our shows and the bus service to coincide.

8 **Election of officers and Committee**

There has been one nomination for each of the following posts on the committee. –

Chairman	– <i>position vacant</i>
Vice-Chairman	– Richard Wright
Treasurer	– Pauline Perrin
Secretary	– Gerald Evers
Patrons Secretary	– Lyn Jones
Publicity Officer	– Ken Edmonds
Stage Representative	– Graham Brown
Theatre Administrator	– Niamh McGrogan

There were 3 nominations for the positions of Committee members.  
Sharon Edmonds, Mike Scammell and Adam Lanfranchi

All were duly elected, a show of hands was unanimous.

**Date of the next committee meeting - Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm in the Little Theatre Bar**

9 **Any Other Business**

- Car park Clear 10-12noon Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March – clocks go forward... so it is really 9am!
- Nick Barlow asked that we all help with the publicity of the Spring show – The Little Shop of Horrors
- Ladies and gentlemen thank you all for coming. Please stay for a **chat, and a drink**. I declare this meeting over. 9.10pm