

Wells Operatic Society Limited
Minutes of the meeting on
Monday 15th January 2018 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 – Dave Collyer, Lyn Jones, Rob Trayhurn,

1. Minutes of the last meeting – agreed

2. Matters Arising

- a. SOUP fundraising opportunity – **NM** £118 won through the pitch, excellent news, thanks to Sandra and Niamh and all the support.
- b. Theatre Handbook. RT has produced an outline / format. Everyone agreed that this should proceed. Thanks to **RT**.
- 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
- d. Age limits / seat spaces for young children. The situation we have is not clear through the online booking system. RW checked out other theatre's policies which seemed to be varied. It was agreed that children under 18 months do not need a ticket and can share an adult seat. All other members of the audience need their own seat. The monitor in the bar will be made available for children and families who need to leave the auditorium. Patents will be asked to be responsible for their children at all times. **KE** will investigate the purchase of booster seats. This information will be added to the website and made clear when tickets are bought. **RW**.

3. Correspondence

- a. Car park maintenance. PP has heard nothing from Andy Chinnock. **GE** to organise a car park tidy in the spring.
- b. Requests to advertise other society shows. This was discussed. It was agreed that our website and mailing system should only be used for productions at the Little Theatre. We are happy to place posters in the bar.
- c. NODA Award – we have been nominated for the Stage Electrics Award for Our House. Well done

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Three Musketeers - £9587 profit
- b. Seat sponsorship – **ongoing**
- c. Enquire about smart meters - **PP**

5. Membership

- a. New members – Nerys Davis, Social, agreed. Others to follow once Little Shop of Horrors is cast.
- b. Patrons leaflet. **LJ** - ongoing
- c. Theatre News / What's On sheet – **SE**
- d. Fundraising ideas for new seating.
 - 20th December - **Carol Singing Night** – review – a really good large turnout. Great evening. Probably not running next year due to the timing of panto.
 - 31st December - **New Year's Eve Party** – review - not a big turn out, but lots of enjoyment. Worth repeating to try and build up numbers.
 - 27th January - **Quiz Evening** – **RT** organised with Terry Ricketts. Tickets on the door.
 - 7th April – **Talent Show**, 2pm onwards, auditions are on Sun 18th March, £5 a head tickets, £10 and £5 entry fee – **RT**. Judges now include Tessa Munt and Claire Carter. **NM**, **KE** and **RT** will meet to firm up arrangements and publicity. 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**.

- 16th June - **Review and Sketches**, 2pm onwards, £5 a head tickets – **RT**
 - e. **Dinner Dance** - 3rd March at Wells Golf Club £25 details to go out. **NM**
 - f. **AGM** – Friday 23rd March 2018 – Arrangements as before, **GE**
 - g. **GE** to arrange Roy Bevan and NODA Awards, **RW** to look into other ‘humorous’ awards. Presentation of all awards will be first at the DD and then the AGM.
- 6. Publicity**
- a. **Seat sponsorship** - KE will write an article for the local press.
- 7. Theatre Renovations**
- a. Stage and Pit development. **RW - ongoing**
 - b. PAT testing **MS - ongoing**
 - c. Stage lights need a new 15A breaker to stop the system tripping out. **GB -ongoing**
 - d. Cleaning the bar carpet, quote from TLC Bath Ltd, £493 Inc. VAT. Agreed to go ahead. **PP** to arrange soon.
 - e. New signs and billboards at the front of the theatre and on Chamberlain Street. **RW ongoing**
 - f. Air Conditioning date, annual maintenance on Jan 26th 9am. £120 +VAT Agreed to go ahead. **RW**
 - g. 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.
 - h. Tree – white line edge to new surface to discourage cars from driving over the surface edge. **DC Mark Wall** will do the work.
 - i. Wardrobe floor. – **GE** An extension to the ‘hats’ area in the wardrobe was agreed. GE to talk to Mark Wall and cost. - **ongoing**
 - j. Chamberlain Street doors. Long term damage plus wear and tear means these doors need replacing. We need doors that lock from the inside and outside, but also are fitted with a crash bar. **GB** to investigate. Costs to follow.
 - k. Disabled seats, sale and position within the auditorium. **KE - ongoing**
- 8. Productions/Hire.**
- Hires in Jan and Feb 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**
- Elim Church hire ‘The Hiding Place’– **GB**
- Quiz Night – **RT**
- Long Paws Comedy – **GE**
- WSPA – **GE & NM**
- Owbeon – **Sarah Briton & Catriona Eagle**
- Small Steps performance - **GE**
- Little Shop of Horrors rehearsals – **Nick Barlow**
- The London Suite play rehearsals – **Mark Wall & Doreen Grant**
- **7-10th 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 15th (Tuesday) -19th 2018** (with a 3pm Matinee on Sat 19th 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 19th -22nd 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 email RW**
- **December 15th-22nd 2018** – *Panto -title to be announced.* Director - **Sharon Edmonds**,
- **March 2019** – RT to have a look at some titles.
- **May 13th-18th 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

NM - Jack and the Beanstalk, Strode – this seemed to be more of a SWSD big production, all young cast except the key adult rolls. Fun show.

GB – 12th Night – Stratford – set in a Victorian style, very different, the 'ivy scene' was cleverly and very funnily worked using statues. Great.

GE - Greatest Showman (film). Wonderful and well worth seeing this adaptation of the Barnum story. Great.

RW - The little Matchgirl, Bristol Old Vic. A Globe Theatre touring production. Good show but rather sad for a Christmas event.

11. Any Other Business –

NM – Bath Spa Musical Theatre Showcase 18th and 19th Jan 7pm Bath Spa Live.

12. Date of next meeting Tuesday 13th February (changed from Monday) then the AGM on March 23rd