

Wells Operatic Society Limited
Minutes of the meeting on
Monday 18th July 2016 at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE

Chris Briton (chair), Cllr and Mayor Alison Gibson (President), Richard Wright, Pauline Perrin, Ken Edmonds, Alisa Creaser, Graham Brown, Lyn Jones, Sharon Edmonds, Mike Scammell, Dave Collyer, Gerald Eysers

Apologies – Richard Wright, Lyn Jones,

1. Minutes of the last meeting - agreed

2. Matters Arising

- a. Box Office – update – **CB** is to meet with Chris Spray. The proposed change to box office opening times for Twelfth Night will not happen, we will remain with the current pattern for the moment.
- b. Details and dates for the Mayor's Fundraising events-
 - i. We will organise and run a **Mayor's Charity Quiz Night and Supper** at the Town Hall on **Saturday 22nd October 2016, 7.30pm**. We will provide and run a bar (**RW, MS**), **KE** will arrange a quiz master, we will support the sale of tickets from the Town Hall - teams of 6 £10 per team, book place, pay on the night. It might be necessary to set up on the Friday – because the Market makes it difficult to access on the Saturday. Arthritis Care will support arrangements. The **Mayor** will arrange a ploughman's supper. The **Mayor** will arrange advertising, which we can also promote through our website etc. Raffle prizes and the Quiz Prize tbc. PA in town Hall. Theatre volunteers will be needed to run the bar, check tickets on the door, serve the food and arrange the venue. The theatre should be able to provide a number of teas for the event.
 - ii. We will support (on the door etc) a Wells City Band concert at the Town Hall. Depending on the date it might be possible to also provide the bar, we could arrange publicity, and ticket sales if needed; Date now agreed as **Sat 8th April 2017, 7.30pm**. Further arrangements to follow in the New Year.
 - iii. We will support the event organised and run by Arthritis Care on Saturday Sept 10th the Grey Dog Jazz Band will play outside at the front of Town Hall, a collection will be made.
 - iv. Arthritis Care are also looking into a Film Night with supper at Wells Cinema in Feb 2017. Details to follow.
- c. **Open Day July 16th** – this was a fantastic afternoon of Tea, Cakes, Tours and Taster sessions. A great atmosphere in the theatre with lots going on. We have over 20 names to follow up who have offered help. GE has added these details to a mailing list and will pass on groups of names as needed i.e. to the choir. GE and Tina will organise a costume group to look at the needs of Our House.
It was suggested this should become an annual or bi-annual event.

3. Correspondence

- a. Ben Williams - **Wells Comedy Festival**, (June 3-5). Comments – Wi-Fi not strong enough to get into the auditorium, and the whole scanning process was a bit slow. Glastonbury Ales bar sales on the Saturday and Sunday seemed to work well, they took £1500 giving us 10%, i.e. £150. Posters from 2016 and 2015's - framed and displayed. 26th-28th May 2017 is booked. – **GE**. The Theatre are very happy to support this event in future years.
- b. Arts Council reply – **DC** - The Arts Council have turned down our application for the **Stage and Pit Project**. The main reason was because, as we feared, they were not convinced of the 'public engagement' aspect. The Stage and Pit Project sub group have met to discuss this. They recommend that fund raising events are continued during the next year with an aim to raise the money ourselves for the project. The subcommittee are asking the full committee to consider using some of our reserves to increase the financial support of this project. The committee agreed to first

look at the wider demands of the theatre – especially seating, and those issues identified on the maintenance plan. (See 7e below). To be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. BOVTS – A Midsummer Night's Dream 62% sales, income £872, costs £610 (70/30 split with BOVTS) Profit £262
- b. Membership payment dates / annual renewal - Do we have to stick with everyone renewing membership during January, even for those who join at other times in the year? It was agreed that we should move to a system where the website will remind members that their 12th month membership is running out. Agreed to wait until the discussion about the website management is settled before implementing this change.

5. Membership

- a. New members – Twelfth Night applications.
Kevin Hardacre – ordinary, agreed
Niamh McGrogan – ordinary, agreed
Susan King – Social, agreed subject to payment (application on the board)
- b. AGM – **Friday 24th March 2017.**
- c. Dinner Dance – date and time to be confirmed **AC - ongoing**

6. Publicity

Twelfth Night arrangements - ongoing posters, fliers. GE waiting for banner and billboard designs. **KE** to ask Nick Barlow to upload pictures to Facebook.

7. Theatre Renovations

- a. The Stage and Pit Project. – see 3b above
- b. Bar lighting **MS** - ongoing
- c. Roof and gutters – we agreed to ask Mark Wall to inspect and recommend any work that needed to be done. Waiting to hear. **GE**
- d. PAT testing – **MS** ongoing
- e. Maintenance plan. GE and CB to arrange a time when MW can join them for an inspection of the building. Items to cover are identified on the plan, (plus c above). **CB** to report back at the next meeting.
- f. Bishops will be asked to quote for a new mains lighting starter switch, to be positioned in the lighting box, rather than using the metal contact switch in the rehearsal room. **GB** ongoing
- g. Fire / Emergency procedures. We need a named person to oversee. **GE** to check with Chris Spray.
- h. Wi-Fi code. Access to the Wi-Fi code should remain limited to those that need to know. Enquiries through GE please.

8. Productions/Trifold/Hire

Show Target setting – Show targets for 2017 were set as shown below. As before these are targets for producers to set show budgets. Each production is considered on an individual basis.

		target		actual
2016	Inspector Drake & the Perfekt			
	Crime	£1,950.00	15%	£1,515.90
	Return to the Forbidden Planet	£1,040.00	8%	£1,264.04
	Twelfth Night	£1,950.00	15%	
	Jack and the Beanstalk	£8,060.00	62%	
	Running cost per annum	£13,000.00	100%	
2017	Play -March	£1,560.00	12%	
	Our House	£1,040.00	8%	
	September	£1,820.00	14%	
	Pantomime	£8,580.00	66%	
		Running cost per annum	£13,000.00	100%

- **September 21st - 24th 2016 - *Twelfth Night*, Director – **RW**, Choreography – **Tina Eyers**, SM – **Charlie Watkins**, Props - **Pat Watkins**, Lighting - **GB**, Costumes – **Louise Baker**, Prompt – **Freda Brown**, Budget – **agreed**, Ticket Price – **£12 & £10**, Rehearsal schedule – **agreed****
- **December 10th - 17th 2016 – *Jack and the Beanstalk* – Director - **Sharon Edmonds**, Writer and Producer – **Vicky Orman**. MD - **Sheila Ross**, Adult and Children’s Choreographer – **Julie Webster**, Stage Manager – **Charlie Watkins**, Lighting - **GB**, Sound – **Adrian Mitchell**, Props **Lesley**, Budget – **done**, Ticket Price – **£11 and £8**, Rehearsal schedule – **done****
- **March 2017 – Any Ideas?** All suggestions to **AC** for the reading group to look at. Doreen Grant is possibly thinking of a few?
- **May 15th-20th 2017 – *Our House*. Director - **GE**. Choreography - **Tina Eyers**, Rights received. MD – **Teresa Barlow**., Assistant MD – **Sheila Ross**, Producer – **AC**, SM – **?**, Props - **?**, Lighting - **?**, Sound – **Adrian Mitchell**, Costumes - **?**, Prompt – **?**, Make up – **Helen and Julie Makin**, Video recording – **Adam Lanfranchi**, Budget – **tbc**, Publicity - **?**, Ticket Price – **£13 & £10**, Rehearsal schedule – **agreed****
- **September 2017 Any Ideas?** All suggestions to **AC** for the reading group to look at.
- **Pantomime 2017** - Director - **Ken Edmonds**, Vicky to write it!

9. Training

DC - to look into Charity Commission training. Ongoing

PP - to contact accountants – financial information training – to be arranged for July. Ongoing possibly in Sept.

10. Show Reviews

Second Soprano – Wells Little Theatre – **CB**. Very good, fun and clever, good Q&A in the bar

Our House – Merryman Theatre group **MS** and **GE**. A youth production, really good.

HMS Pinafore, Sasha Regan’s all male version. Bath Theatre Royal. Excellent. Funny, very clever. **GE**

Shakespeare’s King Lear – powerful and gruesome. Bath Theatre Royal. **GE**

11. Any Other Business

- a. Family and Friends Picnic Saturday 17th Sept – details to follow **AC**
- b. Some of the auditorium and stage lighting is not fully working **GE** to see **GB**
- c. The Plane trees seen on the way into Bristol seem to have had a more substantial trim than ours – when the time comes, maybe we should find out more.
- d. Leigh Conley is our new **NODA** rep. I understand this is temporary, Trudy Dyke is unwell. Producers should contact Leigh.conley@noda.org.uk if they wish to invite **NODA** to any of our productions. **CB**

12. Date of next meeting – Monday 15th August then Monday 12th September