

Wells Operatic Society Ltd.**Minutes of the 2017 AGM and Members Social Evening Friday 24th March 2017**

7.30 Reception of wine and nibbles in the bar, the Mayor, our President, Cllr Alison Gibson attended

8.15 AGM - in the theatre auditorium 46 full members attended with 2 other

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed on apologies from our Chairman, Chris Briton, who is seriously ill in hospital. Our best wishes are with Chris and his family.

RW also explained that during the meeting we will have a fire drill.

1 Apologies for Absence. – Chris Briton, Catriona Eagle, Peter Wild, Lois Harbinson, Roger and Jean Reeson, Doreen Grant, Pauline Perrin, Nick Furze, Graham and Freda Brown, Jenny Hailes, Alistair Glanville, Helen Makin, Lyn Jones, Alan Hooley, Chantelle Mitchell, Mark Wall, Lisa Cope, Emma James, Jan Doyle, Mary Hayter, Sue King, Natalie Hope, Bobby Bass,

2 Minutes of the 2016 A.G.M. held on the 18th March 2016 – they have been on the bar notice board. There were no matters arising.

3 Matters Arising – it was agreed that they were a true record of the meeting

Proposer **Sharon Edmonds** Seconder **Sandra Marshall**

RW signed the minute book in behalf of the Chairman.

4 Chairman's report

This the 115th year of Wells Operatic Society Limited. The Society is registered at Companies' House (registered number 1377655) and is also a registered charity (number 276308).

I am very pleased to report that the Society is doing very well indeed. Our membership is strong and the accounts are positive.

The Roy Bevan award this year went to Nick Barlow and was presented at the Dinner Dance a few weeks ago.

The Vice Chairman thanked all of the committee for their work during the year. In addition to those serving in office he also thanked the many other members who constantly support the running of the theatre. Nick Barlow has worked tirelessly to get the new website up and running and particularly to launch the new box office system, which has been a fantastic success. Chris Spray has helped us develop our fire safety strategy, which is work in progress, as you will experience later. Tina Eyers has taken on the unenviable task as guardian of the wardrobe key and has ensured that our many costumes are kept in an orderly state. Thank you Tina for continuing that responsibility. Angelo Giannetti. As ever, we owe much to Angelo for his continued maintenance help throughout the year. No job is too big or small for him.

The Stage and Pit sub-committee who have been responsible for guiding us through the proposals to extend the orchestra pit and improve the stage.

Thank you Nick Furze, Dave Collyer, Gina Cleverley, Ken Edmonds, Sheila Ross and RW.

Presentation of NODA Awards for long service to dramatic arts -

Ben Williams 35 year bar
Julie Makin 25 year medal
Sandra Marshall 20 year badge
Dave Collyer 10 year badge
Lesley Ricketts 10 year badge
Terence Ricketts 10 year badge
Roger Reeson 10 year badge
Stacey English 10 year badge

The Vice Chairman then asked for volunteers to see though 2 projects, anyone interested should contact the committee. -

1. To re-make the billboards which stand outside the theatre and The Fountain Inn as part of our publicity process.

2. A project manager to undertake the redecoration of the rehearsal room.

The committee were also asking for approval from the membership that we should investigate the replacement of the auditorium seating. KE has carried out initial research. Dick Makin suggested that we should investigate other sources of funding i.e. grants. Mike Scammell made the proposal and Dave Papworth seconded (majority for, 2 against). It was agreed that up to £20,000 could be spent on new /replacement seating for our auditorium. If more was needed, we would call an EGM.

We continue to be extremely successful as a competitive society, both in terms of nominations and winners, in each of the three county competitions (Phoebe Rees, David Beach and Cinderella).

Members were reminded that places on the committee are open for election. So please tell us what you want, read the noticeboard and look at the website, Facebook etc.

5 Members' Reports

a) Past and Forthcoming Productions – Sharon Edmonds. The society has presented a wide range of very successful productions over the last year – from Panto to Shakespeare. We are looking forward to the next year.

b) Patrons report – Lyn Jones. GE read out the report in Lyn's absence. Patron numbers remain at their 2016 level. The Civic night for the Spring show is arranged. Please encourage friends and family to support the Theatre by becoming a Patron.

c) Stage and Orchestra Pit Improvements Project – Richard Wright. The plan to improve the pit and stage are still progressing. An audience development plan is being written and this will be used to support our second application.

6 Treasurer's Report and Appointment of Accountants. GE read out the report in Pauline's absence

The Treasurer recommended that **Webb and Company** remain as our accountants and business advisers, this was formally proposed by

Proposer **Marcel Wills** Seconder **Frank Bonetti**

a) All accounts are in credit and the general financial situation is very healthy with our general unrestricted fund increasing by £9000. Our investments also increased by just over £6000.

b) We have £5300 in restricted funds which is money raised for the Stage and Pit Project.

- c) In 2016 our own four productions plus the Bristol Old Vic's Theatre School production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* made a profit of £12,000 (£2,500 more than in 2015). Theatre hire was up, bringing in a further £6900, but subscriptions were down for the second year running to £4000 (a decrease of £600).
- d) The bar showed a net surplus of £2200 which is £800 more than last year.
Full details of the accounts are on the noticeboard in the bar and members are encouraged to read them

The Treasurer commend the accounts to the meeting and ask for a vote that they are adopted.

Proposer **Mike Scammell** Seconder **Ken Edmonds**

7 President's address. The Mayor, our President, Cllr Alison Gibson

The President thanked the committee and the members for all their hard work over the last year. Over £300 has been raised in the year towards the Mayoral Fund. There are still 2 events to follow, so please support them. The Mayor specifically mentioned the successful Open Day.

8 Election of officers and Committee

There has been one nomination for each of the following posts on the committee. **All were elected.**

Chairman	– Chris Briton
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 have been **5** nominations for the positions of Committee members. Usually 4 is the required number. The outgoing committee foresaw this situation and have asked that all 5 of the nominees are voted in.

Committee members - Alisa Creaser, Sharon Edmonds, Dave Collyer, Mike Scammell and Robert Trayhurn

Date of the next committee meeting Monday April 24th 7.30pm in the Little Theatre Bar

9 Any Other Business

- a) Thanks to Alisa, Sharon and Ken for running the bar this evening.
- b) The fire drill was carried out. GE and RW made observations.