

Minutes of Faringdon Dramatic Society
Annual General Meeting
4th May 2010, Faringdon United Church

Members Present:

Fiona Merrick, Carole Tappenden, Sarah Varnom, Katie Dyet, Sandra Keen, Debbie Lock, Richard Lock, Dave Headey, Carolyn Taylor, Alan Taylor, Gary Bates, Peter Webster, Karen Whiffen, Jeni Summerfield, Lois Wells, Joan Lee, Ian Lee, Gary Field, Mary Mountford-Lister.

Apologies: John Taylor, Ann Taylor, Jeff Barry, Adrian Wells, Alan Dover, Simon Wisbey, Jo Webster, Debra Warner, Austen Roberts, Verity Roberts.

Previous minutes of AGM:

The minutes from last year were accepted and signed as a true record.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Election of officers:

As most members were willing to stand again, albeit not necessarily in their current positions, and no-one had any objections to their doing so, it was agreed unanimously that those willing to do so, should stay on the committee. Consequently, as only one person was standing down, it was necessary to elect only one new Committee member.

Position	Proposed Member	Proposed by	Seconded by
Committee Member	Fiona Merrick	Jeni Summerfield	Debbie Lock
Other Committee members to stay on in their current positions			
Chair	Jeni Summerfield		
Treasurer	Debbie Lock		
Secretary	Karen Whiffen		
Membership Secretary	Sandra Keen		
Committee Member	Austen Roberts		
Committee member	Katie Dyet		
Committee Member	Gary Field		
Committee Member	Jo Webster		
Committee Member	Allan Dover		
Committee Member	Sarah Varnom		

The above were elected to form the committee for the following year. Thanks were offered to Alan Dover for his valuable input over the last 12 months.

Chair's Report:

Jeni Summerfield's report reflected another busy and successful year with the following highlights: the NODA Louise English Award, won by Katie Goodwin; coming third in the Faringdon Community Awards; winning 3rd prize in the ODN Panto competition; the BBQ; the new Child Protection Policy; the productions of *I Thought I Heard A Rustling*, *Our Town*, and *Aladdin*; and future productions such as *Cold Comfort Farm*, *Faringdon Follies*, *Dick Whittington* and the new Canada Exchange. We also heard some personal news of some of our members.

Copies will be made available for anyone who wishes to see the report in full.

Thanks were offered by Sarah Varnom to Jeni Summerfield for her work as Chairperson over the last 12 months.

Treasurer's report: Debbie Lock presented a report showing a slight loss over the last 12 months, mainly because of increased costs in rent. It was noted that expenses have risen recently, but Subscriptions/Ticket prices have not gone up for some time, and we should be aiming to at least break even.

The Current account now stands at £2007.16; the Deposit account at £9338.84; cheques still to be presented £-28.99; overall total £11317.01.

Thanks were offered to Gary Bates for auditing the accounts. Copies will be made available for anyone who wishes to see the full report.

A discussion followed, as the Committee proposed raising Subscriptions to either:

- a) keeping subscriptions at their current level, but charging a Production Fee for those taking part, or
- b) £25 (individual) and £35 (couple/family).

The former suggestion was not passed, as those members taking part in productions already pay extra as they buy their own scripts. The latter was seriously discussed. It was felt that the differentiation between the two prices was unfair for single members, so it was unanimously agreed to raise Subscriptions to £25 (individual) and £40 (couple/family), effective from next year.

Ticket prices will also be raised, to £8 and £6. This was proposed by Carolyn Taylor and seconded by Carole Tappenden. Carolyn also suggested that each member try and bring someone new to see each production. This was unanimously agreed.

Membership report:

Membership has risen over the last 12 months (to 55 members), as we have recently had 3 large productions, with a number of new faces. Most Society members have been very active, with only two not taking part in any production this year.

Future Productions:

- **Panto 2011:** Karen Whiffen will direct "Dick Whittington". A script has been found, and Karen has asked someone to help direct it, and is now awaiting a decision.
- **Faringdon Festival:** We have been asked to present a staged reading of Faringdon Follies at the Festival. Debbie Lock will co-ordinate this with the help of Sjoerd Vogt and the author, who is flying over from America to be present. This will take place on Sunday 11th July at 2pm in Budgens (Fruit/Veg Department)
- **Heroes:** Sarah Varnom is to direct this play about three World War 1 Ex-Soldiers. Auditions to be on 12th July at Faringdon United Church; Performances to be on November 11 – 13 at the Junior School.
- **The Odd Couple (Female Version):** Our May production, to be directed by Marianna Thompson
- **Canada Exchange:** The Little Garrison Theatre will suggest a play to bring

AOB:

- **ODN:** Karen Whiffen has received a timetable of plays for the ODN Festival. We have once again been asked to help with Front of House. Sarah Varnom, Lois Wells, Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee and Debbie Lock all volunteered. Karen will contact Susi Dalton with their names.
- **Barbecue:** This will be held at the home of Lois and Adrian wells on Sunday 5th September. Details to follow.

Date of next Annual General Meeting:

TBC

The meeting closed at 9:00pm.

Karen Whiffen
Secretary, Faringdon Dramatic Society
4th May 2010