

Minutes of Faringdon Dramatic Society
Annual General Meeting
3rd May 2011, Faringdon United Church

Members Present: Jeni Summerfield, Karen Whiffen, Debbie Lock, Sandra Keen, Gary Field, Katie Dyet, Jo Webster, Peter Webster, Simon Wisbey, Debra Warner, Carole Tappenden, Dave Headey, Carolyn Taylor, Alan Taylor, Joan Lee, Ian Lee, Lynda Bates, Janie Eyre-Brook

Apologies: Jeff Barry, Fiona Merrick, Allan Merrick, Sarah Varnom, Richard Lock, Gary Bates, Mary Mountford-Lister, Paul Mountford-Lister, Martin Whiffen, Shela Rowan

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 six members were willing to stand again, it was agreed unanimously that those willing to continue in their current positions, should stay on the committee without the need for re-election. Elections for the remaining positions were as follows:

Position	Proposed Member	Proposed by	Seconded by
Secretary/Membership Secretary	Sandra Keen	Karen Whiffen	Peter Webster
Committee Member	Carolyn Taylor	Debbie Lock	Jo Webster
Committee Member	Lois Wells	Debbie Lock	Jeni Summerfield
Committee Member	Simon Wisbey	Jo Webster	Karen Whiffen
Committee Member	Ian Lee	Jeni Summerfield	Lynda Bates
Other Committee members to stay on in their current positions			
Chair	Jeni Summerfield		
Treasurer	Debbie Lock		
Secretary	Karen Whiffen		
Committee Member	Fiona Merrick		
Committee member	Jo Webster		
Committee Member	Sarah Varnom		

The above were elected to form the committee for the following year.

Chair's Report:

Jeni Summerfield's report reflected another busy and successful year with the following highlights: three of our young people attending NODA Youth Academy; winning 3rd prize in the ODN Panto competition; the BBQ; the productions of *Cold Comfort Farm*; *Heroes* and *Dick Whittington* and future productions such as *The Odd Couple* and *London Suite*. We also remembered with sadness John Taylor, who died suddenly in November, but learned that his memory will live on in the John Taylor trophy, the exact format of which will be discussed by our new committee.

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

Treasurer's report: Debbie Lock presented a report showing a very healthy balance. There is a slight loss over the last 12 months, but we have recently made large capital purchases, including a new sound system and new stage blocks. Ticket prices are now £8 adults and £6 children.

The Current account now stands at £1641.46; the Deposit account at £9488.69; money paid in but not yet shown £55.00; cheques still to be presented £31.05; overall total £11154.10.

Thanks were offered to Debbie Lock for her work. Copies will be made available for anyone who wishes to see the full report.

Membership report:

We currently have 50 members, some of whom joined this year, and all of whom are active in the Society. Subscriptions have now been raised to £25 (individual) and £40 (couple/family). The Committee will continue to look at ways to bring in new members, and especially to maintain links with people who audition but do not get parts. Members were asked for suggestions. These included: contacting FADS (Fairford) as they are currently defunct; a regular social evening (club nights, theatre trips, quizzes etc); flyers in welcome Packs for house buyers. The Committee will consider these suggestions.

Future Productions:

- **The Odd Couple (Female Version):** This is going well, and will be performed later this month. There will be a short Production Meeting after the AGM
- We will not be taking part in any Festivals this year
- **Canada Exchange:** Sudbury House have agreed to be our venue for *London Suite*. They will provide all furniture for the bedroom scenes and would like to do Dinner Theatre (£10 for a one-course buffet). In order to fit this into the Hotel Programme, the Canadians will now be arriving on 15/16 October, and the productions will take place 21/22 October. The Canadians will return home on 23rd October. We go to Canada in June 2012 (Half Term week). A request was made for people willing to put people up or organise social Events for the Canadians. *London Suite* consists of four One Act plays divided between FDS and Little Garrison Theatre Company (ie two each), with people from each group appearing as a cameo role in the others' plays. There will be a Meeting/Read-through/Auditions for anyone interested in taking part at Faringdon United Church on Thursday 26th May, 8pm. It is hoped that those members not taking part in *London Suite* will do something else next summer, when the cast are in Canada.
- **Panto 2012:** We do not yet have a Pantomime in mind, nor a Director. If no-one offers to direct by the end of July, the Committee may have to think of an alternative solution for January 2012. It was agreed that a Pantomime would not happen unless we can find a Musical Director too.

AOB:

- Karen has received the latest NODA Magazine, which is available for members to read.
- Gareth Jeremy recommended three of our young people (Seb Allum, Jenny Whiffen and Jo Garrard) to attend the NODA Youth Academy over Easter, and suggested they might apply for a grant from NODA towards the cost. FDS also contributed to the cost for them to go, and they all had a fantastic time. Their reviews were read out at the AGM, and will appear in the FDS and NODA Newsletters in due course. Karen Whiffen will ask Al Cane to interview them. It was suggested they also talk to the Drama Department at Faringdon Community College about it, in the hope that other young people may become interested and join us.
- Dave Headey reminded members of the Creative Writing Workshop led by Hilary Taylor, due to take place very soon. He has already sent round an email with details.
- It was suggested that we look for an alternative venue, as Faringdon Junior School is getting expensive. It is possible that TESCO might help when/if they come to Faringdon, if approached.
- The Orange Juice and Mineral Water left over from the Pantomime will be sold at *The Odd Couple*
- The annual barbecue will be held at the home of Debbie and Richard Lock in July. Details to follow.
- Thanks were issued to Karen Whiffen and the rest of the Whiffen family for all they have done for the Society over the last 15 years. An orchid and card were presented to Karen, and good wishes were offered for the family's new life in Lancashire.

Date of next Annual General Meeting: TBC

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Karen Whiffen (Secretary, Faringdon Dramatic Society)
3rd May 2011