

## Minutes of Faringdon Dramatic Society Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013 at The Pump House Faringdon

**Members present:** Carolyn Taylor, Debbie Lock, Jo Webster, Ian Lee, Fiona Merrick, Simon Wisbey, Lynda Bates, Gary Bates, Richard Lock, Joan Lee, Peter Webster, Sandra Keen, Jeff Barry, Paul Mountford Lister, Carole Tappenden, Debra Warner, Sarah Couzins, Amanda Linstead, Katie Dyet.

**Apologies:** Gary Field, Emma Riddle, Jeni Summerfield, Alan Merrick, Mary Mountford-Lister, Karen Spence, Simon Potter.

**Previous AGM Minutes:** The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**Matters arising:** Carolyn Taylor proposed delaying the election of committee members to later in the meeting to allow time for consideration.

**Chair's Report:** Carolyn reported on an eventful and very full year. Starting with the massive task of moving, sorting and re-establishing our large wardrobe collection from Swindon back to our store at Faringdon Junior School which was accomplished with many willing hands, she went on to outline the social events and past productions.

The Barbeque, Christmas Dinner and the ODN Quiz night were social highlights and much enjoyed by those able to attend. Debbie Lock received the John Taylor Award for her outstanding contribution to FDS.

A large group travelled to Canada to link up once more with our friends from the Garrison Little Theatre, Fort Erie and to perform 'London Suite' with them. We were once again very well looked after by our Canadian hosts. 'Diana and Sidney' from London Suite was reprised for the ODN one act Play Festival in Abingdon on our return.

The 'Best of British' evening with a short play, readings, songs and the fish and chips supper was very much enjoyed by all. Debbie Lock was the driving force behind this idea and was warmly thanked. 'Present Laughter' directed by Jeff Barry brought together a large cast and three talented new actors, visually stunning and well acted this period piece was very well received. The pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' written and directed by Peter Webster was a great success. A huge team effort as always and justifiably awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize and the ODN shield for the best panto in the Oxfordshire Region.

Looking forward to our next production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' to be performed outdoors at Sudbury House Hotel, which she is directing, Carolyn crossed her fingers for good weather and thanked everyone for all they have done to keep FDS such a vibrant and happy society.

**Treasurers Report:** Debbie Lock reported that the current account stands at £3935.11 and the deposit account £9726.28. Expenditure was £10,669.61 and income £11,958.51. Capital expenditure, which is included in core costs was £190.00. At £2,334.92 Jack and the Beanstalk was the most profitable production, Best of British made £578.00 with Present Laughter making a small loss of £234.00. A very good year financially with a net profit overall of £1,288.90.

**Money and Membership Fees:** Current membership is 48 which includes the 3 new members who joined us for Present Laughter, Karen Irving, Simon Potter and Peter McGurk. Ian Lee proposed a reconsideration of the current membership fee: to cut or waive it in view of our considerable bank balance and the current economic climate. It was agreed to keep the fees as they are in order to maintain the finances against future unknown expenses and the rising costs of hiring performance and rehearsal space.

**Charitable Status:** Simon Wisbey presented a case for FDS to apply for charitable status and he outlined the pros and cons and the process required to do so. Whilst FDS may be better able to apply for grants or other financial benefits by changing our status it was agreed that at this present time it was not overwhelmingly of great benefit. It was agreed to revisit this suggestion in the future should our circumstances warrant it. SW was thanked for his work on this proposal.

**Future Productions:** The June Production is an outdoor performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare directed by Carolyn Taylor, in collaboration with the British Heart Foundation; it is hoped to perform 'Wife After Death' by to be directed by Gary Field for November but as yet no decision on the pantomime for Jan 2014.

**Election of officers:** Debbie Lock and Simon Wisbey stepped down from the committee and were thanked for their considerable contribution.

The following were elected:

Position	Member
Chair	Carolyn Taylor
Secretary	Jo Webster
Treasurer	Lynda Bates
Membership Secretary/Webmaster	Ian Lee
Publicity	Fiona Merrick
Committee member	Emma Riddle
Committee member	Gary Field (new for 2013)
Committee member	Amanda Linstead (new for 2013)

**Any Other Business:** there was no AOB

**Date of next AGM:** to be decided by new committee.

Close of formal meeting followed by a social get together.