

Minutes of Faringdon Dramatic Society Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 28th May 2014 at the Old Town Hall Faringdon

Members present: Carolyn Taylor, Alan Taylor, Jo Webster, Peter Webster, Ian Lee, Joan Lee, Lynda Bates, Paul Mountford - Lister, Mary Mountford – Lister, Sarah Couzins, Katie Dyet, Alan Merrick, Emma Riddle, Dave Headey, Gary Field, Shela Rowan

Apologies: Carole Tappenden, Jeni Summerfield, Amanda Linstead, Debbie Lock, Richard Lock, Sarah Varnom, Sandra Keen, Helen Tate, Gary Bates, Fiona Merrick.

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

Matters arising: Charitable status: Dave Headey proposed that in certain circumstances application for charitable status should be pursued, (major fundraising for example) and that the relative documentation be retained for use should the need arise to apply. Paul Mountford –Lister seconded.

Election of officers: Carolyn Taylor, Jo Webster and Emma Riddle stepped down.

The following were elected:

Position	Member
Chair	Katy Dyet
Secretary	tbd
Treasurer	Lynda Bates
Membership Secretary/Webmaster	Ian Lee
Publicity	Fiona Merrick
Committee member/Lines editor	Gary Field
Committee member	Amanda Linstead
Committee member	Peter Webster (new for 2014)
Committee member	Sarah Couzins (new for 2014)
Committee member	Sandra Keen (new for 2014)

Chair's Report: Carolyn presented her final report as chair and started with her reflections on A Midsummer Night's Dream, which she directed. In collaboration with the British Heart Foundation this extremely well acted production was a great success and enjoyed enormously both by Carolyn and the hardy audience, (and was performed *mostly* in dry weather). FDS raised £2000.00 for the British Heart Foundation.

The summer barbeque was hosted by Karen and Simon and held at Karen's cottage in Lechlade, lovely day, great food and good company as usual.

The November production of Wife After Death, directed by Gary Field was successful both artistically and financially and a big hit with the audiences. This was followed by our Christmas 'do' at the Woodman in Fernham where as well as the famous 'Plastic Ledbury Awards', we enjoyed a good meal and a chance to remember our dear friend John Taylor as the John Taylor Award for Outstanding Contribution to FDS was this year presented to Jeni Summerfield.

The 2014 Panto was something very different; The Scarlet Pumpernickel chosen and directed very successfully by Helen Thrower, her first time as a director with FDS. Less children this year but a lovely cast with two of the younger members, Ellie and Lottie, doing the choreography. Ellie's mum Ceri came up trumps as props finder and has been warmly welcomed, particularly by the set team. Fiona's idea of a Friday night family ticket was tried for the first time and made a difference to the overall sales. Well worth continuing. Overall ticket sales were down, the first matinee was surprisingly low, perhaps because of the fewer children or an 'unknown' panto, however, a profit was made and we have a willing and very able director who is happy to do it all again.

Steel Magnolias will be on in two weeks, directed by Debbie Lock all going well. Plans for the November production, based around commemorating the commencement of WW1, got underway with lots of ideas coming forward. Carolyn advocated the practise of advertising our next production in the current programme.

Carolyn finished by thanking retiring members Jo Webster and Emma Riddle for their contribution and wished the new committee well headed up by Katy Dyet who she felt would be an inspirational Chair.

Treasurers Report: Lynda Bates presented the Accounts which had been audited by an external auditor (see attached report). At 28.3.2014 the balance in the current account was £3267.12 with £9730.21 on deposit. No losses were recorded for the three productions; Dream broke even (this was a non-profit making fundraising venture), Wife after Death made £242.22 and Scarlet Pumpernickel made £402.34. Rental for the lock up store is now paid by direct debit.

The accounts were signed off by the Chair.

Money and Membership Fees: Current membership is 48. Ian Lee proposed a possible increase in the cost of online membership renewal, this will be discussed by the next committee.

Canadian Exchange proposal received by Garrison Little Theatre: This received a positive response from the floor and the new committee will take the idea forward.

Future Productions: Steel Magnolias in two weeks: 'Reflections' (working title) to be performed on 6th, 7th & 8th November, will be based on ideas formed following a workshop facilitated by Carolyn Taylor. After Steel Magnolias Carolyn has offered to coordinate this collection of letters, poetry and music culminating in a short play to be directed by Gary Field. The 2015 panto is yet to be decided.

Any Other Business: Peter Webster proposed a vote of thanks to Carolyn Taylor for all her work during her third term of office as Chair.

Carolyn asked for Front of House volunteers for Steel Magnolias.

Jo Webster proposed that the annual committee supper, usually self-funded, should be supported out of FDS funds as a thank you for all their work. A sum of £100.00 was suggested by Alan Taylor who also seconded the proposal.

Ian Lee suggested that actors should not be expected to pay for their scripts. This will be discussed by the new committee.

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

Meeting closed at 9.15 followed by a social get together.