

Minutes of the AGM Meeting of the Faringdon Dramatic Society

Tuesday 23rd May 2017 (8.00 – 9.30 pm)

Committee Present: Sarah Couzens, Richard Lock, Peter Webster, Gary Field, Alan Merrick

Members: Fiona Merrick, Katie Dyet, Joan and Ian Lee, Carole Tappenden, Jeff Barry, Carolyn and Alan Taylor, Jo Webster, Debbie Lock, Verity Roberts, Jan Crowdsen, Steve Greening

Apologies: Shela Rowan, Jeni Summerfield, Amanda Linstead, Sarah Varnom, Katie Goodwin, Jayne Hoyland, Helen Thrower, Dave Heady, Martin Waymark, Sandra Keen, Gary Bates and Austen Roberts

Agenda Item	Discussion / Actions
Minutes of last meeting	Minutes of last AGM meeting agreed – 24.5.16
Election of Officers and new Committee Members	<p>Jayne Hoyland and Anna Marlow are to stand down from the committee – a vote of thanks was offered for their support as committee members over the past year.</p> <p><u>Chair (ongoing):</u> Gary Field – Alan Merrick proposed and Lynda Bates seconded <u>Secretary (ongoing):</u> Sarah Couzens - Verity Roberts proposed and Peter Webster seconded <u>Treasurer (ongoing):</u> Richard Lock – Jo Webster proposed and Carolyn Taylor seconded <u>Continuing Committee members:</u> Amanda Linstead – Alan Merrick proposed and Fiona Merrick seconded Sandra Keen – Carolyn Taylor proposed and Jeff Barry seconded Peter Webster – Richard Lock proposed and Gary Field seconded Alan Merrick – Gary Field proposed and Peter Webster seconded <u>New Committee member:</u> Carolyn Taylor – Debbie Lock proposed and Katie Dyet seconded</p>
Chair's Report	<p>Gary reflected on the year of further triumphs for the Society. He outlined the following highlights of the FDS year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Side Effects production with Garrison Little Theatre, Fort Erie in Canada• Richard Lock announced as the winner of the NODA London area 12 'Best Male in Play' prize – will go forward to finals• Success of the November production of Agatha Crusty – two new members welcomed but sadly Jake's first and only production – positive feedback received on the quality of ploughman's and play• This year's panto - Arthurs Adventures carried off the ODN prize for best panto• My Friend Mrs Flint at Buscot – Martin Waymark made his successful debut treading the boards – positive reviews on the website• Thanks to Ian lee for stirring work on website and for adding reviews section• Socially – summer BBQ success plus a trip to Wyvern Theatre to see the Reduced Shakespeare Company. Christmas party at Sadlers was the best yet – already re booked for this Christmas.• Profile and visibility is improving - town council offered written thanks for panto plus requested FDS involvement in the live nativity for Dec.• A homage to Leonard Cohen in Folly Fest is to be undertaken by Carolyn• FDS put forward for Shinfield Players Scenic Award for the Snow Queen <p>The Chair thanked members of the committee for their hard work and noted that venue difficulties were ongoing. Thanks was also offered to Anna and Paul ML for their excellent photography in productions.</p>

Treasurer's Report	<p>Good profit reported over the year (£961.55). £1000 has recently been paid for Junior School hire - an outstanding bill from last year.</p> <p>£880.97 profit reported for recent Buscot production. Current account balance: £2,805.32 Deposit account balance: £9,741.64 For budget review (see additional summary sheet).</p> <p>Further treasurer suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no further increase in membership fees • Summer BBQ – suggestion to pay for bbq meat from FDS funds
Long Service Awards	<p><u>Long Service awards</u> 10 years' awards given to: Austen and Verity and Jayne Hoyland</p>
Future productions	<p><u>November production</u> – Cider with Rosie – Debbie Lock to direct. Venue still to be decided To be done in the round Cider sourced through Jeff! Read through and auditions during last week of June Scheduled production for 10th - 12th November 2017.</p> <p><u>Panto for next year</u> – Variety of options but no decisions yet - Helen and Verity in the process of writing a panto (Sleeping Beauty) and Peter writing Dick Whittington. Society hasn't done Pied Piper or Babes in the Wood and Puss in Boots recently.</p> <p>Play reading for Bedroom Farce to be done soon – option to do this at the FCC in the future – a possible for next Autumn production.</p> <p><u>Buscot Theatre</u> – has continued to be a good/value for money venue and Buscot would be keen for the Society to use the theatre again. Gary F suggested Summers End by Eric Chapell as Spring production. Potential for Jo Webster to direct.</p>
Update on Venues	<p>Regular meetings with Stage Coach and new FJS Governor re securing Faringdon Junior School as a venue. Panto 2018 timings now secured and Stage Coach have agreed. Cider with Rosie will also be ok for this Autumn as the play will not require full use of the stage.</p> <p><u>Ongoing venue challenges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future plays requiring the stage at FJS –November and May productions are difficult as the 2nd half of school terms are performance times for Stage Coach and the stage is needed by them. • Corn Exchange often booked up in advance and requires a lot of work to set up • Pump House is an ill-equipped venue. <p><u>Other options:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faringdon Community College stage and new drama studio facilities (yet to be built)– further liaison with FCC needed. • Continue at Buscot in the Spring and use Junior school for Panto. Autumn production venue remains problematic. <p>A vote of thanks was offered for Richard for all his liaison work on this issue.</p>
Summer BBQ event	<p>Volunteer needed to provide a venue for this year's BBQ</p>

AOB	<p><u>Lynda Bates</u> – suggested publishing minutes on Members page of the website. This proposal was seconded Carolyn Taylor. Headlines from minutes to be included in FDS newsletter.</p> <p><u>Debbie Lock</u> – suggested it may be helpful to speak to committee member if something needs to come up in the meeting or email</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picture of whole cast to be taken of cast and crew after every performance/ dress rehearsal - Where are Certificates for awards previously won stored? <p><u>Folly Fest</u> – would like to look at Medieval Knights flats.</p> <p>Picasso painting awarded by Jo Webster to Richard L for his debut as a co-director.</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 9.20pm</p> <p>Date of next AGM: to be decided by FDS committee.</p>