



**Faringdon Dramatic Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 22nd May 2019
8.00pm Barber Rooms Faringdon

Present: Gary Field (Chair), Richard Lock, Carolyn Taylor, Alan Taylor, Ian Lee, Debra Warner, Debbie Lock, Jo Webster, Peter Webster, Alan Merrick, Jeni Summerfield, Martin Waymark, Helen Thrower, Jan Crowdson, Derek Crowdson and Sarah Couzens.

Apologies: Sarah Varnom, Carole Tappenden, Lynda Bates, Gary Bates, Joan Lee, Shela Rowan, Fiona Merrick, Sandra Keen, Jeff Barry, Katie Dyet, Matthew Warner and Verity Roberts.

Minutes of the last AGM were approved and signed as a correct record by Chairman Gary Field.

Matters Arising: None.

Election of officers: Chair - Gary Field proposed by Alan Merrick seconded by Derek Crowdson; Treasurer - Richard Lock proposed by Jeni Summerfield seconded by Jo Webster. Current Committee Members - Carolyn Taylor proposed by Sarah Couzens seconded by Alan Taylor; Martin Waymark proposed by Peter Webster seconded by Helen Thrower; Sandra Keen proposed by Richard Lock seconded by Jeni Summerfield; Alan Merrick proposed by Derek Crowdson seconded by Dave Headey. New Committee Members – Helen Thrower proposed by Gary Field seconded by Peter Webster and Jan Crowdson proposed by Peter Webster seconded by Richard Lock.

The Chair thanked Peter Webster and Matthew Warner, who both had stood down, for their service on the committee over the past year(s).

Chairman's Report (Gary please add)

The last twelve months have been very nicely bookended by two productions at Buscot Theatre. The first, in June 2018, was Faringdon Follies. This was a triumph (thanks, Debbie, Carolyn and a very talented cast) and has been our most talked about show for many years, also winning a NODA district award. Only last week, James Henderson, Lord Faringdon's son, was asking whether we would consider doing it again. The second was the GLT production of 'Airport Tales' rounding off a very

enjoyable exchange week. Audience response was very good and we have some very complimentary reviews on the website.

We have now become an established part of the Follyfest fringe, with our spot on Sunday afternoon at The Pump House Project. Last year our production was a rehearsed reading of 'Last Tango In Little Grimley' which we had fun with. This year Debbie and her talented cast are presenting a properly rehearsed performance of 'Shakers' after performing at both the Abingdon and Wallingford theatre Festivals.

We all enjoyed Peter and Jo's pop up BBQ during the fabulous summer of 2018.

Mrs Webster then took a trip to Farndale Avenue together with a motley crew of strange characters. How can we ever forget Sandra's fat suit or the Inspector getting stabbed with an ironing board? This was a complex murder mystery spoof performed with great verve by a very talented cast.

After Farndale Avenue we moved swiftly on to the panto 'Wishing On A Star'. This was a lot of fun to be part of and we had the best-behaved children that I can recall. The audiences loved it and we came third in the ODN panto competition. Congratulations to Verity and Helen. Whilst we are talking about panto I would like to acknowledge the time and effort put in over many years by Jo Webster for set design and artistry and Jeni Summerfield for costumes. Both have expressed a desire to take more of a back seat with future pantomimes although Jo will still be lending her expertise to set design but not to the practical aspect of putting the design into practice. Lynda Bates has also told me that she won't be available for future pantos as she needs to concentrate on building up her millinery business. I have mentioned this because now is the time for other people to step up and fill their shoes – no pressure then! Seriously though, the Faringdon panto is now an important part of the Faringdon year and we need to keep up the high standards that we have set ourselves. The panto for 2020 has not yet been finalised but, if you feel that you have the necessary skills for set design, scene painting, and wardrobe then please approach a member of the committee.

Whilst the panto was going on Debbie and I were hard at work sorting out the Canadian exchange visit. Debbie dealt with all aspects of the hosting and I acted as UK producer for GLT, agreeing all the production requirements, props, logistics and staging with Darka Makarec from GLT. It is always a challenge trying to do everything at a distance of 3500 miles from the people who are coming to act, and to stay, but Debbie and I feel that this was the most successful of the four exchanges done since 2007. I have been asked by NODA to write a piece for their newspaper about our Canadian twining experiences.

We again had a very enjoyable Christmas meal at Sadlers. We have already booked Saturday 14th December for the meal this year, with a request for more green veg (or actually any green veg)!

In conclusion, this has been a very busy but very enjoyable year and I have really enjoyed being chairman of FDS. I would like to thank the members of the committee for their hard work and support during the last twelve months.

Gary Field

21st May 2019

Membership Fees: Sarah Varnom has asked why a single person's membership is £25.00 per annum when a couple can join as a family for £40.00 thus paying only £20.00 each. GF proposed that membership fees should be £20.00 per head for all. Children under the age of 18 will be included with an adult membership, free of charge. We will continue to offer the £15.00 membership for involvement in a single production if people do not wish to join as a full member and pantomime membership will stay as £10.00 per family for children. The proposal was put to the meeting and carried unanimously by a show of hands. Membership is £20.00 from now on.

Ian Lee proposed that there should be no need for a new membership form to be filled in if members had done one last year. This was also agreed unanimously.

John Taylor Award: Debbie Lock wanted all members to be able to vote for the recipient of the John Taylor award, last year this had been done by the committee only. After some discussion it was proposed that the committee would nominate three candidates, and then all members would be able to vote for their choice. The award also relates to contributions made by members during the current year. Proposed Debbie Lock seconded Jeni Summerfield. Agreed by all.

Treasurer's Report: See Accounts for full details. Richard Lock stated that a profit of £2106.00 had been made over the year. The distribution of costs had been similar to the previous year, except that the cost of 'Faringdon Follies' was higher. This coming year would be more expensive as we will have the cost of the Canadian exchange and also 'Shakers', which, as a festival play, will not bring in any income. Ian Lee asked what we could spend our money on. After discussion about buying our own computer, it was agreed that renting was the best option for now.

Future Productions:

- November production will be 'Our Country's Good' by Timberlake Wertenbaker, directed by Carolyn Taylor.
- Peter Webster has written Aladdin which Debbie Lock is willing to direct for our next pantomime. Jeni Summerfield has agreed to help with getting out costumes for the pantomime and Joan Lee has agreed to be in charge of costumes.
- 2020 will see our return visit to Fort Erie Canada.

Any Other Business: Debbie Lock thanked all who had hosted the Canadian visitors and been involved in this year's exchange. Gary Field added his thanks to all.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm and was followed by a social gathering.