



Faringdon Dramatic Society

Minutes of FDS AGM

21/9/2021 7.30pm in The Barber Rooms All Saints Church Faringdon

Present: Gary Field, (Chair), Richard Lock (Treasurer), Helen Thrower, Jan Crowdson, Martin Waymark, Alan Merrick, Jo Webster, Jeni Summerfield, Debbie Lock, Alan Taylor Shela Rowan, Helen Tate, Carole Tappenden, Ian Lee, Joan Lee, Sarah Couzens and Carolyn Taylor.

Apologies from; Peter Webster, Sarah Varnom, Adrian Wells, Derek Crowdson, Debra Warner, Matthew Warner, Fiona Merrick.

Minutes of the last AGM were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Before the election of officers it was agreed that the committee could be reduced in number from 8 to 6 as a more realistic proportion of the membership. The producer or director of any current production will be co-opted onto the committee for effective liaison.

Gary Field is standing down as Chair, after five years, but is willing to remain on the committee, Richard Lock is standing down from the committee but will continue as Treasurer for the remainder of this financial year, after which a new Treasurer will be needed. He will continue as our liaison person with Stagecoach and the Junior School. Sandra Keen and Alan Merrick are also standing down from the committee and GF thanked them all for their work over a number of years.

Election of Officers

Gary Field proposed Helen Thrower as the new Chair of FDS, this nomination was seconded by Carole Tappenden.

Gary Field was proposed by Helen Thrower seconded by Alan Merrick.

Helen Tate was proposed by Carole Tappenden as Treasurer from next financial year and as a committee member straight away; seconded by Jeni Summerfield.

Jan Crowdson was proposed by Alan Merrick and seconded by Carolyn Taylor.

Martin Waymark was proposed by Jeni Summerfield and seconded by Jan Crowdson.

Carolyn Taylor was proposed by Carole Tappenden and seconded by Jan Crowdson.

Chairman's Report

Chairman's report – September 2021

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to FDS 2021 edition.

Firstly, I would like to take you way, way back to a time before we knew how incompetent Gavin Williamson was, a time when only the scientific and medical community knew what PPE was and before Barnard Castle became a centre of ophthalmic research. Yes folks, its 2019!!

In the latter half of 2019, we firstly basked in the long-running success of Shakers. This wonderful little play brought the house down in Abingdon, Wallingford and finally at our very own Follyfest. What a triumph it was! Congratulations to Debbie and her stellar cast.

We then moved on to 'Our Country's Good, directed by Carolyn Taylor and with a large cast of FDS members supplemented by Dominic Bullock. I'm not exaggerating when I say that this was the most intense, physically, and mentally exhausting, but ultimately incredibly fulfilling production that I have ever been involved in. Congratulations to Carolyn and all involved and congratulations to Dominic for an award-winning performance as Midshipman Harry Brewer. Also, as special mention should go out to Adrian for a fabulous poster.

We then moved seamlessly on to rehearsals for our 2020 panto, Aladdin, but not before Shela and I managed to find time to get married! In December, the Christmas party, complete with the requested 'extra green veg' went off very well at Sadlers and then we all settled in for a relaxing Christmas.

After Christmas, it was full steam ahead for the panto. Although it was very 'full on' and not without its difficulties, the panto was a great success, being enjoyed by large audiences over two weekends. Congratulations to Debbie and her cast and crew for putting on a great show. Thanks also to our resident playwright, Peter Webster, for another great panto script. Our granddaughter, Leah, two and a half then, had a great time and really enjoyed her time on stage with Verity!

After the panto, we had a very full 2020 in front of us, with a charity musical evening, organised by Verity in April, followed by Ladies' Day at Buscot in June and then the same play in Canada in July. However, in mid-February we began to be aware of a new virus in the Far East and then, shortly after half-term, when people returned from their skiing holidays with more than just their memories, the UK, and the world, rapidly ground to a halt. At that point, none of us realised just how bad it was going to get and my heart goes out to those families, here, and all over the world, whose lives have been devastated by Covid.

After a period of adjustment, and some sterling early work by Duncan and Richard, FDS emerged from the gloom, in April, with the Friday Pub night and quiz on Zoom. What a lifeline this was, generating a level of excitement that would have seemed ridiculous a few short weeks before, but now felt entirely appropriate. Various people, including Fiona, Carolyn, Richard, Duncan, and Jayne hosted quizzes over many weeks and we even managed a Ceilidh in early June. Once we had exhausted the quizzes, we move on to play readings, including a lovely reading of A Christmas Carol, just before Christmas 2020, and a good stab at Under Milkwood early in 2021. We also read a couple of Peter's new plays in his 'Dodger' series. We had thought, at one time, that we would be able to perform something at Follyfest 2021 but, sadly, the government decision on re-opening and lifting of many restrictions came too late to save Follyfest.

The FDS committee has only met occasionally on Zoom over the last 18 months at times when we felt there were things to discuss. In recent months, as things began to return to something like normal, we increased the frequency of meetings and finally, in August, we had our first 'face to face' meeting for 18 months!

At the beginning of September, we enjoyed a BBQ on a gloriously sunny Sunday afternoon. It was so lovely to see so many people in our garden.

We are very pleased to be back and thrilled that 'Ladies' Day', directed by Sarah Varnom will finally be presented to our Faringdon audience in November. The cast has been hard at work with

rehearsals since the beginning of September and we can all look forward, with a degree of optimism, to a great production in November.

Finally, I would like to say what a pleasure it has been to be your chairman over the last five years, and I would like to thank all the committee members, over that time, for their hard work and support.

Gary Field – September 2021

Carolyn Taylor offered a vote of thanks on behalf of all to Gary for his work as Chairman over the past five years and for seeing the Society through such a difficult time.

Membership Subs The committee had discussed this issue and proposed that a fee of £10 membership should be set to cover the remainder of this year. However Jo Webster and Debbie Lock both suggested membership fees be waived until April 2022. This proposal was accepted and passed by a show of hands.

Pantomime. There is no director available currently and concerns were expressed for safety with a lot of unvaccinated children involved and through winter months when Covid19 is likely to be more prevalent. Helen Thrower thinks it would be very difficult to go ahead and along with several other members, suggested we should wait until 2022/3. RL stated that Stagecoach are not putting on any performances until next March. He has however booked the church and school for rehearsals and performances, so we could put on an alternative show. Ian Lee proposed that we do not do a Pantomime this year and this was seconded by Jeni Summerfield and agreed by all.

Long Service Awards were given to:

Sarah Varnom 25 years, Adrian Wells 25 years and Shela Rowan 10 years.

Treasurers Report RL went through the accounts of the last 18 months (see below). Although we have had no income since February 2020 finances are still quite healthy. The Costume Store has now been included on our own insurance.

Jo Webster offered a vote of thanks on behalf of all to Richard for his work as Treasurer over the past years.

Future Productions

Debbie Lock and Carolyn Taylor have written a play to be staged at Buscot next spring, based on the scenes from the life of Gavin Henderson, then Lord Faringdon, depicted in the frescoes which are on the walls outside the theatre he built. It would involve a good number of members.

Verity Roberts is still keen to go ahead with the postponed Night at the Musicals event.

GF said we have a credit of £150 with Nick Hern books, who have several good plays if anyone would like to check them out. Debbie Lock encouraged anyone to step forward and try directing, as it is not so daunting as they might think.

Any Other Business. There was none and the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Accounts Summary 2019/20

Opening Balances 1/04/19

Deposit A/C

13752.50

16838.19

Current A/C

3085.69

INCOME

Core - subs 1112.50

Core - social 759.00

Core - other 10.00

Airport Tales 1678.50

Shakers 0.00

Our Countries Good 1707.85

Aladdin 6005.07

Night at the Musicals 0.00

Ladies Day 0.00

Deposit Interest 6.82

11279.74

EXPENDITURE

Core - subs 0.00

Core - social 783.25

Core - other 1704.46

Airport Tales 2101.78

Shakers 635.89

Our Countries Good 2595.52

Aladdin 4297.01

Night at the Musicals 97.50

Ladies Day 450.00

12665.41

Net Profit/Loss for the year

-1385.67

Closing Balances 31/03/20

Deposit A/C

13259.32

15452.52

Current A/C

2193.20

Productions Summary

Income Breakdown

Cost Breakdown

	Income	Expenditure	Profit/Loss	Pre-Sales/						
				Online	GM	Door	FoH			
Airport Tales	1678.50	2101.78	-423.28	946.00	0.00	0.00	107.50	Costumes	0.00	%
				56.36%	0.00%	0.00%	6.40%	Lighting & Sound	189.89	9.03
								Hall Hire	240.00	11.42
								FoH	99.55	4.74
								Marketing	53.87	2.56
								Props	129.22	6.15
								License	0.00	0.00
								Exchange Costs	1389.25	66.10
Shakers	0.00	635.89	-635.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	License	225.00	35.38
								Hall Hire	238.00	37.43
								Costumes	69.96	11.00
								Props	51.43	8.09
								Festival Entries	51.50	8.10
Our Countries Good	1707.85	2595.52	-887.67	626.85	392.00	248.00	441.00	Set	127.87	4.93
				36.70%	22.95%	14.52%	25.82%	Costumes	396.50	15.28
								Lighting & Sound	240.00	9.25
								Hall Hire	1178.00	45.39
								FoH	237.38	9.15
								Marketing	35.66	1.37
								Props	40.00	1.54
								License	331.20	12.76
								Scripts	8.91	0.34
Aladdin	6005.07	4297.01	1708.06	3336.39	1275.00	36.00	1357.68	Set	299.90	6.98
				55.56%	21.23%	0.97%	22.61%	Costumes	406.73	9.47
								Lighting & Sound &	1094.00	25.46
								Hall Hire	1639.25	38.15
								FoH	588.64	13.70
								Marketing	114.35	2.66
								Props	88.64	2.06
								Other	65.50	1.52

Core Breakdown

In	Out
Subs	1112.50
Storage Hire	750.00
NODA + ODN	550.56
AGM Refreshments	43.92
Equipment	0.00
BBQ	0.00
Christmas Dinner	759.00
Script Hire	24.25
Gifts & Awards	0.00
PPL License	81.52
Follyfest Flyers	0.00
Website renewal	124.36
Costume Hire	10.00
1881.50	2487.71

Accounts - Interim Summary 2020/22

Opening Balances 01/04/20		
Deposit A/C	13259.32	15452.52
Current A/C	2193.20	

INCOME

Core - subs	0.00
Core - social	0.00
Core - other	0.00
Deposit Interest	4.12

4.12

EXPENDITURE

Core - subs	1988.93
Core - social	50.00
Core - other	200.00
Ladies day	0.00

2238.93

Net Profit/Loss for the year	-2234.81
------------------------------	----------

Closing Balances 14/09/21		
Deposit A/C	12763.44	<u>13217.71</u>
Current A/C	454.27	

Core Breakdown

	In	Out
Subs	0.00	0.00
Storage Hire		1125.00
NODA + ODN		522.22
Equipment	0.00	6.28
Gifts & Awards		235.00
Room Hire		15.00
Purchase Glasses		205.05
Website renewal		130.38
Interest	4.12	

4.12	2238.93
-------------	----------------
