



1906 – 2006

## Carver Theatre Newsletter

January 2013

Happy New Year to all Carver members!

OK it's probably a bit late to say it, but it is the first Newsletter proper of the new year and I haven't managed to see everyone individually, so as we're still in January (just about), why not!

The most striking thing to me in the Newsletter this time is how much we must all thank John for his hard work on behalf of the society. Just look at what he's getting through on our behalf! Committee work is the boring but essential aspect of the society's work and John is really throwing himself into it (and don't forget he is still relatively new to it), so on behalf of everyone, many thanks John! And let's not forget Deb too, thanks for loaning John to us, I'm sure you'll get him back at some point in the not too distant future!

I think we also need to add thanks to all that helped to make the Panto such a success once again. As Richard's letter below suggests, there are a great many people helping unseen to make the Panto and all our productions so successful and enjoyable, not just for those taking part, but for the paying customers too. So perhaps this is a good time to ask everyone to check out the dates of the forthcoming productions, clear a space in your diary and make sure you help out in some way during the next two productions. I know that already requests are coming in to fill the bar duty rota. Front of House will be requiring help too and no doubt there will be other calls for volunteers over the next few weeks. Don't assume someone else will fill the gaps. To paraphrase, ask not what the Carver can do for you, but rather what you can do for the Carver! Let's get all the jobs covered off early- if we all do one shift helping out we'll be overrun with helpers, and wouldn't that be a great place to be!

And finally, our thoughts go out to Jenny and Ken Smith as they mourn the passing of Brenda. She was a much loved and respected member of the society and will be missed.

### **Chairman's Diary November 2012 to January 2013**

I chaired the Executive Committee Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 and amongst the items covered were the following:-

- We accepted one new member - Poppy Wilkes.
- We heard that, following a recent training session, we now have two new recruits available to act as Front of House Stewards.
- We agreed that we would continue to give over some free space in programmes to local charity appeals.
- We heard that tickets can now be purchased by card over the phone from Hollins, subject to a £1 handling charge.
- We heard about plans to produce the musical "Joseph and his Technicolour

Dream Coat" as the next Junior show.

- Two short new documents, 'Carver Theatre Code of Conduct : The way we do things' and 'Carver Theatre : Resolving Disputes' were agreed as describing the theatre's ethos and are now available to read in the members' area of the Carver website under 'Ethos'.
- It was agreed that our Child Protection Policy needs looking at again in light of legislative changes and a small Child Protection Policy Committee has been set up to carry out a review and make recommendations to the full Executive Committee for any changes.
- We agreed to make the theatre available for a concert by Marple Brass Band on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013.
- Following a request from Liz Galloway, we agreed that Brain Tumour UK would be the Carver's charity for 2013 - 2014 season.
- We heard that our Building Development Steering Group was about to obtain competitive quotes for insulating the loft above the stone part of our building.

A few of us went to see the Alan Ayckbourn play "If I were you" at Poynton Players on 4<sup>th</sup> December and were thoroughly entertained. I would like to get round all the other local amateur societies more often because I think it helps to broaden our perspective on what we are doing here at The Carver.

Deb has organised a Carver trip to see Cats performed by the Youth Section of Mossley Operatic on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Their standards are usually very high and so this should be a great show.

Deb and I went to St Martin's Church on 8<sup>th</sup> December and voted for the Carver in the Christmas Tree competition and had tea and cake in the church hall.

We dug out the Carver Christmas decorations and put them up in the bar and library in time for our Christmas Social on 19<sup>th</sup> December which was organised by Denise and Stuart Vaughan. Everyone had a great laugh, a sing song, mulled wine and mince pies. Joanna Bircher and the rest of the cast from Calendar Girls also handed over the cheque for money raised from sales of the Charity Calendar - look out for a picture on the website and in the next edition of The Marple Review.

The rest of the time during December and early January was taken up with painting and set building for the Carver Pantomime and our own family Christmas and New Year celebrations.

You may have heard about my panto-set-building-related accident. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more details and the lessons we can all learn from it.

Deb and I saw the Panto dress rehearsal on 9<sup>th</sup> January - what a great show. Working on the Bar, Front of House and interval refreshments during the run it was wonderful to see everyone's hard work paying off in the form of happy smiling faces from the audience.

I was invited to a meeting of our Building Development Steering Group on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013 where we discussed plans for reshaping the bar and library and some very radical ideas relating to the auditorium part of the building - watch this space!

The Executive Committee Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 covered a number of areas, including:-

- Agreement on a new format for monthly financial reporting to the Executive committee.
- Acceptance of three new full members; Margaret Edwards, Roger Griffiths and Philip Vulliamy.
- How we are approaching the selection of plays for next season to cope with our shortage of actors, particularly young men, and the requirement to mount a play in September 2014 with a minimal set so leaving more time and manpower for stage maintenance.
- Lessons learned from the initially low level of mid-week pantomime ticket sales - shows finish too late mid-week for young children and there is a common myth that the pantomime is 'always sold out'.
- The success of the interval juice and crisps service in the auditorium during the pantomime, although we need to make sure sellers realise when the second half is due to start!!
- An update on the research so far carried out by the Child Protection Policy Committee including finding out what other local societies do. Next meeting of Policy Committee 30<sup>th</sup> January with hopefully some firm recommendations to next Exec Meeting.
- A review of the Roles and Responsibilities of the various Sections that report to the Exec and carry on the day to day running of the theatre.
- An update from the Building Development Group (see entry above for 16<sup>th</sup> January).
- Our Interior Design Project Team updated us on the meeting planned at the theatre on 26<sup>th</sup> January with an interior design architect who is providing us with free advice. Development of interior design ideas is being closely coordinated with the building structure plans emerging from the Building Development Group.
- We were updated on new arrangements for managing our cleaners. Tonight, 25<sup>th</sup> January, Deb and I are off to see "Blood Money" at The Brookdale Theatre in Bramhall. Might be one for the Carver in the future. That's all for now.

"As some of you will know, I slipped on stage during set construction for the pantomime and injured my arm. Terry Lee also fell and hurt his elbow on the same day and this has led to Brian Bircher, who's Finance Committee is responsible for ensuring we have, and comply with, Health & Safety Policy and Procedures, reminding me that I needed to complete the Accident Book. The only problem was I didn't know where the Accident Book was. The answer is in the Health & Safety Policy and Procedures which Brian has issued to every Carver member when they joined. But if, like me, you have mislaid your copy there is one attached to this newsletter and you can always download the latest version from the members' area of the website. I think it's important that we take common sense steps to reduce the risks associated with our theatre work and the Procedures provide good, practical advice - please give them a read. As an inducement I will buy a drink for the first person to correctly tell me where the Accident Book is located."

John Woodruff

[chair@carvertheatre.co.uk](mailto:chair@carvertheatre.co.uk)

### **From Panto cast to Exec**

Dear Carver Exec Team,

The principals and the children of Jack and the Beanstalk wanted to offer our thanks to everyone who made our Panto such a success.

We did arrange for a card, signed by all the performers, to come to today's meeting, but somehow in the chaos of Panto clean up, it's gone missing.

So, thanks to all the painters, cleaners, organisers, rota makers and general fixers who did all the hard work in the background. As one of the young lads in the show said to me, 'there is always an adult who knows what to do all the time'.

Kind regards

Fleshcreep (aka Richard)

### **Brenda Price**

I would just like to thank everyone for their messages of support and condolence, whether they were by phone, text, e mail or in a card. The number of people contacting us was overwhelming and very humbling and it was lovely to see so many of you at Mum's funeral last week.

She joined the Carver after Dad died as a way to get out and meet new people although I don't think taking on the mantle of Social Secretary was something that she would have ever envisaged at the start of her membership. She took on the role for a couple of years and it earned her the nickname in the family of "The General" as it always amused Ken to see her sat at the kitchen breakfast bar marshalling her 'troops' on the phone for each production. It was only declining health that stopped her being a regular on the roster in the last couple of years.

I know Mum made many friends amongst you all and so many of you have commented not only on her dress sense but also her straight talking (some may say acerbic) wit!!! As I often used to tell her, they broke the mould when they made her!

Jenny Smith

### **Production Committee**

Over the last couple of months there have been two departures from the committee and so the current line up is now as follows:-

Debbie Woodruff, Production Secretary, ably supported by Liz Galloway; Gerard Lennox; Tonia Williams and Bernice Yates.

"We'll always have Paris" opens our next season with playing dates 20th to 28th September 2013. It will be directed by Shirley Molloy. We are holding a play reading for anyone interested in being in this production on Wednesday 6th February at 8.00 pm in the Library. The parts are: the English, Nancy 60s, Anna 60s, Raquel 60s & the French, Charlot (male) 50s, Madame Boussiron 50s.

Three women of a "certain age" gravitate to Paris. There's Nancy, a retired headmistress determined to throw off the shackles; Anna, recently widowed - and free - after years of nursing a sick husband; and Raquel, a divorcee in search of eternal

youth and a new toy boy. We're looking forward to seeing anyone who would like to be considered for any of the above roles.

Thanks.

Debbie Woodruff.

### Keys

Please could you be so kind as to return any theatre keys that you no longer have a need for in an envelope with your name inside and pop it in the Registrar's pigeon hole. We are struggling to organise keys for The Secret Rapture and there is no point spending money on new ones if it isn't necessary.

Regards

Mike Strivens,

[registrar@carventheatre.co.uk](mailto:registrar@carventheatre.co.uk)

### On Facebook.....

Joanna posted a picture (opposite) of the cheque presentation made at the Christmas party - £2,000 to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. Thanks to James Middleton from the Marple Review for the photo.



Lots of people enjoyed the Panto: Debbie particularly enjoyed the rap, and

Georgina the mini Flesh Creeps (I guess you had to be there!)

Joanna reminds everyone that tickets are now on sale for the next play, a fabulous drama by one of Britain's best playwrights, David Hare. We welcome some new members in lead roles so get your tickets now!

### Dates for your diary

Secret Rapture, David Hare

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb-2<sup>nd</sup> March 2013

Gang Show (Scouts production)

14<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012

Unoriginal Sin, David Tristram

10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2013

We'll Always Have Paris, Jill Hyem

20<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> September 2013