



1906 – 2006

Carver Theatre Newsletter

March 2013

Welcome to the spring edition of the Carver newsletter, although I have to say it doesn't feel terribly springlike to me - I've driven down to London today through snow and near blizzard conditions, and when I stepped out of the car I practically froze! I hope you are all keeping snug and warm.

Well done to all concerned with *Secret Rapture*, a very thoughtful production of an interesting modern play.

I have included at the end of the newsletter a couple of opportunities for members to take part in operatic productions being presented by other societies. I know opera isn't everyone's cup of tea, but these chances don't come along that often so I wanted to share them with you just in case it tickled your fancy.

And whilst on the subject of other societies, several members are associated with other societies in the local area, and in my view this is something to be celebrated, the additional experience people gain from working in different settings can then be brought back to benefit of the Carver. It also gives us a reason to go and visit other societies' productions to see our friends and colleagues in action. Of course we can only do this if we know when and where Carver members are performing away from the Carver, so how about letting us know, via the newsletter, about your ventures away from the Carver so we can come and support you there? Chris Billington has set the ball rolling by telling us about his next venture with Cheadle Players, see below for details.

Chairman's diary, January and February 2013

It was nice to meet up with Carver friends at Steve Johnson's surprise Fancy Dress 40th Birthday Party on 26th January. The theme was dead famous people so we were joined by Cleopatra, Einstein, Queen Elizabeth I, Heath Ledger as The Joker, Audrey Hepburn and several Amy Winehouses.

On 29th Jan Deb and I went to see Carver Youth being put through their paces by Eve Clayton, Lauren and Lindsay Legg, Debbie Durr and Fay Sidebotham. Carver Youth are our future so it's great to see the group thriving.

I went to the read-through of *We'll Always Have Paris* on 6th February. Not as many turned out as we would have liked, but we were joined by member Janet Salt who read her part from Braille cards, watched attentively by her trusty guide dog.

Deb and I went along to watch and support part of the Sunday rehearsal on 10th February for *The Secret Rapture*, Matthew Simon's directing debut. All the cast were working very hard, some of them only recently having joined the Carver. Good to see more new faces.

Deb and I watched the first dress rehearsal of *The Secret Rapture* on 18th February and for the first time we were treated to the sight of the set revolving. The set is a

triumph, with all credit to set designer Richard Bircher, Stage Manager Gerard and his team.

We had our Executive Committee meeting on 20th February and amongst the items covered were the following:-

- The date of 27th March 2013 was approved for the Spring Social.
- Agreement was reached on a new performance schedule for the Pantomime which will mean more matinees, because these are the most popular, but at the same not having any more than two performances on any one day. This will be achieved by introducing Sunday matinees. The Monday and Tuesday will be rest days because these are the least popular nights.
- We elected the new Pantomime Committee which is actually the same as the old Pantomime committee except Gary Fielding has stepped down from the Chair to be replaced by Debbie Durr.
- The drawings and structural design for the proposed new bar and library layout were presented to the meeting by Andy Tinsey. Thanks to Richard Rhodes, our tame structural engineer, for all his work on this. Exec members will have a chance to ask questions at our meeting on 20th March when Richard will be attending for that item. It is anticipated that the interior design group will get underway again once the structural plans have been finalised.
- Expenditure was approved for vital repairs to the roof of our stone building.
- The recommendations of the Child Protection Working Group were agreed and the next step will be to finalise the detailed procedures with all the affected sections of the theatre contributing so we ensure they will be workable in practice. The aim is to approve the detailed procedures at the Exec on 20th March and then start implementing them. Watch out for further communications on this as all members have a responsibility in this area.
- We agreed to apply for membership of the Little Theatre Guild.
- We agreed to approach a high profile television actor and writer who lives locally to ask if he would be willing to become a patron of the Carver Theatre.

I hosted Carmel Bird, the GMDF Adjudicator, at the Wednesday performance of The Secret Rapture. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and learnt a lot about Wilmslow Green Room theatre where Carmel is a member. I must get down there sometime.

For the rest of play week it was the usual round of interval teas, bar and Front of House, so many thanks to everyone who works so hard in these supporting roles. They are a very important part of our audience's experience when they come to our theatre.

That's all for now.

John Woodruff

chair@carvertheatre.co.uk

Panto director

Well, it's that time of year again when we put out a request for pantomime directors!

If anyone is interested, could you please contact Debbie Durr on

debbiehealey@ntlworld.com or any of the panto committee.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

Debbie Durr

Pygmalion

Our very own Chris Billington is taking part in Pygmalion at Cheadle Players, Saturday 11th May until Saturday 18th of May. Here is the website for more details

<http://www.playersdramatic.co.uk/drupal/>

Spring Social at the Carver!

It's a return to to 70's with a cheese and wine evening- your first glass of wine is on the house, and cheese and biscuits will be served for supper. There will also be a mind-bending cheese and wine quiz, and a cake competition (see below) - so come along to the bar at the theatre at 8.30 pm on Wednesday 27th March for a catch up with your friends!

Rules for Cake competition: There are no real rules- please bring along a cake or cakes of any kind on the night and the winner of the 'best' cake (judge's decision is final) will win a prize. Cakes will then be sold and all proceeds will go to The Brain Tumour Charity- so the calories won't count as it's in a good cause. Contact Mike and Liz Galloway for any more information (although you have it all now anyway!) lizzie.galloway@virgin.net or michael.galloway@virgin.net .

Bar staff

Please contact Mike Coleman if you are able to help with bar duty during the Gang Show (March 14th - 23rd)

mikecoleman@uwclub.net

Prompt

The Production Committee are looking for a prompt for the next play. If you like to help out the production in this way, please contact Debbie Woodruff or any member of the Production Committee.

deborahwoodruff100@yahoo.co.uk

Macbeth, Verdi

RNCM 14th-17thNovember 2013

This great dramatic opera is to be fully staged and has a superb cast. It contains wonderful chorus music and memorable scenes for all. We would like to invite prospective new male members, particularly tenors to be part of this production.

The Company are more than happy to offer you an opportunity to try a "taster" without commitment.

Visit www.cityofmanchesteropera.org.uk for more details.

Nabucco, Verdi

The Nabucco Come & Sing Day will be held at St Margaret's Church in Prestwich. This

venue is very easy to get to from the M60, M61, M62 and M66, and is only a short walk from the Heaton Park stop of the Bury line of the Metrolink tram. The day will start at 10am, with registration from 9:15am onwards.

The cost is £18 (students £10) which covers hire of the score and complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits all day. Lunch is NOT included.

The free concert will start at 6pm and is likely to finish at about 7:10pm.

For more details visit www.pint-sized-opera.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Gang Show (Scouts production)

14th-23rd March 2012

Social night

27th March

Unoriginal Sin, David Tristram

10th-18th May 2013

We'll Always Have Paris, Jill Hyem

20th -28th September 2013