



1906 – 2006

Carver Theatre Newsletter

August 2013

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2012/13 season. I think you'll all agree it's been a cracking season with some tremendous productions - not least those recognised by the Greater Manchester Drama Federation as being particularly worthy of mention (in effect three of our five productions! No mean achievement!). However beyond these headlines there were also many other stories to note - several new actors have made their Carver debuts this season, and we all look forward to seeing how they develop on stage in the years to come. We have also had directorial debuts, and again, as a theatre it is vital that we continue to give new people opportunities to grow and develop.

Behind the scenes too there has been a great deal happening - not least the increase in membership reported by our outgoing Registrar Mike Strivens. Exciting plans are being developed for the building, the proposed supermarket developments are being closely monitored and we have trialled a new online ticketing system to mention but a few of the ways we are moving forwards thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Executive Committee and others.

It was most gratifying to see so many members present at the recent AGM. These meetings are often not considered a 'must be there' evening so to see so many Carver members interested in the running of their society was another promising sign for our future. It was slightly disappointing that several positions remain unfilled at the time of writing, so if anyone reading this would like to take a more active role in the running of the society, contact our Chairman John Woodruffe or any other member of the Executive Committee for more information. The old adage that many hands make light work is as true of the Carver as it is of any other situation.

Thanks go to all members who stood for election or re-election at the AGM, and also thanks to all those who served last year so admirably. In particular thanks must go to two long serving stalwarts of the society. Firstly to Barbara Hambleton who has been our President for many years. Although unable to be as active as she would like due to continuing ill health, Barbara always has the Carver in her thoughts. And especial thanks must go to Audrey Bramwell for her stewardship of the Carver finances in her role as Treasurer for the past 21 years - finally Audrey you can hang up your abacus and let someone else deal with the bank, taxman, utility companies, local authority and all the other corporate windmills you have been tilting at for so long and with such success - rumour has it that it is no coincidence the CEO of Royal Bank of Scotland is standing down after all your letters to the bank! Thanks from us all Audrey - you can now enjoy the Carver without the responsibility of the finances to worry about!

Everyone renewing their memberships will have seen the new form created for this purpose. The idea is to capture in more detail the areas members wish to help with, and where relevant the particular productions people are available/willing to help with. It

would help all the Carver committees if members could complete and return these so that the optimum use can be made of the human resource available to us, and also so we can ensure everyone wishing to perform particular functions has the opportunity to do so.

And a final word from me, the working weekend seemed to be a great success - not only did members get together and have some fun, but we also completed a large number of maintenance tasks at the same time. A full list of all the tasks completed will be available to view on the website, and it is an impressive list!

Have a great summer everyone. I trust the cast and crew for *An Inspector Calls* will find time to complete preparations for the play whilst at the same time enjoying the summer, and I will see you all again in September!

CHAIRMAN'S DIARY JUNE and JULY 2013

This is my last diary of the season.

Deb and I went to Majorca in search of the sun during the first half of June and mostly found it.

18th June helping to knock down the wall to create the new meeting room upstairs in the stone building and putting the resulting rubble in a skip. We all looked as though we'd been down a mine!

19th June was the Executive Committee Meeting and the items we discussed, in addition to the usual updates from the Sections, included:

- Approval of three new members.
- Approval of changes to bank account signatories.
- Agreement to designate specific funds in the accounts for the major refurbishment next year.
- Approval for expenditure on the installation of a DMX infrastructure to control moving lights and other effects and approval of software and hardware for lighting design and visualisation.
- Approval of the purchase of a hot drinks machine, initially for the benefit of members in the bar and then for installation in the Green Room for casts and crews.
- Progress update on the removal of the caretakers old shower room above the library and the creation of a large meeting room to free up the library as preparation for the structural changes to the library, bar and foyer in Summer 2014.
- Progress update on insulating of the roof space of the stone building.
- Report on plans for new heating and energy management system.
- Agreement to a trial use of "dropbox" as a means of establishing a central electronic repository of Carver paperwork and data as a replacement for the current ad hoc arrangements.

[NOTE: The full minutes of all Executive Committee Meetings can be read on the members' area of the Carver Website. Contact Mike Strivens for details.]

24th June Bernice's Charity Flower Show. Fantastic demonstrations and displays. A full house.

27th June Open Forum. Fifty attendees - possibly a record. Recruited eight new members. We provided tours around the theatre and jazzed up the evening with extracts from some of the forthcoming plays. We also celebrated our six GMDF nominations (a record?) with bubbles in the bar afterwards. The whole place was buzzing!

6th July Junior Show, Around the World with Sixty Kids. Fantastic! Three performances sold out using our new on-line ticketing system. This also enabled us to create a database of everyone who bought a ticket (mostly people much younger than our normal average audience) so we can email them about future main productions.

7th July Sally Jolley's variety show in aid of Brian Tumour UK (next season's Carver Charity). The show was great fun and also featured some Carver members including Shirley Molloy, entertaining us with her monologues, and Deb on piano. Over £1,200 raised.

10th July Meeting for debrief on the Child Safeguarding arrangements that were in place for the Junior Show. It was clear from the report given by Paula Whittleworth (Lead Chaperone) and Victoria Kayes (Deputy Chaperone) that they had worked extremely effectively. Learning and documentation handed over to the Pantomime Committee via Joanna Bircher. Our approach and commitment to Child Protection is also now highlighted on the public area of the Carver Website and this is something of which we can all justifiably be proud.

16th July Started my rehearsals for An Inspector Calls - acting again, hurrah!!

20th July Deb and I went up to Theatre by the Lake in Keswick and were kindly hosted by Bernice and Mike Yates. We saw "An Inspector Calls" and "See How They Run", the latter having been directed by Abigail Anderson who will be leading our Acting and Directing Course at the Carver on 17th and 18th August. Whilst in the Lakes we learnt on the Saturday night that the Carver had won three GMDF awards for Calendar Girls, including the coveted Drama Shield for Best Overall Production 2012-13 in the whole of Greater Manchester. Congratulations to everyone associated with this production including director Sally Jolley and Rosie Perkins who won Best Actress.

27th and 28th July Chairman's Maintenance Weekend where we had over 45 members turning up to clean, paint and mend. Amazing things achieved in just two days with effort equivalent to one person working full-time for more than four weeks.

29th July Executive Committee Meeting to make final preparations for the AGM. We also accepted nine new members into the society, a number of whom had come via our Open Forum Evening. We all need to work hard to make them feel welcome and useful.

31st July AGM where we handed over a cheque for £600 to this season's charity, Motor Neurone Disease Manchester Branch, and presented GMDF Awards before the formal part of the meeting. Denise and Stuart Vaughan had organised a post-meeting buffet for members who also enjoyed a free drink from the bar. Full minutes of the AGM will be available shortly on the members' area of the Carver website and on the notice board.

Final point, the Wednesday club nights seem to be picking up with more members there each week. It really is worth coming down, meeting friends, making new ones and saving money on drinks. The more the merrier.

See you next season, if not before.

Cheers, John Woodruff chair@carvertheatre.co.uk

Addendum from the Chair

Dear Maintenance Weekend Team, on behalf of every member of the Carver please accept grateful thanks for a massive job well done. Clearly it was hard work but many people said how much they had enjoyed the sense of achievement and just sheer fun of working alongside everyone else. As a record, I attach a list of the jobs completed and the full list of people who turned up to work on behalf of our theatre (see website - ed.). If anybody thinks I have left anyone out on the circulation of this email or omitted any names or jobs from the attached list then please let me know. A special thanks to Phil Kiernan who kept us all gainfully employed and focused on the jobs list.

Cheers, John

GMDF Awards Night

On Saturday night, the Greater Manchester Drama Federation held its awards night. Congratulations go to all nominees and winners.

I am delighted to be able to report that the Carver came away with 3 awards for Calendar Girls:

- Rosie Wilson for Adjudicators Award for Best Actress.
- The Adjudicators Award for Best Production, and
- The Drama Shield for Best Overall Production for 2012 / 2013.

Many congratulations to Rosie and Sally Jolley, who was the director for Calendar Girls, and of course to the entire team who worked so hard to make this the best production in the Greater Manchester area this season.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fantastic success.

Debbie Woodruff, Production Secretary

Congratulations on their nominations also to:

Rosie Berry for Best Performer Under 21 in The Secret Rapture

Rod Goddard for Best Director of Unoriginal Sin

Sally Jolley for Best Director of Calendar Girls

Chris Sturmey for Best Actor in a Lead Role in Unoriginal Sin

Poppy Wilkes for Best Supporting Actress in Unoriginal Sin.

New members club night invitation, 7th and 28th August

Dear All, at the AGM we identified a need to help our new members integrate into our theatre and recognised that it can be a very daunting experience coming somewhere for the first time if you don't know anyone. So, I am organising two Club Night events where new members can call in from 9pm to get to know some of us and also get to know other new members.

If any sections could send representatives to meet and greet, chat, explain and generally welcome people that would be brilliant.

We also talked about the idea of being a "buddy" to a new member, so if you are happy to take on that role, these 2 nights would be an opportunity to match you up.

Thanks a lot, Debbie Woodruff

Newsletter publication schedule

To help with your planning regarding when to send me information you wish to share with our members, I am proposing the following publication schedule for the Newsletter (basically shortly after each production and the AGM).

5th October; 23rd November; 25th January; 15th March; 24th May; 2nd August.

Dates for your diary

Special 'New Members' Club Night	7 th August
GMDF Drama Workshop	17 th and 18 th August
Special 'New Members' Club Night	28 th August
An Inspector calls	20 th - 28 th September
We'll always have Paris	8 th - 16 th November
Sleeping Beauty	10 th - 18 th January
If I were you	28 th Feb - 8 th March
Pack of lies	9 th - 17 th May