



1906 – 2006

Carver Theatre Newsletter

May 2013

Bumper edition this month, so not much from me and lots from you. One or two bits have been circulated via emails already, but I thought it would be useful to have as much information in one place as possible, so apologies if some of this is already familiar.

Cheese and Wine evening-27th March.



What proportion of US wine production comes from the Napa Valley- to within 5%?

In which Oscar winning film did the cheese 'Stinking Bishop' make a brief but significant appearance?

These were just two of the fiendish questions asked of our members at the Cheese and Wine social.

Participants were treated to a supper of cheese and

wine, naturally, and perhaps their performance was somewhat impaired by this. Judging

by the amount of laughter in the bar, everyone was very merry.

However, Denise and Stuart's team won the quiz with an impressive 19 marks out of a possible 40. (I did say it was difficult!)

The evening was rounded off by a sale of the home made cakes generously baked and donated by members, and the winner of the prize for best cake (judged by Shirley Malloy) was Rebecca Hornby with a fabulous display of cup cakes. Even more impressive



was the total that we raised by the sale of the cakes and donations- a fabulous £201- which has gone to help the work of Brain Tumour Charity. For more information on this

charity please see their website: <http://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/> . Many, many thanks to all who came and made it a fun evening, and for your very generous donations too.

Elizabeth Galloway.

PS the answers are: 4% and *Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Wererabbit*.

PPS - that was the 'no-conferring' round Tonia! - Ed

PPPS - the cakes were really good! - Ed

CHAIRMAN'S DIARY MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2013

Three months to cover so quite a long diary this time.

On 5th March I attended the combined Stage and Production Committee meeting at which Stage say yes or no to the proposed plays for the new season. All were agreed. Phew!

A small Working Group has for some time been developing Child Protection Policy and Procedures for the Carver. We met (again!) on 14th March. It was very productive.

Deb and I went to see "Bus Stop" at the Brookdale in Bramhall on 16th March. Perhaps not a play for Carver.

I chaired the Executive Committee meeting on 20th March and amongst the items covered were the following:-

- Agreement of the programme of plays for next season and that rehearsal periods will be a minimum of 7 weeks to ensure plays are fully prepared
- Timing of refurbishment plans including the work proposed to enlarge the upstairs meeting room during Summer 2013 and to undertake interior design and remodelling of foyer, corridors, bar and library for completion end Summer 2014
- A proposal on how we might plan for the rebuilding of the auditorium in 10 to 15 years time
- Adoption of the detailed Child Protection Policy and Procedures and approval of plans to implement them for the Junior Show in July 2013 and the Pantomime in January 2014 plus any play involving children
- Final approval of Carver Roles and Responsibilities
- Support in principle for running Actor and Director Training.

Deb and I went to the Spring Social on 27th March and this was a really fun night. Organised by Mike and Liz Galloway, it combined Cheese and Wine Tasting, a Cheese Quiz and a Cake Baking Competition which was judged by Shirley Molloy.

On 29th March a few of us went to "The Rise and Fall of Little Voice" at Buxton Opera House. A possible for the Carver if we can find a young female singer for the lead role.

I went to the Publicity Committee meeting on 3rd April because I was interested to hear first hand about the latest plans for on-line ticketing. Attending sub-committees also helps to remind me how much work goes on month in month out to keep the theatre running.

9th April I started helping with the painting of the set for Unoriginal Sin. As most of you know, I'm not very handy when it comes to hammers, nails, screws and bits of wood so to ensure the set doesn't fall down I stick to painting.

On 10th April I actually did a bit of the thing I joined Carver for in the first place - ACTING! It was an open reading as part of casting the first play of next season "An

Inspector Calls" which is being directed by Rosie Wilson. Rosie is going to be approaching this play in an original way and the read-through was no exception as she had us all standing up and moving around rather than just sitting in a circle - great.

I went to the Production Committee meeting on 11th April. Some might say it was just a way of me getting out of doing some painting.

We had our Executive Committee meeting on 17th April and amongst the items covered were the following:-

- Agreement that subscriptions will not change in 2014-15 and that ticket prices and theatre hire charges will not change in 2013-14
- Approval to purchase a new wireless headset system for backstage communications
- Clarification of Section Secretary spending limits not requiring Executive committee approval
- Initial discussions on making all Carver information electronically available as per various authorisation levels and to ensure safe backup
- Approval of a Directors and Actors Course at the theatre in August 2013 run by a professional director
- Agreement to timing of Open Forum/Open Evening on 27th June 2013 and that non-members should be encouraged to come along as a means of boosting our membership
- Agreement that in the 2014-15 season the first Saturday performance of a play will be a matinee instead of an evening in order to encourage older audience members to the theatre
- Ideas on how to get more audience members up to the bar after each performance
- Some further proposals from Pantomime Committee on performance timings with agreement as follows: 10th-18th January 2014 (excluding 13th); 10/14/15/16/17th 7.30pm; Saturdays 11th & 18th 3.30pm & 6.30pm; Sunday 12th 2.30pm & 5.30pm
- Plans to introduce on-line ticketing.

Interval Teas meeting on 24th April with all the people (mostly ladies) who look after this important aspect of our service to audiences. The good news is that one way or another we could be reintroducing the service to all play performances next season, rather than just Monday to Thursday.

On 1st May I joined the Publicity Committee to help stuff envelopes with season ticket letters. Jane Lennox baked a wonderful cake as a thank you to us all and it was delicious. Anyone who has supported Jane's open garden events will know her cakes are superb. It was a Wednesday evening so those in the bar for Club Night also got a slice. Sunday 5th May at the theatre to watch progress with some of the tech rehearsal for Unoriginal Sin.

Wednesday 8th May and back to my acting as the cast for Inspector Calls had their first get together. I was so pleased to get a part.

Unoriginal Sin opened on 10th May and it was the usual round of Interval Teas, Bar Duty and Front of House. Thank you to everyone who plays their part in these areas.

The play closed on 18th May and we had bubbly and a buffet supplied by the cast in the library to celebrate a hugely successful and enjoyable run. The adjudication arrived today (22nd May) and it was glowing. What a great way to end the season.

Some of us worked to dismantle the set on Saturday night and on Sunday the stage was prepared for the Marple Brass Band Concert which took place on the Sunday evening. A major achievement by Matt and his team to turn things round so quickly. A fantastic performance by the band, although it would have been nice to have had a bigger audience.

We had our Executive Committee meeting on 22nd May and amongst the items covered were the following:-

- Progress report on the work done so far to enlarge the upstairs meeting room
- Progress on interior design for foyer, corridors, bar and library
- Update on who has so far volunteered for the Maintenance Weekend on 27th and 28th July. Not a bad list but please can we have more?!
- Review of the new arrangements that were put in place this season for Lotto, Interval Refreshments, Programme Selling and Social Events; lessons learnt; likely changes for next season e.g. interval refreshments likely to go back to every performance, likely return to raffle tickets instead of lotto but still using Carver Youth members to sell them, programme selling to continue to be done by Carver Youth members in auditorium.
- On-line ticketing implementation for Junior Show
- Handout of new Child Protection Leaflets
- Need to continue building on initial successes in attracting and retaining new members including personal invitations to members who have joined in the last two years to attend the open forum/open evening on 27th June, Production Sec individually thanking cast members, end of season thank you's to Props and Front of House volunteers, Directors and Actors Course in August, Promoting Open Forum to non-members, attracting back lapsed members, using some external Directors who bring new actors with them to the theatre, Members Handbook, directly tackling those who speak to or treat fellow members inappropriately. We need more practical ideas like these from everyone. Maintaining sufficient numbers of active members is key to keeping the Carver alive and it is a job that is never done. We have to constantly attend to it as an issue.
- Fun in the bar after the meeting - quite a crowd in.

John Woodruff chair@carvertheatre.co.uk

Vera Coleman

We were all sad to hear of the recent passing of Vera Coleman. Her funeral and life-celebration were held on 25th May and the theatre was well represented. Our thoughts and condolences go to Mike.

Items for May 2013 Carver Newsletter from Production Committee

We'll Always Have Paris

The Production Team are inviting any female actors who would be interested in being in "We'll Always Have Paris" in November to get in touch with Shirley Molloy, the Director of this play. We have one vacancy in the casting. You don't necessarily have to be in your late 50s / early 60s, just being happy to "age up" would be fine. You can find a synopsis of this play in the new season leaflet at the theatre.

Open Forum

The Production Committee would like to invite you to our annual Open Forum on Thursday 27th June. The bar will be open from 7.15, and we are holding an open evening with tours of the theatre for new members from 7.30 until 8.00.

At approximately 8.00 we will move into the theatre where there will be presentations of "Sleeping Beauty", "If I Were You", and "Pack of Lies". We have arranged readings from "If I Were You" and "Pack of Lies", to give you an idea about these 2 plays, and there will also be a short talk on theatre lighting and sound operation.

At the end of the presentations, there will be an opportunity to indicate interest in specific parts for these productions, and we will finish our evening in the bar where there will be some nibbles to go with your drinks. We look forward to seeing you there.

GMDF Carver Course August 2013

We have had a great response, and this course is probably going to be over subscribed. We will get back to those people who have shown interest in the second half of June. (in case anyone missed the earlier announcement, the theatre will be hosting a workshop on 17th and 18th August, led by the award-winning director Abigail Anderson, who amongst other things was part of the National Theatre Emerging Director's programme - ed.)

Social night

This is all booked for Libby's in Marple Bridge on Wednesday 29th. If anyone has had a change in their plans and finds themselves unexpectedly available, there is still room for up to 6 more - but contact Denise asap if you want to avail yourselves of this final opportunity!

Denise Vaughan, social@carvertheatre.co.uk

Carver Refurbishment - reminder

The Exec Committee has decided to release funds to finance the refurbishment of the bar and library, the foyer and the inter-connecting corridors and toilets. The aim is to have the work carried out during the summer recess of 2014.

The Refurb Group is therefore hoping to put a proposal to the Exec by the end of the year with a vision for the refurbishment together with costings. This will require a lot of work, but it is exciting to be involved in such an important project.

The Group would love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved in the design and crucially who can also spare some time to source and cost some of the items involved. The more people who volunteer, the lighter the workload for everyone.

We would also love to hear from you if you are a painter/decorator, plasterer, joiner, electrician, plumber, tiler, curtain maker etc. You may wish to consider donating some of your time to the project and/or providing a competitive quote for the work required.

Please also get in touch if you are a supplier or can get trade prices for fabrics, hard flooring, carpets, tiles, paint, bathroom furniture, wood, furniture etc.

We will all benefit from a new look theatre. This is a big project and it will need a

team of enthusiastic members to see it through. If you can help in any way please get in touch with me at pmainprize@hotmail.com or 0161 449 9461.

Many thanks. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pam

Maintenance Weekend

We are immensely lucky to have the benefit of a theatre in which we can build sets, rehearse, enjoy social events, run meetings and, of course, put on plays for our audiences. The other side of the coin, however, is that we have a responsibility to keep the building maintained. This is achieved in a number of ways, including paying for outside help, but a lot of the work falls to the voluntary efforts of a gradually reducing band of willing members.

They would like your help for just a few hours during the weekend of 27th and 28th July 2013 .

Whatever time you can spend with us will be gratefully received and we'll even provide food and drink. There will be a list of jobs and instruction and supervision will be available. So this is a chance to help your theatre, as well as socialise and have some fun at the same time.

It will aid our planning if you can let me know when you are coming. Please email me or just let me know when I see you at the theatre. It would be useful to our planning if you could reply by 15th July and also give us an idea of what you are good at doing.

Many thanks,

John Woodruff, chair@carvertheatre.co.uk

On-line ticket sales

With the exec's approval the publicity committee are delighted to announce that tickets for the 2013/14 season will also be available on-line by following a link through the website.

The junior committee have allowed us to try out the new system for the junior show and so we will be able to share more details of how it works after this (first weekend in July).

We are sure there will be a few teething problems and so ask for everyone's patience! If you have any queries or problems please let me know and I will try my best to answer or sort them out.

I am aware that anyone who works of Front of House will need to be kept fully up -to -speed with how it all works. After the Junior show I promise to run some sessions at the theatre for anyone interested (especially Front of House volunteers) to demonstrate the system and answer questions.

Best wishes to all

Joanna Bircher, publicity@carvertheatre.co.uk

Programme Editor

For the coming season we will have a vacancy for Programme Editor. Shelley has been doing a great job with this, but has decided to step down from the role. She is however able to offer help and support to anyone wishing to take on the role for the new season.

Please contact Joanna if you think this is a way you could contribute to the continued success of the theatre. (You will be joining a great team - and not just because I'm part of it - ed!)

Joanna Bircher, publicity@carvertheatre.co.uk

Buxton Festival and Buxton Fringe

Just for something completely different, does everyone know about these two local festivals? Always lots to see and do there, and in some great venues too! 3rd - 21st July.

See www.buxtonfestival.co.uk and www.buxtonfringe.org.uk

Maz

Mossley

As you may know a group from the Carver recently went to Mossley to see a production of *Cats* which for the record was brilliant and quite the best amateur musical I have ever seen. However, my attention was caught by a note on the last page of the programme. It would seem that it is not just the Carver stage crew who maintain and install facilities!

Cheers, Andy (Tinsey)

Back on home turf, work continues at our Woodend Studios where, following the leasing of additional space, the stage staff are preparing to install toilets, a café and seating area for parents to chat whilst waiting for their children. This will also enable us to make full use of the theatre for productions.

Our Next Generation Youth Theatre continues to expand with even more classes now being offered in various aspects of drama, dance and theatre. The result is on stage in front of you as every member of the cast of *Cats* is under 21, many are Next Generation regulars and all the rehearsals, along with scenery construction, have taken place at the Studios.

Are you suggesting the stage crew build a cafe for us? - ed

Building Development Group

ASDA have withdrawn their bid to build a supermarket on the Hibbert Lane campus of Cheadle and Marple Sixth Form College. As a consequence the supermarket proposed for Chadwick Street car park (which already has planning permission) is now likely to proceed. The developer is Kirkland Developments who are based in Bramall. We have a good relationship with them having met their managing director Rod Hogarth at the theatre on several occasions to discuss various aspects of the project.

Inevitably a development of this nature and scale will have an impact on us in both the long and short term. Our best way forward is to foster a close working relationship with Kirkland, the main building contractor (when appointed) and ultimately the company who will operate the store. No doubt the local "rumour mill" will be alive with speculation as to who the operator might be. The writer has heard every supermarket on the planet suggested over the past few months. This is pure guesswork as it is a speculative development by Kirkland who were unable to complete these negotiations whilst the ASDA proposal might go ahead.

Andy Tinsey

Dates for your diary

Summer Social at Libby's

Open Forum

Junior Show - Around the world with 60 kids

Working Weekend

GMDF Drama Workshop

An Inspector calls

We'll always have Paris

Sleeping Beauty

If I were you

Pack of lies

29th May27th June5th and 6th July27th and 28th July17th and 18th August20th - 28th September8th - 16th November10th - 18th January28th Feb - 8th March9th - 17th May