



1906 – 2006

Carver Theatre Newsletter

May 2014

Here we are again at the end of a wonderful season. We've seen some great plays performed by magnificent casts, guided by fantastic directors and supported by versatile and hard-working stage crews, props people, tea brewers, programme sellers, bar attenders, front of housers etc etc. In fact, as is always the case, there are more people not visible than there are visible whenever we put on a play and it is heartening to see everyone pulling together to put on a great evening of entertainment for the most important people during each run – the audience.

Without them, where would we be! So many thanks to you all. In the comfort and privacy of your own homes, take a bow, you've earned it.

But even though we near the end of the season, we're not quite finished yet. There's still the small matters of the Youth production which is always lively, and also the AGM, the Open Forum, the end of season celebration and the DIY weekend which was such a great occasion last year. So, don't go thinking it's all over, because it ain't! There's lots of Carver stuff still to attend to.

The last few months have also had their downside at the Carver. We have one or two members who are seriously unwell at the moment and our thoughts go out to them and their families and friends. Sadly too we have lost a couple of long serving society stalwarts in Dave Davies and May Moore. They have made much valued contributions over many years and will be missed. Again, our thoughts go to their family and friends. Dave's funeral arrangements are listed below.

And finally, I'd like to add my thanks to the organisers of the weekend workshop. Sadly I missed last year but I'm glad I was able to attend this year, I thoroughly enjoyed learning what Abigail had to teach us, and she did it in such an engaging and enjoyable manner too. Well done and thanks to all involved! I thought it was great too that we had the chance to meet colleagues from other local theatres and to compare notes. It seems that we all have the same problems after all. I note quite a few envious glances though as we broke out to our various rehearsal spaces to work on bits of our scripts. Compared to many societies round about, we do have a great facility here in Marple!

GMDF weekend report

On Saturday and Sunday May 11/12th a Acting/Directors course was organised at the Carver, funded by the GMDF. 10 members of Carver attended and 11 members from societies within the Greater Manchester area.

The weekend was a great success and hopefully it will stimulate and help our members to maintain the good standard of our plays. We have to give thanks to Gerard Lennox and Matt Kayes who agreed we could use the stage during the play when the play had just opened, to our Secretary, Serena Botterman, who helped with the start of the weekend, to Mike Strivens who was around to help open our the theatre and reset the stage at the end of the day, and to Tonia Williams who spent two days at the theatre constantly making tea for the exhausted participants and generally helping.

Bernice

Open Forum

We will be holding our 'Open Forum' (can anyone suggest a better name?) on Wednesday 9th July at 8pm when our Directors will be discussing the plays and the casting. We have a good selection of very interesting plays which will give lots of opportunities for beginners to have a go on stage, as well as our regulars, so we hope that as many of our members, as well as new members will attend to hear what our Directors have in store for you.

Bernice

The Exec's Maintenance weekend – 26th/27th July 2014

We are immensely lucky to have the benefit of a theatre, albeit over 100 years old and partly locally listed by Stockport MBC, 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 is that we have a responsibility to keep the building wind and watertight and safe for members of the public to enter. This is can achieved in a number of ways, but a lot of the work falls to the voluntary efforts of a reducing band of members. This year's tasks are being identified and those that affect the outside of the building or concern safety will take priority.

We would like your help for just a few hours during the weekend of 26th and 27th July 2014.

Whatever time you can spend with us will be gratefully received and the executive have agreed to provide food and drink. There will be a list of jobs and instruction and supervision will be available. 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 could let me know when which day/s you are coming.

Please email Phil Kiernan at energy@carvertheatre.co.uk, or drop a note into the Carver or just let any of the executive know when you see them at the theatre.

Many thanks,

Phil Kiernan on behalf of the executive.

FoH and Tea/coffee Volunteers

We agreed at the last exec that we would relax the dress code for FoH volunteers and Tea/Coffee volunteers to 'Smart casual dress' (with FoH volunteers wearing a steward badge). We realise that not many people have need for a Dress Suit these days and the black and white tradition for women proves a challenge for many of us.

We are hoping this will make it even easier for people to volunteer for these important roles during productions. Please consider volunteering for a regular night for the whole season as it will make the task of completing the rota so much easier. Thanks!

Foyer/Corridor redecorate

The Exec has approved some money to redecorate the foyer and corridors this Summer which will include new lighting, pictures and a new carpet. We have costed out the price of materials but will be relying on our members to help out with painting the walls and woodwork.

This is a separate project from the Maintenance weekend at the end of July. We don't want to start the project if we don't have the capacity amongst the members to finish it before the next play starts. I feel we will need at least 20 members to be prepared to give up one day during the summer to do some painting (not all the same day or it will be a bit crowded!). Once we have a list of 20 then we can start planning the dates.

Please could you let me know if you could participate by emailing publicity@carvertheatre.co.uk or phoning 0161 429 7046 and give me an idea of available dates. Many thanks!

Should we consider a matinee?

Dear members

At a Publicity committee meeting last year we started a discussion about possibly introducing a matinee to our schedule of shows. We have heard that some of our patrons, as they get older, prefer not to come out after dark. This makes attending our productions difficult in the winter months and so some have asked us to consider a matinee.

We know there will be lots of issues to consider. We already work hard to put on the 8 shows and so we could only do a matinee if this was acceptable to all people involved in show –ie. our members.

We already have an excellent attendance at shows and so some people may feel we don't need to make any changes to the schedule.

However, this aside, I would like to start people thinking about whether we think a matinee might be something we could consider offering, possibly for the 2015/16 season.

It could be as a replacement for one of our nights that sell less well currently (eg. the first Friday, or Monday/Tuesday).

It could be on a Saturday afternoon, or even a Sunday afternoon – though this would depend on how important it is for everyone to have a day off (though we have sacrificed this for panto already because of the needs of the much younger audience and their bed-time).

My reason for putting this in the newsletter is to generate some response and ideas. Can you let me know your thoughts on publicity@carvertheatre.co.uk.

Many thanks!

Joanna

Membership News

We would like to extend a warm welcome to two new student members, namely:

Holly Creighton-Greenfield who left the Junior section earlier this season and who is interested in operating the lighting and sound, and to **Mary Warner** who is new to the theatre and interested in acting, working back stage during productions, lighting, sound and front of house duties.

We say a very sad but fond farewell to Dave Davies who died this week and who has been a rock of the Carver Theatre for more years than many care to remember. Details of his funeral arrangements will be sent out as soon as they are known as no doubt many of you will wish to pay your respects.

Funeral arrangements for Dave Davies

On Monday 2nd June there will be a short committal service at the Stockport Crematorium, Rowan Chapel, at 12:15. This will be followed by a thanksgiving service to celebrate Dave's life at Marple Ridge Methodist Chapel, 1.15pm then a buffet lunch at the Ring o' Bells.

You are all invited to all three events should you desire.

Please bear in mind that parking at the Methodist Chapel is very limited

May Moore

Many of you will know May Moore as the lady who ran the sweet kiosk at the Carver for many years. Sadly she passed away recently at the age of 92 years

young.

She will be greatly missed.

Video recording

Harvey Scholes has decided that his last video for the Carver will be for the next play. Harvey has made a sterling contribution to Carver productions over the last 25 years! What a stint! Your efforts have been admired and appreciated by many over the years!

He has thoroughly enjoyed his “small input” into the Carver and wishes the theatre and members all the best for the future. He feels that a younger person with a “state of the art” camera may love the chance to continue this contribution in the future. If you are that person, please get in touch!

Kind regards

Serena

End of season celebration

To celebrate the end of another season at the Carver, please come and join us in the Carver Bar at 8.00pm on Friday 27th June for a wine and beer tasting with Cheese and Biscuits

Further details will follow nearer the time.

Caroline and Debbie

AGM

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 30th July. The nominations sheet for the executive and sections will be posted on the notice board from 9th July.

Nominations can be sent in writing to the General Secretary. This year the exec has agreed to accept them by email, Details of the procedure will follow with the official notice calling the AGM. As usual there will be a free drink afterwards and all are welcome. Come along and have your say – or even better stand for election as an officer and make a difference!

Borrowing Carver Assets

Members should not assume that they can borrow any of the Carver's Assets at the drop of a hat. You should give reasonable notice to the relevant section secretary to ascertain availability in the first instance.

Finance committee

Open Arts Exhibition, New Mills

Derbyshire Open Arts Exhibition at the Spring Bank Arts Centre in New Mills is running from Saturday til Bank Holiday Monday – so if anyone is around there's still time to get there if you're quick. Our very own Maz Simon is exhibiting some new and unconventional pieces of furniture and there's other fine work to see too, all in a lovely setting. Open 10-5 all day and there are lots of other venues in the town open too See <http://www.newmillsarts.co.uk/>

Next Carver Youth production

This will be 3 performances of Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies, Friday 11th July at 7.30 and two performances on Saturday 13th, 3.30 and 7.30. Tickets a snip at £4. Come and the future stars of the Carver stage.

Dates for your diary

End of season celebration

27th June

Open Forum

9th July

Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies	11 th – 12 th July
Maintenance weekend	26 th - 27 th July
AGM	30 th July
Ladies day, Amanda Whittington	19 th – 27 th September
Oh what a lovely war, Theatre Workshop	7 th – 15 th November
Aladdin, Peter Denyer	9 th – 17 th January
Arsenic and old lace, Joseph Kesselring	27 th Feb – 7 th March
Move over Mrs Markham, Ray Cooney and John Chapman	8 th – 16 th May