



1906 – 2006

Carver Theatre Newsletter

November 2014

Welcome to the latest newsletter.

First of all let me congratulate all involved with the latest production. Oh what a lovely war it certainly wasn't, but our production provided a moving and at the same time witty and irreverent account of that dreadful period in our history.

Sadly this month saw the passing of Sally Mitchell, wife of Matthew Simon. It has been my great pleasure to know Matthew and Sally and she will be missed. Matthew sent a moving note to Carver members and I have taken the liberty of reproducing here. We also need to keep Terry Lee in our thoughts as I understand he was taken ill shortly after completing Oh what a lovely war. We wish you a speedy recovery Terry.

The results of the Matinee survey are attached to this newsletter. I hope you all took the opportunity to have your say. From my first look at the results less than 13% of respondents oppose the idea so we could be seeing some changes to the way we present performances next season. It's an exciting time at the Carver – who was it that said in a changing world standing still is not an option? There's a google challenge for an idle moment! (well it might take more than a moment as I'm sure I have paraphrased dreadfully! Ed)

It's great to see some social events in the bar this season. I'm looking forward to the Christmas 'Do' and hope to see as many folks there as we can fit into the space to make it a really swinging occasion. Well done to the organising committee.

And finally, it's Panto time again! The Panto is always a great production and a really busy time for lots of people at the theatre, but that doesn't mean there isn't room for more people to be involved, especially now in the creation of the fantastic sets. See the message below for details of how you can help get the preparations off to a flying start.

Message from Matthew Simon

Dear Carver Friends,

As you may know, my wife Sally Mitchell has had ovarian cancer since early 2012. In between two courses of chemotherapy, our life was still active and enjoyable. But the disease returned in September in a form that made treatment difficult. So Sally bravely decided to accept it, as we all agreed that the quality of life is more important than its length.

We had a good couple of months with family and friends, planning her legacy, eating well and singing, as well as planting the beginning of our community orchard.

I'm sorry to tell you that Sally died on Saturday morning 15th in the early hours, sleeping at home with me at her side. We are all going to miss her terribly - she was the most lovely woman who gave me two beautiful daughters and 34 years of happiness.

The funeral will take place at 12.15 at Rowan Chapel, Stockport Crematorium, followed by a celebration of her life at Spring Bank Arts Centre, New Mills from 1.30pm. Matthew and the girls have sent an open invitation to Carver members – see earlier email for more details.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome Andy Gregory and Mike Brown to the theatre. Both are acting members. We have already seen Andy in the wonderful production of Oh What a Lovely War and hopefully we will see them both on stage soon.

Pantomime

Drops painting is continuing this week - Monday 24th November to Friday 28th November from 7.30pm painting drops, followed by Tuesdays and Thursdays doing more painting, cave building and anything else that needs doing.

Also, help with organising props and the props team would be appreciated. If you can help in any way please contact Matt Kayes or Phil Kiernan via pantomime@carvertheatre.co.uk

GMDF is on the lookout for adjudicators

GMDF is looking for adjudicators - we are always looking for adjudicators! The GMDF adjudications are renowned for their consistent and high standard. It is of the utmost importance to us that those standards are maintained, the Full Length Festival depends on high quality adjudications. These standards ensure that we are always on the look out for potential adjudicators.

Are there any of you out there who fancy trying their hand at this but are perhaps a little unsure of how to go about it? If the answer 'yes' please contact Bernice or directly to the GMDF.

There are well set out guidelines about the process of creating a meaningful adjudication and lots of support and help would be given to you by the current adjudicators. There would be no question of being thrown in at the deep end, you would shadow our current adjudicators until both you and the adjudicators were confident that everybody is singing from the same hymn sheet as it were.

The upside is you get to see lots of plays in various settings, the downside, and we have to be honest, is that it's time consuming. That said, it's a worthwhile and valuable exercise so if you have thought about it in the past, then please think about it again and at least get in touch and find out a bit more about what's involved. There are many of you out there with several years of invaluable experience - so why not give it some thought?

Christmas Social

Ho Ho Ho

Come along on Friday 12th December at 8.00pm to sail away into another fascinating fun filled evening.

There will be entertainment to take part in, a hotpot supper, friends to talk to and possibly a visit from Father Christmas after he was made so welcome last year.

Junior members very welcome to join in with paper chain making, cocktail fountain, and entertainment.

Only £5.00 per person

Please email Mike Coleman social@carvertheatre.co.uk

Looking forward to seeing you on 12th December

Mike, Caroline & David

A Message from the Chairman

Some of you may have noticed we have new notices on both sides of all of the external fire exit doors, some additional emergency lighting and a much sophisticated fire alarm system, these together with a number of less visible changes are the result of a recent routine inspection by the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

It's a reminder to us all that whilst on this occasion they visited by appointment they have the authority to inspect our premises at any time without warning, to ensure we are doing all we should do to minimise the risk of fire and to facilitate safe escape in the event of fire. They also have the authority to withdraw our Theatre Licence with immediate effect if we are seen to be non-compliant. This would close us down and stop any production that was taking place.

We can and do ensure that all equipment is tested inspected and compliant. However, we need to pay much more attention to items bought into the building whether for productions or any other purpose if they are no longer required their removal should be arranged. Things we own should be returned to the appropriate store. Most corridors and rooms in our building are exit routes and must be kept clear at all times.

All Fire Doors have self closing devices fitted and must be kept closed. It is of course sometimes necessary to prop them open for a specific purpose but they should be released as quickly as possible and no fire door should be open when the building is not occupied.

I do not want to appear critical as I am as guilty as anyone else but we do still have a tendency to fill our building with junk!

From Facebook.....

The Carver production committee are on a hunt for 2 men aged 40+ for parts in our production of Arsenic and Old Lace at the end of February 2015. Rehearsals likely to start in January. If you are interested in treading the boards (current non-members also welcome) then please email production@carvertheatre.co.uk.

Went to see Oh What A Lovely War tonight - the first time I have set foot in the Carver for 25 years since I was in panto as a child. What an innovative,

highly moving and poignant production. I do hope you're going to do more modern interpretations in this vein as it was truly excellent. Clare Buchanan

I just want to say how much I enjoyed "Oh What a Lovely War" last night. The play was extremely entertaining, moving and educational. I was really struck with how out of touch the generals were, and how little regard they had human life. Twenty one million dead!!!! What an horrendous waste of life. Innocent young men, taken in their prime. Thank you everyone involved in the production. I am so glad I attended.
Gareth Jones

What a great first session at Carver Juniors the younger group performed their fairy tale showcase to a full house of parents. Well done to everyone. The older group perform at 8 to their parents too.

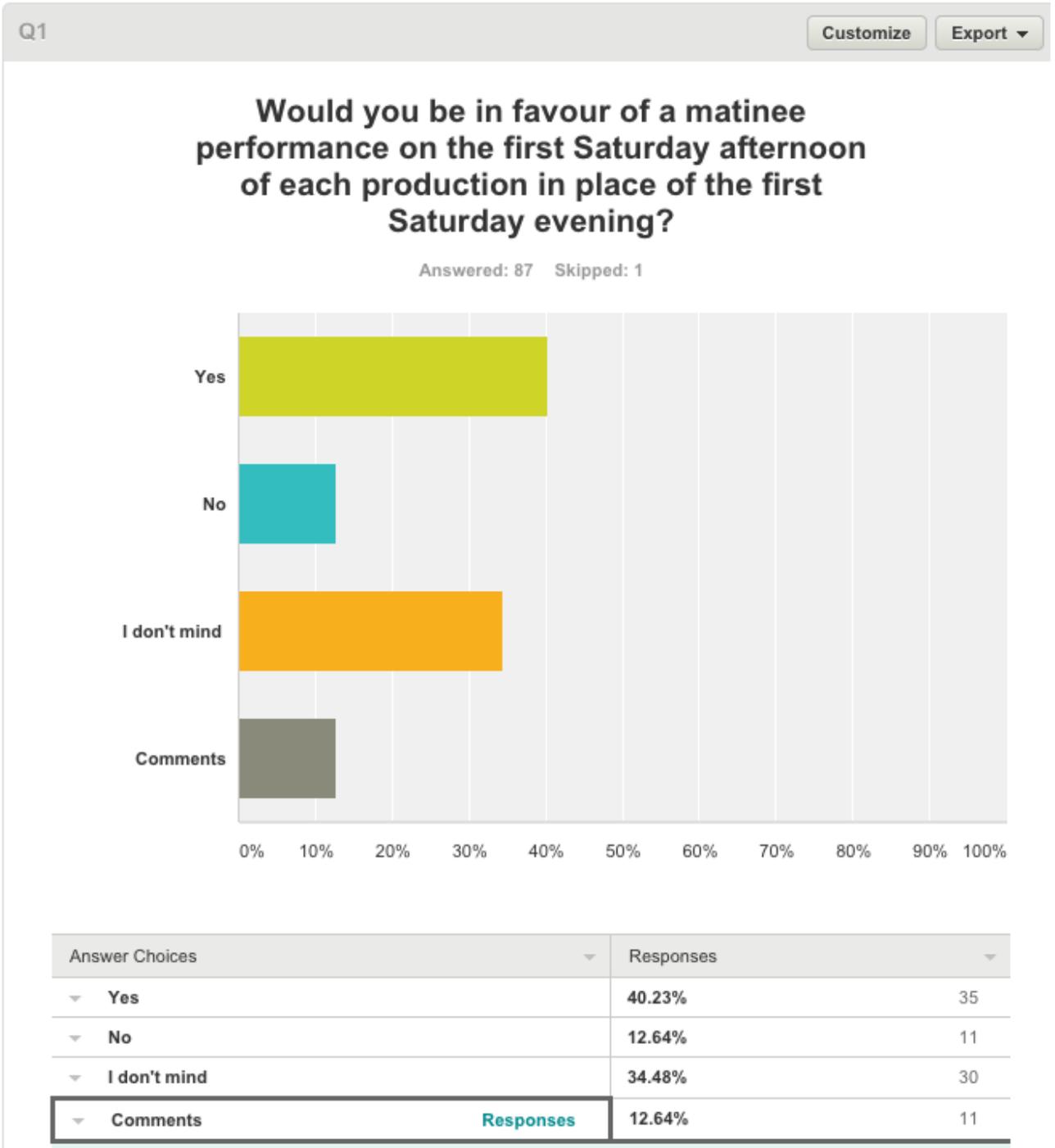
Wow what a great performance by the older group at Carver Juniors, Lord of the flies was excellent. All the parents really enjoyed it. Well done to all involved and thanks to all the parents for coming too. Matt and Victoria Kayes

... so why not sign up to the Carver FB pages for more comments like these, the chance to add your own and even see some pictures from the last social event – including one of Andy Tinsey dancing, yes **dancing!**

Dates for your diary

Christmas Social	12 th December
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

Carver Theatre Matinee Survey Results
November 2014



Showing 11 responses

Saturdays pm are usually fully occupied, so we dot,t ourselves need

11/5/2014 5:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Yes or in place of Friday evening performance which could revert to Dress Rehearsal as in days of yore.

10/27/2014 11:46 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I don't know sufficient about audience numbers but I would think losing a low attendance evening better than losing a Saturday. It would require 2 performances on first Saturday

10/26/2014 8:29 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

would like option of both

10/26/2014 5:37 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Maybe consider aswell as Saturday evening and have a night off Monday or Tuesday?

10/26/2014 4:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I would like both matinee and evening performance

10/26/2014 4:15 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I would like both matinee and evening performance

10/26/2014 4:15 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Would you be keeping the first Friday night which is our least popular night?

10/20/2014 9:20 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Saturday evening is a traditional night out. Also today with more people of both sexes working, it is more catch up on things during the day on Saturday and Sunday. Also would be insufficient older people to fill the theatre for a matinee

10/19/2014 12:03 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Why not both?

10/18/2014 8:45 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

A matinee in addition to the Saturday evening performance would be better. It then gives Carver some headroom to expand their audience base.

10/16/2014 9:56 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

We have been trying to do this for years!!!!

10/15/2014 11:45 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

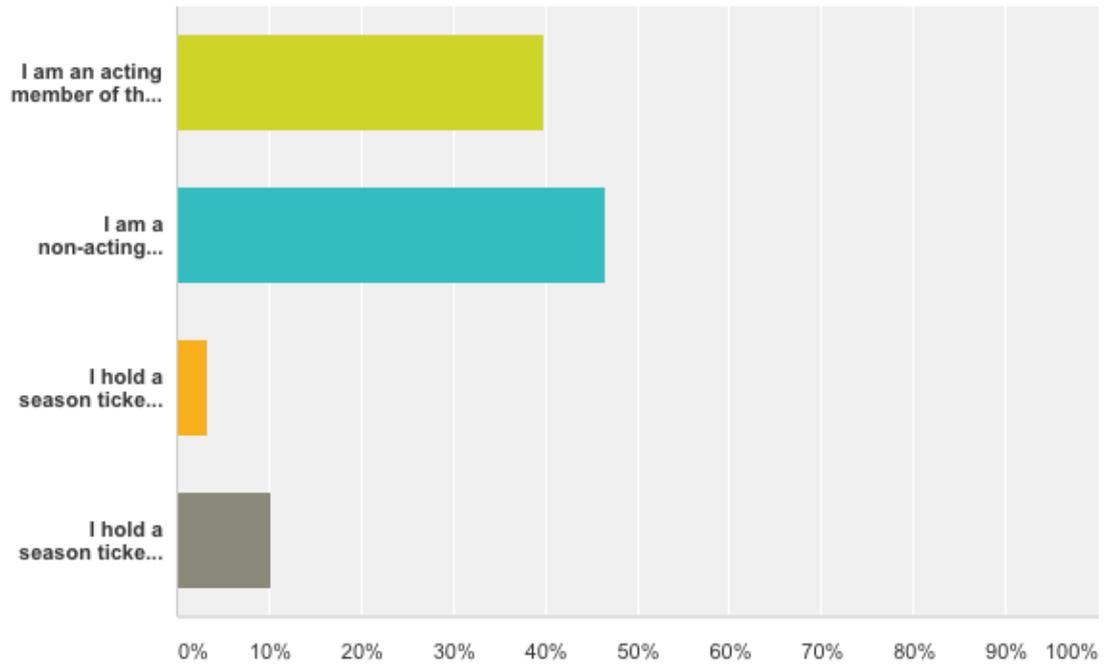
Q2

Customize

Export

Which of the following most accurately describes your role at the Carver?

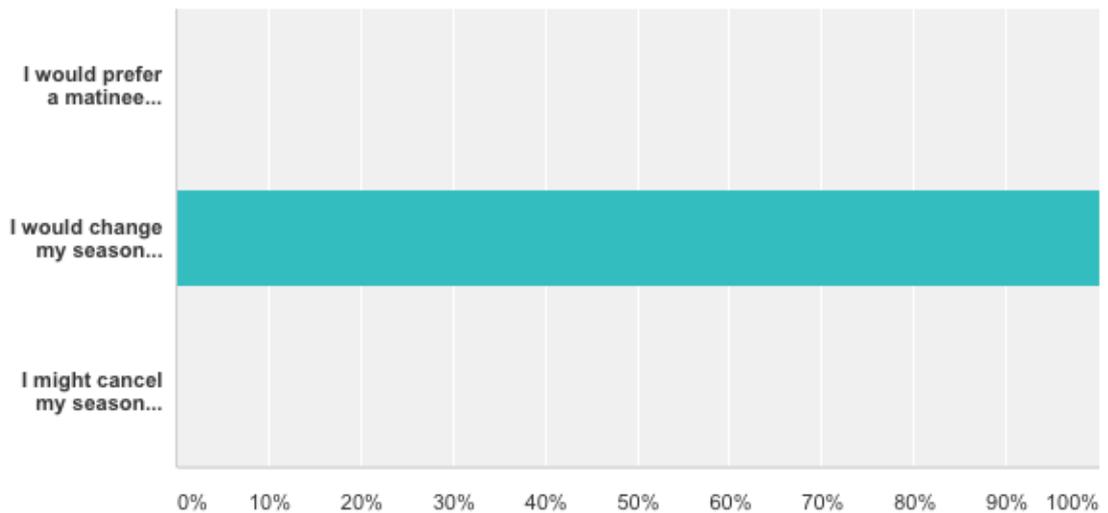
Answered: 88 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
I am an acting member of the Carver	39.77% 35
I am a non-acting member of the Carver	46.59% 41
I hold a season ticket currently for the first Saturday night	3.41% 3
I hold a season ticket for another night (not the first Saturday)	10.23% 9
Total	88

If you currently hold a Season ticket for the first Saturday of the play run, please answer the following:

Answered: 2 Skipped: 86



Answer Choices	Responses
▾ I would prefer a matinee season ticket for the first Saturday	0.00% 0
▾ I would change my season ticket for another evening	100.00% 2
▾ I might cancel my season ticket if the first Saturday night show was changed to a matinee	0.00% 0
Total	2

[Comments \(5\)](#)

Any other comments about the Carver?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 60

Responses (28)

Text Analysis

My Categories

Categorize as... ▾

Filter by Category ▾

Search responses



Showing 28 responses

We could do both

11/6/2014 11:00 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

What about doing both matinee and evening on the first Saturday

11/6/2014 11:00 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Why not both?

11/6/2014 10:59 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Fix the missing suspended insulation panels. It's years since I installed the ceiling in the green room ---by myself!

11/5/2014 5:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I am an acting member as well as a season ticket holder.

11/4/2014 11:28 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

A matinee could be a good idea although I am unlikely to take advantage of this at present.

10/28/2014 8:31 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Good idea!

10/27/2014 4:33 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I am a season ticket holder for a Friday but would change to a matinee.

10/16/2014 7:01 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Saturday matinee good idea particularly for those without cars or do not like going out on dark nights.

10/27/2014 10:00 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

On Question 2 I wanted to answer I am a non-acting member of the Carver and a season ticket holder for another night On balance I am in favour of a Matinee if it means we retain older regular audience who do not like coming out at night

10/26/2014 8:29 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

it's wonderful

10/26/2014 6:27 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

don't like the wording of the first question, think we should do a matinee and the Saturday night

10/26/2014 4:43 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Excellent local theatre that provides varied and interesting performances

10/26/2014 4:15 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I suggest that an air conditioner is put into the theatre because it regularly gets too hot. Also i think a matinée would not be suitable instead of a night performance on a Saturday because Saturdays are days where you do the shopping in the day and then go out at night. The only time i think a matinee performance is suitable is if it is a children's show or there is also a night performance as well.

10/26/2014 4:11 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

A lot of elders do not come because of fears of driving at night. Good for them.

10/26/2014 3:36 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Why change what works?

10/26/2014 3:34 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

The Carver does a a fantastic job. Good theatre at affordable prices

10/21/2014 12:05 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Thoroughly enjoy your productions and have been very impressed with the quality of late.

10/21/2014 9:10 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Many theatres are currently looking into lower numbers for Saturday evenings. Sat Mat is a good idea, or even earlier start for Sat evening shows. This Sat Evening trend is nationwide and others are looking into the same problem.

10/20/2014 11:15 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Look at whole picture and ask why numbers less on Sat night as it may be that our punters want the whole package on a night out and therefore a great play AND a comfortable bar area is required to entice our audiences to spend their weekend night at the Carver.

10/18/2014 8:45 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Foyer and corridor refurb is a really great improvement!

10/17/2014 5:39 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Non

10/17/2014 12:57 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Good to see creative thinking unhindered by tradition! Good luck

10/16/2014 8:25 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I think a matinee would give older members of the community a chance to come to the theatre at a time when they feel safe

10/16/2014 6:21 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

As an acting member my preference would be to drop the first Friday and Saturday altogether, then run Monday to Saturday inclusive, with both matinee and evening performances on the final Saturday. Yes, that would have some negative impact on ticket income, but by using the current first night (Friday) as an additional dress rehearsal could almost certainly offer a more polished performance.

10/16/2014 1:53 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Give the audience what they want and we are more likely to retain their loyalty. Try a matinee for a season and then review to see if it was worth doing etc

10/16/2014 12:58 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Musical society Matinees are very well attended by the older generation who are increasingly reluctant to go out at night.

10/16/2014 11:20 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I feel a matinee and evening performance on the last Saturday

10/16/2014 7:53 AM [View respondent's answers](#)
