

THE MARLOW PLAYERS (founded 1937)



www.marlowplayers.org.uk

8.30 p.m. 17 June 2017 - 76th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Studio, Liston Road, Marlow

AGENDA

Welcome; Andrew gave a short speech of welcome.

Present; Andrew Stafford, Brian Couling, Gloria Kendrick, Andy Scott, Olive Smith, Bob Simpson, Hilary Cox, Di Hudson, Caroline Law, Melanie Loveridge

Apologies: Tony Bew, Wendy Gammond, Jossy Pearce, Max Sasim

Minutes from last AGM: Gloria read the Minutes of the last AGM and Brian moved they be accepted. This was seconded by Andrew and passed by the Members.

President's Report: Andrew thanked the whole committee for the year's success. Our two productions were very successful, with increased audience numbers. Giving a short talk about our productions to groups in Liston Hall proved to be effective publicity. He thanked Gloria and

John for organising the wardrobes and Studio costume boxes. The Murder Mystery Evenings, inaugurated by Gloria, with help from Gwyn and the Phoenix Players, were fun, popular and financially successful.

The website and mailing list are excellent means of publicising our Society and Hilary always sends out helpful and encouraging information to anyone enquiring about joining us.

We have worked with other groups, notably the Masque Players and Maidenhead Drama Guild and hope that, as well as actors, we can source other directors.

Caroline is our very able Stage Manager, but we need to recruit more technical help, as Charlie is moving away and Graham is very busy.

Andrew thanked Hilary, Brian and Di for organizing summer events such as theatre visits, a canoe picnic and a strawberry tea. We had a very enjoyable New Year party in the Garden Room and our visit to Marly was another success.

Andrew looked forward to another successful year of The Marlow Players'.

Chairman's Report: Gloria thanked everyone who had been so supportive this year - committee, actors, backstage crew and backroom helpers.

Our two productions - Andrew's 'A Touch of Danger' and Gloria's 'Relative Values' - were both successful in terms of professionalism and of audience numbers (and enthusiasm).

The last-minute blip of 'no café or bar' was overcome with the support of Peter Aldiss, licensee of Court

Garden House, who provided fresh tea and coffee each evening and allowed us to serve wine. We are very grateful to him for his generous support.

Our trip to Marly was rather expensive, as only the cast and three crew (13 in all) travelled over in the coach.

Another problem was the unavailability of the theatre in Marly, necessitating using a theatre in an outlying village and having to transfer all set and costumes by van.

Thanks to helpers from The Players and Les Baladins the transfers (Saturday morning and Sunday morning) went swimmingly and Gloria has photos to show 'the library' being carried across the road from van to coach.

Everyone turned up on time for a punctual departure on Sunday - and only British immigration was to blame for making us miss three ferries at Calais. But, thanks to the remainder of the picnic (and wine) supplied by the Marlyrois, we maintained our good humour.

Our four Murder Mystery Evenings (Liston Hall, Bourne End, Lane End, Hambleton) have been fun and have raised funds to defray some of the Marly costs. We hope to present a second play this year and Andrew has secured a couple of private bookings for us with the Rotary clubs of Marlow and Maidenhead.

Gloria thanked Charlie for his work for our productions - providing excellent Sound effects and musical interludes - and for the Sound equipment he has donated to us. We wish him well in his new home.

Gloria also thanked Tony for his continuing support for us, as, despite ill health, he set up the programmes for the two productions this year. He has been a stalwart supporter of the Society for over 20 years, as

Chairman, Director and Actor and we hope he soon feels better and can return home.

Gloria hands the role of Chairman over to Andrew and Hilary will continue to field Membership enquiries.

Andrew will delegate tasks to whichever committee member can take them on, e.g. taking notes at committee meetings. Gloria will improve the labelling of the costume boxes, so the next Wardrobe mistress has no difficulty finding costumes. Gloria looks forward to supporting the Society as much as possible between baby-sitting duties.

Treasurer's Report: There were four main events this year: - 'A Touch of Danger' last November, 'Relative Values' in March 2017, the four Murder Mystery Evenings (Liston Hall, Bourne End, Lane End, Hambleden) and our trip to Marly with 'Relative Values' in May 2017. Last year we made a surplus of £300, but this year a loss of just over £200, although we made a profit on both main productions, on the Murder Mystery Evenings and have received over £200 payment from Town Transition for the use of our forecourt. The main reason for the loss was the cost of the Marly trip, as only 13 people came along. This year we did not receive any sponsorship from the Town Council for our trip to France.

We need more effective publicity for our productions and Melanie has offered to advertise our events through social media. Andrew will continue to approach groups meeting in Liston Hall. The library has agreed to continue to advertise local events and we need to book

our slot for the display board three months ahead. Bucks library service will sell our tickets at the library. Finance-wise we still have our contingency fund, but shall be spending quite a bit of money on essential maintenance of The Studio. (See A.O.B.)

Election of Officers and Committee: Andrew is now President and Chairman, Brian - Treasurer, Hilary - Membership enquiries. Committee members are Gloria, Andy and Di. We need to confirm with Tony, Rosie and Charlotte that they still wish to be on the committee. Charlie is moving from the area.

Anderson Award: Caroline nominated Brian Couling for all the work he does behind the scenes - set-building, ticket-printing, advertising boards, Box Office, to name but a few of his roles. Gloria seconded the proposal and Brian was unanimously voted as the recipient.

The Directors' Crew Award: Caroline was awarded the award - and it was suggested she keep it permanently, as she is the linchpin of backstage.

Summer Programme: Di has kindly offered to host the Strawberry tea on Sunday 9th July from 3.30. Guests are invited to bring finger food and a bottle. Di's address is 'Greenbanks', New Road, Bourne End SL8 5BZ. Brian's son Matthew will organise a canoe trip from Henley to Marlow at a cost of £20 per head. We shall plan a picnic at Hurley (someone will be delegated to set up the tables). Brian will send out some possible dates.

Hilary has organized a trip to Hall Barn for an outdoor Shakespeare on Friday, 23rd June. We meet sometime after 6 for our picnic.

Our 80th Anniversary celebration, set for Saturday, 17th June, was under-subscribed, so we shall postpone it till September. Date to be arranged.

A.O.B.: Gloria suggested that the Membership subscriptions stayed the same (£20 per adult, £35 per couple), but that O.A.P.s pay £20 and full-time students, 18 and under, pay £10. This was accepted.

Studio maintenance is necessary - painting the outside, fitting new heaters and putting in new fluorescent tubes. Andy will look at replacing a rotten board and we shall source sprayers and wood preserver for the exterior and heaters and lights for the interior. We also need to retest the fire extinguishers. Brian will order racks for the Green room.

Andrew and Brian tidied up the mezzanine floor on Tuesday, when Hilary, Gloria, Jacky, Wendy and Jossy tidied up the ground floor. We are meeting for a day's tidy-up/sort out on 4th July from 10 a.m., followed by a BBQ at Brian's for all helpers.

Refreshments - wine and nibbles - were served in a mid-meeting interval. The meeting closed at 10.10. p.m. and a short committee meeting followed.