



Minutes of the 79th Annual General Meeting of The Marlow Players

23rd June 2020 8 pm by videoconference on Zoom under licence.

Those present: Andrew Stafford , President, Chairman and Secretary
Brian Couling Treasurer, Gloria Kendrick, Hilary Cox, Alison Edwards,
Olive Smith, Wendy Gammond; Jocelyn Pearce; Max Sasim

Apologies for absence: Karen Moyse

The President welcomed everyone to the AGM .

1. **The Minutes of the AGM 2019** on 20th June , previously posted on the Marlow Players website were read and accepted as an accurate record: Proposed Alison Edwards, Seconded Brian Couling

2. **The President and Chairman gave his Annual Report** . This has now been posted on the website.

3. **The Treasurer presented his Annual Statement and Report**. This is not posted on the website: members receive a copy by request.

Summary: the last year had been very profitable for The Players.

Mystery at Greenfingers in November 2019 had brought in a good profit.

We had received grants from Marlow Town Council to assist with the increase in hire of The Shelley theatre and also for the visit of Les Baladins. These sums would be used as they became relevant.

The winding up of the Marlow Entertainers had given us a donation in excess of £2,000

Over £1,000 had been taken in advance sales for “Rookery Nook” and bookings would be honoured when we were in a position to put on this or another play. Brian was sure that there would be a wave of interest once we were able to offer a performance.

Subscriptions remained at £20 . or £35 for a couple. Many names on our list of Players or on the email had not paid.

Our trip to Marly-le Roi May 2019 had virtually paid for itself.

The overall increase in profits was £2,000 and this meant we had approximately £16,000 in cash, and Brian considered this to be a healthy state of affairs.

The Report was accepted: Proposed Hilary Cox, seconded, Jossy Pearce

4. Election Of Officers and Committee for 2020-2021

The current Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members were willing to continue in these roles, and there being no other nominations, were appointed *nem con*

5: **Anderson Award:** Andy Scott was proposed *nem con* and awarded this recognition of his contribution as a team member, for the huge amount of work which went into the musical accompaniment and editing of the broadcasts of *Tobermory* and *Bottom's Dream* and contribution to the work in the Studio through the year.

6: **Brian Plested award for stage crew:** Brian Couling was proposed *nem con* and awarded in recognition of his work in providing the technological expertise in hosting and leading the videoconferencing meetings and the performances which had enabled us all to keep in touch and the Society to run whilst not being able to meet.

7. Suggestions for activities in July, August and September: dependent upon Government regulations and guidelines.

a) Canoe trip Henley- Marlow This was allowed in a two person canoe.

Provisionally Saturday 11th July: details to be emailed. Some discussion was had re transport as we would not be car sharing. A possibility is to travel by car and then make a bus journey back to the car (face covered)

We could have a SD lunch with no food or utensils sharing at medmenham. It would be possible to have a half journey, and it would be possible to travel in either direction. Some reservations re travelling upstream were expressed.

b) Picnic: Marlow Common North nature reserve was suggested, and cars could be parked on the Common by the trenches. Date suggested: 25th July 2 pm

c) Continuatuin of videoconferenced meetings via Zoom

July 7: Quiz: Jossy to devise

21: “Bring and Share evening of readings from members;

August 4: “Desert Island Discs” evening of recorded music: each of us contributes an item.

This will need collating and casting into an accessible form.

So Brian’s and Andy’s expertise will be drawn upon.

August 18: Play reading: If we are able to meet socially distanced it would be nice to do this in my garden (weather permitting) and I can obtain scripts from Reading Central Library (duly disinfected) please bring hand sanitiser and your own chair. If it looks like wet, we could use the gazebo from the Studio plus part of the garage..

September 8th Zoom Meeting as we begin new session.

8 Any Other Business

a) the Studio heating. Some members of the cast of Rookery Nook expressed the wish that we could get the Studio warmer during the winter months. Brian Couling explained that he had researched exyensively and the electric heaters, both the three space heaters and the person heater (which had cost £500) were the best options. The Studio was insulated very effectively in the walls, but height of the Studio meant that warm air as supplied by a fan heater would rise, leaving the floor area cold. We still had two gas heaters.

Andrew had arrived by 7:30 pm on most rehearsal nights specifically to start the heating, and this included the gas fires. He had also arranged all rehearsals to minimise waiting time and to accommodate the wishes of the cast. Karen offered to obtain and replace the gas canisters.

Brian has had the Studio rewired and has supervised all the installation. He was disappointed that after all the work, this had not succeeded in heating the Studio to everybody’s satisfaction.

The Committee will consider possibilities, which might include hiring another space in the coldest weather.

b) Choice of Plays: there was a request to review the repertoire to include more “modern” plays with an appeal to a wider audience. It was pointed out that two Frank Vickery plays had been presented recently, together with *Allo, Allo, Hi-de-Hi, The Vicar of Dibley, Unseen Academicals,*

(For purposes of comparison, there is appended a survey of the repertoire of Fourways, Masque, Lane End, Valley Players, Grimm Players at the end of this document)

there was a discussion about whether we kept our audiences who liked our repertoire, or tried to appeal to a different audience (possibly younger) with different tastes. The Committee would review these ideas. It is also a question of finding a Director. Currently, we have only Gloria and Andrew. They spend a great deal of time and effort scouring the play lists from Sam French for plays which have a suitable staging, suitable characters and afford some entertainment and challenge for players and audiences. Clearly we must continue to find plays which will sell. All members were urged to look for plays and read them and provide the Committee with suggestions, and indeed any offers to direct would be welcome.

c) the storage under Court Garden House had been cleared on one day in March. Further work needs to be done, so that we can transfer all the largest set items before a show kicks off, making the Get in much easier. Brian led this effort, with Andy, David and Andrew.

d) NODA: it was suggested that we should join NODA. The benefits would be access to their help; they could source Directors (fee and expenses); to their playlists; possibly inviting critics to review. This was of interest and the Committee would discuss further.

e) Hilary Cox reminded us of the One Act play Competitions locally. They had been very good. We could possibly take along an act from one of our productions. It would of course again be a matter of finding the Director, players, set and costumes and sound effects team and stage Management for a single performance in a venue we do not know. Rehearsals would need to run alongside those for our own show, or commence immediately after the Spring production. Given that several members resume their other lives after the show and take a holiday or resume their work on hold, it is difficult to see how this could be managed.

The meeting concluded at 9:57p.m. with thanks to the Committee, to the Players and to Brian Couling for setting up the Meeting on Zoom.

APPENDIX;

Fourways:

1992 Robin Hood - The Government Inspector - The Edge Of Darkness - Blood Brothers **1993** Aladdin - Death Of A Salesman - Sweeney Todd - Noises Off **1994** Jack & The Beanstalk - Cuckoo - The Lion In Winter **1995** Treasure Island - Les Liaisons Dangereuses - Dancing At Lughnasa **1996** Beauty & The Beast - Stepping Out - Godspell - Journey's End **1997** Under Milk Wood - The Cherry Orchard - The Weekend **1998** Pygmalion - A Month Of Sundays - Sinbad **1999** Twelfth Night - On Golden Pond **2000** The Thwarting Of Baron Bolligrew - Dead Funny **2001** Our Country's Good - Cracked **2002** Sisterly Feelings **2003** Fools - The Rise and Fall of Little Voice **2004** Darling Buds of May **2006** Brassed Off -The Front Page - An Inspector Calls **2007** Outside Edge - Steel Magnolias - Carpe Jugulum **2008** The Graduate - Uncle Vanya - One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest **2009** Lend Me a Tenor - The Sting - Shadowlands **2010** Glengarry Glen Ross - The Odd Couple - The History Boys **2011** Humble Boy - Midsummer Night's Dream - The Crucible **2012** Trivial Pursuits - Much Ado About Nothing - Arsenic & Old Lace **2013** Catch 22 - Twelfth Night - The Madness of George III **2014** Collaborators - Romeo and Juliet - A Man For All Seasons **2015** Noises Off - The Tempest - The Pitmen Painters **2016** Amadeus - Richard III - Far From the Madding Crowd **2017** A Few Good Men - Merchant of Venice - Equus **2018** When We Are Married - As You Like It - King Charles III **2019** Whose Life Is It Anyway? - Much Ado About Nothing - Hangmen **2020** Farndale..Macbeth

Grimm Players 2010 to date

Vicar of Dibley 2 Nonsense Vicar of Dibley Hi-de-Hi 'Allo 'Allo Shout! Musical of Musicals
Two Coarse Plays Licence Withdrawn & Cox and Box Tom Foolery

Valley Players:
The Sleeping Beauty

December 2019 Puss In Boots

December 2018 The Ghosts of Halfway House

July 2017 A Lazy Bee script by Richard James

When Daphne and Simon arrange a viewing of the mysterious 'Halfway House' they don't expect to end up in the middle of a ghost story!

Dick Whittington December 2016 A Lazy Bee script by Bob Heather

A Spot of Murder April 2019

A Lazy Bee script by Geoff Bamber.

When faded theatrical diva, Corrina Marcham, senses that she is in great danger she calls in Detective Inspector Trench to investigate a murder that hasn't been committed yet - her own.

Cinderella December 2017

A Lazy Bee script by Suzan Holder

Bits N Pieces June 2017

A variety evening of sketches and songs written and performed by members of Valley Players, Hughsden!

The Masque Players

Aladdin – 2019

- A Fete Worse Than Death – 2019.
- Treasure Island the Panto – 2018
- The Bear 2018
- Whats for Pudding – 2018
- Prescription for Murder 2018
- Robin Hood December – 2017
- Play On Murder Most Foul – 2017
- Cinderella 2016
- Move Over Mrs Markham – 2016
- A Night of Deception – 2016
- The Beauty Sleeping – 2015
- The Book Club of Little Witterington -2015
- There Goes The Bride – 2015
- The Wicked Witches Of OZ – 2014
- Life's a Panto & A Revue Take 2 – 2014

- [The Ghost of Blackstoke Manor – 2014](#)
- [Calendar Girls – 2013](#)
- [Jack and the Beanstalk – 2013](#)
- [The Babes in the Wood – 2012](#)
- [Last Panto in Little Grimley – 2012](#)
- [Still Life – 2012](#)
- [Happy Every After – 2010](#)
- [Departure – 2010](#)

The Marlow Players

Mystery at Greenfingers (J B Priestley) – November 2019

- Trivial Pursuits (Frank Vickery) – March 2019
- Barefoot in the Park (Neil Simon) – November 2018
- Curtain Up On Murder (Bettine Manktelow– March 2018
- A Night On The Tiles (Frank Vickery) – November 2017
- Relative Values (Noel Coward) April 2017
- A Touch of Danger (Francis Durbridge)- November 2016
- Out of Sight... Out of Murder (Fred Carmichael) – April 2016
- Unseen Academicals (Terry Pratchett & Stephen Briggs) – November 2015
- Pygmalion (George Bernard Shaw) – March 2015
- The Vicar of Dibley – November 2014
- Wife After Death – April 2014
- Hi-de-Hi! – November 2013
- Laughter in the dark – March 2013
- The Hollow Crown – Autumn 2012
- ‘Allo ‘Allo (Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft) – Spring 2012
- Prescription for Murder (Norman Robbins) – Autumn 2011
- Tons of Money (Will Evans and Valentine) – Spring 2011
- Spygame (Bettine Manktelow) – Autumn 2010

Lane End Players

It runs in the Family: Ray Cooney;The totally awesome 80s

Going Green: David Tristram; Ali Baba; Tom’s Midnight Garden; Shakespeare in Hollywood:
Kem LUDWIKI Jack and the Beanstalk;

Daisy Pulls it off; Sounds of the 70s; Steel Magnolias- Robert Harding; Sleeping Beauty; The Ladykillers; Entertaining Angels – Richard Everitt;