

The Society of the Rotherfield Players
&

The Pantiles Players
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 7th June 2017

At 8pm at the Memorial Institute, Rotherfield

Present: Andy Miller, James Gallifant, Ros Williams, Robert Chesterton, Alison Organ, Mark Tasker, Sue Exton, David Close, Alan Varley, Helen Gallifant, Jo Evans, Derek Holland, Kate Organ, Dan Shaw

1) Apologies

Mary Howells, Rachel Martin, Lynn Lunn, Barbara Laird, Larry Robinson, Brian Hampton

2) Minutes of AGM – June 2016

Read by Andy Miller.
Agreed and signed by Andy Miller.

3) Matters Arising

None

4) Chairman's Report

Given by Andy Miller.
See copy in file

A very successful year has passed, with good productions and a very successful 40th Anniversary Party in November being well attended. Things are looking promising for the coming year, with "A Midsummer Nights' Dream" rehearsals going well, auditions coming up for the "Raising the Roof Old Time Music Hall" in October and "The Country Wife", a bawdy comedy, to be directed by Kate Organ, booked in for the open air production next year. We still need a director for the Pantomime slot and Spring Production next year.

The "Raising the Roof" project is well underway with 22K raised already. Planning permission is the next step.

The amalgamation with The Pantiles Players in January has proved beneficial to both societies.

5) **Treasurer's Report**

Given by James Gallifant.
See copy in file.

James reported that every production had made a profit in the last year. Although "Treasure Island", the annual pantomime's profit was small in comparison to past pantomime productions. It is felt that more traditional pantomimes bring in better returns e.g., Cinderella, Aladdin etc. Good feedback has been received for the productions and the end of show charity buckets for "Raising the Roof" received generous donations from the audiences.

Brian Hampton has proved a real asset from The Pantiles Players, saving us approximately £600 per production for lighting and sound.

The sale of assets from the Royal Victoria Theatre in Southborough was attended by Robert Chesterton and Brian Hampton and they secured some very useful equipment, including pulleys and flying gear only 2-3 years old and also some curtains, for the princely sum of £200. The items are valued at around £10,000, so a very useful and profitable outing!

Currently these items are being stored, very kindly, by Robert in his front room! Any offers of help on storage will be greatly appreciated.

The accounts were accepted by Robert, and seconded by Kate Organ.

6) **Election of Officers**

The following were re-elected unopposed:

Andy Miller – Chairman

James Gallifant – Treasurer

Ros Williams – Secretary

Amy Principato was nominated and elected to stand as Publicity Officer

7) **Election of the Committee**

The following people were willing to remain on the Committee unopposed:

Robert Chesterton

David Close

Alison Organ

Larry Robinson

The following people were nominated and elected:

Derek Holland

Kate Organ

Dan Shaw

Denise Clark and Sue Exton decided to stand down from the Committee. Andy thanked them both for their help and contribution to the work of the Committee.

8) Any Other Business

- Andy and Derek have been looking at on-line ticket selling. This would enable people to have the option to book their own tickets on-line and/or buy over the counter at the Rotherfield Stores or from the Box Office representative.
This will also provide us with a large list of email addresses we can use to inform people of future productions and other marketing opportunities.
Gift Aid may be considered.
- Andy has investigated using the large and hi-tech printing machine at RSM to enable us to print our programmes ourselves, making it easy to print more if stocks run low and also reduce the printing costs considerably. Derek, whose background is printing, confirmed that there would be the added flexibility of using different paper weights for covers etc. Andy circulated sample copies of the “Entertaining Angels” programme he had run off on the machine. This method of printing programmes will be adopted in future.
- Derek suggested that we don’t charge for programmes but ask for donations instead. This will be discussed at the Committee Meeting.
- Kate reported that there had been no complaints from the cast of “Annie Get Your Gun” when asked for show fees. This helps keep the costs down so perhaps should be sought for all productions. This will be discussed at the Committee Meeting.
- Robert reiterated that any offers of help for props and equipment would be welcomed. A note will be put in the Newsletter.
- Alison confirmed that “A Midsummer Nights’ Dream tickets are available now. Flyers were requested.

The Meeting closed at 8.47pm