

The Guild Players Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2016

Present: Rev. Michael Giles – President, Mike Sparks - Chairman, Jacqui Ravenhall – Minutes, Louisa Agamemnos, David Constable, Betty Burgess, Richard Hardinge, Naomi Smallwood, Sue Stadler, Sally Martin, Nikki Bell, Pasquale de Leo, Beth, Kate, Reuben.

Apologies: Jenny Sparks, Andy Higgins and Martin Higgins – Technical Representatives, Mike Lamb.

The President, Rev Michael Giles welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The following paperwork was distributed amongst the group; the annual financial report 2015-16 and membership renewal forms (2016-17). Dave kindly agreed to collect membership fees and paperwork in the absence of a Membership Secretary.

Minutes

The AGM minutes of 23rd September 2015 were read out by the Chairman, then agreed and signed as a correct record.

Treasurer's Report

As the Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting, he had forwarded the Guild Players audited accounts dated 31 August 2016.

The Chairman praised the success of the last two main productions with a profit of over £1000 on each. He also informed the meeting, for those who were not aware of The Guild Players link to the Church, that as the Church do not charge us rent, we make a donation each year of £2500.

The Treasurer's report was agreed, accepted and signed off by the Members. However, the Chairman noted that although our current bank balance stands at £3467.46, he raised the issue of the outstanding monies owed to the Church for replacing the lighting bars last year. The Chairman put it to the Membership that we could pay the £2000 profit from Treasure Island towards this debt. This suggestion was unanimously supported by the Members – officially proposed by Sally and seconded by Louisa.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman talked the Membership through the events of the Guild Players over the last year.

1. Jenny

Obviously, there has been a big hole in the group recently with the absence of our much-loved wardrobe supremo. The Chairman passed on her best wishes to the Membership and her regret at missing the meeting. It was good to hear that her health is improving and that she's making progress. On behalf of the membership, Rev. Giles passed on our best wishes to Jenny, as we continue to keep her in our thoughts and prayers and wish her well.

2. 2015-16 Productions

The Chairman praised the success of our productions over the last year.

Our **One Night Only** performance of **Harold Pinter's The Dumb Waiter** last September, directed by Andrew Baker. This was staged on the floor of the Hall and marked a departure from our usual style of production. It was well-received by our audience. So much so, that the Chairman is keen to repeat this type of performance again.

Treasure Island, our Christmas panto, was a great success. Not only did it save around £500 on royalty fees, but it generated a profit in excess of £2000 and was enjoyed by all.

The Constable's Tale (no relation to Dave!) was our show for the **Holy Week Tour**. The Chairman appreciated the support of the Heathfield Trust in supplying the transport for this Tour. However, having done the Holy Week Tour for over a decade now, the Chairman feels it is time to rest this concept, in favour of a different tour at a different time of the year.

The Chairman also noted the success of our spring production, **Boeing-Boeing**, superbly directed by Louisa, praising the acting of the play and thanking Dave and Pasquale for an outstanding set.

The Chairman concluded this section of his report with an introduction to our Autumn production of Bettine Manktelow's play **Curtain Up On Murder** which will be performed from 24-26 November. This has been cast with a mix of new and established Members and rehearsals are now

underway. The Chairman is directing this and feels confident that the play will appeal to a wide audience.

3. Alan

It was noted with great sadness that The Guild Players lost one of its leading lights this year, with the passing of Alan Jobson. The Rev Giles talked about Alan as an important part of the Guild Players, not only as an inspirational actor and director, but as someone who was much-loved within the group and who is greatly missed by us all.

4. Social events

The Chairman thanked Louisa and her family for their kind and generous hospitality in hosting the Guild Players barbecue this summer.

The Chairman also thanked Louisa for organising a great night out last Christmas for the Guild Christmas dinner. Louisa confirmed that she will be in touch with the Clissold Arms to book 'The Shed' area again for this year. The date that has been provisionally agreed for this (by the Committee) is Saturday 10 December. Once the Membership list for this year is confirmed, Louisa will email everyone on it to start planning the booking.

Matters Arising

1. Donation to FMC

The Chairman confirmed that the Guild Players have made an annual donation of £2500 to the Finchley Methodist Church. The Chairman also noted that the sum of £2500 is kept under review and will possibly change at some point. However, this donation does not cover the costs of running the Guild Players and the Chairman explained (for new members) that these costs are met through membership and production fees.

2. Charitable Partners

The Chairman noted that our audiences for Treasure Island last Christmas donated £130 in our foyer collection boxes. The money raised was donated to the RNLI as the lifeboats were seen as an appropriate cause to support with this production. He explained (for new members) that we do not charge audiences for our programs so encourage a donation instead.

However, our usual charitable partner is the local cause Community Focus and the Chairman confirmed that monies collected this year would be going to them. Louisa noted that Rhiannon (our Guild member who works for Community Focus) should be notified, which the Chairman agreed to do.

3. Election of Officers

The following members were elected to the Guild Players Committee for 2016-17:

Chair – Mike Sparks

Treasurer - Jim McLauchlan

Membership Secretary – TBC

Secretary – Jacqui Ravenhall

Social Secretary – Louise Agamemnos

Technical – Martin and Andy Higgins

Publicity – Naomi Smallwood

Wardrobe – TBC – (*Jenny Sparks to continue in an advisory capacity*)

Box Office – Betty Burgess

General Representatives - David Constable, Sue Stadler, Richard Hardinge

All of the appointments were agreed by the Members.

Jacqui confirmed that the next Committee meeting is on Wednesday 19 October at 7pm (before rehearsal).

A.O.B

Guild Players AGM 2017

This will be held on 27th September 2017.