



# WADHURST DRAMATIC CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2021 at 8.00pm**

## **Zoom Login Details:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84176542635?pwd=YVI0NE5TVFU2empSWWVtSUdGQTRZUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 841 7654 2635 and **Passcode:** 862228

*(Attendees will enter a waiting room before joining the meeting)*

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## **A G E N D A**

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1. Arrival and Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting *(attached)*
4. Chair's Report (Marianne Johnson)
5. Financial Report (Russ Kirton) *(attached)*
6. Nomination/Election of Officers: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary
7. Nomination/Election of Committee Members (up to 12 members)
8. Nomination and Election of Honorary Auditor
9. Future Activities/Events
10. Any Other Business
11. Close

### **Attachments:**

- *Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 February 2020*
- *Summary Financial Report*
- *Nomination Form for WDC Committee*



# Wadhurst Dramatic Club

## Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 10 February 2020  
at 7.30pm in the Commemoration Hall, High Street, Wadhurst

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<b>Present:</b> Marianne Johnson (Chair)	Russ Kirton (Treasurer)
John Bush (Hon. President)	Denise Beedell
Merlin Beedell	Nicola Dean
James Edwards	Lisa Hart
Kieran Howlett	Bill Johnson
Jan Lynam	Ginny Lidstone ( <i>Wadhurst Institute Hall &amp; Field</i> )
Tom Madden	Annamay Reed
Dot Smytherson	Dan Thompson (1 <sup>st</sup> part of meeting)
Xan Kite (2 <sup>nd</sup> part of meeting)	Catherine Whitehead
Jane Austin (Secretary)	

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: David Austin, Penny Bones, Amanda Dann, Ros and Tim Knight.

### 2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the last general meeting held on 13 February 2019 had been posted on the Club's website and copies were available at the meeting.

Denise Beedell proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Jan Lynam.

**The minutes were agreed without amendment.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 3. Report from the Chair

- 3.1. Marianne Johnson presented her report for 2019. The main points are summarised below.
- 3.2. The first show of the year was ***Bah Humbug***, written by Rebecca Ryland and directed by Kay Sasada with musical director, Veronika Reeves. The play enjoyed enthusiastic audiences and received a fantastic review from NODA.
- 3.3. This was followed in May by ***A Bunch of Amateurs***, written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman and directed by Russ Kirton. The pop-up café on the forecourt of the Commemoration Hall was a great success in raising the profile of the show. Students from The Mount Camphill community organised all the refreshments, took orders and waited on the tables. We are very appreciative of all the help the students and staff at the Mount have given us. For two years running the café has become a very successful vehicle for advertising our shows and marketing the Wadhurst Dramatic Club.
- 3.4. In October, we invited another local Amateur Dramatic Club "The Very Merry Roosters" from Lamberhurst, to put on a repeat of their successful production, ***Free and Easy***. It was a "full on" 60s musical with a live band. As a joint venture it worked perfectly, so we are planning to continue this relationship, combining all our talents and facilities.

- 3.5. Over the last year Wadhurst Dramatic Club and WYTKidz were nominated 3 times in the NODA Area Awards of Excellence for *'Allo,'Allo* (in the Drama category and the Poster/Programme category) and WYTKidz *Private Peaceful* (Youngsters category). This is an amazing achievement.
- 3.6. The Chair was also pleased to announce that WYTKidz, our youth theatre run by Amanda Dann, has amalgamated with the Wadhurst Dramatic Club to create an inclusive system where young children can follow a continual path of experiencing theatre as they grow and mature into adults. This will allow them to learn all aspects of creating, producing and acting in different types of shows.
- 3.7. Special thanks were given to:
- The WDC costume team (Penny, Jill and Gill) who organised a successful clothes sale, raising some extra funds for the club.
  - Nance and Colin, who create and paint our brilliant scenery.
  - And all our volunteers for their continued support.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers so if you know anyone who may be interested in joining us, in any capacity, please contact a member of the committee.

#### 4. **Financial Report**

- 4.1. Copies of the Income and Expenditure Account were tabled at the meeting together with the Club's Balance Sheet.
- 4.2. Russ Kirton, the Club's Treasurer, presented his financial report for the 18-month period ending 31 December 2019. RK explained that the Executive Committee had agreed to align financial reporting with the calendar year. The following points were noted:
- The Club ended the year with a balance of £8,067, compared with £10,404 the previous year.
  - There was a reported deficit of -£2, 337 for the 18-month period, whilst the previous year had a reported surplus of £33.
  - A major investment in stage lighting had been made, which accounted for some of the additional expenditure. This was part of the plan to replace analogue lighting with modern digital lighting, which would greatly enhance the stage productions.
  - The 2019 accounts had been audited and passed by the Club's auditor, Kate Metcalfe, and a vote of thanks was recorded for her services to the Club.

Catherine Whitehead proposed that the accounts be accepted, and this was seconded Lisa Hart.

**The accounts were accepted as a true record.**

- 4.3. JE asked what could be done to ensure the Club would not continue to incur losses. RK advised members that a number of measures were being taken. These included:
- (i) Increasing the potential revenue from programme advertising with a view to covering the costs of design and printing
  - (ii) Reducing the cost of programme printing (considerable savings had already been made in this area)
  - (iii) Securing a discount on insurance premiums through the Club's membership to the national association (NODA)
  - (iv) Increasing fund-raising efforts and looking for opportunities to secure grants
  - (v) Putting on 3 shows (plus one guest show) per year with a focus on productions that have wide audience appeal.
- 4.4. It was noted that high profile shows often had high licensing and performing rights costs. However, an excellent start had been made this year with the very successful production

of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* which had run over two week-ends in January/February 2020. Although the final figures were not yet available, RK reported that this show had been by far the most profitable in recent years.

- 4.5. The cost of using the Commemoration Hall and associated facilities was also discussed. The block charge (although discounted) was now considerably higher than previous years and this meant that the Club was under increased pressure to put on quarterly productions just in order to make ends meet. Members commented that each production involves a huge amount of work and calls upon the goodwill and enthusiasm of a relatively small pool of volunteers who willingly give their time and skills for the sheer enjoyment of being involved in the Club. Making too many demands on volunteers could jeopardise this. It was also noted that the Club had invested considerable amounts of money in the Hall and Orchard Room eg lighting, redecoration, carpeting and the like. Whilst this was acknowledged, everyone accepted that the Club had to work in partnership with the Wadhurst Institute Hall & Field Trustees to ensure both organisations remained financially viable. The financial negotiations were ongoing and the WDC Officers would continue to work closely with the Hall trustees.

#### 5. **Approval of the WDC Rules and Constitution (February 2020)**

The Club's Rules and Constitution had been reviewed and updated. The new version (in draft) had been posted on the Club's website and copies were available at the meeting. The main changes included:

- (i) The classification of three types of members (see para 5.1): Members, Associates and Youth/Junior Members.
- (ii) Defining the Terms of Office for serving officers and members of the Executive Committee (see paras 6.4 -6.5).
- (iii) A section on the declaration of pecuniary interests (see para 8).

Xan Kite proposed that the new WDC Rules and Constitution, dated February 2020, be accepted. This was seconded by Lisa Hart.

**The new Rules and Constitution for Wadhurst Drama Club were duly accepted.**

#### 6. **Election of Officers**

John Bush took the chair for the election of the Club's Officers. JB reported that all three officers had agreed to stand again for the following roles:

Marianne Johnson-**Chair**, Russ Kirton-**Treasurer** and Jane Austin-**Secretary**.

No other nominations had been received.

**All three officers were duly re-elected for a second term of office.**

#### 7. **Election of Executive Committee Members**

The following committee members had agreed to stand again:

<b>James Edwards (Bar)</b>	<b>Merlin Beedell (Props)</b>
<b>Penny Bones (Wardrobe/costumes)</b>	<b>Amanda Dann (WYTKidz)</b>
<b>Lisa Hart (Stage management)</b>	<b>Xan Kite (Press/Marketing)</b>

As a late nomination, Jane Austin proposed **Dan Thompson** as a member of the Executive Committee and he had agreed to stand. There were no other nominations.

**All seven members were duly elected en block to the Executive Committee**

It was noted that youth members under the age of 18 are not eligible to sit on the Executive Committee but are invited to stand as members of the specialist sub-committees.

## 8. Election of Honorary Auditor

Kate Metcalfe was once again willing to act as auditor for the Club although she was no longer a registered chartered accountant. Members agreed that Kate should continue to act for the club. This was proposed by Denise Beedell and seconded by Dot Smytherson.

**Kate Metcalfe was duly appointed as the Club's honorary auditor.**

## 9. Future Activities

- 9.1. The Club has been asked by the Hall and Field Trustees to make space in the store under the floor of the Commemoration Hall. The clearance will start on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February. There may be an opportunity to place unwanted wood on the Village bonfire. Any helpers would be most welcome.
- 9.2. Auditions for the May production of *Love begins at 50* have been held and rehearsals will start shortly. The show is being directed by Russ Kirton. A pop-up café on the forecourt is planned. In October, subject to being able to secure the licence/ performing rights, WYTKidz hope to put on the fabulous musical *We will rock you*. In November, *The Very Merry Roosters* from Lamberhurst have been invited back again so we look forward to hearing about their plans.
- 9.3. We have the opportunity to participate in a Shakespeare workshop in the next month or two. Anyone interested in attending please contact Xan Kite.

## 10. Awards and Presentations

- 10.1. On behalf of the Club, John Bush was delighted to present the "Frank Creasy Award for Young Achiever of the Year" to Annamay Reed who had appeared in a number of productions during 2019, including Bah Humbug and A Bunch of Amateurs.
- 10.2. Sadly, three members had decided to step down from the Committee for 2020: Catherine Whitehead, Jan Lynam and Jill Haskell. All had contributed greatly to the success of the Club in various capacities over the years, and Catherine and Jan had both served as Chair. Jill will be remembered for her work making and sourcing of costumes for our productions, many of which received special commendation. Their input will be greatly missed, not least for the time, energy, enthusiasm and commitment they have all shown to the Committee and the wider Club. Unfortunately, Jill was not able to attend the AGM but on behalf of all the members the Chair presented Catherine and Jan with flowers as a small gesture of appreciation. (Jill received her flowers later)

## 11. Any Other Business

- 11.1. **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** – Following in its success, we are now exploring the possibility of screening the DVD of our shows at the Kino Cinema in Hawkhurst.
- 11.2. **Wadhurst Dramatic Club 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - CW reminded members that 2021 will be the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and invited members to come up with suggestions about how we might celebrate this momentous occasion. Ginny Lidstone (Comms lead for the Wadhurst Institute) said the trustees would like to put on open air activities throughout the summer months. Perhaps this was something that we could work on together. Everyone agreed that this sounded like an excellent idea. JA would act as liaison with both parties. Early planning would be required.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

## Wadhurst Dramatic Club - Summary Financial Report

### WDC - Profit and Loss Account for 2020 as at 31 December 2020

#### Current Account

	Balance at Start of Year	£1,276.99
Income to Date	£8,332.61	
Expenditure to Date	£8,084.97	
<b>Profit/Loss to Date</b>	<b>£247.64</b>	<b>£247.64</b>
	Bank Balance to Date	£1,524.63
Invoiced Income Outstanding	£0.00	
Expected Outgoings	£0.00	
<b>Projected Profit/Loss</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
	Projected Bank Balance	£1,524.63
<b>Business Reserve Account</b>		<b>£9,000.45</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,525.08</b>

**Note:**

*Full accounts with details of all income and expenditure are available on request.*



# Wadhurst Dramatic Club

## Nomination and Election of Officers and Committee Members

Officers and Executive Committee members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting on **25 February 2021**. Completed nomination forms should be received by the WDC Club Secretary by **18 February 2021** at the latest.

Position for which nominated (*Please circle one of the following*):

**CHAIR / TREASURER / SECRETARY / COMMITTEE MEMBER**

<b>Name of Nominee</b> ( <i>please print clearly</i> ):	<i>I, the undersigned, agree to stand for election to the WDC Executive Committee.</i> <b>Signature of Nominee:</b>  Email:  Tel:
<b>Optional for Nominee Only:</b> <i>If you have particular interests/skills, (such as direction/stage management/performing, or others such as social activities, administration, publicity and media, sound/lighting, front of house etc), please let us know:</i>	
<b>Name of Proposer</b> ( <i>please print clearly</i> ):	<b>Signature of Proposer:</b>  Email:  Tel:
<b>Name of Seconder</b> ( <i>please print clearly</i> ):	<b>Signature of Seconder:</b>  Email:  Tel:

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORMS BY 18 FEBRUARY 2021 to:**

Jane Austin, WDC Secretary, 5 Bocking Close, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 6HZ  
Tel 01892 785270 or 07837 958867.

Alternatively, a scanned image of this form can be emailed to: [e.jane.austin@btinternet.com](mailto:e.jane.austin@btinternet.com)

*You will receive a confirmation from the Club Secretary within 2 days of receipt of your nomination. If you do not hear, please call/text Jane Austin (details above).*