



NEWSLETTER ~ JUNE 2016

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to attend our AGM on 14th May at the Salisbury Playhouse. It is very gratifying to all your officers that you are sufficiently interested in the detailed reports of the work we do on your behalf throughout the preceding year to forego the competing pleasures that the city has to offer on such a beautiful day.

In my introduction at the AGM I concentrated on two major themes – our falling membership, and the opportunities for you to be involved in the running of the Club. As far as membership is concerned, our numbers have fallen from a high of 500 in March 2012 to, currently, almost half that figure. We cannot continue to sustain falling numbers of this magnitude, as it will inevitably undermine the ability of the Club to arrange the variety of trips we have offered up until now, and eventually adversely affect our financial viability. We will have to review the ways in which we currently operate to try to avoid such possibilities.

In the meantime, you can play your part by helping to recruit more, active members by persuading relatives, neighbours, friends – even enemies! – to join. We have found in the past that this is a most effective way of increasing membership, supplementing the excellent work being carried out by Sonja Sparrow, who has changed roles from Membership Secretary to become our new Publicity Officer.

The second theme in my talk at the AGM concerned involvement of members in running the Club. In the Dorset Theatre-Goers' Club we are blessed with many volunteers, without whom the Club would cease to function. From an ordinary member's viewpoint, it would seem that all the necessary jobs are filled by contented and competent people. But if one or more of those people, for any number of reasons, wishes to stand down, how can he or she do this if there is no-one waiting in the wings, eager to take over?

However, there may amongst you be individuals who quite fancy one of the roles. If so, please get in touch with any member of the committee. This point is especially significant at this time, since both Glenda Llewellyn, our Minutes Secretary, and I as Chairman, have announced our intention to relinquish our posts at the end of the current year. So, if any of you are interested in becoming Minutes Secretary or Chairman in the near future, let us know. As they say in the job adverts, training will be given!

CLIVE WILLETTS – CHAIRMAN

CLUB OFFICERS elected at the AGM on 14th May 2016

Chairman – Clive Willetts willetts4@aol.com 01305 889597

Bookings Secretary – Katy Murrell kathy_murrell@hotmail.com 07966 308154

Treasurer – Shirley Hoare 01305 268728

Membership Secretary – Lynda Maidment Lynda.dtgc@outlook.com

Minutes Secretary – Glenda Llewellyn glenda.llewellyn@mypostoffice.co.uk

Publicity Officer – Sonja Sparrow bill_sonja@uwclub.net

Website Manager – Bill Sparrow bill_sonja@uwclub.net

Understudy to Katy and Shirley – Lynda Maidment

FROM THE OFFICE

One of the problems with our low numbers at present is we are more often using one coach on an excursion, instead of two or three, which has been our usual in the past. Blandford members have found many a time the coach is unable to pick them up because it makes it too long a journey for the driver. They are being asked to make their own way to Wimborne instead. We have in the past put on a taxi for the Blandford members to link up with Wimborne which is no problem going out in the morning, but being picked up on a Saturday evening (when we don't have an exact time of the coach arriving in Wimborne) is very difficult indeed. On a lighter note, if you have a favourite excursion please let us know....

KATY'S FAVOURITE EXCURSIONS

The Mill at Sonning - dinner theatre. The theatre is set by the River Thames near Reading. It was originally an 18th Century Flour Mill. The water wheel is still in existence and powers up most of the theatre's electricity. We usually arrive in time for refreshment at the Waterwheel Bar or a ramble along the river path. The buffet lunch is prepared fresh on the day and caters for special diets - vegetarians etc. The service is excellent and the show usually farcical - lots of fun and laughter happens! (visit every summer – 30th June this year).

Stratford upon Avon. Our coach journey takes us through the Cotswold Hills, stopping on route for tea and pastries at The Marlborough Tea Rooms. We get free time in Stratford with its bustling town centre, serene river walks, great buskers and often spontaneous street theatre. The RSC Theatre offers art exhibitions, back stage tours and as always we see an amazingly creative Shakespeare play on the Saturday afternoon. We stay one night at the Holiday Inn Warwick and have two evening meals out together - one on the Friday evening and one on the way home on the Saturday evening. (visit every other summer- next - 2017).

The Royal Opera House - Covent Garden. I don't think it matters what's on here – Opera, Ballet or what-ever - it's the experience of being in such an amazing place. It is a Grade One

listed building with the facade, foyer and auditorium dating back to 1858 – absolutely beautiful (was a one off, but let us know if you would like to go again).

KATY MURRELL – BOOKING SECRETARY