

Sevenoaks Summer Festival
Minutes of the Twenty-Third Annual General Meeting
held on Zoom on Thursday 12 December 2024

Present:

Committee: Ray Russell (RR), Audrey Franks (AF), John Levett (JL)

Representatives: Lee Kings (Sevenoaks Art Club), Patrick Pascall (Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society), Lynn Short (Bitesize Drama), Tim Smith (Sevenoaks Ramblers), Kay Thorne (Member), Nick Thorne (Member)

Apologies: Charlie Ingram (Bessels Green Baptist Church), Sue Day (Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival), Roberta Ware (Sponsor)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

RR welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting.

2. Minutes of the twentieth-second AGM held on 23 November 2023 were received and noted. Proposed JL, Seconded RR.

3. Report & Accounts for 2023

The report and accounts for 2024 were received and noted.

RR thanked Richard Baxter for scrutinising the accounts.

Income £32,081, Expenditure £30,162 - a profit of £1,919.

Net Assets £25,147 being £12,500 in the Promoted Professional Events Reserve and £12,647 in the Publicity, Administration & General Reserve,

NL pointed out an error in the written report compared to the accounts. This was due to the folding of Velocity (Blighs) who had promised £1,500. This will be updated if the report is distributed further. RR to contact STC to clarify. **(Action: RR)**

Audiences at celebrity events were disappointing but overall, the Festival was successful.

4. To elect Honorary Officers for the current year

In the absence of any further nominations, carried unanimously: RR - Chairman & Treasurer; AF - Secretary.

5. To elect Ordinary Members of the Organising Committee

In the absence of any further nominations, RR proposed that JL be re-elected an Ordinary Member of the Organising Committee - carried unanimously.

RR recorded thanks to John Power, who retires from his role of Volunteer Co-ordinator and to Kay Thorne, who will continue organising the Grand Prize Draw.

6. To Appoint an Honorary Independent Examiner

Proposed by RR, seconded by JL, all in favour, Richard Baxter was elected Honorary Independent Examiner for 2025.

7. Any Other Business

a. Comments on Festival 2024

Patrick Pascall said that the Mikado had been Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society's most successful event in terms of seats sold. He confirmed that Festival publicity was beneficial.

Lynn Short confirmed that Bitesize Drama had a successful event over two weekends but expect to revert to one weekend in 2025 - mainly because of clashes with sporting events. Several attendees had come because of the brochure.

Lee Kings said Sevenoaks Art Club had good attendance at both weekends. They already have permission from STC for 2025.

Tom Smith said that the 8 walks were successful, and the brochure was good. Some were a bit long for beginners so they may pick shorter ones for 2025. He had some issues entering events on to the website.

Kay Thorne reported ticket sales for the Grand Prize Draw were good particularly at the free events at the Vine. Some were not aware of the Festival!

John Levett explained that we ran Festival in 2024 in response to requests from local groups such as Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society who felt that the support from Festival was important. Support and advice from Andrew Lilley was very helpful.

b. Discussion re 2025 and future years

We are committed to holding a Festival in 2025 starting with Festival Fair Day on Saturday 21 June, ending on Sunday 6 July with the Festival Finale.

Sevenoaks Philharmonic are hiring Stag for Vaughan William's Sea Symphony combining with Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra who will perform Lark Rising. On Saturday 28 June.

Sevenoaks Society will also stage an event in the Plaza Suite

Bitesize Drama plan to perform over one weekend but only have a small number of members. They hope to confirm in January.

Lee Kings confirmed Saturday 28 June and 5 July on the Vine Railings. 2026 is their 125 anniversary.

Tim Smith has a meeting planned in the New Year to put together a programme.

Kay Thorne will run the Grand Prize Draw again (a cuddly toy is ready!). She will contact Barbara Reade to check her availability. RR will contact Micallef to see if they will support again in 2025. RR confirmed that we have availability at The SPACE in Sevenoaks School. We hope to bring back Liz Grand in The Second Best Bed to the Sackville Theatre.

John Levett advised that STC have agreed that JL will programme the three Sundays on Vine Bandstand. They have also agreed to holding Colourscape on Vine Gardens. He is approaching Nina Conti. Other possible professional events include the BBC Big Band and the Pasadena Roof Orchestra. Stag is fully booked so won't have any Festival events except for the SPS and the puppets in the Bar (both booked). JL will stage his own event in the Stag Bar.

It is hoped that the brochure will be out by the Easter Weekend.

JL to confirm final date for entries with Andrew Lilley. **(Action: JL)**. If the date changes, RR will inform potential participants. **(Action: RR)**.

c. Other

PP & LS thanked the small committee for what they do.

The meeting closed at 20:22