

Dance Experience and Annual General Meeting

On Saturday 12th January we held our Dance Experience day, followed by the first Annual General Meeting.

Turnout at the Dance Experience was excellent with both some new faces and some regular dancers trying their hands (and feet!) at different classes. Combined with some recent advertising, we now have many new faces in the classes, which is wonderful.

So a big welcome to everyone that new to Woking Dance Space, and could those that are "old hands" at this dancing lark please extend your own welcome to first timers when you see them in class.

The AGM however was poorly attended by all but trustees and teachers (but huge

thanks to the 4 other people who made the effort). This is a shame as it was a chance to find out more about where *your* money goes and what plans we have for *your* studio.

We have included a brief overview of the discussions in this newsletter, and one request for help. If you have anything to offer, whether suggestions or time, please let one of the trustees know. Remember WDS is non-profit making, and only survives through the unpaid efforts of volunteers.

The Agenda for the meeting covered

1. Financial overview
2. Bruton Knowles situation
3. Election of Officers
4. Any other Business



*Dance experience day
Saturday 16th January*

Left: Street Jazz Class

*Below: Ballet
demonstration*



Dates for you diary:

- *End of term 28th
March*
- *New term starts
8th April*
- *Show rehearsal
Sunday 21st April
10am to 1pm*
- *Show rehearsal
Sunday 28th April
6pm to 9pm*
- *Show rehearsal at
Rhoda McGaw
Friday 3rd May
5pm onwards*
- *The Show !!!
Friday 3rd May
8pm*

Please check the dates of the show rehearsals. The afternoon of Friday 3rd (the day of the show) is the ONLY opportunity to rehearse in the theatre so please plan to attend.

Teachers, please make sure Lynn has all information about your piece for the show.

Dance isn't something that can be explained in words; it has to be danced.

Paige Arden

Election of Officers

Many people have been committing time, and indeed money, to keep the studio a great place to dance and meet socially.

Particular thanks over the year should go to Carol Sands for maintenance of the studio, Vanessa Bhemah and Catherine Ferris (Kate) for marketing and materials, Gen Howgate and her husband for video production and of course all the teachers who go beyond the call of duty to contribute time and effort after classes and during special events.

This year we are trying to share the work more evenly, and allow people to volunteer to do things on a renewable annual basis.

The resulting election of officers is as follows (for a description of the roles please look at the previous news-letter):

Finance Officer Pauline Barnes (re-elected)

Marketing Officer Tina Morcom

Communications and Information Officer Catherine Ferris

Studio Manager Carol Sands (re-elected) with support from Beth

Exams Officer Lynne Goodbeare

Events Manager Lynne Goodbeare and Gretchen Fox-Keifer

Costume Manager Gill Barnes

Bookings/subscription Officer *This role is available. We need someone who can take bookings on the phone, maintain a diary (preferably electronically), receive email bookings from the website and maintain a database of students and hirers of the studio.*

Financial overview

How many people realize how much we pay for the studio? Well its nearly £500 per month, irrespective of whether we run classes or not (such as during holidays). However thanks to some sterling marketing efforts and good classes the studio is now in a secure financial position

(subject to the rent review mentioned below). As a result we have been able to give teachers a modest increase – their first in 2 years! Special thanks must go to Pauline our Treasurer who pays the bills, sorts out the invoices and pays the teachers among many other tasks.

Bruton Knowles

Tina Morcom outlined the history of the dispute with our landlords and pointed out that what they were asking would lead ultimately to a rent of £1,000 – which is clearly untenable. Despite efforts on our part it has dragged on for over a year so we have now raised it to the Vice Chairman of SCC, Sheila Gruselle. Both she and the

local Borough Councilor (James Palmer) are supportive of us but we have yet to see any positive action.

(Subsequent to the meeting we have been contacted by the Surveyor in charge of estates strategy, but again no decision appears to be forthcoming)

Renovations

The renovations account is used for all the money we raise for improvements to the studio, and is not used for operating costs. Until the Bruton Knowles dispute is resolved we have decided not to spend money on the heating or ceiling as there is a chance we may lose it. However we are thinking about having a bit of a redecorate this summer. So we need volunteers to help with a work-party.

Equally the floor is due to be re-laid, but we are all out of floor fairies- so you've guessed it, volunteers please! If you're willing and able, let the Studio Manager know.

Any suggestions about what to do with the hangings on the ceiling? Should we replace them, clean them, take them down or not bother?