

AGM MINUTES Wednesday 23rd February 2022

Zoom at 7.00pm

In the meeting: Linda Terry (Chair), Maurice Crichton (Minutes), David Denbigh (Zoom Master), Chris Jackson, Sue Harris, Martin and Elizabeth Denbigh, Bernard Lyne, Ruth Cozens, Margaret O'Donnell, Adrian Smythies (in Alabama), Tony Froud, Leslie Senden (in Minnesota), Phil Turner (Treasurer), Janice Barnes-Newton and David Harrison, Margaret Scott, Diana Wyatt, Harold Mozley, Anna Briggs, Angela Wheatcroft, Simon Tompsett, Stewart Hildred, Susan Saunders, Mary Callan (Hon Zoom Consultant), Colin Lea (by phone), Tom Straszewski*, Ann Deller* (Master of the Cordwainers) (26 members, quorum is 10 members).

* non-members

1. Welcome. Linda Terry gave us all a warm welcome.
2. Apologies for absence. These were noted from: Myrna Michell, Marie Taylor, Nick Jones, Janet Sharpe, Felicia McCormick, Wilma Edwards, Ged Murray, Nick Ansell, Sarah Lowes, John Saunders via various media.
3. Details of Proxy Voting. It was noted that Marie Taylor had appointed Linda as her proxy.
4. Approval of Minutes. **The minutes of the AGM on 2 March 2021 were approved** (Proposed: Anna Briggs, Seconded: Sue Harris.)
5. Chair's report.

The Trustees' Annual Report for the year to 5 April 2021 was circulated ahead of the meeting. Linda highlighted these points:

The Trust did well during the first year of the pandemic!

Our objectives as set out in our Constitution remain the same: we were active in the promotion of the Trust and of the Mystery Plays; we streamlined the website (grateful thanks to Stewart Hildred and James Eaglesfield for their work on this); David Denbigh set up and launched our YouTube channel and set about increasing our social media presence on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter (Note to all: if you haven't subscribed to those channels please do!). Links:

<https://www.instagram.com/yorkmysteryplayssupporters/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ympst.co.uk/>

<https://twitter.com/ympsupporters>

At Roger Wood's request, Linda gave a talk on the Mystery Plays by Zoom to the Rotary Club of York in November 2020.

Maurice Crichton as Lord Donkeyhead did another successful fundraising run at Corpus Christi round the streets which was particularly helpful as the pandemic meant the cancellation of our two days at St Crux. Thanks to everyone who sponsored him.

In a year in which there were no productions we did host some play readings in Dean's Park, we sponsored the York Radio Mystery Plays, and began talks with York Festival Trust and York Minster about staging an outdoor production of Easter material which bore fruit as A Resurrection for York in July 2021.

Committee members Ged Murray and Colin Lea have stepped down since our last AGM. Our grateful thanks to them both for their work as Trustees.

Looking ahead:

This November the Trust will be 10 years old. We want to think about how we can celebrate that milestone.

Our financial position is strong. We can fund our wagon play The Flood in June and A Nativity for York 2022 in December. Paul Toy has been appointed to direct our wagon play and Terry Ram has been retained to direct a Nativity this December.

Our networks are continuing to develop: we are building strong relationships at both universities, the Minster, York Festival Trust, the Mystery Plays archive at NCEM, Make It York and City of York Council. As far as another big production of the plays goes, it's not on anyone's agenda at the moment. We won't lose sight of it.

Linda acknowledged three people we have lost this past year from the Mystery Plays family: Roger Farrington a tremendous performer for the Mystery Plays and much missed, Lee Maloney (Linda fondly remembered his red motorbike from 2000 Mysteries) and Claire Robinson, a founding member of YMPST and its first Secretary. We raised a toast to these three. Rest in Peace.

Linda extended her sincere thanks and tribute to her fellow Trustees and also to our members. Thank you for sticking with us and supporting us through a disrupted time.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The YMPST accounts to 5 April 2021 were circulated to the membership ahead of the meeting.

Phil Turner reported that it was a quiet year financially. We didn't spend much. We didn't do much to generate income. Total income just less than £5,000 and of that £2,000 was a grant received for the Resurrection which we didn't use in the accounting year in question. Other sources of income were membership subscriptions, and Lord Donkeyhead's sponsored run. We spent £2,000, half of which was our donation to York Theatre Royal to sponsor one of their York Radio Mystery Plays. Other than that, we spent money on insurance, membership of Make It York and our Zoom subscription. We ended the 2020-21 financial year in a strong position financially and remain in a strong position. The money is there for our wagon play and for a Nativity this year.

The accounts for 2020-2021 were adopted. (Proposed: Bernard Lyne, Seconded: Tony Froud.)

Phil thanked Bernard Lyne for examining the accounts as he has done year on year. He has volunteered to keep going for one more year. **Bernard appointed as independent examiner of our accounts for 2021-22.** (Proposed: Simon Tompsett, Seconded: Ruth Cozens.)

6. Committee elections.

Janice Barnes-Newton who was co-opted to the Committee in March 2020, stood for formal election. She has the full support of the Committee. **Janice unanimously elected.**

Two of the charity's trustees retire by rotation in accordance with Clause 13 of our Constitution. Maurice Crichton and Anna Briggs (both first elected at our AGM in February 2019). Both have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. They have the full support of the Committee. **Maurice and Anna unanimously re-elected.**

The full committee of 8 is now therefore: Linda Terry (Chair, in her second term), Phil Turner (Treasurer, Term 2), Simon Tompsett (Term 2), Gary Bateson (Term 2), Maurice Crichton (Secretary, Term 2), Anna Briggs (Term 2), David Denbigh (Term 1), Janice Barnes-Newton (Term 1).

All: your feedback on having an online meeting or in person is requested.

That concluded the formal business of the meeting.

Tom Straszewski (York Festival Trust's Artistic Director for the event) spoke about the Wagon Plays 2022. <https://youtu.be/OGF8qLICmaw>

The difficulties getting wagons rolling for 2022 obviously include Covid, but also the availability of public spaces in the city for the wagons. The Minster are revamping their precinct and are unable to accommodate the plays. Some of the older longstanding supporters of the plays are wanting to step away after many years of service.

The plans for this June will encourage audiences to look at York heritage and its future with fresh eyes. The theme is sustainability: reduce, re-use, recycle. Filling holes in a text, revamping a wagon, sourcing materials for a production that are upcycled. Thinking about how to dispose of and re-use the materials for each production.

But also: what can be sustained for the next round of the cycle in 2026 what skills and knowledge can be passed on?

The event will use 4 sites: St Helen's Square, St Sampson's Square and Kings Manor plus one more. We will also be returning to the Shambles on two weekday evenings with a professional actor linking the chosen plays.

The total number of plays has been reduced to a more manageable 8, one for each guild. This will allow for a longer run time of individual plays.

The line-up is: The Creation by Guild of Building; The Fall of Adam and Eve by the Freemen and Vale of York Academy; The Flood by The Cordwainers and us; The Three Kings by St Luke's Church; The Last Supper by the Merchant Taylors and Lords of Misrule; The Crucifixion by the Butchers and Riding Lights Acting Up Company; the Last Judgement by the Merchant Adventurers. One still to be confirmed.

Strasz is working on The Mary Plays at All Saints North Street for performance at the end of March. More on that in due course.

Ann Deller, Master of the Company of Cordwainers, YMPST's partner guild for the forthcoming wagon plays. <https://youtu.be/HqV3ad5zWMA>

The Cordwainers are delighted to be partnering us. The Company will support the show up to a maximum of £500. They can probably do some basic sewing if needed. They would love it if some of the costumes could incorporate leather to reference the Guild's medieval trade (shoemaking). Ann's husband has offered his leather coat for upcycling! Ann has still to meet Richard Hampton our Pageant Wagon Master and our recently appointed director, Paul Toy.

The Cordwainers are very confident in us producing their best ever wagon play!

Margaret Scott reminded us all that Eve wore a one piece white leather costume in 1951. Harold Mozley said cast members in 2000 made their own shoes by sewing two pieces of leather into a pointed shoe.

The Clerk and Chamberlain of the Cordwainers are going to look in their cupboard at Bedern Hall to see if there is anything there that is of use.

Paul Toy, newly appointed directors of The Flood

Paul Toy was on stage in *Woman in Mind* at The Theatre Royal Studio so David Denbigh shared a video interview with Paul he had recorded earlier in the week. Special thanks to Mary Callan for enabling David to share the sound of the video! Here is the link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKU8guUla-g&list=PLljanJoaMBEdsgYN7UzCe3RILTnQZdDIW>

Linda feels we are in good hands for the production with all of Paul Toy's experience. Roll on 2022!

All feedback on the meeting welcome. Contact:

membership@ympst.co.uk

Dates for your 2022 diary

St Crux: Fri 22 April, Sat 10 September

Corpus Christi: 16 June

Wagon Plays: Sunday 19 & 26 June (plus Wed 22 and Thurs 23 June)