

# **WIMBORNE COMMUNITY THEATRE**

## **AGM**

**THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2008 AT ALLENDALE HOUSE, WIMBORNE**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

#### **Review of WCT activities in 2007**

At the AGM last year, we shortlisted potential venues for a new production and then made visits to assess various sites. We decided we would mount a large scale project in Wimborne town centre in 2009. The Inside Out festival performance in September inspired us to think boldly and creatively about this potential project. The steering group has met several times to plan the 2009 project.

Meanwhile, it was important to identify a project that would help continue the work of the group. Thus, we were pleased when Alan Wilson asked us to help celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EDHT with a new production of Enquire Within, which formed the main focus of the year and was staged at Allendale House in December 2007. We engaged a new Director and Designer and overall it went extremely well.

The audience identified many strengths:

- "it brought alive the history of the house"
- "informative, entertaining, atmospheric, imaginative"
- "atmospheric setting, great use of venue, interesting content"
- "it held my attention continuously"

The audience also reported some less satisfactory aspects:

- "too much standing, poor visibility of some scenes"
- "a little more rehearsal would make for a more fluid production"

Our own evaluation highlighted strengths and weaknesses:

- "teamwork and working with a great group of people"
- "how it all came together in the end (as ever)!"
- "the opportunity to take time out of a busy life and become totally focussed on something different and creative"
- "would have preferred more direction and probably was under-rehearsed"

The year has also witnessed other activities. WCT again contributed actively to Wimborne's River Pageant last summer with a boat representing the coming of the railway to Wimborne. This also served to publicise the production at Allendale House later in the year. We also performed a short scene from Enquire Within and songs from previous productions at Holt Wood Methodist Church's summer fete which were well received.

Peter Aston has done a sterling job in helping us to record some songs from previous productions. We started to produce a CD of these songs at several singing workshops held in 2007. It is hoped we can complete this work later

in 2008, although this is dependent on us recruiting more singers or possibly working with a local choir.

Very recently, a number of members sorted out, photographed and catalogued the considerable wardrobe of WCT. We are grateful to Ken Horitz who agreed to store these in her loft.

WCT has also been active in promoting the group and its activities. There have been several articles in local newspapers and parish magazines and the website has also moved forward and now holds a good deal of information, photos and archive material. The 2 banners have had some good use at rehearsals, performances and local events.

The group continues to be indebted to the invaluable help and support of EDHT.

Jeff Hart  
Chair WCT  
02.03.2008