

NEWS Letter Nov 2019

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Welcome to new and returning members.

Dear All

It is that time of year when so many of us are preparing artistically and musically for the festivities to come before the end of the year. I would like to wish all members, both existing and new, all the very best for Christmas and the New year, and hope to see many of you – both in performance and personally. The next meeting promises to be interesting and helpful to us all in these increasingly social media times and I hope to see many of you to help the discussion along.

Best wishes

Hilary

TAPA meetings are open to anyone; you will be most welcome as we enjoy hearing from as many members as possible. We want to know what you want from TAPA – come tell us!

There is a dedicated TAPA page on Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/TAPATaunton/> One recent post reached 1,010 people and had 716 engagements, so you are missing another potential pool of contacts if you don't post your events and news items there. Please encourage all your members to 'like' and follow the TAPA page.

Tips for using the TAPA website:

- Remember to post your events on the website as soon as your dates are set. This may be over a year in advance but you can go back and fill in more information as it takes shape.
- An early posting doesn't guarantee that other groups will avoid your date, but if you see that a clash develops you can change your date if you know about it in time – so

post as early as possible! The purpose of the calendar is to bring clashes to light, and it is always helpful if member groups are prepared to be flexible.

· Top tip for planning your next season: Take your laptop or phone to your planning meeting and bring up the TAPA calendar so you can see when other groups have scheduled events – as you are discussing yours with your committees. · There is a useful guide to posting events online: https://tapa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/TAPA_Members_Event_Guidance_2019.pdf

· Remember that posters need to be in Jpeg or Png format. PDF doesn't work! There is a link in the guidance notes for converting from PDF to Jpeg.

· Please enter your group name before your event when filling in the form, eg., Taunton Choral Society – Spring Concert. This ensures that your group is identified on the calendar. Please enter your group name in the drop down menu as well. This enables the website to collate all your events.

Our association with LAMP magazine: Lionel Ward who produces the LAMP magazine uses our TAPA site for listing members' events in his

magazine – another reason to make sure your posts are as complete and up to date as possible.

Finally: Our next meeting is on 22 January 2020 at 2 Kilkenny Avenue, Taunton at 7:30 pm and social media will be on the agenda.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TAUNTON ASSOCIATION OF PERFORMING ARTS HELD AT 2 KILKENNY AVENUE, TAUNTON ON 2nd October 2019 AT 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Somerset Opera, Chair Hilary Marshall

Taunton Thespians Mark Dawson

Taunton Choral Society Jill Paul

Web Lynn Carter

Taunton Amateur Operatic Society Debbie Carlson

In Ecclesia Anton Matthews

Wayfarers Abbey Newman

Music on the Quantocks Frank Challenger

Secretary TAPA Andrew Garton

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2. The treasurer presented his report.

· All but 5 subscriptions have been received

- There have been two items of expenditure both concerned with the web
- There are currently 24 full members and 8 associate members
- Lynn Carter will write to In Ecclesia (Rosie) regarding their membership
- The treasurer's report was proposed and adopted

3. The chairman presented her report

4. Election of Officers

- Hilary Marshall – Chairman
- Mark Dawson – Treasurer
- Andrew Garton – Secretary
- Lynn Carte – web controller
- Anton Matthews - web
- Chris Skelmersdale – Minute Secretary

Open Meeting Discussion

- Mark Dawson should be recorded on the last minutes
- Audiences for Somerset Opera, Amici and Taunton Choral for their summer productions were down. Suggested venues to be considered include the Macmillan Theatre, Bridgwater
- An automatic link from the website to Facebook should be considered
- Digital marketing – Bethan Turner from TAOS is to be invited to the next meeting to give us ideas. We have monies that we could spend on Facebook to make it more efficient and appropriate for our use.
- We need to recruit younger audiences. There has been a drop off in young peoples choices to take music and arts courses. There was a RSA meeting at Bridgwater/Taunton College looking at the problems of recruitment to courses so now there is renewed thinking about recruitment to arts courses and events and discussions around the arts. There is no investment in primary school instruments.
- Thespians reported about a problem of continuity of performance space eg uncertainty about the Brewhouse. Also the Brewhouse programmes are again putting amateur performances at the back.
- Date of next meeting 2nd October 2019 AT 7.30 p.m.

TAPA Chairman's report 2019

We have had a year of much discussion about the way ahead and the position of TAPA in the community. Things have changed since it was originally set up to provide the anti-clash diary and the society in which we operate has changed technologically and socially. We are also an aging population and in this uncertain political and economic world the arts in its widest context is not a high priority for as

many people as it used to be. We do not just want to be a talking meeting with no outcomes.

Attendance at meetings has been disappointing bearing in mind the numbers of members that we have. As we know TAPA is a diffuse body of members with changing memberships and different aims and objectives. We have decided during the year that the strength of TAPA is being there for everyone and to that end all meetings will now be open to anyone from the groups who wish to come. It is also important to ensure that the website continues and flourishes and is useful to the community that we hope to serve. Consequently considerable work has been done on the website and members lists of names and contacts. Newsletters will be produced and hopefully members will feel that TAPA is more relevant to the groups involved.

We have spent some of this year reporting on the state of the arts in Taunton and the drive by Arts Taunton to work towards improving the economic input through the arts into the cultural life of Taunton. Change of times of meetings has meant I have been unable to go. But obviously the work is ongoing and the newsletters give some sort of resume of actions.

I would like to thank Lynn Carter, Mark Dawson and Andrew Garton for their hard work during the year to maintain the website, ensure the bills are paid and work on the up to date list of members and contacts. I know how much work they have done and we are all extremely grateful.

I hope that the change of direction that we have discussed and are now implementing will be fruitful and supportive to all concerned in the forthcoming year.