

ASHWELL THEATRE CLUB

CONSTITUTION

Title

1. The Society shall be called "The Ashwell Theatre Club".

Objectives

2. The objectives of the Society shall be to further the dramatic (and/or operatic) arts and to educate the public in the appreciation of these arts by the performance of plays, opera, musicals, play readings, discussions or any social event of whatsoever kind which the General Committee of the Society or the Society pursuant to an Extraordinary General Meeting may decide upon and to do all such things as are conducive to these ends.
3. The funds of the Society shall be devoted solely to the stated objectives and no payment, either directly or indirectly, shall be made to any member for services to the Society or for other than legitimate expenses incurred in its work. In the event of dissolution, the balance of the funds of the Society, after payment of all debts, shall be devoted to charitable objectives similar to those of the Society or other charitable purposes approved by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise.

Membership

4. There shall be three classes of membership.
 - (a) **Full Members** to pay annual subscription to be proposed and agreed at the AGM. This subscription entitles them to participate in all of the Society's activities and to one vote at all General Meetings.
 - (b) **Junior Members over the age of 10 years** being in full-time education up to and including the age of 18 at the subscription due date shall pay an annual subscription as proposed and agreed at the AGM which entitles them to participate in all the Society's activities and to one vote at all General Meetings.
 - (c) **Honorary Members.** An Honorary Member may be elected every other year based on their significant contribution and outstanding service to Ashwell Theatre Club over a period of time. The choice of Honorary Member will be solely at the discretion of the General Committee and will be presented to that person at the AGM.

Applications for membership shall be made in writing to the Membership Secretary. Admission shall be solely at the discretion of the General Committee.

Note: Anyone who volunteers to assist on the night of a production i.e., bar staff, make-up, should not need to become a member. Anyone assisting prior to and including the night of a production i.e., prompt, set building, props etc should become members unless otherwise agreed by the General Committee.

Patrons

5. Patrons shall pay an annual donation of not less than £100. This entitles them to purchase advance tickets for allocated seats, have their name printed in programmes and receive invitations to social events. It does not entitle them to participate in auditions, play readings and productions in any capacity or to vote at General Meetings.

Officers and General Committee

6. The management of the Society shall be in the hands of a General Committee of members consisting of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (all acting ex-officio) and not less than 4 but not more than 8 other members, and a total of 11.
7. The officers and other committee members shall retire annually but shall be eligible to offer themselves for re-election.
8. Meetings of the General Committee shall be held when necessary but at least twice a year.
9. The General Committee has the power to carry out the general management of the Society involving all such things as are in furtherance, directly or indirectly, of the stated objectives of the Society, to delegate any of its powers to Sub-Committees appointed by itself, to co-opt onto the General Committee or onto any Sub-Committee any member of the Society who is not already a member of the General Committee, and to decide the programme of the Society's productions and other activities.
10. If a committee member misses 3 consecutive meetings, without apology, their position will be reviewed.

Subscriptions

11. Subscriptions shall be due on 1 October each year and persons whose subscriptions remain unpaid at January of the following year will be deemed no longer to be members. The rate of subscription can be altered only at the Annual General Meeting.
12. First time members i.e., people who have never joined before, may join at any time throughout the year. The amount of the fee will be at the discretion of the General Committee and subject to the length of time left prior to following October.

Annual General Meeting

13. The Annual General Meeting shall be held between 1 September and 30 November each year to transact the following business:
 - (a) To receive the Chairman's Report on the year's activities and the Statement of Accounts from the Treasurer for the previous year ending 30 June.
 - (b) To elect the officers and members of the General Committee for the ensuing year.
 - (c) To consider any other business of which due notice has been given

The Meeting shall be called by the Secretary, in writing (soft or hard copy as decided by the General Committee), at least 14 clear days before the appointed date. Every member shall be sent notice of the meeting. A copy of the Statement of Accounts will be circulated at the meeting. 10 members shall form a quorum at the Annual General Meeting.

Extraordinary General Meetings

14. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time at the insistence of not less than 10 members or at the request of the General Committee within 30 days of the request being received, in writing (soft or hard copy), by the Secretary. Notice convening an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be sent to all members not less than 10 days before the appointed date. 10 members shall form a quorum at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Alterations to the Constitution

- 15. Notice, in writing, to the Secretary must be received by 1 August before the Annual General Meeting, or 30 days before an Extraordinary General Meeting signed by the proposer and seconder of any proposed alterations. Notice of alterations must be in a notice convening the meeting.

Complaints

- 16. Any member wishing to bring a complaint or grievance before the General Committee shall notify the Secretary, in writing (hard or soft copy), who shall then bring it to the notice of the General Committee not later than the next Committee Meeting.

Copies of the Constitution & Rules

- 17. The Constitution & Rules shall be published on the Society’s website. A hard copy will be supplied to any member upon request.

Termination of the Society

- 18. The Society shall not be terminated except by resolution of an Extraordinary General Meeting, passed by at least three quarters of the members present, convened in accordance with item 14 above for the purpose.

SignedDiane Jacoutot.....

Chairman

DatedOctober 2022.....