

# LTG Rep's report for 2007-2008

*By Jean Firth*

One of the first questions asked in the open forum following the AGM of the Guild held at Questors Theatre Ealing in April was one I usually start with each time I speak at our own AGM.:

“What do we get of value for being a member of the LTG?”

Some of the suggested benefits were:

- Grey Papers (12 in all now) ranging from using children in productions, to dealing with weapons (or are they the same?) and all sorts of legal matters that we as a business/company or charity have to understand and abide by.
- Advice on how to overcome problems in producing certain plays
- Interest in learning about other theatres
- Script service
- Sharing problems ‘we are not on our own’.
- Expertise within Guild where we lack it in our theatre
- A website linking us to 100 other amateur theatres who manage their own premises and company
- A forum for the exchanges of ideas, regionally, nationally and internationally. (Incidentally if anyone is in Lisbon there is a standing invitation to visit a member theatre there. Info in the yearbook)
- A quarterly newsletter that anyone may contribute to, full of interesting articles and a yearbook full of information.
- Agreement with Samuel French, Nick Hern that once dates for a performance has been agreed in writing the rights will not be withdrawn

For more please refer to the yearbook or to the aims and objectives of the LTG found on the website.

So how have I represented us since last May apart from ensuring our report for the yearbook?

## **Midland Region AGM, Market Harborough, Sept 21st 2007**

This was a really interesting meeting the theme of which, after the business of the AGM, was “Getting the most out of your theatre” which basically was a presentation on how the Harborough Theatre had set about raising its profile, publicising itself and finding new members by making use of its assets, mainly ‘the space’ as a venue for other events. The issues are how to strive for a balance between the desire to stage shows which is why we are all here and the need to bear the costs of running a theatre building. I have been able to pass on notes from this meeting to our Board.

This coming year's AGM will be held at Ledbury on October 18th. Anyone wants to go with me?

I have also passed on invitations for anyone to attend the Health and Safety seminars being held over the country for youth members to attend the training weekend at the Globe Theatre. This has become an annual event and attracts youngsters from all over the country. Maybe we can be represented one year.

Notice has just come of a new writers seminar to be held at Bolton little Theatre on 228th September.

### **National Conference and AGM, Questors Theatre, Ealing, 25-27 April**

This was an excellent weekend the theme of which was the gap between amateur and professional theatre and in the region of 65-70 theatres were represented. The new Patron Sir Ian McKellan was there throughout the weekend, discussing issues, mixing and mingling and joined in workshops. Fortunately he was partnered with the next person to me in a practical workshop 'Best Drama Games'! Near escape!!

There were other celebrity actors one of my favourites at present Amanda Redman (ex actor at Questors and now a patron but, disappointingly, unescorted by the three 'old investigating officers she usually hangs about with.

The other workshops I attended were 'Getting bums on seats', 'Planning for the Future' and 'Theatre beyond Language'. I shall pass some key points of interest to the Board.

Lots of style and class at this conference. Jazz band, Cava and canapés to satisfy the senses and a good ambitious production of a challenging play 'Festen'. Lots of lively entertainment and theatre talk.

There must be someone out there who would relish participating next year at Crescent Birmingham (no hotel bills!!!) March 20-22. I'm waiting to hear from you!