

Chesil Theatre Development Appeal – the success story so far ...

1999

- Winchester Dramatic Society first approach St John's Winchester Charity, owners of the adjacent land, with regard to a joint redevelopment project
- £28,897 in the bank

2000

- Joint architects and quantity surveyors appointed
- Informal discussions with WCC Planning Department
- Feasibility studies carried out
- £33,515 in the bank

2002

- At an EGM members agree to pursue the development project in principle and make funds available for professional fees
- £47,516 in the bank

2003

- Consultations held with City of Winchester Trust, Diocesan Advisory Committee, Chesil Street neighbours and others – all welcome the scheme
- £53,730 in the bank.

2004

- Chesil Theatre Fundraising Appeal launched to media under the heading *Building a Dream* with magical characters from Shakespeare's *Dream* from our youth theatre to help tell the story
- Appeal Committee formed and brochures distributed to members
- Planning application lodged with Winchester City Council
- The Gannett Foundation fund an infra-red hearing system for the auditorium
- *Christmas Chronicles* by Lisbeth Rake - an evening of nostalgia and readings at Theatre Royal Winchester, in conjunction with *Hampshire Chronicle*
- Gala Film Night and reception – *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*
- Fundraising stall in St Maurice's Covert
- Civic Night and raffle held during *She Stoops to Conquer* at the Theatre Royal
- Website appeal pages completed including Amazon link to create commission
- Impact assessment regarding flood plain requested
- £44,786 in the bank

2005

- Revised planning application submitted (including recently purchased strip of land by St John's) and approved, subject to conditions
- Gala Film Night and reception in The Great Hall – *Pride and Prejudice*, celebrity guests include Matthew McFadyen and Brenda Blethyn
- Chesil car boot sale in cattle market car park
- Bridge and afternoon tea event with Nina Connolly
- Auction of Promises with Isabelle Haigh and Jo Ashwell – pledges range from a meal for four, to a foot massage, to ironing a basket of laundry, to a ride in a combine harvester
- *Claustrophobia* at Chesil Theatre presented as a benefit by Platform 4, Winchester's professional touring company
- Environmental impact assessment requested
- Initial discussions on land purchase commenced
- "Friends of the Chesil" donation scheme launched
- £63,750 in the bank.

2006

- Successful grant application made to The Mercers' Company for assistance with auditorium refurbishment
- Raffle during performances of *Hay Fever* at Theatre Royal
- Film Gala and reception – *Pirates of the Caribbean II*. Delighted to see Chesil youth member Luke de Woolfson's name in the credits!
- Wine tasting evening and food quiz – cheers!
- *Shiver* presented at Chesil Theatre by Platform 4, again as a benefit
- At the annual AGM members authorise the purchase of land needed for the new building
- Winchester Open Weekend introduces new members of the public to our organisation
- £86,634 in the bank

2007

- Documents confirming grant of planning permission finally received
- The Skinners' Company Lady Neville Charity grant funds for refurbishing the lighting rig
- Bid made to The Big Lottery Community Buildings Programme, but like 75% of applications was not successful
- Gala Film Night and reception – *Elizabeth the Golden Years*. "Extras" in doublet and hose include Chesil members
- Jane Harding makes her walled garden available for a garden party with entertainment
- Ecological surveys continue
- Ruby Party celebrating 40 years at the Chesil Theatre boosts funds
- £112,707 in the bank

2008

- Family of the late Fred Sharples, a long standing member, make donations - including Fred's cellar used as prizes for "Fred with us in Spirit" raffle
- Paul Byrne (Tom Williams' son-in-law) completes charity cycle ride to Paris in aid of the Chesil
- *The Moon is Down* reading held at the Chesil
- Sales of *The History of St Peter*, written by Chesil member Richard Green top £1,252
- First of the Chesil Outreach projects, *A Play in a Day* arranged with All Saints Primary School, Highcliffe
- Gala Night and raffle held at Theatre Royal during performances of *Charlie's Aunt*
- Mark Ponsford performs *Wilde Night Out* at the Chesil Theatre
- Unsuccessful bid to Heritage Lottery Fund
- Archaeological surveys progress, but are far from reaching a conclusion
- A great day when contracts are exchanged on the 999-year lease for the land
- Grant application for secondary glazing to auditorium unsuccessful
- Savills and Fine and Country Estate Agents help with advertising and sponsorship
- £152,264 in the bank

2009

- Mark Ponsford performs *The Music Hall – Undated!*, an amazing one-man show
- Chesil clothing goes on sale – T-shirts, polo shirts plus hoodies for Youth Theatre members
- Chesil Outreach visited St Swithun Wells School in Chandlers Ford
- £30,000 grant approved by Winchester City Council
- Donations come from sales of wine at our neighbouring Chesil Rectory Restaurant
- Playreading *An Englishman Abroad* and a homegrown "Shakespeare Fest", celebrating the bard's birthday
- Playwright Amy Rosenthal joins Dame Mary Fagan JP Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire and Alan Titchmarsh as Patrons of the Appeal ...
- Ten years after founding the scheme the Chesil's reserves are over £200,000, after expenditure of £64,000 on costs/fees for the project and on improvements to the theatre facilities

- Thanks go to Peter Barker Memorial Fund for their donation
- Peter Liddiard sets up a project working group to gain feedback from members and prepare a phased building and improvement programme
- “Development Project - The Way Forward” (a review of the first ten years and forward to the next ten) presented to Chesil members
- Initial grant application made to Garfield Weston Foundation
- Dutton Gregory solicitors sponsor publicity items
- £202,782 in the bank

2010

- Promises auction raises another £1,500
- Plans announced for Phase 1 of the scheme – a multi-purpose light-filled foyer and rehearsal space, extended dressing room and storage space with improved facilities for the disabled. Only another £250,000 needed to start building!
- £13,000 received by way of Gift Aid over past two years
- A further £30,000 (Town Forum and District) grant confirmed from Winchester City Council
- President’s Night held at Theatre Royal during performance of *Pygmalion* – a way of thanking our councillors, sponsors, advertisers and many other supporters
- £238,682 in the bank

2011

- Successful talks completed with St John’s resulting in even better terms for the land purchase
- Music hall entertainment performed in Littleton with donation of £600
- New planning application prepared, necessitated by change of plans by St John’s Winchester Charity and their acquisition of property in Colebrook Street
- New donations from members, Friends and Youth Theatre parents totalled £10,462 with standing order donations at £1,763 per month
- Final £30,000 (Town Forum and District) grant confirmed from Winchester City Council. This makes a total from WCC of £90,000
- £317,847 in the bank plus £90,000 pledged

2012

- Revised planning application submitted, including plans to reinstate the porch. Extension of time to original scheme approved. Revised application (for Chesil Theatre only) welcomed by councillors but rejected for amendments
- Fundraising events include Richard Green’s evening of *Magic Mystery and Mastermind*, Cecily O’Neill’s *American Evening* by Playgirls and Partners plus two rehearsed play readings
- £384,030 in the bank plus £90,000 pledged

2013

- Liaison with Alfred Homes, property developers and preferred purchasers, and with their architects, Huw Thomas Associates continue. Positive pre-application meeting with Planning Department.
- Grant from Hampshire County Council as part of Cllr Phryn Dickens devolved budget on her retirement as a councillor
- Fashion Show with costume presentation and celebrity auction. Items donated include a script from Dame Judi Dench and tie from Sir Ian McKellen. Capacity audience of nearly 100
- Preparation for re-submission of planning application
- £443,407 in the bank plus £90,000 pledged

2014

- Planning consent granted (latest Chesil Theatre scheme only)
- Total project costs estimated at £990,000 excluding VAT but including an allowance of £190,000 for inflation and contingencies.
- 1999 to 2014 estimated £98,000 spent on improvements to the theatre: video links, lighting and sound equipment, security cameras, air conditioning
- £505,922 in the bank plus £90,000 pledged.

2015

- Fundraising includes: *Drinking with Dorothy* performances, recital by Nicky Pink and *10x10 – Take 10 More* play readings.
- St John's (Winchester) Charity announce a delay and thorough review of their facilities in view of the increasing age of their residents. This includes plans to build new almshouses on their section of the site rather than sell to Alfred Homes and requires redesign of our plans.
- *Bond is Back* theme evening quiz (Paul Riddell) and auction (Charlie Seligman) raises over £4,000.
- £573,037 in the bank plus £90,000 pledged.

2016

- WDS/Chesil Theatre appoints architects Pick Everard to work with St John's architects (Rockcliffe Williams). Pre-application meetings held regarding St John's revised plans.
- Hot Rabbit perform a Beatles Night, raising £1,000.
- £622,661 in the bank plus £90,000 pledged.

2017

- Grant application to Theatres Trust unsuccessful in view of heavy demand.
- Discussions continue with St John's, their architects and WCC planning department.
- Anonymous donation received to enable secondary glazing to auditorium.
- St John's decide against a joint planning application and look to submitting their plans in November. As a result WDS prepares a separate application to coincide in timing. Pro Vision planning consultants instructed and discussions held with Theatres Trust planning advisor.
- Pre-app process well advanced
- Public consultation carried out with favourable feedback
- £661,734 in the bank plus £90,000 pledged. Total net assets £736,163