

1000 grant for next summer's Cathedral production

Arts Council support for medieval plays

Penwood

Mystery Plays has secured financial support from Arts Council England for production in 2013.

A £1,000 grant was awarded under the lottery Grants for the Arts scheme.

It is bittersweet for the charity, which is following the demise of Chester Festivals this month.

Chairman of Chester Mystery Plays Jo Sykes says she is, of course, very dismayed at the news regarding the liquidation of Chester Festivals, not least because its demise left us with £3,500 that we can ill afford. We are grateful however, that Arts Council England has shown confidence in the Chester Mystery Plays by awarding the full amount applied for of

£1,000. The plays will be performed in the nave of Chester Cathedral from June 26-July 13 next year and the production is expected to involve a community cast of up to 500 people.

A public reading of the new script of the plays, by Stephanie Dale, will take place on October 12 at the Essar Chester Literature Festival.

Director Peter Leslie Wild and musical director Matt Baker will also hold casting, singing and rehearsal workshops in October and November.

Jo added: "Now is the chance to get involved in this wonderful adventure.

With the experience of the Chester Mystery Plays, a 12-year-old schoolgirl - it's been an amazing year, and I honestly believe that next year's could be our best ever!"

Openings and auditions for those wanting to act in the 2013 production of Chester Mystery Plays will be held on October 28 and November 3-4 at Chester Cathedral. Workshops for singers and musicians will be held on October 21. For full details, including information on how to book an audition time, email us at info@chestermysteryplays.com.

Tickets for the 2013 production of Chester Mystery Plays are on sale at www.chestermysteryplays.com. Phone 01244 500959.



FULL GRANT: A scene from *Noah* in the 2008 production of the Chester Mystery Plays.