



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held On-Line 23-25 March 2020

Attendance:

Allen Appleby, Rosemary Appleby, Bob Bishop, Jan Bishop, Pip Collings, Alex Cousins, Peter Crowther, Pam Hudgell, Becky Ilderton, Liz James, Angela Jones, Gareth Jones, Beryl Lawson, Mark Manson, Neil McAdam, Cheryl Milne, Nigel Piercey, Becca Strong, Hilary Tucker, Neill Wilkinson, Charmaine Wood.

Item 1. Chair's Report on behalf of Executive Committee for 2019-20

The Chair's report was not available – but for the observant reader a short video (an 'easter egg') was included. There is a separate report, which you can find [here](#), on plays read since the last AGM.

Comments?

Great Easter Egg!

This is the treasurer's report (*Early questionnaires only!*)

Item 2. Treasurer's Report on behalf of Executive Committee for 2019-20

You can view the Treasurer's general report [here](#), and a specific report for the pantomime [here](#).

Comments?

It's good to see a positive balance when we have had only one production.

No comments. Happy with the report.

Well done Gareth!

Finances look in good shape and well administered again. Interesting to note that not only were ticket sales up on last year (have we any clue why e.g. anything different done this year to last?); but even with that, bar sales were down, albeit slightly (any issues to be highlighted or just down to purchase preferencing?). And the Rehearsal Facilities costs were lower...where we might have expected costs to rise....or were fewer rehearsals held?

Looking good. Should we not be donating excess fund to SHADDO rather than the scout group. I'm not clear about the link to scouts. If we wanted to support a youth group, wouldn't the Berkshire & Henley Dance group be more appropriate.

Item 3. Election of Committee Members for 2020-21

The following have indicated themselves willing to serve on the SHADDO Executive Committee for 2020-21.

Ellie Classey, Simon Classey, Pam Hudgell, Liz James, Angela Jones, Gareth Jones, Henry Loud, Cheryl Milne, Hilary Tucker, Neill Wilkinson

There being no more than 12 candidates it is proposed that all are accepted to the 2020-21 Executive Committee.

FOR 21, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 0. The Proposal is carried.

Item 4. Election of Officers for 2020-21

The following have indicated their willingness to be Officers of SHADDO:

Chair	- Cheryl Milne;	Vice-Chair	- Henry Loud
Secretary	- Hilary Tucker;	Treasurer	- Gareth Jones

There being no other nominees it is proposed that all are accepted to these roles.

FOR 21, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 0. The Proposal is carried.

Item 5. Election of Auditor for 2020-21

It is proposed that Neil McAdam continues as our Auditor for 2020-21.

FOR 20, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 1. The Proposal is carried.

Item 6. Fees

At last year's AGM it was decided to no longer levy a Membership Fee but instead to have a Performance Fee, to be paid by all those who have an on-stage role in a production. It is proposed that this is unchanged for 2020-21.

FOR 21, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 0. The Proposal is carried.

Item 7. Amendments to the Constitution

As a result of last year's fee structure decision, and assuming agreement to item 6 above, it was necessary to revise our Constitution. It was proposed that the current Constitution be revised as shown [here](#), with changes relating to the fee structure (Clauses 4 to 9) and other minor updates (Clauses 14, 17 and 26).

FOR 21, AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 0. The Proposal is carried.

Item 8. Aladdin Pantomime Review

This year's SHADDO pantomime, Aladdin had good attendance and was well received. A detailed report can be found [here](#). There is, however, always room for improvement. We would be grateful if you would give us your feedback (good or bad) to help us with future performances.

Watching from the green room it appeared the audience enjoyed this pantomime as much as any other.

Excellent enjoyable ..great fun!

I agree with the panto report that it ended up a great show but I do think there were some positive lessons to be learned and it's disappointing that the report didn't identify any. 'Lessons learned' is a positive not a negative.

In my view we would benefit from starting earlier (this is not new) and have a firmer position on learning lines and giving direction. We need to encourage the existing performers and also add to the pool of actors. Maybe more roles with less involvement next time. We were very lucky that Pip stepped in this year at the last minute - maybe have informal options ready for such occasions again The music was great this year.

As F.O.H. I was very proud when so many came up to me at the end of the show to say what a wonderful time they had and many comments about how professional it was with acting, set and props. We should all be proud of SHADDO. Thank you to the committee for all your hard work.

I really enjoyed the panto this year, and I really enjoyed doing the costumes as well it was great fun. :)

As usual, we pulled it off! Liked the use of mid-curtain, worked well for the magic carpet. Need to "tinker" with backdrop/cyc brightness.

I passed my comments to Cheryl in response to her email and have nothing further to add, apart from that I was very touched by receiving a personal 'thank you' card from her and Henry.

I think the report covers everything.

My feedback has already been provided but looking at the relatively benign feedback provided to date, there does not seem to be any / many takeaway points to make any material changes to how things are being done.

Can people learn lines earlier so that the directors can direct them and actors will know what props and costume things work and what they need to improve. Leaving everything till last minute is too stressful for everyone.

No report. The recording was a life saver for me and a great way to learn lines. A bit more detailed feedback at the end of each scene from the directors would have been helpful. Time was very tight this year, it might have been better to have rehearsals closer to Christmas and sooner after the new year.

Item 9. Major Production

There has been some discussion on what type of major event to aim for this year (on the assumption that virus restrictions are removed by this Autumn). There are two aspects in particular to consider:

1. whether to aim for a production before Christmas (on a much less ambitious production basis than for a normal panto) or after Christmas
2. what sort of event to stage - e.g. a traditional panto, an alternative major production such as 'A Christmas Carol' or something else.

Production Timing

	Strongly against	Against	For	Strongly For
Pre-Christmas	1	2	10	1
Post-Christmas		1	9	5

Comment?

I believe the January "lull" in general social activities allows useful rehearsal time. pre-Christmas might be too much of a rush?

We need a change.

We need to get going on this now if it is before Xmas

As long as we had the time to rehearse (*– voted For Pre Xmas*)

If the restrictions are lifted in time to enable "proper" rehearsals to be held in the Autumn, I think it would be preferable to do a Pantomime after Christmas. It is difficult to plan at the moment but some of preparatory work could be done in advance, earlier than was done for Aladdin, by way of script selection and role synopsis so that members could consider and indicate potential interest before a formal launch event in the Autumn. If the preferred option was for a Pantomime it might be good to do some script readings and maybe Skype read-throughs to see whether there is a good script to take forward. If the restrictions are lifted by the summer (unknown obviously) it might also be possible to do a modest production in, say, November, along the lines of an evening with a one-act play, simple supper and/or variety acts. If the restrictions are not lifted in time to enable a "quality" Panto to be rehearsed I would suggest that SHADDO puts on a less ambitious type of production after Christmas in the "Panto slot".

Anything pre-Christmas would have to be before Sept/Oct i.e. before Panto rehearsals start. Post Christmas could be after Easter, giving time to recover from Panto and start learning lines.

I remember how much of my summer was spent learning the lines for Scrooge! (*voted – Strongly Against Pre Xmas*)

The post-Xmas panto (or some other production) is a major tonic for those (audience and actors/technicians alike) who find that January and February are dead miserable. If we go for a non-panto production, I should still like it to be a musical of some sort.

Subject to the timing of when gatherings will be permitted....and more importantly the notice given to when this will happen....people will need some cheering up....hopefully this will be before Xmas. Performers can rehearse while isolated, even using technology such as video WhatsApp, Skype or Zoom to do with others.

Can we have a year away from a panto this year

Apart from it being the most fantastic panto in the land. I hear folk love to come along and be cheered up in Dreary January. Harder to find time pre Christmas for production/ lines! Amazingly, you all pull it off.

Production Type

	Strongly against	Against	For	Strongly For
Pantomime	1	3	10	6
Play(s)	1		11	3
Variety Performance			10	3
Other (see comment)		1	4	1

Comment?

We need a change from a panto. A Christmas themed play would be good or an evening done just for fun

A family musical without a dame.

Panto always goes well and very popular with public but for a change we could possibly do Christmas Carol again

Dinner/Murder Mystery, single act plays

I think all of the above are good ideas. One-act plays or shorter plays are easier to organise and rehearse but a full length play with a good stage set, and maybe music within it, would be popular I would think. Productions such as short plays also combine well with other items such as variety. Plays would lend well to a themed evening e.g. if there was a play about a murder in a French vineyard, this could be combined with a complementary cheese and wine supper or if there was a play set in a village pub (there could be one!) it could be a "pub theme evening" with ploughman's supper, booze and a pub quiz. I think a barn dance would be a great idea as it really involves everybody (of all ages) in an active way.

Has anyone been in touch with Louise Light's replacement at Lashbrook regarding the performing of an abbreviated panto for the 'clients'. If she is against (or in any case), I'd be happy to speak to Louise at Henley Manor if people are in favour.

I think that a Panto in the current climate is too ambitious...needs lots of collaboration on many different fronts, which is difficult at the best of times! So a Variety type event....that could include a One Act Play, or sketches plus music, poetry, dance, magic...get a choir or band along etc. This was very successful when done last time and to my mind would hit the spot after all this relative isolation, as well as being easier to rehearse / organise, with the stage management able to be done relatively last minute?

I would always help out but production falls on the same actors. So I don't feel I can comment.

Item 10. Other Activities / Events

Do you have any thoughts on activities we should pursue while social restrictions are in place - for example Play Readings via video links?

Are there any other activities or events you would like to see organised, social restrictions permitting, such as theatre visits, BBQs etc? Which ones would you be willing to help organise?

I like the idea of using video links. Whether we could make it happen or not I don't know but it's worth a try.

We are all pretty short on time but I think some musical events with food could be good. Maybe a Burns dance. And look at other reasons to celebrate occasions. Wonder if Charmaine would run a props/model making workshop?

Meeting socially is really a good way of keeping together but at this time of isolation perhaps something for the committee to think about.

V&A has an interesting Theatre section and is free to get to, when we're back to normal. Happy to put that forwards again.

I think play readings via Skype or similar would be a nice idea. This could also be used for Panto script readings (see above). However, not all members will want to do this, and some might not have the necessary technology. It might also be good to put some activities on the website such as links to plays to read (with a short synopsis) or perhaps interactive quizzes (e.g. on this sort of form) with a broadly theatrical theme - maybe one for Juniors and one for adult members? There could be modest prizes or SHADDO medals for the winners! A summer or Autumn BBQ (depending on restrictions) would be good too.

We could try and support the Kenton a bit more - i.e. book to go to Saturday, Sunday, Monday which is having to be rescheduled to October. It is directed by our Italian teacher who lives in Goring. (the play is by an Italian but I can't remember his name! sorry.)

I like the idea of play readings via video.

When things get back to normal theatre visits are good, and I am happy to organise a BBQ probably that would be next year?

Safari suppers are also fun and those who live outside the village could team up with people in walking distance of each other if there is any interest in that.

I would be happy to organise a Theatre Visit

I'm not sure that remote play-readings would work. These evenings are social events as well as theatrical and the usual time distribution is: reading the play 55%; nattering 45% (approx). A SHADDO BBQ would be a splendid summer event to look forward to.

I enjoyed the 'night-club' style of our 'Out of the SHADDOs' production. Any chance of doing something similar again?

a live video play-reading e.g. via Skype or Zoom....need to be able to source suitable plays somehow if Libraries are shut?

- suggesting on-line Panto scripts to review or do an on-line read through of as per the Ben Crocker suggestion

- individuals / couples recording a scene / sketch / poetry or musical performance and uploading to SHADDO YouTube....can use their phones, with guidance provided

- essentially anything which provides some entertainment e.g. Gareth & myself are looking to get some of the previous Pantos on-line

Happy to help with the technical side of arranging such things.

Happy to help out with any event. Maybe an open-air film night here.

It would be good to give a virtual panto reading a go. Ben Crocker has been very kind offering these for free and it would be a good way to try out a selection for future consideration. Even if we don't use them I think we should respond and thank him. I am happy to organise Christmas party, Theatre visit. I'd love to have a BBQ this year, but I am too far out of Shiplake and parking is a bit difficult at my house to hold one at my home. Cheryl & Phil have both offered.

Item 11. General

We welcome any other views or queries you have on any of the above items or anything else you feel relevant.

I don't think we've been as successful as we'd have liked in getting younger people actively involved in SHADDO, nor have we found a way of communicating effectively. I'm not sure what we do about this and would welcome input from others - particularly from those we're trying to attract

Well done whoever put this together!!

Has the Committee settled on a form of communication between themselves, as well as the general members....as there was mention last year of using Social Media more to attract the younger audience, with WhatsApp used initially....but more recently email has been seen to dominate? Anyone with the necessary skills and drive available to take control of this? Also, once such methods have been defined, are people in general prepared to commit to actually using these ie no use having the capability if people don't actually make use of them?

2021 will be 20 years since that first panto at Shiplake College. Would be good to have a few events to celebrate and maybe we could redo some of the comedy plays we have put on before e.g. Gosforth's Fete and Little Grimley

Item 12. Next Meeting

Thank you to all who responded.

For this 'online' meeting we didn't have the facility for two-way discussion, so at its next meeting (to be arranged) the new Committee will review all the comments made at this AGM and respond to members as appropriate.

Stay safe!