



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 27th February at Rosemary Appleby's house

ACTION

Apologies: Liz James, Eryl Price-Davies, Hilary Tucker, Ashley Wright

Present: Harriet Thomas (Chair), Pip Collings, Gareth Jones, Rosemary Appleby, Angela Cadman, Simon Classey, Phil Johnson, Neill Wilkinson

In attendance: Neil McAdam

2. Pantomime – Beauty and the Beast

Reflections & Feedback

There was a general consensus that the Panto had gone well and a lot of positive audience feedback had been received. Things that were considered to have worked particularly well included:

- a) Having a good script,
- b) Having a good rehearsal schedule,
- c) Having junior members in a separate scene,
- d) Learning the music early,
- e) Setting the date for late January – meant there was more time for rehearsal and we were more prepared than in previous years,
- f) Discount pricing for Thursday seemed to work. There was good audience on Thursday and although Friday's attendance was lower than usual overall ticket sales seemed to have increased.

Points to take forward

The general experience with the Panto suggested a number of areas for improvement / to consider for the future:

- a) Get a stable script in place earlier,
- b) Investigate problems with hearing backing tracks,
- c) Consider early training session, involving rehearsal DVD, to make cast aware of aspects such as voice projection,
- d) Make greater use of Memorial Hall for rehearsals and get stage extension constructed much earlier (before Xmas?)
- e) better / earlier coordination between direction/technical teams
- f) earlier rehearsal of stage management elements

Financial report / Issues

Gareth presented a financial report and budget comparison. The overall situation (adjusted for late expenses submission) is that the Panto made a net profit of £1,295. This was considerably better than the budget, which had assumed little more than breakeven. This is the result on the one hand of strong ticket sales and a slight increase in bar profits. On the other, costs had

been significantly lower than expected, particularly in the areas of scenery and set, equipment hire (helped by our sound equipment supplier making no charge this year) and costume.

In recent years we have spent far less on production items such as set and costume by making reuse of what we already have. This contrasts with our early approach where each Pantomime contributed significantly to our stock, e.g. with 1 or 2 new backdrops each year.

An outline proposal to get or build trolleys to allow vertical storage of set items had been circulated by Mark. It was agreed that Mark and Phil should pursue this, within a budget of £1000.

Mark, Phil

Panto cast and Crew Meal

Phil is arranging this. The date is 14th March. Cost is £20 per head. Individuals are responsible for their own drinks bills. SHADDO will underwrite the service charge.

Attendance to be finalised. Pip to send out a list of names; all to advise Phil asap of any errors / omissions.

Pip, All

Other Panto items

Neil has produced an excellent DVD of the Panto. Copies to be offered to SHADDO members at £5 for DVDs and £8 for blu-ray. This covers production costs and makes a contribution to SHADDO funds.

Neil to provide details to Pip, for forwarding to all members.

Neil, Pip

Harriett asked all members to review the Book of the Panto and add anything gained from this year's experience. Pip had produced some props lists and will put them on Dropbox. Gareth to put Book of the Panto on Dropbox.

Pip, Gareth

3. AGM 2014

The financial accounts should be ready in early March, allowing for an AGM in March or early April as required in the Constitution. In order to get as good an attendance by members as possible Pip will e-mail out three dates (24Mar, 8 Apr and 16 Apr) to see what date suits best.

Pip

The preferred venue is the Shoulder of Mutton, Playhatch. A budget of £50 was agreed (last year - £40). Pip to arrange.

Pip

Format should be the same as last year.

A couple of constitutional issues were raised which Pip was to clarify. They related to whether the Constitution allowed people from outside the area to be full members (it does so long as they have "some connection with the area") and when notice of the AGM has to be given (21 days in advance).

Pip

It was agreed that we should proactively seek new people to join the committee. In this context Gareth will contact Richard and Fran Bodenham and all members should consider who should be encouraged to join the committee and contact them.

Gareth, All

4. Shaddo/Shiplake websites

Pip raised the question of where we should put information regarding SHADDO – our website or the new Shiplake Village site. Gareth noted that he had limited public access to the website to a single page as he felt the website was now antiquated and didn't reflect well on us. He was keen to revamp it but felt it needed two heads rather than one to get a good design together. It was suggested that Gareth asked Cath Wilkinson to help.

The Shiplake Village website is a good way to advertise our activities. We can post

articles, add events to the village calendar and stimulate discussion via the forum.

There are three display boards in Memorial Hall – we should have more. Simon and Neil to pursue.

Simon, Neil

5. Programme for 2014

Play readings

The play reading for Monday has changed. Pip to provide an update to Shiplake Villages website.

Pip

Wilfred Owen event

Pip is keen for someone else to take this forward and will ask Eryl if he will lead

Pip (Eryl)

Under Milk Wood

Becky Ilderton has offered to direct Under Milk Wood. This could be good for us to do as it is composed of a number of different ‘stories’. Before getting indications of interest from members we should ask Becky to provide a bit more detail.

Pip (Becky)

Play / comedy evening

We have a choice of two Little Grimley plays we could bring forward, but we would need an alternative production to make up an evening’s entertainment. We have looked at various possibilities before. Harriet to send Pip previously suggested plays.

Harriet

Murder Mysteries

We have two in our portfolio: one we have taken to production recently and one we have scripted and cast but not yet started on. We need to find interested parties to host an evening, for which we can provide the entertainment. Neil to prepare a note for the village website

Neil

Event Schedule

We have the makings of a good programme for the year, against which we can solicit support at the AGM. Pip to draft and circulate an outline schedule.

Pip

Social events

The Safari Supper had worked well and Pip was prepared to arrange another. If we wanted to do something different Phil offered to host a BBQ. Target date – June.

Pip/ Phil

Panto 2015

Pip would be interested in directing the next panto and is reviewing scripts. She was loudly applauded. Rosemary provided previous panto assessments. Pip will put a shortlist of scripts on Dropbox for all to review.

Pip

6. AOB

Storage

We need to do something about costume storage. There are limitations on what storage space can be made available in the tower and commercial storage was likely to be prohibitively expensive. The possibility of combining our wardrobe with those of other groups should be investigated. Simon volunteered to talk to Shiplake College and Sonning Common amdram group.

Simon

We should also talk to HAODS, who have costumes for hire.

In the meantime we will acquire more storage cases.

Neil

British Legion WWI lunch

The British Legion are organising a lunch on 16 August and have invited SHADDO to do some readings. This parallels the requirement for the Wilfred Owen event on

14th August and we could perhaps use the same material for both. Rosemary to check with Mark what material we have and whether British Legion would object to our using the same content for both events.

Rosemary

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will follow the AGM

The meeting closed with thanks to Rosemary for hosting.