



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 27 October 2021 (via Zoom)

Present:

Gareth Jones, Angela Jones, Pam Hudgell, Cheryl Milne (Chair), Hilary Tucker, Ashley Wright, Neill Wilkinson, Liz James

Apologies:

Simon Classey

1. Play Readings

Pam reported that the last play reading at the Baskerville on 5 October had been a success, with good attendance and with two amusing plays being read.

Pam advised that the next play reading would take place on Tuesday 9 November at the Baskerville. An email had already been sent out to members, containing information about the date and plays, and there were seven people planning to attend so far.

**Action: Pam (and Rosemary Appleby)**

2. Memorial Garden

Gareth had circulated a note to the committee about this item in advance of the meeting.

The maintenance and issues affecting the garden were discussed by the committee and the following agreed:

(a) That Gareth would put additional supports in place for the pyrocanthuses to allow growth upwards either side of the relevant Memorial Hall windows (in the North wall) (this had been cleared with the Hall in principle). Gareth reported that he had already pruned the pyrocanthuses so that they were now below window level, but that it was a shame to prune them so hard when they were growing so well, hence the desirability of adding the supports.

**Action: Gareth**

(b) That, as the border hedge had contracted box blight, it would be examined by Ashley and Sharon to assess whether it could be saved and restored or whether it would have to be replaced.

**Action: Ashley (and Sharon Irons)**

(c) That a rota was needed for maintenance of the garden going forward (e.g. routine weeding, watering and trimming). Hilary agreed to draw up the rota and circulate it to the committee. She would also ask Marie Davidson (who had been helping with the garden) whether she would be happy to be added to the rota. The idea was that each person on the rota would commit to taking a set month.

**Action: Hilary (and then committee via rota)**

3. Christmas Events

The committee discussed whether to plan any events in addition to the Winter Production.

The following points were decided:

(a) Festive Walking Event in Shiplake and Binfield Heath

Pam and Liz agreed to jointly organise an event similar to the Panto Walk held in 2020. This would take a slightly wider theme than Pantomimes, possibly involving musicals or possibly an even wider theme to allow participants to use their own imagination around the theme of a "Winter Wonderland". The event would be slightly "lower key" than last year, with people making their own exhibits if they wanted to join in. Liz said that she would discuss publicity for Binfield Heath through Marina Hart who compiles the Binfield Heath newsletter. Angela and Gareth agreed to provide supporting material from last year's walk.

**Action: Liz and Pam**

(b) Festive online "Advent Calendar"

It was agreed that this would be "parked" at the moment as we now had two events planned for the festive season (and people were maybe getting rather fed up of "Zoom" type events). This online event could be planned at relatively short notice if circumstances changed.

4. Winter Production - January 2022

The following points were agreed by the committee:

(a) Final format of production

- This will be in two halves (as agreed at previous committee meetings) – one half will consist of variety type acts (music, magic etc) and the other half will consist of a mini-Pantomime, which will be "Sleeping Beauty". The final order of events will be decided at a later stage, following production meetings and an assessment of practical production issues.
- Cheryl reported that she and Ashley, as co-producers, had been working on the planning of this event.

(b) Producers and Directors

- Cheryl and Ashley are the co-producers of the Winter Production.
- The mini-Panto will be co-directed by Becky Idlerton and Barbara Salisbury.

(c) Performances

There will be three performances:

- Friday evening – 28 January 2022
- Saturday matinee – 29 January 2022
- Saturday evening – 29 January 2022

(d) Ticket Prices

Ticket prices will be:

- £10.00 for Friday and Saturday evening performances
- £8.00 for the matinee performance

(e) Next steps

- Cheryl and Ashley reported that the next step was to cast the mini-Panto and “read throughs” would be held, for all those interested in taking part, in the Shiplake Church Rooms on the evenings of Monday 1 November and Wednesday 3 November.
- Cheryl and Ashley would be sending out a mailing list message to all members to advise them about the “read throughs” and the format of the production in more general terms.
- They would then proceed with the planning of the other half (variety acts).
- It was agreed that Production Meetings would be held on an ongoing basis and that the initial one would be on Wednesday 3 November after the first Panto read-through.

**Action: Cheryl and Ashley**

5. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next committee meeting would take place in about a month’s time but that the exact date would be set in due course.

The meeting closed with thanks to all from Cheryl for attending.