



**Minutes of the SHADDO committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016  
at 5 Brocks Way, Shiplake.**

**Present**

Liz James (LJ), Gareth Jones (GJ), Peter Crowther (PSC), Neill Wilkinson (NW), Pip Collings (PC), Henry Loud (HL), Simon Classey (SC), Cheryl Milne (CM) and Rosemary Appleby (RA)

**Apologies**

Phil Johnson and Becky Ilderton

**1 Matters arising from the previous meeting**

Signatures were required on the amended constitution.

**2 BBQ**

The date decided on for the BBQ was 10<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm. As Phil was unable to host it on that date, Liz kindly said that they would host it. It would take the same format as last year with guests bringing salads, puddings, etc. There would be a charge of £10 for adults and £5 for youngsters to cover the cost of the meat and drinks. Pip would co-ordinate it and send out details to all members.

**PC**

**3 Junior Drama Group**

There was uncertainty about whether this would go ahead this year. Pip had had no contact with Becky and it was reported that Tina was leaving the area. As Tina had done the choreography with the youngsters last year, she would be a great miss. Neill suggested a dancing teacher from Harpsden, he would make enquiries and pass the details to Pip.

**NW/PC**

**4. Pantomime**

There were quite a few obstacles to be overcome with regards to putting on the pantomime:

- Pip would rather not direct as she was going to be doing a course in Sussex, but if it came to the crunch, she would do it. Rosemary said she was willing to help.
- Stalwarts, Terry and Liz, will be away from the beginning of December right through until the end of January.
- Tina is leaving the area.

There was a lot of discussion on the subject with one suggestion from Gareth that perhaps we could have a break this year or consider an alternative less demanding, production. Pip was loath to do that as she thought that there was a great team still available. She would put out a notice to members asking for a volunteer to direct or co-direct. Neil Mc Adam's name was suggested as a possibility. Gareth would arrange for the notice to also go on the village website.

**PC/GJ**

Pip had a Ben Crocker script of Aladdin which Peter had read and thoroughly recommended. It was decided to go ahead.



With regards to set building etc., it was thought that Phil and Neill could coordinate and Liz was asked to ask Terry to make a list of all that had to be done. **LJ**

There were going to be problems with a rehearsal venue as the Church Room had evening bookings. It was thought the Scout Hut was a possibility.

Pip asked Cheryl if she thought that Kirsty would design a poster.

Pip would co-ordinate things **PC**

### **5 Approval to pay deposit for initial hall bookings for the Panto**

Gareth was given the go ahead to do this. **GJ**

### **6 Approval to pay 50% of cost of Zarges ladder for the hall**

The Memorial hall are to buy a Zarges ladder to replace the tower which the pantomime uses for the sound and lighting. As it will be of enormous use to SHADDO, it was felt that they could contribute half the cost (~£150). This was approved. **GJ**

### **AOB**

Peter reported on the play readings which have been very successful. There have been 5 this year and it had been thought that one of them 'Johnny Don't Jump' could be staged as a one act play, maybe sometime in May and maybe together with another entertainment. The readings take place in the Baskerville on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the month and it was thought that the September one could be a read through of the pantomime script. A list of the lays read during 2015 and 2016 is below.

Peter was thanked for finding the scripts and generally running the event.

There had been some confusion about whether Luke had been paid for delivering pantomime leaflets. Gareth confirmed that he had.

The meeting closed at 9pm and Rosemary was thanked for hosting it.

### **Attached:**

Summary of plays read 2015 – 2016



## Summary of Plays Read 2015 - 2016

### **150302 DINING IN THE RANKS**

**14 characters**

On Monday, 2nd March, 7:30pm at the Baskerville Arms, we shall be play-reading "Dinner in the Ranks".

This is the very funny tale of a ghastly buffet party at the Fitz-Ranks' prior to a New Year's Eve ball, and the unexpected ending. There are many characters (one of whom wears a gorilla-suit), so everyone will get a chance to read a part. Added to which, I've obtained authorisation from the playwright, Kit Arnold, for our play-reading, so the chances of a police raid that night will be significantly reduced.

### **150413 THE DOG IT WAS THAT DIED**

**12 characters**

This month's play which we'll be reading on Monday 13th April, 7:30pm at The Baskerville is a drama on the subject of espionage, double bluff, intrigue, infidelity, donkeys and a very dead dog. All are most welcome.

### **150511 NUDES IN THE WAINING LIGHT**

**7 characters**

May's play-reading is 'Nudes in Waning Light', a comedy (award-winning, but none the worse for that) by George Brockhill concerning the shenanigans following the unexpectedly early return, after a week or two away, of a chap's bossy wife during whose absence he and his chum enjoyed life to the full, not necessarily as alone as they jolly well should have been.

There are a good many characters, so on Monday, 11th May come along to the Baskerville Arms in Shiplake at 7:30 pm and have some fun!

### **150601 WHODIDIT**

**15 characters**

"Be afraid, very afraid. A country house murder mystery nonsense set in the 1920s. Three strapping young men and two loopy (but pretty) girls take on a cast of 17 eccentric characters: a wheelchair bound transvestite, Meals the cook, an invisible professor, Bonecrusher (madman or practical joker?), ditsy Mrs Darling and a daft inspector to name but a few. Minimal props and zero scenery won't distract the audience from the action or the clues. With twists and turns, some horrible murders and plenty of jokes, we'll keep you guessing. An irresistible treat for all ages."

*Précis borrowed from the Edinburgh Fringe website – I couldn't find my own synopsis.*

### **150706 COLD SALMON**

**10 characters**

Now, the play that we'll be reading this month is 'Cold Salmon' by John Bowen. It is set in a graveyard and concerns the lengths to which a chap, deceased these last thirty years and getting a bit bored with things as they are, will go to be together again with his wife, a regular visitor to his grave.

There are a good number of characters so we'll need lots of you there for your last chance to participate in these highly enjoyable literary evenings.

**160307 HARLEQUINADE****15 characters**

A week from today! The first play-reading of 2016: Monday, 7th March, 7:30pm at the Baskerville. The play is 'Harlequinade' by Terence Rattigan, a farce set around the 'past-first-flush-of-youth' actor-manager of a touring Shakespearean company of players and his wife who attempt to play the lead rôles in the latest production, Romeo & Juliet. The actor-manager has a past, and pigeons come home to roost, distracting somewhat from the all-important job of getting through the rehearsal.

**160418 MAURICE (DANCING)****16 characters**

While the AGM might indeed be tomorrow evening (13th April), the big SHADDO event of this month is of course the play-reading which will be taking place at 7:30pm pm on Monday, 18th April, also at the Baskerville.

The play is 'Maurice (Dancing)', a comedy by Michael Snelgrove. The Duke of Edinburgh is to visit a 6th form college by helicopter. The vice-principal, for whom this visit is the pinnacle of his hum-drum career, eagerly awaits his arrival. With such a team of competent and devoted staff and students behind him to ensure a smooth and successful event, what could possibly go wrong?

**160620 JOHNNY DON'T JUMP****8 characters**

"Johnny Don't Jump" by Alan Ogden is the play that we'll be reading at the Baskerville next Monday (20th) at 7:30pm.

It's a satirical comedy about a young man who's about to leap off a tall building, and the attempts by various people to persuade him (not necessarily convincingly) to climb back through the window.

I hope lots of you will be there, clustering around our specially-reserved table. With the panto to think about, this is the penultimate play-reading of 2016. Not only that, but next month's will be the last: strange but true.

**160516 ALBERT'S PLOT****8 characters**

Next Monday's play-reading is 'Albert's Plot' by Bob Hartwell. Set oop narth, it tells of the confrontation between Albert, an ex-coal miner, retired due to ill-health, shoulders groaning with chips, and the local council who want to evict him from his allotment in order that a road can be built in its place. His family, council big-wigs, an ambitious greenie politician and a clapped-out journalist all add their four-penn'orth to the mix. It's a serious yarn with first-rate dialogue as the protagonists attempt to outwit each other with minimal damage to their own causes.

**160718 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ME!****8 characters**

We shall be reading 'Happy Birthday Me' by Simon Williams. In a home for retired actors, a birthday is being celebrated. The birthday girl's ex-husband descends on the place, as does, independently, his present wife, a red-top journalist whom the ex-husband biffed the previous day during an interview, a kissogram, and an actress at the start of her career. With all that lot in the same room, home-truths start to emerge. It's a great comedy (although for one of the characters the ending's not so happy) with some very funny and well-written lines.