**SPRING GROVE FRINGE**

**Minutes**

**6 December 2023**

**Spring Grove, Kingston upon Thames**

**Present**: Sandy Gavshon ; Jayne Britten; Nigel Duffin; Scott Milligan; Jenny Robson; Helen Dawson

**Apologies**: Amanda Shaw; Daisy Jones

**Minutes**: The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

**Matters Arising**: London Assurance: Nigel was thanked for his direction and production but he reported that the production had been hard work and disappointing attendance on the Saturday. However, the audience very much enjoyed the play and were enthusiastic. The various possible reasons for lower audience numbers were discussed: lack of publicity; an unknown play, too many period pieces? It was agreed that future productions should be publicised better, with an A3 poster outside the Hall as a minimum. £40 had been collected as a contribution to the cheese and it was agreed that an email requesting £5 from all non-members partaking should be repeated for each event.

 **Sofa removal**: Jenny and other helpers were thanked for disposing of the sofa.

**Financial Report**: The Treasurer’s Report is attached. Jayne reported that since both the October offering and London Assurance had a lower take-up than hoped there is currently little funds available for charity donations. Jayne suggested that all donations are reviewed at the year end in order to be equitable.

**Forthcoming Productions**:

* **Panto**: Lynn Charlton, assisted by Val Boyle will direct Dick Whittington, scheduled for 8/9 February. Sandy has thanked Bethany for the script and offered her two complimentary tickets for any performance. The read-through is taking place on 6th December. The need to boost attendance by children was discussed, particularly for the matinee, and it was suggested that Lynn publicise the pantomime at St John’s School. A poster should be produced for local schools and the Notice Board.
* **May 17/18:** Providing Jenny is successfully through her surgery she and Janice will direct short plays/ pieces possibly from Michael Frayn’s Matchbox Theatre or similar.
* **October 2/3:** It was agreed that a successful format was some themed short play/ musical with a quiz. This requires further discussion and ideas. Nigel and Sandy will send over anything from the Covid readings which might be suitable.

**Any Other Business:**

Helen passed on a concern from Jo about the timing of supper at the shows. Jo feels it is too late for older audience members to eat. It was felt that it was not practical to eat at the start of a production as it would never get underway. It was agreed that the Friday shows should, whenever possible, start at 7.30pm and directors would be encouraged to break by 8.30pm.

Nigel reminded the Committee that we have one further bar licence available which could be used for a further film night. It was agreed that the best time for this would be a Wednesday in late May/ June as we are paying for the Hall anyway. Someone mentioned that Chris Brookes had an interest in films and might be approached.

Jenny and Helen discussed the high cost of keeping the garage and wondered whether the two sheds on site at the Hall might be better used. They will review the contents of the shed when the weather improves with a view to discarding some stuff and better managing what needs keeping.

Nigel said that long fabric strips are a cheap and easy way to dress the back of the stage but a standard length needs to be set. Sandy will re-hem one of the backdrops which is puckered.

Helen wondered whether more projection of backdrops is possible as the films are cheap but Nigel said that the costs of the necessary cameras was prohibitive.

Sandy suggested that a sub-Committee be formed to address how to increase membership and reach a wider audience. A flyer will be produced in the New Year advertising the delights of SGF and distributed in the local area. Social media will also be explored.

**Xmas party**: Jayne said the food was organised between her and Amanda. Sandy will bring “dessert” and prizes for the Oscars.

**Next Meeting;** to be decided.

The meeting ended at 8pm.