**SPRING GROVE FRINGE**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held at St John’s Parish Hall on 3rd November 2021**

**Present:** Sandy Gavshon (Chair), Jayne Britten (Treasurer), Nigel Duffin, Jenny Robson, Daisy Jones, Scott, Milligan,Tony Tresigne, Jonathan Rollason, Jacqui Rollason, Nigel Bellwood, Veronica Birley, Mark Springthorpe, Val Boyle, Roger Chown, Helen Dawson

**Apologies:**Amanda Shaw (Secretary), Jo Need, Sandie Khan, Keith Glenny, Karina Ramnarain, Adrian Treloar, Allan Lloyd

Sandy opened the meeting with a welcome to all. Despite a challenging year on many fronts the group remains strong and focussed and it is lovely to be together once again.

The production of “OUT!” in June was well received, profitable and, thanks to Jayne’s control of our finances, we were able to make a £500 donation to the Kingston Food Bank and another donation of £100 to the Pilgrim’s Hospice in memory of former member Pam Vaughan who has sadly passed away.

The quiz was a lot of fun, well received and Sandy expressed huge thanks to all concerned.  A very profitable bar meant we were able to give a donation of £300 to Kingston Hospital Charity in memory of Ross Jones, a much-missed member of the SGF who has sadly passed away very recently.

The Minutes of the last AGM were accepted nem con.

**Election of Officers**: Subsequent to the last AGM Sandy welcomed Scott to the Committee.

Sandy Gavshon,(Chair) Jayne Britten(Treasurer) and Amanda Shaw(Secretary) remain in their positions.  Carried nem con.

Roger Chown proposed and Val Boyle seconded the re-election of the current Committee Members. Carried nem con.

Roger Chown proposed and Jacqui Rollason seconded the re-election of the current Trustees.  Carried nem con.

**Treasurer’s Report:**See attachment.

Jayne Britten (Treasurer) distributed copies of the Report and briefly talked the contents through.  A new bank account has been opened with the Metro Bank in May 2021. Communication with Santander has proved to be extremely difficult and the Metro Bank offers a face to face service which will be much easier.  Santander will remain up and running, with the majority of funds being transferred to Metro, until the next Subscriptions are due in order for a smooth transition period. All standing orders for the payment of Subs will need to change and Jayne will make contact with individual members regarding this.

Gift Aid forms need to be completed if relevant, and again Jayne will contact members.  Gift Aid greatly aids our funds so a plea to sign up if appropriate was made!

Veronica told the meeting about a website called Amazon Smile that people might consider using.  It’s operated by Amazon and features the same products as the parent company at the same prices, the difference being that when you shop on Amazon Smile the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.05% of the cost of all eligible products to your chosen charity. Sandy thanked her for the suggestion.

Jayne highlighted the fact that we have made purchases of glasses and water jugs to reflect our support for a more sustainable planet and minimise our use of single use plastic. New tablecloths have also been purchased.

Jonathan Rollason gave thanks to Jayne for all her hard work on the Fringe’s behalf and he in turn was thanked for auditing the accounts.  We are very grateful to them both.

**Trustee’s Report:** See attachment.

Nigel Duffin distributed copies of the Report and briefly talked the contents through.  Well supported play readings on Zoom were carried out over the year.

Roger Chown raised a question regarding part of the content of the report where it stated that it has been agreed that the price of tickets is to increase to £25.  Roger said that he thought this was something that would normally have been discussed by all the members before a decision was made and wanted it noted that he was not happy at the increase. It was noted that the ticket price is generally decided by the Committee. Val Boyle and Helen Dawson also said they thought the price was high and Val said she thought that it could possibly put people off from buying tickets especially if they were not friends of the cast or crew.  The Spring Grove Fringe have a loyal following but Val pointed out that we want to encourage newcomers to our audience and they might not be able to afford this price. Nigel Bellwood disagreed with this viewpoint.

In further discussion Roger said he thought that each production should have its own expenditure and income assessment and the ticket price should reflect projected costs.   Nigel Duffin said the general consensus of the Committee was that the price increase reflected increased food costs and a 25% reduced capacity in the hall. He also pointed out that our cash reserves are quite low which results in lower donations to charity but that the subject is always open to discussion. Hall hire costs have increased and the additional rehearsal time is a factor. The Treasurer explained the need to make £700 profit from each production to cover just fixed costs.

The Chair suggested and it was agreed that the ticket price would be reviewed by the Committee for each production and the price would reflect the expected costs and audience capacity.

Sandy thanked Nigel for generating the Report and dealing with the Charity Commission issues in general.

**Forthcoming Productions:**

**Nov 26/27 2021, Falstaff:** Director - Nigel, The production is progressing with great enthusiasm, ticket sales are going quite well and production costs are low.

**Feb 2022, Toad of Toad Hall:**Director -Tony, rehearsals will start straight after Falstaff performance.  Roger is considering assisting.

**May 2022, Outside Edge:**Director- Janice

**One Summer Evening**: An evening for members watching videos of previous shows. Date and venue to be decided.

**Oct 2022, Best of Musicals:**Directors - Daisy and Amanda, an evening of musical highlights from past productions.

**Quiz:**Bethany has kindly offered to run a quiz at some point in the year.  Date to be discussed, depending on a time slot being available and whether we need to raise more money.

**AOB:**

Daisy has generously offered to host the Christmas Party on the 10th Dec, 8pm start.  Sandy will send a reminder email to all members. Food is £5 a head and please bring a bottle.  Oscars will figure hugely and Daisy expects GREAT THINGS from everybody as we’ve had so long to think about our performances!  Sandy thanked her on everyone’s behalf.

Roger asked us all to take a moment to reflect on the sad passing of Ross Jones and Pam Vaughan.  They both contributed so much to the Spring Grove Fringe over many years and they are greatly missed.

Daisy raised a heartfelt toast to “Absent Friends”.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm