



Staging Post

The newsletter of Pinhoe Pantomime Society

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Summer Holidays are great, but the best thing is that when they are all over, and you are faced with going back to school or work, you can look forward to a new pantomime. The first thing that may strike you about this newsletter is the new logo. Designed by Simon Court, this new logo has been agreed by the Committee and will be used on letterheads and promotional material. Thank you Simon for your hard work.

Juniors have not been idle during the holidays – under the guidance of Tracy Adams our younger members put on a performance of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and a great show it was. The audience thoroughly enjoyed it, and there is no doubt the cast had a whale of a time. Well done to Tracy and her team. Particular congratulations to Beth Adams who choreographed the show and rehearsed the cast. Blessed by fine weather the afternoon ended with a picnic in the park.

Emma Guerin arranged professional singing tuition for us. A very useful day was enjoyed by about twenty members. The tuition would have cost £15 each, but as a result of a presentation by several members, supported by our local councillor Ruth Smith, we were awarded a grant by the City Council to cover the costs. Thanks to Emma and all who took part in the presentation, which involved parading in costume in the City Centre.

Ian Roberts has undergone successful heart surgery in the Brompton Hospital, London, and is now home recuperating. We all wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him in full health again.

Older members will remember Ian's mother, Joan, who was Musical Director and Producer of some of our earliest pantomimes. Joan is very unwell, and is receiving support from hospice nurses at home, so please keep her and her family in your thoughts at this difficult time.

Spare a thought also for Brian, June Mayne's husband who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Time to get going on our next pantomime, *Aladdin*. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday 1st September at the URC. Juniors at 6.45 and adults at 7.30. A rehearsal schedule will be prepared, so please check when you are needed each week and turn up on time.

The cast has been extended to bring in some very young members – Dulcima Ball, Holly Court, Eve Pateman and Ruby Guerin. All have shown enthusiasm and talent, and we welcome them into the society.

Bill Beer has said he would like a year off from pantomime duty, so Jonathan Salter has agreed to join his father Dave in the band, and play drums. Jonathan has proved his worth in summer shows and is a welcome addition to the pantomime band.

Help is required in a number of ways to make sure *Aladdin* is a success:

1. We need a “propmaker” – someone with a bit of inventiveness and reasonably good at DIY.
2. Another pianist. – someone who can read all those funny black dots and make them into good music using piano or keyboard.
3. Wardrobe – Much more help is urgently needed in the wardrobe department. Particularly welcome would be someone who can design and cut costumes, but also valuable would be help from those who can undertake basic sewing.
4. Painting. – We need more people to join the merry group who slap paint around and magically create wonderful scenes from apparent chaos. Painting sessions are on Sundays at America Hall and there is room both for talented artists and willing workers who may think they have no artistic talent. First session will be Sunday 12th September. Future dates are 10 October, 31 October, 21 November and 12 December, so make a note in your diaries.

Despite the financial problems and cutbacks our subs remain unchanged. At £4 adults and £3 juniors our subs are exceptional value. Subs are now due, and Diane will be at rehearsals to collect from those who have not yet paid. Being a paid-up member is a condition of taking part in any performance.

What are we doing right, and where can things be improved? If you have any ideas, please speak to a member of the Committee. Any more social events – particularly if you are prepared to organise them.

Spacefillers required – this is your newsletter, and items are required to fill the page. Events you want publicising, items for sale or wanted, news of birthdays, weddings etc. We are much cheaper than the Express and Echo. Speak to Peter Mitcheson.

And finally I went to the doctor complaining of pain in my right ankle. He said it was just old age. I said “Don’t be silly – my left ankle is the same age, and isn’t painful”. But it was painful after he kicked me.