



Riverside Players AGM  
COMMITTEE REPORT  
THURSDAY 8th MARCH 2018

Welcome everyone to this AGM where I am happy to give you the annual review on behalf of the Committee. Sadly the post of Chair remains unfilled but I for one hope that this will not continue to be the case after the committee elections in a few minutes time. Fingers crossed.

We cannot review this past year without first remembering the sad loss of Val in the summer. Vicki has been very appreciative of all the support she has received from the society these last few months and I know that we will continue that support going forward. Val was such a loyal member and Vice President of our society and certainly at pantomime this year she was sadly missed by all of us and the many audience members who had become used to her warm welcome front of house. Not many people devote so much of their time and energy to clubs and society's these days; Val and drummer husband Pete selflessly gave their time and their expertise willingly and I am sure we will keep them both in our hearts always.

The year started inauspiciously with the cancellation of the spring play followed by the cancellation of our summer production which was totally unprecedented; of course shows have been cancelled in the past but never two shows on the trot. The committee did however have some breathing space and ensured that we had something in the pipeline going forward and at this time we have three productions confirmed in 2018 which is fabulous.

So the 2017 year review is short. The pantomime was directed by Simon Arnold and he decided on Rapunzel a story we had never performed before. Once again we played to some very full houses especially the matinees but did make the decision to

cancel the first Thursday performance and combine the two youth groups into the first Sunday performance. This was a successful approach in terms of audience size but it did mean an overall reduction in ticket sales and therefore revenue. Both matinees, as well as the youth production were sold out and we could have sold more tickets for another daytime production. This is something we need to discuss in more detail about how to structure our panto performances going forward.

Although we cancelled the spring and summer shows we did not cancel the hall bookings to ensure we could maintain our slots in the hall with an ever increasing interest in bookings. This allowed us to hold committee meetings in the hall and also for Simon to run some pre panto workshops and readings.

Riverside Players once again participated in the Old Windsor Carnival by running the Carnival Raffle tent on the Saturday and also the Old Windsor's Got Talent event on the Sunday. Trish organised a walking party in the parade and we won a prize for our efforts. Well done and thank you to everyone who helped or participated throughout the weekend. The 2018 Carnival will be held on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June and the Parade theme is "A Grand Day Out" so thinking caps on for an entry and volunteers for the walking party please. We have been asked to run the OWGT event on Sunday so hopefully some of you will want to be involved as judges or helpers on the day. Help in the raffle tent may also be needed and more news on that in a future newsletter.

Amazingly Pinocchio our 2016 Panto was once again awarded best pantomime in district 14 which is a wonderful achievement for Riverside Players. A few of us attended the London Region Conference in June to collect our award. This year the awards will be notified in May and both Rapunzel and ABOA will be eligible for consideration so fingers crossed. The London Festival weekend will be held on Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sun 24<sup>th</sup> June so

please attend if you can and there are going to be some wonderful professionally run workshops to attend for the small sum of £10 per person. As Jacquie Steadman will become the NODA President in September it falls on the London Region to host the NODA Conference and ball which will be held at St Anne's Manor in Wokingham on 22nd September – it would be great if we could have a table and support NODA London.

Sadly the wardrobe issue did not get resolved last year so hopefully this can be achieved in 2018.

Going forward we look forward to our 2018 calendar of shows ABOA in a few weeks – Alex is still looking for volunteers – A Fete worse than Death in June and Peter Pan at the end of the year. 2019 is currently empty so it is vital that we fill those slots quickly so please do come forward with your ideas and directorial commitments.

The whole committee look forward to hearing your comments and thoughts and thank you for attending this AGM.

Finally, we the society, would like to thank all those non acting members and friends who have helped us during the last year.

The Committee

Given by S Pickles  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2018