

Did you know ...?

Did you know that **96 people** were directly involved in putting on the village pantomime '*Robin of Shiplake*' last January? Did you also know that the Memorial Hall Committee invested in a professional quality lighting system to encourage the development of drama in the village; and that the Henley Festival Committee has donated £1000 to us to help us buy scenery, props and other necessities?

And did you know that Barry Edwards has been awarded the headship of a private school in Devon? And what's the relevance of that? Well, it means that the driving force behind Shaddo, the person whose tremendous enthusiasm and energy made *Aladdin* and *Robin* actually happen, and whose artistry made them of such a high standard, will no longer be with us after this summer.

So what will happen to Shaddo and next year's village Panto in Jane Edward's absence? Having created so much enthusiasm, unearthed so much talent and given so much fun to so many people (and that's not including the audiences!) it would be a terrible shame if Shaddo just faded into non-existence. So a group of us who were involved most closely with Jane in the last two productions are working together to make sure this doesn't happen.

Another Committee – Hooray!

Unless there's another Jane Edwards out there with the drive and commitment to make it happen almost single handedly (and we haven't found her or him yet) we're going to have to do it differently! So we've looked at how we organised ourselves for Robin last year, identified the key roles needed to bring a production into being, and put together a Shaddo Committee. The intention is that each member of the Committee takes responsibility for one or more key aspects of a production – not necessarily doing all the work him or herself, but involving others as needed.

The roles and names are as follows:

Direction	Liz James
Production	Pam Hudgell
Technical	Gareth Jones
Treasurer	Neil McAdam
Secretary	Hilary Tucker
Publicity & Promotion	vacancy
Fund Raising	Mark Manson
SMH Liaison	Neil George

Additional Crew members	Mel Crowder, Hugh Steele
Additional Cast members	Liz Thomas

We still have one key role unfilled. If you're interested in taking the lead role in Publicity & Promotion please contact Hilary, Gareth or one of the other Committee members.

This Committee is formed with the sole objective of ensuring the next Panto takes place. Over the next 6 to 9 months we intend to put Shaddo on a more formal constitutional basis, leading to an AGM next year (Feb/March).

What's next?

A new Murder Mystery Game has started rehearsal and will play the Shiplake Memorial Hall in October to raise funds for Shiplake Primary School, with a repeat run for Gillott's PTA some time in the New Year.

The next Panto will be Peter Pan – but not as we know it! Liz James and her team of scriptwriters are working now to bring JM Barrie's famous story into the Internet age. The rest of us are going to have to wait till August to get our first sight of the script. Rehearsals will start in early September and the Shiplake Memorial Hall is already booked for the production next January.

There's nothing else on the play list at the moment – so there's a golden opportunity for any budding or retired directors to get a production under way. We've got a production team to support you, a Hall equipped with sound and light, and a number of willing actors. Our predecessors – the Shiplake Players – are on the roll of honour of the Henley Drama Festival. Perhaps we can add Shaddo to the list next year!

Keeping in touch

This newsletter is an attempt at keeping everyone informed as to what's going on. We propose to use e-mail and the Internet as much as possible – as it's so quick and cheap! If you've got Internet access, register at the community site: groups.msn.com/SHADDO and as time goes by you'll get access to much more information, including more up to date news, meeting times and minutes. For those without Internet access we'll issue other newsletters from time to time.

If you've got a new e-mail address don't forget to let us know!