

Reports for Annual Village Meeting 5th May 2022

Seend Fawlty Players

Fortunately, our 2020 pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' was able to go ahead a few weeks before the first lockdown and the three performances were well supported and, we hope, enjoyed. So we only missed one pantomime – that of 2021. We then, in the hope of life returning to normal, planned a 'Not the Panto Show!' which was first scheduled for Christmas 2020, then postponed to early summer 2021 and was finally produced in September 2021 in the Community Centre. It was a mix of sketches, readings and songs, together with a light supper, and was welcomed as a rare chance for people to socialise in the village (with social distancing and ventilation etc of course). Eventually we were able to produce our 42nd pantomime, 'Little Red Riding Hood', in February this year in almost normal conditions. Audiences were slightly down on previous years, but the show raised £800 for Seend Community Centre. We sincerely hope that we will be able to produce our 43rd pantomime in February 2023. The Players would welcome a few new members, especially younger members, both to perform and to take on backstage roles.

Spotlight

Like everything else in the village, the production of the village magazine, Spotlight, was affected by the pandemic. For several months of lockdown it was only published online to protect the volunteer printers and deliverers. During this time, we introduced the 'online colour supplement' including photos of people, views and events in our villages, which we have continued to post on the Seend village website since normal publication resumed. In November 2020, the Spotlight team was greatly saddened by the death of Joanna Goddard, who had been printer in chief of the magazine for a number of years. We have welcomed Jan Field to take on that role. Jan is also now helping Sue Isaac and Tessa Doe on the editorial side of things. We continue to deliver Spotlight to all homes in Seend and its surroundings and in Bulkington free of charge. This is made possible by an annual envelope collection and by income from advertising.

Poetry Group

The group continues to meet every six weeks or so in members' homes to share poems we find on a chosen topic over a glass of wine and, in some cases, to write poems on that topic. It's a very sociable group.

Day Schools

The Seend Branch of the Workers Education Association (WEA) has recently organised a few of its own Day Schools with our own choice of tutors on Saturdays independently of that organisation. The latest of these was on the topic of Art Nouveau with the excellent tutor, Paul Chapman, last autumn. We hope there will be a further Day School later this year. If so it will be publicised in Spotlight and on the Seend Village Group and Seend Community Centre facebook pages.

Tessa Doe