



Community Buildings Committee

Date: 7th September 2023

CB010 - To consider the proposal to host the revived Cuckfield Summer Show at the Queen's Hall

1. Introduction

The Parish Council has received a proposal to support the return of Cuckfield Society's Summer Show, last performed in 2013. This report will outline the request and proposal.

2. Background

The bi-annual summer shows were originally a Cuckfield Society performance, made up of various sketches, songs and dance performed by various groups from around the village. A theme for the show would be selected and a compere would take part in front of the curtain to link each number. It was one 'one night only' affair but with a local Pimms party and supper included. Latterly it was extended to two nights because it was always a sell-out.

This originally started back in the early 1980's and was headed up by 2 local residents. They decided to step down in 1999 Lindy Elphick joined Laurie Perry and Tony Jefford to carry on the tradition. From 2003 but Lindy ran the show alone on four occasions until 2009 when Paul Ruse and Pete Bowman took over and ran it until 2013.

The shows would usually involve about 60 people on stage and up to about 40/50 helping (food teams all around the village made the food to strict rules so it look seamless when served to the audience.

The format was:

Previous Sunday – tech rehearsal

Thursday evening – full dress rehearsal

Friday evening – bar open and show

Saturday evening – Pimms party outside, plus supper, then show

Sunday morning – clear up

3. Proposal

Due to ongoing public demand to resurrect this great event it is proposed that a new event is planned for 2025 with the backing and support of the Parish Council, providing

their public liability insurance and the use of the Queen's Hall. A production team would be formed who would work with the Clerk to provide regular updates, whilst putting in the effort to run the show.

It is proposed that 2025 show is in aid of MND as Lance Milton, who recently passed away, was such a big part of all historical productions. He started in 2001 as a young guy supporting the long-time pianist on his guitar. He then went on to put together a small live band for the shows, then for many years afterwards oversaw all the technical needs for CDS.

Any profit from further shows (2027 onwards) would be fed back to pay for anything relevant and helpful at the Queen's Hall. Previous summer shows paid for the wrought iron sign erected on the front of the building, the mechanics of the stage curtains, some of the lighting etc.

4. Recommendations

As a Council we are always considering ways of engaging with the community and I believe this an excellent opportunity to do so, as well as providing an entertaining evening for residents to enjoy.

Name: Sam Heynes

Title Clerk

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