

POSE was the 'brainchild' of Sylvia Denning, a local drama enthusiast, who has gone on to a successful career as a professional free-lance theatre director.

The group was formed to cover a number of objectives including allowing those with an interest in drama to take part in a production regardless of age, experience or ability – a statement which still holds true today.

In November 1973, adverts began appearing in the local press for volunteers to help with a production of 'Oh, What a Lovely War', directed by Sylvia, and involving members of Bookham Youth Centre along with the rest of the community.

The inaugural meeting was held on 17th December 1973 at The Old Barn Hall, with an invited committee of supporters of the project and it was at this meeting that the name 'POSE' was chosen – in case anyone is wondering it actually stands for 'Promotion of Social Education' but we think POSE is very apt for a drama group.

The minutes from this meeting state that the production is expected to be a 'one off' and the estimated cost was £300.00! We are pleased to report that we are still going strong and 2014 will see our 41st Panto – POSE first performed a full length panto in 1976! The community really got behind that first production and POSE shows are still being well supported.

From the list of past productions on this site it is obvious that the group has gone through many stages and we have produced many different styles of show, from pantomime to full scale musicals, farces to serious plays but always with one goal in mind – to involve anyone who wants to take part and to put on a good show whilst still remembering to have fun. Sadly, the yearly musical has become a thing of the past due to rising costs, but the committee are working hard to try and get plans in place to enable us to produce a musical again in the not too distant future.

Not all productions have taken place at The Old Barn Hall or latterly Little Bookham Village Hall, we have also put together 'road shows' which were taken around the local old people's homes and 'potted panto's' were a favourite at Village Day as it usually involved people paying a small fee to bombard the cast with water bombs! Nowadays, these have disappeared but we still attend Village Day each year (as a BCA affiliated group) and sponsored by a local estate agent – John Wadsworth – we provide the Face Painting stall. Shows at Little Bookham Village Hall are much smaller and range from cabaret evenings to farces and plays but are always favoured by members as it is also where the group has rehearsed for many years and feels like 'home'.