

Welcome everyone, to the next of our occasional newsletters. If anyone wishes to contribute, please contact Martin

Here we are, at about the half way stage between the end of the last production and the beginning of the next one. Time for an update:

### 70 years - 1948 - 2018

Next year will be our 70th Anniversary. Although we have only put on a single production for the last eight or so years, next year we are definitely returning to two productions: our traditional pantomime, involving everyone, and a smaller production, probably consisting of two one act plays with a supper break in the middle. Still enough opportunities for everyone to get involved though. To this end, we are going to have a series of play 'read throughs': informal affairs (in the pub) where selected texts are read through. These are not intended as an audition, more a way of keeping in touch, socialising, and getting a feel for what is out there. It is possible that for the anniversary one of the two plays will recreate the very first play ever performed on the Ockley stage. If anyone fancies their hand at directing, please let Martin or another committee member know.

### Read through

The first of these takes place Tuesday evening, 6th June. 8pm start time at the Cricketers' Arms PH

### Social events

Lisa and Jenny have come up with a number of excellent suggestions, one of which was community based on the Green, possibly involving a picnic and some sort of fun activities, mini performances etc. Events have slightly overtaken this idea as I will explain below:

### Ockley School

Those of you who don't live in the village may be unaware that the school has 'closed'. This happened very suddenly, a Village Meeting took place 14 February when we learnt that the future was under threat from the end of this academic year. A formal consultation was undertaken in March, but even before the consultation ended, the governors closed the school at the start of the Easter holidays. Pupils were transferred to Capel. The results of this consultation are due around 31st May. In anticipation that the closure is confirmed, a group of parents who firmly believe that Ockley should have a school at its heart have a bit of a race against time to try and form a 'Free School' at the site from September. To this end fund raising is needed and a **Village Faye/Village day** is proposed that will incorporate many of the features that Lisa and Jenny were suggesting. The last I heard, the date pencilled in is Saturday 15th July. There is a planning meeting for ANYONE who might like to be involved at the Inn on the Green, 8th June from 7pm.

There is a lot of information about this (recent history and news) on the Ockley website: [www.ockley.org.uk](http://www.ockley.org.uk)

School: I firmly believe that a school in the village is essential for Ockley's future, the absence of which might mean long term that Ockley is only attractive as a retirement Village. Equally, many people meet at the School Gates and form relationships that otherwise might not exist. For example, of the 55 involved in the last pantomime, 17 were either pupils at the school within the last decade, or, we parents met each other via the school. The long term absence of a school might have a long term impact on many aspects of village life, including our drama society, cricket, football teams and so on.

### A.G.M.

Last year's event was deemed to be a big success, so let's not change a winning format: we will repeat the format this year: BBQ at Lynn and Martin's, everyone invited, everyone bring a dish to share. Details closer to the time but please pencil in **SUNDAY 16TH JULY, 4PM ONWARDS.**

### Dates for your diaries:

#### 6th June:

ODS read through,  
8pm Cricketers

#### 8th June:

Village Faye  
planning meeting:  
Inn on the Green

#### 17th June:

Capel Vicarage fete

#### 20th June:

Harvest Supper read  
through Capel  
Church

#### 16th July

**ODS BBQ and  
AGM for  
EVERYONE,  
family and  
potential new  
members  
welcome**

#### 29th September:

Harvest Supper

#### 8th October:

2pm Dance  
Auditions  
3-5pm: Acting  
auditions

### **Capel Vicarage Fete**

Yvonne is organising one of the stalls, recreating our famous 'Human Fruit Machine', which ODS first did back in the 80s at Okewood Flower Show. We need some volunteers to help run the stall, three people needed per session, an hour at a time. Please let Yvonne know if you can help on 886241. Takes place Saturday 17th June

### **Capel Church**

The society donated £150 towards the rebuild the wall fund, in gratitude for the use of the Church for the Tuesday rehearsals, as well as the Popcorn machine during the performances.

### **Capel Church Harvest Supper.**

Last year saw the first Murder Mystery Harvest Supper and the format was so successful that it is going to be repeated this year. it's a scripted performance (which means you hold and read your scripts on stage!) so no lines to learn as such although there are some rehearsals before hand. The read through for this is on 20th June at Capel Church 8pm. and the event itself is on Friday 29th September. Capel Cricket Club are taking part too, we would be delighted if some of them so enjoyed it they wanted to be in the next pantomime too.

### **Singing**

Next year's pantomime will have more opportunities to sing! In the past few years we have relied upon recorded music but next time we need live musicians again. Does anyone know of anyone who might join the rest of us in our production? At the moment (subject to change) the songs are Hey Big Spender, Love Letters in the Sand, Hold My Hand and Black Horse and the Cherry Tree.

### **Pantomime read through:**

Sunday 8th October 2-5pm (Dance auditions first hour)

### **Pantomime performances:**

Equivalent dates to last time: namely last weekend in January (26th/27th) Cranleigh 28th, Ockley 2nd/3rd February. Please bear in mind when booking any holidays (Lisa)

That's it for now, see you all sometime in the next two months I hope

### **Contacts:**

Chairman: Martin Pratt 01306 628155

Social Secretary: Lisa-Jayne Heely 01306 627469