

Welcome everyone, to the next of our occasional newsletters. These are separate from the Director's weekly updates, which start once rehearsal season is underway. If anyone wishes to contribute, please contact Martin

Derek Farenden

It is with sadness that I report the death of Derek, former actor, director and chairman of our Society. He was an active participant with the Parish Players in Surbiton for over 25 years, before he and his wife Sylvie moved to Ockley in 1988. He enjoyed both acting and directing, his most enjoyable roles being Canon Throbbing in "Habeas Corpus" and Dad in "From Here To The Library" for which he was awarded the Cup for the Best Supporting Actor at the Barns Green Festival.



Derek had a real love for Pantomime and it was he who encouraged the committee to try pantomime and he directed our first two full length pantomimes: Aladdin (1998) and Dick Whittington (1999). That early success, both financially and audience numbers, continues today with our, now, annual pantomime. Derek and Sylvie retired away from Ockley in 2002.

The funeral takes place this Thursday at Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

Dick Whittington

Given the above news, it seems somewhat apt that we are putting on Dick Whittington this season, albeit a different version. We have a cast, technical, back stage and front of house team, acting rehearsals started a week ago and dance rehearsals started on Sunday.

As in recent years there are seven performances as follows:

- *Friday 26th January eve Saturday 28th January matinee and eve, at Capel.
- *Sunday 28th late matinee at Cranleigh.
- *Friday 2nd February eve, Saturday 3rd February matinee and eve at Ockley

The rehearsal schedule has been distributed to the cast, non acting members are welcome to visit.

Tie ups: we have struck a deal with **Capel Cricket Club** who are going to actively support the Saturday evening show in return for a share of the income: this is the one performance that historically has been difficult to sell. For the Saturday show in Ockley, we are finalising a pre theatre dinner off with the **Inn on The Green**, details to follow.

Child protection Officer: Helen Goodman is undertaking the role for this production; if you have any concerns at all, please do raise with Helen or me.

St Mark's Players

Annie and Sylvie are both involved with St Mark's 'Treasure Island, almost a panto' which performs on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th November in Reigate. Tickets are £16 ea include a fish and chip supper but bring your own drinks. Be great if many of us could support them. Ticket from 01737 765312 or boxoffice@stmarksplayers.co.uk

Christmas Dinner:

As mentioned at the A.G.M., we are repeating the Christmas dinner: we have reserved the dining room at The Cricketers' Arms, Saturday 16th December at 7pm. Numbers are limited to the first 21. Menu and confirmed prices available from November, please Martin to reserve your spot, places will go quickly on a first come first served basis.

Membership:

Your annual subs are now due. a membership form is attached to this newsletter, can you please complete and bring along to the next rehearsal, or pass directly to Dave Claydon. Membership validates your insurance cover. not that we have ever had a claimable incident!

Dates for your diaries:

23rd/24th

November:

Sylvie and Annie making guest appearances in Treasure Island All welcome

16th December:

Christmas Dinner

January/February:

last rehearsals, last performances, last weekend in January and first weekend in February.

New members:

We are delighted to welcome the following to our ever increasing merry band: you are all welcome and we hope to enjoy your company for many years to come:

Actors:

Katy, Martyn and Linda Peters, Chris Moss, Julia Brown (adults) Oli and Charlie Sparkes (children) who were previously dancers.

Backstage:

Tania Edwards as prompter and Katherine Clayton as wardrobe mistress.

70th year:

2018 is our 70th anniversary, there will be a spring production of two one act plays with supper in the middle. Yvonne and Phil are the directors, more details once panto is done and dusted.

Contacts:

Chairman: Martin Pratt 01306 628155

Secretary: Helen Goodman 01306 712219

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