

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Pantomime:

Friday 31st Jan, Saturday 1st Feb:

Week 1 panto performances at Capel

Friday 7th and Saturday 8th February:

week 2 panto performances at Ockley

Summer Production:

Read through: late February/Early March

Production: 4th, 5th and 6th June.

Autumn Production:

read through: to be confirmed, July?

Production: 15th, 16th and 17th October

Autumn production 2019

For the first time this century, we put on an autumn production in the first week of November, two light hearted plays: *Anyone for drama?* and *Curses, Foiled Again!* both of which the society had performed before, back in the 1990s. Playing over just two nights, Thursday and Friday (as the hall had been pre booked on the Saturday), this was well received by both audiences. We took a bit of a chance and advertised tickets only as being available 'on the door', so we had no idea in advance as to how big (or small) the audience might be; but a healthy audience of 85 in total. Congratulations to the cast and to Alan for directing his second production, especially as it followed quite soon after the summer production. A modest profit has contributed to the Society's funds

Pantomime, the Snow Queen.

Rehearsals started earlier this month and dance rehearsals started a fortnight ago. The cast are off to a good start, its "scripts down" this weekend, that special seasonal event where we find out just how entirely differently this simple phrase is interpreted by the Director and by the cast members. It is a fact though that 'acting' cannot really start with bits of paper in their hands. This is our most ambitious production to date with 32 acting members and 16 dancers. It is all looking very promising at this stage. Tickets will go on sale from 1st January and will be available to personal callers at the Inn on the Green and by telephone from 01306 628255. We should also be able to accept credit card payments for the first time too.

Subscriptions

These are now due from everyone: £15 for adults and £5 for children aged 18 and under. Payment confirms your membership and, if nothing else, ensures that you are fully covered by our insurance: not that we have ever had a claimable incident.

Amazon: raising funds for the Society

A reminder from the last newsletter: Many years ago (many, many years ago) back around 2004, the Society set up an associate account with Amazon who will pay the Society a small commission on every purchase. If you ever shop from Amazon, would you consider using our special link? This is how it works: go to the Society's home page www.ockleydramaticsociety.org.uk and towards the centre of the page is an Amazon box. Click on this, it takes you to a new page with a bigger box. then click again and it takes you to Amazon's site. If you do this before you shop then we get a commission from them (it varies between 1%-5% depending on the product bought) on your shopping. At this point, you will be logged onto your own normal page. The Society cannot see who you are or what you purchased, we just get a few pennies every month. Your data is entirely secure. So, you shop as normal, we cannot see anything that you do, but by using this link before you log in, it recognises that you are contributing to our funds. Thanks

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Future productions

With a membership that continues to grow each year, the committee is confident that we can run another Summer and Autumn productions next year. Dates are shown on the front of this newsletter at the top. More details in the next newsletter, but the summer production is likely to be Eric Idle's 'Pass the Butler', a three act comedy. Alan Hardy has agreed to direct. We will probably look at serving a two course meal between the acts again.

Publicity:

We are all busy people, whether we have a role on or off stage. One area that we have not given enough attention to is publicity, it is something that busy people do in-between other jobs. We are looking to formalise this role by giving it to someone who, apart from being enthusiastic, is otherwise not involved (or only involved on the edges) to make us a bit more professional in this regard. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please speak to Martin.

Investments:

We have purchased a 'fog machine', but not any old fog machine, this one is called Fog Fury. If you were at rehearsals last Sunday you would have caught a glimpse of this at around 3pm. It will feature in the forthcoming pantomime, towards the end of Act 1 and in the middle of Act 2.

During the last two years, we have significantly upgraded our lights, and the recent autumn production showed these off to their best effect. We are still dependant upon some old tungsten lamps but we aim to gradually replace these too, with modern LED lights.

Child Protection Policy:

The committee reviews this annually; it was found to be current and compliant. A copy of this can be viewed on our website, this link takes you there: http://www.ockleydramaticsociety.org.uk/aboutus/child_protection_policy.pdf

Christmas meal:

This was resurrected in 2016 and 2017 but there was little enthusiasm last year, nor this year, so we are not progressing this idea.

Contacts

Chairman: Martin Pratt 01306 628155

Secretary: Helen Goodman 01306 712219