

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

**Summer Production:**

*Read through:* 5th March, 8pm at the Inn on the Green. Also (if you cannot make that date) 10th March, same time and place.

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

**Summer BBQ and AGM:**

26th July (details to be confirmed)

**Autumn Production:**

*read through:* to be confirmed, July?

Production: 15th, 16th and 17th October

**Pantomime read through:**

11th October, Capel Village Memorial Hall: 2pm dance auditions, 3pm: script read through and casting invitations.

**Pantomime Production:**

29th, 30th January, 5th and 6th February 2021

### Pantomime, the Snow Queen.

Well done to everyone involved: this was a fantastic production. It was our largest to date, in terms of participants, and audience numbers continue to grow each year, with 30% more audience than 2017 (specific records weren't kept before then). We more than covered our costs with a modest profit which will go into our funds for reinvestment for more improvements in the future.

Review: the following will appear in a future edition of the Village magazine (Woof) and Capel Village magazine:

*I went to see The Snow Queen evening show in the Ockley Village Hall on the 8th of February. This was my second time attending a Panto performed by the Ockley Dramatic Society and I can say with confidence that it has surpassed its previous show with louder and funnier characters to brighter and colourful sets and prop designs.*

*The Ockley Dramatic Society creates a unique experience that sets it apart from your average local Panto performance. The inclusion of magical musical sequences dividing up the show with the local children dancing and singing is truly a beautiful sight to see and creates a diverse cast of performers and actors. My favourite part was an authentic German song performed by our main characters, joined slowly by the dancing children who pronounced and sang the words perfectly. It truly goes to show how hard they practise!*

*Despite a few technical problems and some of our main characters forgetting their lines, The Snow Queen manages to stand out amongst the typical Panto performance and leaves you feeling warm hearted and still laughing.*

JKNE

*(Ed's note: the German song referred to was Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's "Christmas Dream" written for the 1974 film 'The Odessa File' sung by Perry Como. Apart from changing the word 'Christmas' to 'Winter', it was reproduced exactly, including the young Children's verse, sung in German, as it was in the original format.)*

### Costume Return:

Katherine will be at the hall on **Saturday 7th March** between **10.30am-11.30am**, please would you return your laundered costume, ready to go back into storage. If you cannot make that date/time, please could you pass to another cast member to return on your behalf?

### Summer Production:

The Society's membership is currently at an all time high. Last year, for the first time, we managed three productions and the committee are hopeful that we can do the same this year.

"Pass the Butler" is a political drawing room comedy of the English upper crust written by Eric Idle of Monty Python fame. With great characterisations, the lines come fast intertwined with the sly wit of Eric Idle, to bring you an evening of funny entertainment, with a hint of murder mystery.

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There will be two read throughs of this two act production (in case you cannot manage one of the dates) with performances in June. Dates are shown above in the 'diary' section. Please do come along to the read through, you are not committing to taking a part, it will be partially social, partially fun too.

This production will include a cold buffet in the interval, Martin has agreed to head the catering, offers of help would be appreciated.

Character synopsis:

**Hugo:** Portly Aristocratic, wears a cricket sweater and jaunty bow tie to show he is eccentric.

**Annabelle:** Hugo's twin sister and only wears a robe!

**Nigel:** Their younger brother, contemporary with highlighted hair.

**Kitty:** Sixty ish their spritely nanny.

**Butler:** Wears a green baize apron

**Lady Charles:** Mother to Hugo, Annabelle & Nigel

**Harris:** Journalist – who isn't.

**Ronnie:** Deputy Joint Chairman of the House of Commons All Party Parliamentary Tennis Club and friend of the family.

**Slater:** An Inspector – who isn't.

Rehearsals start 24th March and will take place twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (no Sundays). Alan will be directing this production and I'm delighted to announce that Sally will be the directorial assistant.

### Summer Social and BBQ:

The format of a 'garden party' with food has proved successful for the past three (or is it four?) years and the intention is to repeat it again this summer. Please reserve 26th July in your diaries.

### Autumn production:

Currently, 'A tomb with a view' is pencilled in for the autumn. It is a three act play with fourteen parts, so plenty of opportunity to 'grab a part', especially for those who missed out on one of the bigger parts in the pantomime. Again, dates at the top of the newsletter.

### Publicity and Front of House:

We are all busy people, whether we have a role on or off stage. two areas that need a dedicated person are Publicity (Dorking Advertiser, local groups, notice boards, blogs, radio) and 'front of house' (organising team for raffle, bar, meet and greet). We are looking for two people who, apart from being enthusiastic, are 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:

The pantomime saw the 'fog machine' and two new 'front of stage' lights in action. We have now significantly updated our technical infrastructure over these past few years and are now much better equipped with modern 'kit'. We possibly need to look at the quality of our sound system (loud speakers) but the substantial reinvestment is now largely completed. Thanks to Alan for the time spent in researching, badgering, installing and learning to use all this stuff.

### Contacts

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