

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 Performances:

Friday 28th Jan, Saturday 29th January  
2022:

*Week 1 panto performances at Ockley*

Friday 4th and Saturday 5th February:

*week 2 panto performances at Ockley*

June 2022

**Summer production:** dates and details to follow

Hello everyone,

Good to see the Society 'getting back to normal' with a successful Autumn production under our belt and the pantomime rehearsals off to a flying start.

### Autumn Production

Well done to Alan for directing 'Pass the Butler' and the for cast and crew for a seamless production. We planned for a degree of audience hesitancy in being willing to come out to an indoor crowded event but audience numbers exceeded our expectations, excellent feedback was received from many.

### Pantomime

It's back - oh yes it is! We are off to a flying start. The cast are enthusiastically tacking our latest pantomime, the Sleeping Beauty. Although only a few rehearsals in, we are off to a pleasing start.

We gave over the first rehearsal to a professional Voice Coach and all of us got something out of it. Each rehearsal now starts with a warm up session, putting into practice some of the techniques that we learnt. Each of these sessions is lead by a different cast member, in time all cast members will have a turn.

Although there has been news of the new 'omicron' Covid variant these past couple of days, there is nothing as yet to indicate that fresh restrictions will be in place by the time of the performances. We will off course be very mindful of official advice and will adapt if necessary.

### Front of House manager

Do you know of anyone willing to undertake this role for the pantomime? Only needed on days of performance: organises the audience area, purchases stock for the bar/refreshments, co-ordinates the various helpers (e.g. bar staff). Contact Martin please.

### Amazon

Always worthwhile reminding everyone: there is a link on the Society's home page ([www.ockleydramaticsociety.org.uk/](http://www.ockleydramaticsociety.org.uk/)) to Amazon's site. If you click on this link each time you shop at Amazon (assuming you do) then the society gets a tiny percentage of whatever you spend. Once you have clicked on the link you still need to log into your account as normal and the Society has **no way of viewing your shopping habits**, but we do get a contribution towards our funds. Every little helps, please try and remember to use this (and I'm an Amazon shopper and I am just as guilty about forgetting this!)

### Website

Speaking of our website, a huge thank you to Bernard who has done a considerable amount of work in the recent months on this. It is still a work in progress but the historic pages have been all updated, the biographies section in particular has now has over 300 pages. Bernard is now working on 2017 to date but anything older and you probably have your own entry now. Do take a look: <http://www.ockleydramaticsociety.org.uk/biogs/index.htm>. There is a comprehensive 'relationships' section too, worth a look.

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### Set Build

We are at the hall on Sunday 12th December (not the 5th as the cast were told last week) between 10-noon. Please do come along if you can. Even if you are not 'handy' other skills (such as making tea/coffee) will be much appreciated. Power tools useful.

Tasks to do include:

- Building the Stage Extension
- Erecting the red wooden curtains
- Removing the wooden sliding doors
- Replacing the blue tabs with our new gauze curtain.
- Technical set up: stage speakers.

We also need to build the veranda for the palace but this will be another date in the future. Many of you will not know about our 'wooden curtains' as we did not use them during the 'Capel' years but, together with the extension, it gives us another entrance and more acting space:



### Chaperones

We have a wonderful team here, but we never refuse anyone who would like to help too. It does require attendance at a training session, run by Surrey County Council but it is not onerous and the Society will meet expenses. If you would like to be involved in this valuable aspect of our bigger productions, please contact Martin or Sheila, details below.

### Subscriptions

These are now due and a form is attached. Please make payment in person to Sheila Gray, or, better yet, please set up a Standing Order with your bank (you control standing orders, you can cancel or vary this at any time). The committee have agreed to keep the rates the same as they have been for many years. A form is attached.

### Dancers

Each year we have an enthusiastic troupe, usually from age 5 upwards, but once they reach their teenage years enthusiasm wanes. We would very much welcome more teenager dancers, if you know anyone who might be interested, please do speak to Martin.

### New members

Welcome to Andrew Mayne, Debs Mansfield, Rufus Mansfield and Eliza Bennett. Andrew survived his first outing (in Pass the Butler) and our other new members are in Sleeping Beauty. We wish you much enjoyment and longevity with the Society.

### Summer Production

There will be a production next year, probably in mid-June. Alan has agreed to direct, the working assumption at the moment is 'Allo, Allo', more details in the Spring.

kind regards,

Martin

### Contacts

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