

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 2023

**February:** Spring read through, date to be confirmed.

**May:** spring production: date to be confirmed.

**24th July:** annual BBQ/A.G.M.

**10th or 17th September:** ODS Open Day

**8th October:** Panto read through and dance auditions

**6th November:** first panto rehearsal

Hello everyone,

It's been a while since my last communication, so thought it was time to outline our thoughts for 2023.

### AGM/Autumn production

It was lovely to have seen some of you back in the summer, although as this event was held at the very end of July this clashed with some of you going away and not being able to attend. We will try and have an earlier date next year.

Prior to the AGM, I sent a brief questionnaire out to you all asking about your enthusiasm for a pantomime? At the time (June/July) Covid restrictions had only recently been lifted (such as mask wearing becoming optional) and some members understandably were still cautious about being on stage with an audience of 100 shouting out 'its behind you', or similar, and there was insufficient interest to even consider a read through.

Instead, we agreed that we would try and stage an autumn production (which would have been two weekends ago), we had read-throughs for two separate plays, both with a Christmas theme, and whilst we enjoyed them both, now was not quite the right time to try and stage either, we did not quite have the right potential cast members available.

### 2023 - 75th Anniversary

Next year will be our 75th Anniversary, we are planning two separate productions as follows:

In the Spring, we will stage a full two act comedy 'Jake Revolver' a 1940's radio parody, which Alan has agreed to direct. It has lots of parts, none too onerous, which looks to be great fun. Read throughs sometime in the New Year, production dates to be agreed but at the moment we are thinking April or May (avoiding Easter), the production to include a meal in the interval.

In the early autumn, (October?) we will look to put on an evening of two one-act plays, probably comedies, one possibly a Bob Larbey play, again with a meal served in the interval. We will hold play read throughs in the spring too, to find and short list potential plays for both this and future productions. These two plays will be needing two separate directors, any volunteers to Martin please.

Then, in the later autumn, we will start pantomime rehearsals.

### Open day

One of our main activities next year will be an open day, to be held on a Sunday in early September, probably 10th or 17th. The aim being to open our doors so that the public can see what we do, in the hope that some will then want to join us.

Our current thinking is that aside from some sort of exhibition detailing our successes, is that we hold a series of one-hour workshops to which people can come along and join in or drop out, as they see fit. Ideas are still being considered but topics might include:

- Technical demonstration (lighting and sound desks and their capabilities)
- Set design and build
- Dance
- Make up/wardrobe/props
- Voice projection (perhaps advertised as 'Gain confidence in public speaking', to gain interest)
- Stage fighting
- Singing.
- Yoga/Mindfulness/relaxation

[continued / p2](#)

page 1/ ... cont.

A possibility is that we wrap the whole day around a specific aim, such as to produce and perform a “play in a day”, to join together all the various sessions. One drawback to this is that it then takes away the spontaneity of being able to drop in and drop out of specific workshops. All the suggestions so far are good, we have not reached any final decisions on the make up of the day. If you would like to be involved in the planning, organisation or the running of the day then please do let me know.

The aim of the day is being able to recruit potential new members who might then be interested in coming along to the pantomime read through a few weeks later on Sunday 8th October.

### [Toni Leighton](#)

Our longer standing members may recall Toni who was with us for a few years towards the end of the ‘noughties’. Toni was mum to Nigel Orange (who did technical along with his son Sam and wife Kendal who was on the artistic side) and she was a panto prompter and also jointly wrote, along with Annie Walker and Angela Strachan; and appeared, in ‘A Midsummer Murder in Ockley’. Sadly Toni passed away in November.

### [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!)

### [Membership dues](#)

I have not chased before now, mindful that everyone budgets are under pressure, but everyone membership dues are now due. Some have set up Standing Orders (thank you) but for the rest of you please would you pay at your earliest convenience? A form is attached and subs remain unchanged from previous years, namely £15 for adults and £5 for under eighteens. Details on how to pay are on the form.

Hopefully we can all meet up again in the not too distant future, until then, stay safe and have a lovely Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

kind regards,

Martin

### [Contact details](#)

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