

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 2024

28th March and 4th April: Summer production: script read through, see below.

16th April: Summer production: rehearsals begin

13th - 15th June: Performances

14th July: Summer BBQ

20th August: Autumn production, rehearsals begin.

15th September: Workshop Day

10th - 12th October: Autumn Production

20th October: Pantomime read through and dance auditions

3rd November: first panto rehearsal

2025: 31st Jan, 1st Feb, 7th - 8th Feb:
Panto production dates

Hello everyone,

Jack and the Beanstalk

We had a very successful production, it seems ages ago now, hopefully all the cast and crew are recovered. Wonderful feedback from our audiences. This was the first pantomime since 2020 (because of covid and then post covid apprehension) and the first production entirely on the Ockley stage for many years: previously we had the opening week at Capel and then week two at Ockley. This did mean that we could be more ambitious with our staging and technical effects. We cleared a modest profit too and all in all was judged to be a very successful, and enjoyable, production. Thanks to everyone involved.

Costumes:

Do you still have any costumes from the panto? Please bring them along to the read throughs if you do.

R.I.P

It is with sadness that we have recently lost two former members:

Eileen Saunders (http://www.ockleydramaticsociety.org.uk/biogs/eileen_saunders.htm) died last month in her late 90s. Eileen had been an active member for twenty years, initially on the stage and later as Front of House. More latterly her needlework skills were much appreciated by the Society. Eileen was always cheerful, took a great interest in the Society and continued as an enthusiastic audience member and supporter until the end.

Toby Webster (http://www.ockleydramaticsociety.org.uk/biogs/toby_webster.htm) was active until he moved away from the area a decade ago or so and participated in six productions. A comparatively young man, he had been unwell and was taken from us all too soon.

Our condolences to the families of Eileen and Toby for their loss.

Summer Production

Alan Hardy will direct "Quizzers", by Geoff Bamber. Read through dates are:

Thursday March 28th 8pm Inn on the Green

Thursday April 4th 8pm Inn on the Green

This is a full length comedy and will follow the recent format of a meal with supper. dates as above in the diary section. Rehearsals will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Casting:

Keith Smedley Semi-retired solicitor, completely obsessed with quizzes.

Lorna Smedley Keith's long suffering wife, spends every available moment in her green house (aka temperature-controlled cultivation environment!)

Alison Smedley Keith and Lorna's daughter.

Nick Fisher Alison's boyfriend, school teacher. [continued / p2](#)

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Ross Fitzgerald Worked with Keith, now paints pictures in Cornwall also a quiz nut. Single and quite possibly a sex addict.

Binny Wellesley A single Londonite interior designer, talks about herself in the 3rd person and quite possibly off her rocker. Spends some of the play in just a bed sheet!

Stella Rickson Nicks mum, had a fling with Keith whilst he was sorting her divorce (no. 1 of 4 or is it 5?), is about to divorce her current husband.

Rat (Herbert Arthur Ratcliff) ex-arsonist, is on mind altering pills to keep him in the zone, listens to Swami Bhagwa Meditation on an iPod and has certain specialist skills, especially with piano wire.

Amazon

Always worthwhile reminding everyone: there is a link on the Society's home page (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!)

Summer BBQ

All members and their partners are invited to our annual BBQ on 14th July, details nearer to the time. Our dancers, along with their parents and siblings are equally welcome too.

Box Office:

Sheila is doing a brilliant job but we are hoping to have a fully on-line Box Office in place by the Summer too to take much of the pressure away.

Until the next time,
kind regards,

Martin

Contact details

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