

Bampton Players Easter newsletter

Hello fellow Players! Here is a little light reading following our recent committee meeting.

Our business was made up of a range of items. We approved Barney as a member of a Riverside Hall sub-committee which is applying to the Arts Council for funds to improve and reconfigure the back stage (former bar) area and the changing facilities. Current facilities are inadequate for us all and in addition pose a particular problem in keeping our under 16 members safe and secure in compliance with our safeguarding policy. We'll keep you updated on progress.

We are updating our membership list and will circulate the updated version soon.

Our treasurer, Mick, presented us with a production budget template - this is a necessary tool for us to keep track of all expenditure and income associated with each production or event. Whilst we never specifically seek to make a notable profit from our work, we must plan prudently and manage our productions in a financially sound manner. The income and expenditure for our next three productions (more details below) is being plotted on the new template.

Supper Theatre – an evening of Noel Coward. The evening will be a real treat with not one but two short pieces 'We Were Dancing' and 'Still Life'. Combined with a mouth-watering two-course supper provided by Lucie Moore of Feast with Fuss this will be a great evening. Be sure to get your tickets - £20 per person – from Bampton Fruit and Veg, and be quick as they are selling fast! There will of course be a bar available – run by our best bar staff, Chris and Diana Thomas.

Summer is on its way - and what better to look forward than the Players annual barbecue? This year it will be held at Sherwood, hosted by Avril and Hugh Saxby. The date for your diaries is Friday 1st September. As usual the burgers and sausages (meat and veggie) will be provided and Players members are asked to bring salads, desserts and drinks. All this will co-ordinated nearer the time - just make sure you save the date.

Autumn production

Spirit Level – a comedy by Pam Valentine will be directed by Avril Saxby. There is a read through and casting session on 2nd August at 17 Ashleigh Park at 7.30pm. If you can't make that date but would like to be considered for a part, make sure you contact Avril in advance (avril.saxby@gmail.com or 331683). The dates for the production are 12th – 14th October.

Open air Shakespeare

Following the resounding success of *The Tempest* in 2016, we are planning another play from the Bard - *A Comedy of Errors* – in 2018. In anticipation of this and to help us prepare, we are very pleased that the Northcott Theatre is touring this play in Bristol, Torquay, Exeter and Dulverton (Knackershole Barn)! Avril has reserved 20 tickets. The prices are: over 60 £13 each; under 60 £15 each and under 16 £10 each. They are available on a first come, first served basis – contact Avril on avril.saxby@gmail.com as soon as you can to get your ticket.

We need your help!

Bampton Players is a busy and productive amateur dramatic group – with an average of 4 shows each year (and additional activities most years to support local events) we are rehearsing and performing almost continuously. Whilst we have a growing number of actors to call upon and can avoid overload, we have only two directors. Wendy and Avril are brilliant directors and we all appreciate their vision, passion and hard work. However, even with sharing the load the work involved is relentless as each production takes months to plan, rehearse and deliver. We need a new director. Experience is not necessary, but we need someone who is prepared to shadow and learn as a deputy – and we are offering this opportunity to any member who can volunteer to be deputy director for our next pantomime. This really is a great opportunity – if you are interested but want to find out more then get in touch with Avril as soon as you can as planning for the pantomime is already underway with script reading to make the choice of pantomime. If the thought of the pantomime is too much why not cut your teeth on our Mummings play at the Charter Fair? If this is more appealing, contact Avril to discuss that option.

Happy Easter to you all 😊