

# Bampton Players Newsletter

## February 2024



The first Newsletter of a New Year! After a quietish period there is quite a lot to look forward to over the next few months.

I'll declare a personal interest here; we are looking to perform "Pressure" (see below), which centres around weather forecasting around the time of D-Day.

Every day that I went into work at the Met Office I used to pass the very map produced by James Stagg upon which the decision was based for the timing of that military action.

### **COMMITTEE MEETING**

Some notes from our last 2 Bampton Players Committee Meeting held on the 14th November 2023 and 16th January 2024 follow:

In addition it's an opportune time to recognise the hard work that goes on behind the scenes by your Committee to ensure that we can continue to operate - thanks to all involved.

### **MOVE OF COSTUMES AND PROPS**

The move our costumes and props to Riverside Hall was completed in late October 2023. Many thanks to all who worked on this to make it a success.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME**

Sylvia Wakeham has kindly offered to take up the new position of Membership Secretary and you will shortly be hearing from her. She will be checking that the details we hold on you are accurate/up to date and requesting your annual membership fees. The good news is that these remain at £10 per person with under 18's membership free.

## **CALL OUT FOR ACTORS?**

As you'll see below we have recently had to postpone a production as we were unable to secure sufficient actors for a piece we were planning to perform. Like many local theatre groups we are particularly short of male actors. If you have friends or family who you think may be interested in joining us please send this Newsletter on to them. We are a friendly group and always welcome new members.

## **RECENT PRODUCTIONS**

### **Mummers Play - outdoor performance on Bampton Fair Day 26**

#### **October**

Congratulations to our new Mummers Play Directors - Judi and Liz. By all accounts it was a triumph and very well attended.

During the vigorous performance we did have one casualty - a sword but we're assured that it has been patched up and is now "better than ever".

## **UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS**

### **"Dangerous Corner"**

Unfortunately we have had to shelve plans to put on "Dangerous Corner" this Spring. Despite valiant efforts by Wendy we were unable to secure the "third man" needed. We hope that we can resurrect the play at some point but it will not be in the foreseeable future.

### **"Farewell to Olympus"**

As a result of parking "Dangerous Corner" we now have the headroom to stage "Farewell to Olympus" - the follow up to "Trouble on Olympus" penned by our local playwright Denise Hill.

There have been no auditions for this play as the cast will be the same as for the previous production in this series to provide continuity. This will be a cut down offering rather than a full production (it will be read from scripts as is done for radio plays) and it will be performed at the Community Hall on Friday 8th March. Doors will open at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm performance.

This will not be a ticketed event; admission will be open to all Bampton Players members along with the family and friends of those taking part. Seating will be allocated on a first come, first served basis (excepting that there will be a priority given for anyone with specific access requirements). It would be helpful, though, if you let Sue:- [sue.shaw.wx@gmail.com](mailto:sue.shaw.wx@gmail.com) know whether you plan to attend to help us with the logistics. Also do let us know if you require any specific support.

## "Pressure"

We are looking to stage "Pressure" by David Haig in June 2024 to tie in with the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

The play is based on true events that took place during World War II and centres on the true story of James Stagg and the weather forecasts that determined the date of the D-Day landings as part of Operation Overlord. It covers the personal and military stresses of Stagg, the tensions between the teams with different weather forecasts for the date of the proposed D-Day, and the events of the 72 hours leading up to D-Day are explored throughout the play.

Further details firming up the date and casting arrangements will follow in the next Newsletter

## "Twelfth Night"



A message from the Director:

Hi everyone - I know this is early but it would be really useful for me to gauge interest in this - particularly given with what has happened to "Dangerous Corner". I need to know I can cast "Twelfth Night" and what my options are.

We did have this show cast and ready to go before the dreaded COVID struck but I am reviewing that casting and, with only one or two exceptions, there will probably be changes in the rest of the roles as new people have joined us and some old ones have departed.

This will be the summer outdoor production at Sherwood.

The read through/casting will be on **Wednesday 27th March 7pm** at Sherwood.

If you would like to be considered for a part but can't make that date please let me know and I will arrange for you to read for me beforehand. Once cast we shall have a whole cast read through on Weds 3rd April at 7pm.

There will be targeted rehearsals for individuals and small groups from 7th April to 21st April to work on character and meaning.

All being well, whole cast rehearsals will begin on 5th May on Weds evenings and Sunday afternoons.

You don't have to be available for every rehearsal but I need to know which ones you will miss, please.

And you **MUST** be available for the whole of production week 7th-13th

So, email me at [avril.saxby@gmail.com](mailto:avril.saxby@gmail.com) to tell me you want to take part and, particularly, which targeted rehearsal dates you can't make.

Looking forward to hearing from you! Avril x

## **RECENT MEMBERS EVENT**

### **Christmas Dinner**

The event was moved to "The Toucan" at very short notice but they did us proud with excellent food and fun was had by all that attended (thanks to Claire and Bruce for coming up with the games).

It was slightly disappointing that only a relatively low percentage of the members attended so we will be canvassing for alternative ideas/concepts for our 2024 Christmas Event later in the year.

## **UPCOMING MEMBERS EVENT**

### **AGM**

This year AGM will be held on Wednesday 20th March at 8:00pm at Riverside Hall. An agenda will be sent out to all members around 2 weeks ahead of the meeting.

And Finally....

Great propping by the Stage Management team but there was a typo in the script and that should have read 'Enter Frank, carrying a GUN'.



OK, take the script, stick it under the mattress, and the words will seep up into my head as I sleep...

You know, I don't think that is how 'memory foam' works...

