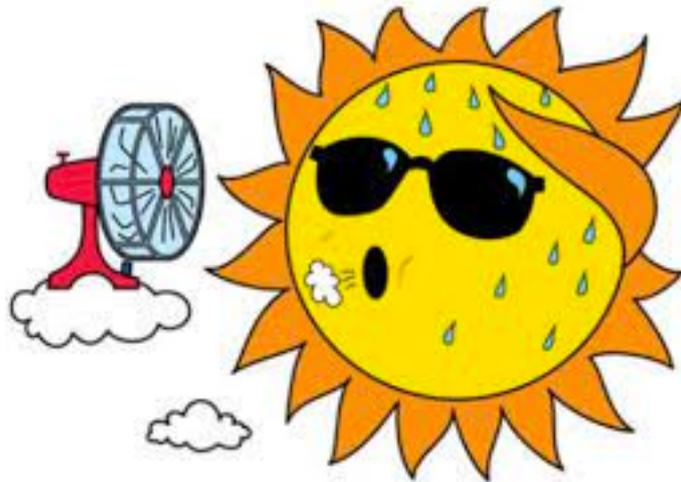


Newsletter - July 2022



"Phew, what a scorcher!". I hope you and yours have managed during the recent heat, in some cases on top of COVID. As a retired meteorologist I was super excited at the prospect of record breaking temperatures however I appreciate that some people were not quite so thrilled.

Anyway..... please see below some notes from our most recent Bampton Players Committee Meeting held on the 13th July.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Membership and subs reminder

Most members have now contacted Claire (claire.benton54@gmail.com) to provide details, including next of kin, if you are yet to do this please would you get a wriggle on!

Mummers Play

As ever, the Mummers Play is scheduled to be performed at the Bampton Charter Fair, this year it is on Thursday 27th October. Preparations are underway with casting almost complete and attention turning to costumes.

Rescheduled Players Summer BBQ

Sadly the Summer BBQ due to be held on the 16th July had to be postponed due to the ubiquitous COVID. We all hope that Hugh and Avril are on the road to recovery. A new date has been scheduled - Saturday 27th August. As before, please would you contact Avril (avril.saxby@gmail.com) to let her know if you are planning to attend and let her know whether you will be bringing a sweet or savoury dish.

"The Ghosts of Martha Rudd"

The 7th, 8th and 9th of July saw the long awaited (world premier) production of "The Ghosts of Martha Rudd" the winner of the playwriting competition held during our COVID hiatus.

Many of you reading this will either have been involved in the production or been part of the audience and I am sure you will join me in congratulating the cast, crew and writers on what was a triumph. Despite a COVID scare or two through rehearsals, including in the final weeks, we managed to complete the 3 day run. Thanks to all the cast and crew who all went the extra mile from Director Avril.

And despite the picture below we were all still friends afterwards.



Quiz Night

A reminder that this year's Quiz Night will be on Saturday 15th October at Riverside Hall. This always proves to be a lively, fun-packed evening and is highly recommended. Details on how to book a table will be provided when we get closer to the date.

Date and Venue of Christmas Picnic/Event

The Christmas Event will be held at Riverside Hall on Wednesday 7th December. The format will be similar to last year where each group brings along their own food to share and is invited to decorate their own table to add to the festive feel. Again, more details will be provided closer to the date. This is definitely something to save space for in your December diaries before they start to fill up.

Panto update

The Committee has reluctantly had to make the decision to postpone the annual pantomime for a further year. It has been tricky to manage COVID impacts with a moderately sized cast and crew during the Summer in our most recent production of "The Ghosts of Martha Rudd". The increased number of people involved during a panto at a time of year where there is a good chance that COVID will be more prevalent would make it even harder, it is unlikely that we would be able to find stand-ins at short notice. Pantos are much more expensive to produce and take a great deal of planning. All these factors make it non-viable; fingers crossed for 2024!

"Trouble on Olympus"

One positive from the decision to suspend the Panto is that it has made it easier to schedule in our second new play in 12 months: "Trouble on Olympus". We are planning to perform it in March 2023 with casting probably sometime in December 2022. There will be more details when we get closer to the dates.

OTHER STUFF

Get involved

We are always looking for additional actors; if you are not sure whether that's your bag come along to a play reading to see if it's something you'd enjoy. Opportunities will be advertised here in future copies of your Newsletter

Additionally if you have ever wondered how some of the technical side works we can give people the chance to shadow some of our technical/stage crew to see if that is something they'd like to get involved in - who knows, perhaps you are the next Spielberg? Let me know if you are interested (sue.shaw.wx@gmail.com) and we'll see what we can set up.

THEATRE LIGHT BULB JOKES



How many actors does it take to change a light bulb?

Three. One to actually do it, and two more to discuss how they would have done it better.

How many directors does it take to change a light bulb?

"Interesting... why does it want to change? What's its motivation?"

How many playwrights does it take to change a light bulb?

"I'm not changing anything!"

How many producers does it take to change a light bulb?

"Why do we need another light bulb?"

How many theatre publishers does it take to change a light bulb?

We don't actually change light bulbs. We just tell you how someone else did it earlier.

How many stage managers does it -

"Done."



Nick Hern Books

Theatre publishers & performing rights agents

"The Ghosts of Martha Rudd" - The Motion Picture!

The video is now available on a USB memory stick. It runs for 2h 5m and is in HD. No DVD will be forthcoming because a) the memory version is far superior in both picture and sound quality, and b) it is a bit of a faff to create and make.

If you can collect from Humph it is a £3; if you need it to be posted it will be £5.

Please get in touch (humphb@btinternet.com) if you are interested.

Goodbye and Thank you Helen

And last but not least, I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Helen for all the work she has done as secretary for the Bampton Players - she has made it a tough act to follow! She will also be missed on stage and, even more importantly, as a friend to many. We wish you all the best Helen, our loss is Llwyngwriil's gain.