

Nicky's Natter

Dear Members,

Having our AGM in August as we do always makes the first committee meeting feel rather like the start of a new term particularly as our show falls in May at the end of the 'year'! We've had a bit of change round of roles on committee and at the end of the newsletter you'll see who the new officers and members are and how to contact us. I'd like to welcome Alex Hammond onto the committee and say a big thank you to her for taking on the role of Newsletter Editor. (Nothing like jumping in at the deep end, Alex!) Also a big thank you to Rachel who has stepped down as Newsletter Editor only to take on the vital role of Secretary.

This 'term' your committee are planning our next production of 'Annie' and judging by previous experience it will take us until Christmas to get everything in place - if we're lucky! As always there are a number of 'challenges', not least organising the licensing and chaperoning of 24 little girls, locating, auditioning and training a suitable dog and finding the huge array of people to fulfil all of the vital but often unseen roles needed to put on a musical at the Palace. Yes, we need VOLUNTEERS so whatever your particular talent, contact a member of the committee and let us know what you can do to help.

I'm very pleased to announce that Alan Cox will be directing again for us this year and we would like to welcome Bill Pamplin - who many of you will already know - as our Musical Director. Details of auditions and rehearsals follow in the article on 'Annie'.

For those of you who did not make the AGM, my report is enclosed with this newsletter for your information. We have Carol Singing on the 12th December to look

forward to and our 1st rehearsal for Annie will be on Thursday 4th January 2007. As yet we don't have a rehearsal space as the Balmoral Centre has now closed but Colin Chamberlain is on the case. If you have any ideas or know of anywhere that could accommodate us on Thursday evenings then please call Colin.

On a happy note, Chrissie Pryke and I were delighted to sing for Len Snelling at the beginning of September at a party to mark his 80th birthday. Len has been associated with the society for nearly 40 years and it was lovely to see old friends Kay and Peter Cordell there as well. Birthday Wishes come from all your friends at Watford Operatic Society, Len.

Best wishes
Nicky

Carol Singing

Tuesday 12th December 2006

Hosted by Katie and Adrian Barrett.
Meet at 64 Hillcroft Crescent,
Oxhey, at 7.00pm

We'll sing for about an hour and a half and then return to Katie and Adrian's for hot soup and goodies and a bit of a social. Everyone welcome.

For catering purposes please let Lynsey White know if you're intending to go along (07870 102311).

Membership Fees

Membership fees are no due, so please contact Vicky Farman if you still needing to pay. (Membership Renewal Form attached)

Remember, if you're not a fully paid up member you can't audition for the show.

New members' auditions will be held at the end of the evening on 4th January.

Looking for new Directors

From Lee Farman of the Pump House Children and Youth Theatre. There is an opportunity for anyone who would like to get into directing. We are doing a number of one act plays over the coming year and are looking for enthusiastic people who would like a route to learn how to direct. Support is given by experienced directors and some of the projects include sessions and input from the National Theatre. If anyone is interested then they should contact Lee 07958 955512.



May 2007 at the Palace Theatre

We do not yet have a confirmed date from the Palace but are hoping for the week of the 14th May 2007. Full rehearsals will be on **Thursday evenings** with the children's rehearsals (and the principals that work with them) on **Sunday mornings**. As usual there may be longer Sunday rehearsal nearer the show and the children may be needed on some Thursday evenings.

The first full pre-audition rehearsal and social evening will be on **Thursday 4th January at 8pm** with a follow up on Thursday 11th January. New members auditions will be held at the end of the evening on 4th January. The principles and chorus audition will be on Sunday 14th January.

The children's audition will be on Sunday 7th January with recalls on Thursday 18th January if needed.

Details of the children's auditions will be included in the next newsletter and it goes

without saying we would like to have as many girls from the society as possible. We plan to have two teams of 12 girls so there's plenty of scope for everyone.

We will also be looking for a suitable dog (who will also have to audition) so please give some thought to all those gorgeous doggies you all know - we're looking for a 'STAR'

We are also looking for volunteers for two very vital jobs. The first is for rehearsal refreshments - making teas and coffees during the break, and the second is for a Prompt. If either of these two roles are appealing to you please get in touch with any member of the committee to volunteer. We can't do it without you!

Who Am I?

This newsletter is delighted to (re)introduce Vicky Farman, our friendly Membership Secretary.

'I was born in Norfolk and the accent only comes out now on the odd occasion. I worked in retail but am now retired, apart from filling in as assistant warden at Faithfield warden assisted flats, when the warden is away, and of course baby sitting! I married in 1967. My son Lee was born in 1969 and Kelly two and a half years later.

While living in Carpenders Park I belonged to two separate am dram groups, performing in various plays, musicals and pantomimes. We also entered drama festivals at the Pump House. I had great fun in the roles of Aladdin and Snow White. Sadly the groups have both folded.

In 1986 we moved to Oxhey Village and I joined the local am dram society - the BOMADS. They too eventually folded. What did I do?!

After becoming a member of The Pump House Theatre I then joined WOS in 1993 for Finnian's Rainbow in the chorus.

My two children are also very much involved in am dram and we have performed, directed and choreographed in many shows together. Including all three of us in 'Man of La Mancha' for which Lee was Musical Director, travelling to Ireland where it was entered in the Waterford Festival.

I learnt to tap dance at the age of 36. I am also a member of the nine-strong concert group. Entertaining (hopefully!) at day centres, care homes and women's institutes locally and in towns near by.

I am a widow of six years. My children have given me five lovely grand children. The oldest is 11-year-old Hazel, who is now treading the boards at the Pump House too!'

Your 2006/7 Committee

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Member: Alex Hammond 07767367498 Alexandra.Hammond@csplc.com
Publicity Manager: Vacancy
Ticket Secretary: Vacancy
Social Secretary: Vacancy

Forthcoming Events

Oliver! by Rickmansworth Players at
Watersmeet

6-11 November 079 13 13 08 08

West Side Story by St Albans
Operatic Society at the Alban Arena

7-11 November 01727 844488

Praise of Love at the Pump House 13-
18 November.

The Newsletter

Over the coming months I intend to 'rev it up' a bit, so if you have any suggestions on how we can make the newsletter content even more interesting then I'm open to suggestions.

Anyone who would like to make contributions to future editions of the newsletter should contact me on alexandra.hammond@csplc.com or by phone on 07767 367498. It's your newsletter, so please don't be shy!