



**Newsletter 11**

**April 2008**

**Your committee are:**

Mary Dawson - Chair  
Paul Willcox - Secretary  
John Dawson – Treasurer  
Rob Morrish  
Hazel Town  
Helena Gomm  
Suzanne Hall

**Salad Days – message from the Director, Suzanne**

*'The show has now been cast with 25 singing and dancing adults, from villages throughout the Meon Valley. Rehearsals are well under way and are proving to be entertaining! The sight of 20 academic dons rowing across the Meon Hall is not to be missed.*

*The show is being performed at **The Meon Hall, Meonstoke, from 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 with a matinee on the Saturday afternoon for our younger audience.***

*It is a show full of froth and fun, perfect for a Summers evening.*

*We are always open to offers of help, particularly with set, props and costumes, if you can help in any of these areas please contact Mary'*

**What's New**

**April 08**

It is some time since our last 'proper' newsletter –much has happened and is about to happen!

The Youth Theatre have just finished their three night run of TOAD. A talented and confident young cast of 36 gave the audience an evening to remember, aided by a slightly older crew of set painters, costume makes and light and sound designers!

Look out for the review in June's Parish News

Since our last newsletter we have had a very successful production of 'Outside Edge' – Hazel Town's directorial debut for The Players. It was tremendous success and brought to the stage some new talent who along with many familiar faces gave the audience a great fun evening. Let's hope Hazel sees this as the first of many.

**A Midsummer Night's Dream – wet and dry!**

What can I say about the last week in July 2007! After a wet 2005 with *As You Like It* – I felt really upbeat and optimistic about this one but it wasn't to be. We got the stage built in almost dry weather, we rehearsed in dry weather and then come production week.....well that is now history!

However despite all this – we cancelled only one performance, had one fully dry one and kept going through the other two – and when I say 'we' I include the audiences who loyally not only came and picnicked but also stayed to the end as rain poured down. There are many abiding memories of the 4 lovers awaking after their 'Puck enforced sleep' – with the water bouncing off the stage as they stood up!

But – as a compensation for all this – we 'Relived The Dream' in The Theatre Royal, Winchester on a Saturday night in January this year – to a full house [400] and what an amazing experience that was for us all!

## **West Meon Players Summer Party – Saturday 14 June 6.30-8.30pm**

All members, including the Youth Theatre, are invited to join us in the redesigned garden of the Thomas Lord.

Enjoy sampling the range of delicious Pizzas cooked in a wood burning oven, part of the new outside kitchen.

Delight in a mini preview of some of the songs from the forthcoming 'Salad Days' During the evening we will briefly review the past year, [copies of last year's accounts available] Renew our membership still only £5, and share our plans for the next season.

Drinks from the bar.

## **Panto 2009 – message from the Directors - Paul Willcox & Hazel Town.**

*'Oh Yes it is, the Panto season is upon us again! In February 2009 we will present our sixth Pantomime. This year we will again be using the literary talent of Helena Gomm. The Panto is '**Sleeping Beauty**'. The production will have its usual array of special effects, with a few new developments, plenty of fun and laughter, roles for all ages and a lively backstage crew required. Once again, please keep your diaries free for February half term, clear your throats, practise those scales and dust off your paintbrushes and tools, we will be calling on you! '*

**Auditions will be held in September 2008!**

## **Youth Theatre**

This will re start in September and I am planning a separate monthly session for older members on a **weekday evening**: 5.30-7.30 or 6-8; day and time to be confirmed.

This will be open to **12 – 17 year olds**

A Special Youth Theatre newsletter will go out later in the summer with all details.

.....and finally.....

## **Committee Membership**

We are always hoping to attract new members to the committee – it is not onerous.

So if there is anyone out there who would be interested in influencing how the Players work now and how they develop in the future please get in touch with me.

See you all soon!

*Mary*

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