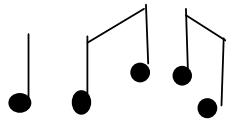


Faringdon Dramatic Society

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Dates For Your Diary:

Cabaret



14th – 16th November 2002.

Tickets are available from **White Horse Country Wear** in Gloucester Street, price £7. All performances are to start at 7.30pm.

Christmas Dinner

Friday 13th December may not sound the most auspicious date for a pre-Christmas celebration, but we hope most members and their partners can manage to swallow their superstitions and join the society's annual frolic. (There are much more intoxicating things to swallow during the evening.)

A lovely spread is promised, with a bar and music as part of the festivities. We have managed to **reduce** the price from last year. Tickets are £17 per head (drinks extra, as usual) for a three-course dinner.

THE VENUE: Faringdon Bowls Club.

THE TIME: 7.30 for 8.00pm.

Booking forms will be sent to members shortly. Make a date in your diary now!



The Wind in the Willows

It is twelve years since the society produced THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS for its annual panto, but that was the version by John Morley. In 2003, the choice has fallen on the more recent interpretation by Alan Bennett. All those familiar with Alan Bennett's work will look forward to an evening (or matinee) of quirky fun.

Debbie Lock is directing, assisted by Carolyn Taylor. Karen Price is musical director. We wish them all well.

Auditions will take place as follows:

As the audition dates will only appear in What's on and The Folly at the end of October, please spread the word in advance to all interested parties, particularly families with children who might wish to audition.

- **Wednesday 30th October 2002 at United Church.**
- **Children (must be aged nine or over) 7.30 – 8.45 pm**
- **Adults: 8.45 – 10.00 pm**

Performances will be as follows

Friday 31st January 2003 (evening performance only)

Saturday 1st February (matinee and evening performances)

Friday 7th February (evening only)

Saturday 8th February (matinee and evening performances)

PERFORMANCES AT FARINDON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cabaret

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

Cabaret nearly didn't happen! As many of you will be aware, Rachel Coward, who had long harboured a desire to direct CABARET and had researched the production with passion and diligence, had to pull out soon after casting was complete. Husband Edward was hospitalised with a serious, long-term back problem. Our sympathies, of course, went out to Rachel and Edward, but since the show must go on (if only to avoid forfeiting nearly £500 in licence fees) we had to look around for a replacement director. After an initially forlorn search, we ended up with two directors (Allyn Richardson and Denis Peach in tandem, who kindly volunteered to rejig their autumn plans at very short notice. **Many thanks, Allyn and Denis!**

There was another potentially fatal blip, when one of the key players had to withdraw from the cast for business reasons, but some ingenious switching of roles dealt with that problem too. 'Break a leg' may well be said with more than usual feeling come the performances!

So rehearsals are now in full swing, and we shall have a production to be proud of after all. Meanwhile, we hope that Edward will soon be restored to full health, and that it will not be long before Rachel is back with us as actor and / or director.



We extend a warm welcome to new members Tim and Pat Evers. Tim and Pat come to us with experience of amateur dramatics in Bdsvara. Their principal interests are backstage and front of house. Tim is helping with set construction for Cabaret and Pat is lending a hand with special publicity mailings for that production.

Marketing Cabaret

Having booked the Community College for three nights for performances of CABARET we have 600 seats to fill! We need to sell about 450 seats to break even, so we shall need a special effort to drum up support. (We usually manage to sell about 800 seats for the annual panto, but these are usually spread across six performances).

Our special marketing efforts for this show include:

- A letter to 40 or so Faringdon businesses and organisations, offering a mention on the programme as sponsors (and a free glass of wine for members of the party in the interval) in return for a minimum booking of ten tickets (for staff, clients, family or friends.)
- A special flyer to local dramatic societies and schools.
- A competition offering two free tickets (intended to raise our profile in the local press.)
- Approaches to local press, TV and radio.

Please try to double the number of friends and family you normally try to persuade to come along. Every seat counts! The show will be a memorable evening of drama and music.

Don't forget!
Tickets for Cabaret £7 from White Horse Country Wear in Gloucester Street.

COMMUNITY THEATRE (AS WAS!)

Six members of the society (about twenty per cent of those present!) turned up at the Town Meeting on 18th September to hear the Town Council outline its plans for the Pump Rooms (previously known as the Community Centre.) Obviously our principal interest was in the Theatre and its future, and in the long term it should be said that what we heard was encouraging. If legal and financial matters between the Town Council (leaseholders) and The Faringdon Collection Trust (landlords) can be resolved, the Town Council will make itself responsible for restoring and refurbishing the complete building in stages. The theatre area is likely to be dealt with in Stage Three, scheduled for 2006. We entered a plea that the society should be invited to send representatives in due course to any working-party concerned with specifying and implementing any changes to the theatre, and this was accepted. We also pointed out that it might be advantageous to accelerate work on the theatre, since once it has been refurbished it could start to earn money for the council.

