

## Autumn Falls

With the nights drawing in and the temperature falling the society's thoughts are drawn to our busiest time of the year.

Our October production is Brian Friel's "Dancing At Lughnasa", directed by Cardyn Taylor. This production will be at the Junior School from **Thursday 11th through to Saturday 13th November**. The production has been cast and is in the full flow of rehearsals. Set in rural Ireland in 1936, this is a play with something for everyone, charming, comic and touching, with songs and dance to Irish music and favourite standards of the thirties."

Following hot on the dancing shoes of "Lughnasa" is the traditional Pantomime. This year we are pleased to present Karen Whiffen's interpretation of Snow White. It is certainly going to be fun, with surprises, a wicked queen, handsome prince and all the usual pantomime capers, singing, dancing etc.

For those interested in taking part, readings will be on Wednesday 13th October at 8:00 p.m. at the Faringdon United Church. Casting will be at the same location on Wednesday the 20th October 6:30 p.m. for children, 8:00 p.m. for Adults and those aged 17 years and over.

## Christmas is Coming ...

The annual **Christmas Bash** has been booked for **Saturday 11th December** at the Bowls Club, from **7 – 11:30**. We are aiming to have a "posh frocks and DJs" event (what else would you expect from someone involved in costumes!) with entertainment provided by FDS members followed by the annual awards ceremony.

If anyone would like to do a 2-5 minute entertainment slot this is your chance (Alex has offered to accompany any budding songsters), please contact Sharon to book your slot – first come first served. Catering and cost will depend on numbers but it should be somewhere between **£15-£20/person**, please let Sharon know before the **end of October** if you and any guests intend coming. (We can accommodate up to 90) Booking forms will be sent out in November.

Hope to see you there!

## Child Protection Policy

Child protection is an issue that has grabbed the attention of the committee over the last few weeks. It has become a requirement for the Society to have a Child Protection Policy that is published to all members and then followed.

Our first move has been to appoint a **Child Protection Officer**, which **Claire Forty** has kindly agreed to be. With other members of the committee a policy is being drafted that will be issued to all members.

One of the knock on effects of this policy is the way we organise ourselves when working with children, that being most likely when we rehearse and perform for the Pantomime. We will need to operate our policy as stated. **This will have an impact on the entire membership.**

Karen will need all our support at rehearsals and performances to ensure we have the legally required number of chaperones etc. Although most should come from the parents of the children, we will need to call on the whole Society to ensure appropriate numbers are present.

On **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November**, Claire, as Child Protection Officer and Karen, as Director of the show, will be presenting our policy at the United Church at 8pm. **Please make the effort to attend as it is an issue that affects us all** - and the future prosperity of the Society.

## Meet Your Committee

We find it of use to issue a list of your current committee and their duties

### Chair: Rachel Coward

- o To take over all responsibility for the smooth and efficient running of the Drama Society Committee
- o To call and chair meetings
- o To plan the agenda in conjunction with the Secretary
- o To act as spokesman for the Society when appropriate and liaise with outside agencies
- o To sit on sub-committees as designated by the committee

### Vice Chair: Rob Thorpe

- o To cover for the Chair in her absence

### Secretary: Jeni Summerfield

- o To minute all meetings
- o To prepare and issue agendas and minutes and ensure they are sent to relevant members in good time
- o To ensure that all members are invited to the AGM giving a minimum of 21 days notice
- o To deal with all correspondence
- o To act as NODA and ODN contact

### Treasurer: Gary Bates

- o To keep the Society's financial records in good order
- o To give an up to date financial report (accompanied by a written statement) at each committee meeting
- o To collect all cash in relation to performances and functions and bank it
- o To organise an independent audit prior to the AGM
- o To bank subscriptions and issue receipts
- o To book and liaise with all venues for future productions

### Membership Secretary: Jan Lee

- o To maintain an up to date record of membership, including contact addresses, phone numbers and email addresses if possible
- o To maintain the 'Friends of Faringdon Dramatic Society' database
- o To publicise future productions and events to members
- o To act as a point of contact for new members
- o To liaise with the newsletter editor for the production and distribution of the newsletter

### Social Secretary: Sharon Gerry

- o With the help of other committee members: to organise any social functions, including booking venue, organising entertainment, arranging food, establishing cost, invitations etc.

(Sharon also sits on the Child Protection sub-committee)

### Publicity Officer: Paul Mountford-Lister

- o To deal with Dramatic Society publicity via the Fdly, What's On and ODN publications
- o To deal with publicity for specific play/pantomime via direct request of Director
- o To ensure publicity boards are displayed
- o To review and update publicity methods

### Newsletter Editor: Nick Coard

- o To produce and circulate a quarterly newsletter  
(Nick also Chairs the New Community Theatre sub-committee)

### Production Co-ordinator: David Field

- o To liaise with Directors in order that they are invited to attend suitable committee meetings
- o To liaise with Production Teams as appropriate in order to report back to the Committee  
(David also sits on the Child Protection sub-committee)

### Child Protection Officer: Claire Forty

- o To Chair the Child Protection sub-committee
- o To liaise with Directors of all FDS productions in which children are involved in order to ensure that the FDS child protection policy is adhered to.

### New Community Theatre Sub-Committee

Nick Coard (Chair)  
Rachel Coward  
Martyn Baker  
Sarah Varnon

### Child Protection Sub-Committee

Claire Forty (Chair)  
Rachel Coward  
David Field  
Sharon Gerry  
Karen Whiffen and Paul Mountford-Lister (as Directors of the forthcoming pantomime)

## And finally ...

### Your Society Needs You

Have you ever considered Directing? We are looking for suggestions from the Society for our **May 2005** production.

After the success of "Arsenic" we want to repeat the trend with a "Bums on seats" event, which again can showcase the depth of talent within FDS. So is there a production you want to put on?

If so contact Rachel.