

**\*\*\*\*\* FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY \*\*\*\*\***

NEWSLETTER JULY 2006

First of all, due to some sporting event or other, the barbecue has been moved to **Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 o'clock, at Debbie and Richard's**. Please let Debbie know if you will be attending by the end of July at the latest.

Secondly, if anyone has not yet paid their subscription please do so ASAP. Please pass your cheque to any member of the committee, who can then pass it on to the Membership Secretary.

### **May Production**

If you have any ideas for a production in May 2007, please let us have those ideas. If you have an idea but have not directed before, don't let that stop you; you will not be turned down or thrown in at the deep end because of any lack of experience. There will always be an experienced someone who can work with you as a co-director to help smooth the path and to act as your mentor - this is how anyone learns to direct. Directing is probably the most satisfying role there is - once it all comes together! We are particularly looking for a one act play for the Faringdon Festival and possibly to take on tour.

### **Overseas Tour**

As some of you already know, Kate Lord has a particularly interesting project on the go at present, namely a possible exchange with a Canadian drama group. More research is going on as we speak to establish what we may be letting ourselves in for, but if you fancy the idea of taking a play on tour, combined with a holiday, then please express your interest to Kate. There are issues to do with a cast being available to travel at the same time and the need to pay for flights but this may be an opportunity to spread our fame as a society far and wide!

### **Wardrobe storage**

Again, you may be aware that as a Society we have been negotiating with the Junior School to locate our costume store there in a Portacabin or wooden building, in return for our continued investment of time and money in the school facilities. This will be an expensive undertaking, but the committee is

in the process of applying for funding to make this a reality. If it comes off, it will make a huge difference, not least to Jeni and Joan; keep your fingers crossed that the school governors give us a vote of confidence and watch this space.

## **A helping hand**

Jeni, Joan, Debbie and Karen have done their bit for community relations by helping out front of house during the Oxfordshire Drama Network festival at the Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon.

## **Forthcoming productions.**

The following is from Dave Headey, regarding his production of 'Noises Off'.

*'Noises Off' is one of Michael Frayn's best known comedies. It follows the fortunes of a touring professional theatre company, mainly out of work ex-television actors, as they attempt to earn a crust by touring a very silly trouser-dropping farce - "Nothing On" - around the British provinces. Relationships, rivalries and misunderstandings among the cast and crew are as fraught as those in the play they are trying to perform.*

*All we ever see of "Nothing On" is Act One - three times! First of all we meet the cast, director and stage crew at their final rehearsal, and then twice more in performance. What makes the second act of Noises Off so unique is that we, the audience, now view the split-level set from behind, and so witness what's going on silently backstage during a performance.*

*We have a superb cast of nine for November's production in the Junior School - some familiar faces, others less so - who are already well into rehearsal. The play is an expensive one to stage; almost as much as a panto, so we need to get audiences on a panto scale. So confident are we that 'Noises Off' will "pack 'em in" that we are staging FOUR performances - from Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>. We need all members not only to spread the word but to get their friends and relatives along too to enjoy this hilarious play.*

*There will be more than enough opportunities to help with the production from September onwards - with set construction and painting, and provision of a phenomenal number of props. And anyone with a talent for preparing plates of sardines will be especially welcome..."*

Some information about Nick Coard's pantomime will be in the next newsletter.

And last but **definitely** not least.....

*\*Congratulations to Edward Coward who has been appointed a Colonel\**

Well done Sir.