

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

SPRING NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008

Firstly, those of you who know Jeni Summerfield (one of our brilliant costume ladies) will know that she has been very poorly of late and had to spend some time in hospital; we wish her a speedy recovery.

The AGM

The United Church is being booked for our next Annual General Meeting; please put the date, **Tuesday May 6th at 8pm**, in your diaries and do your best to attend in order that we can be sure of a quorum. Nomination forms will be sent out in good time; don't be backward in coming forward if you would be willing to serve on the committee; it will not take up much of your time and is actually good fun.

FARINGDON JUNIOR SCHOOL

While completing the set build for the panto the Society decided to contribute a new set of drops for stage left and right, to replace the very tatty ones then in place. These have been duly hung and these combined with the new curtains have greatly improved the look of the stage area.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

We have had all sorts of discussions relating to the membership list and data protection. The upshot is that electronic copies will not be distributed, but if you would like a hard copy this can be supplied; it will not include addresses, only telephone numbers and e mail addresses. To obtain a copy, please contact Sandra - sandra@southrop.orangehome.co.uk. You can opt out of inclusion on the list - again please contact Sandra with your request.

THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

There seems to be general agreement that this was a success; if you disagree, please contact Peter at pj@websterhome.eclipse.co.uk, so that we can bear any issues in mind when thinking about next year.

PETER PANTO

The reviews we have seen so far (NODA and the Folly) have been very positive; we are waiting for the verdict from the ODN which is due on March 28th at their AGM. We believe that we are in the running for the best panto award, but we are not counting our chickens. Karen and Peter were more than pleased with the end result - a great team effort from all concerned.

A total of £263 was collected from the raffles and has been passed on to Great Ormond Street; we have received a letter of thanks stating that the money will be spent on 'research, equipment and much needed redevelopment'.

Quite a number of members have commented on the problems associated with having so many children in the cast; as a first step we have agreed that we should raise the age of children taking part to ten; also that children over the age of fifteen should share a dressing room with the adults, thus they would be chaperoned by adult cast members, leaving fewer downstairs for the official chaperones to look after. We have also considered limiting the number of children taking part to 45 if necessary, at the director's discretion - if you have any views on this, again please e mail your thoughts to Peter.

WALLINGFORD FESTIVAL and the ARTS FESTIVAL

These will take place in June and July - we plan to enter a one act play into the Wallingford Festival and have been asked to present a dinner theatre performance at the Red Lion, for which we need two (ideally linked) one act plays. We have asked John Williams, a very experienced local director who many of us have worked with in the past, to help with choosing and directing these. More news to follow.

OUTSIDE EDGE

The UK leg of the tour takes place on the 15th to 17th of May, with the set build on the 10th and 11th - we are restricted by the MADD May Fest to this one weekend. Rehearsals have now started so here we go again!

COSTUME STORE

We are still looking for local storage space in addition to the garage at the Junior School; we could take space in the new Park Road storage facility, but over time the cost would be prohibitive. We are exploring other avenues, such as possible space in the Pump House or Corn Exchange, putting an appeal for storage space in What's On and contacting The Combined Services Staff College. **If anyone has any other ideas, please come forward.**

NOVEMBER PRODUCTION

This will mark our 60th anniversary as a Society! Therefore we need a play which will fit with the air of celebration as well as attracting a large audience. Suggestions so far are 'Our Town' or 'Ten Times Table, which we put on as our 100th production in 1990 and which went down extremely well; if anyone has a play in mind and/or would like to direct, please contact Peter.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

These consist of badges marking continuous membership of a Society for 10, 15, 20 or 25 years; we are ordering these for all members who qualify.

SWEATSHIRTS and POLO SHIRTS

We have found a supplier for a new run of clothing bearing the FDS logo.

Details as follows:

Classic polo shirt, black with logo, £9.38 each. (We must order a minimum quantity of 10)

Sweatshirts, black with logo, £12.32 each. (We must order a minimum quantity of 10)

Full zip polar fleece, black with logo, £14.10. (Minimum order one only.)
Fleece scarf, black with logo, £7.04. (Minimum order one only.)

If you would like to order any of these, please e mail Karen at karen.whiffen@btinternet.com stating the size you require - inches is probably easiest. Please do this by March 21st, so we can see if we have the necessary number of orders.

and finally.....

Your news: Don't forget if anyone has anything they would like to go into the next newsletter, please contact me on 01367 240101 or by email at pj@websterhome.eclipse.co.uk