

Oxfordshire Drama Network

Newsletter



August 2009

CHAIRMAN'S BULLETIN

Hello everyone,

I do hope that the rather unseasonal weather is not getting you down too much? I must admit to having just had two weeks away with wonderful sun, sea and sand. Sorry I could not bring some back for you all! I cannot believe we are more than half way through the year already and we shall be talking about the next Bursary and Pantomimes in the next ODN Committee meeting!

I am still hearing that people are not receiving their Newsletters from their ODN contacts. The "duties" of the ODN contact were covered in the last Newsletter so I do hope things have improved for some of you, if not all. I really am at a loss as to what else we can do. Each group must ensure their contact passes around the Newsletter and /or advertises its contents. You have no idea what you are missing!!

Finally, I am very sad to say that the ODN Workshops on Theatre committee have unfortunately had to call it a day. They have organised the final two workshops for the Autumn (first one in this Newsletter) and I really hope that they are fully attended. Many people have contributed to the WOT workshops over the years and I would like to thank

them so very much for all their hard work and commitment.

There have been many on the Committee, which was started by Kate Saffin and Jackie Heath quite a few years ago in order to offer professional style workshops at an affordable price, by sharing the knowledge of the membership. Originally, most of the workshops were run by ODN members who had skills to share, like Jean Sutherland and Peter Mottley. Then we were lucky enough to have people like David Wood and Dominic Dromgoole running workshops for us. All aspects of Acting, Directing, Dance and all Technical expertise have been covered over the years.

People who have served on the Committee are: Jenny Wiles, John Hawkins, Terry Gallager and the present Committee of Felicity Peacock, Sheila McKean, Julie Kedward, Elizabeth Kirkham, Bettina Hughes, Barbara Douglas, Sue Haffenden, Mike Westwood and myself. I know that many people have benefitted from these workshops and have taken back to their groups the knowledge which they have acquired. They have enriched the substance of all the groups and therefore the ODN as a whole. I shall be

very sorry that they are finishing as I, for one, have learnt so much. Where else can you have five hours professional coaching for £15.00?

Thank you again to everyone and if any of you feel that they would like to get together and start a new workshop group then I shall be only too happy to help and encourage you.

Enjoy the rest of your holidays!

Susi

INSIDE THIS ISSUE At A Glance diary

- Tom Bewley's Reflections of a Jobbing Actor
- Faringdon member wins award
- WOT booking form
- Previews of forthcoming shows
- Review section:

Deadline for October issue, September 21. Send news, views, previews and reviews to Carol Evans, beagrove@btinternet.com

EDITOR'S NOTES

Firstly, apologies for the late arrival of the August Newsletter – all down to being on holiday coupled with my computer freezing me out on the day I returned. Still, maybe most of you will have been away yourselves and won't have missed your regular two-monthly read of what's going on drama-wise throughout the county.

This issue contains the usual previews of amdram productions coming up this autumn. However, I was surprised to receive only one review from the summer programme. If there's anybody out there who would like to turn their hand to reviewing any of the plays listed in this Newsletter, give Susi Dalton a call – her details are on the back page.

Also included this month: Tom Bewley - the amateur actor who turned pro in his sixties – tells us all about his Shakespearean summer. There are plaudits for Faringdon Dramatic Society's Katie Goodwin who has won a NODA award. And amateur thesp Alex Watts, whose day job involves being a top man at that friendly publication *RoundandAbout*, wants to hear your theatrical anecdotes for an article he's writing.

Look out, too, for first details of the ODN Quiz – this time organised by Didcot Phoenix. And if you fancy doing a spot of physical theatre, then Oxford Theatre Guild will be holding auditions in September for their December show – further information is all in this Newsletter.

There is also a booking form for the very last Workshops on Theatre. As Suzi said in her Bulletin, it's a real shame they have come to an end.

Meanwhile, please keep sending me your contributions, previews, reviews, letters, comments, anecdotes, pictures – I'll try and include them all. The next issue is due out in October and the deadline is September 21.

Carol Evans

AT A GLANCE (further details elsewhere in newsletter)

SEPTEMBER

- 8-12 **Thame Players**
A Month of Sundays
- 23-26 **BreakaLeg Productions**
Lady Windermere's Fan
- 24-26 **Didcot Phoenix Dramatic Society**
Hellzapoppin
- 24-26 **Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society**
Sleuth – murder mystery evening

OCTOBER

- 14-17 **Compton Players**
The Unexpected Guest
- 14-17 **Sinodun Players**
Separate Tables
- 20-24 **Henley Players**
The Vortex

NOVEMBER

- 4-6 **The Domino Players**
A Tale of Two Cities
- 12-14- **Faringdon Dramatic Society**
Our Town
- 20-21 **Chiltern Players**
Ancient Lights
- 23-28 **Oxford Operatic Society**
My Fair Lady
- 27-28 **Chiltern Players**
Ancient Lights

DECEMBER

- 4-6 **Thame Players**
Toad of Toad Hall

JANUARY

- 21-23 **ACTS**
Funny Money

AUDITION NOTICE

Oxford Theatre Guild will be holding auditions for *Alice's Adventures Underground* to be held at the Old Fire Station, Oxford on December 8-12.

The show will be devised by the cast and will involve physical theatre and puppets. The Society is looking for a mix of all ages and appearance, but generally the cast will need to be able to move confidently and be comfortable with physical theatre style – this is not the same as dance! Musicians and singers also welcome.

Auditions will be held in Oxford on September 3, 6 and 8. Visit www.oxfordtheatreguild.com for more details or phone Joanna Matthews on 07710 524407 or email Joanna_mockingbird@yahoo.com.

TOM BEWLEY: REFLECTIONS OF A JOBBING ACTOR

A SHAKESPEAREAN SUMMER

It's July 17, a day before my 67th birthday, and the rain is pouring down. Well, better now than in two weeks time, when I shall be getting ready to open in the 60th Pendley Shakespeare Festival in Tring in August. The two plays I shall be appearing in – small supporting roles, but at my age who minds having fewer lines to learn! – are *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth*.

These are what can be called pro-am productions. The whole set-up is professional, and the casts are made up of gifted local amateurs and visiting professionals, who are not paid, but are provided with accommodation and food for the three-week rehearsal and performance period at the Pendley Hotel – pretty good payment in kind! I'm really looking forward to it.

This follows another recent pro-am production, *A Shakespeare*

Summer Soirée, at Broughton Castle, near Banbury earlier this month. Fascinating to learn that the owners are related to the Fiennes acting family, perhaps the reason why part of *Shakespeare in Love* was filmed there. Again, a mixture of local amateurs and visiting professionals, this time presenting a mixture of scenes from different plays. I was given a challenging pairing: Oberon and Falstaff! Most rewarding was that the overall director was Nasser Memarzia, a regular in *Casualty*, whom I first became aware of in that wonderful film *The Kite Runner*. The castle and its grounds made a wonderful setting, and although heavy rain affected the last night, we had the compensation of entering the Great Hall for the last hour.

Most of the young professionals involved had done a fair amount of 'Fringe' work but, like me, are

finding it very difficult to get properly paid work, even with an agent. The recent Equity decision not to insist on minimum pay rates for Fringe productions therefore makes sense: the money just isn't there, so better to work for peanuts than not at all.

In the meantime, I've had a couple of trips up to London for castings: last time I was candidate no. 248 out of 300 for an insurance commercial, so I was hardly surprised not to receive a call. It's tough out there. But at least while up in town I was able to pick up a returned ticket for *War Horse*.

Still, overall a busy three months, with my lines to brush up for *Siberia* (mentioned in the last newsletter), the one-man play at the Burton-Taylor on September 17-19. I'll be ready for a short holiday in October!

A PLEA FOR HELP

Alex Watts, who is a member of both Sinodun Players and Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society, urgently wants your help for an article he's writing for RoundandAbout magazine to be entitled *It'll be Alright on the Night!* He writes:

"I am writing an article for the October issue of the magazine about the pitfalls and pratt-falls that we in the amdram community have become familiar with.

Having trod the boards myself, as it were, I know how even the best laid plans can go awry and often with 'hilarious results.'

So, if you have any amusing anecdotes, tall tales, silly stories or downright daft ditties that you don't mind sharing with the rest of us, could you please send them to me at awatts@roundandabout.co.uk. I can't guarantee that all will be included, but I will try to squeeze in as many as possible."

ODN QUIZ NIGHT

23 OCTOBER @ 7.30pm

DIDCOT CIVIC HALL

DETAILS WILL BE SENT TO ALL GROUPS OR SEE WEBSITE



WHAT DO I DO WITH MY HANDS?

A one day workshop for actors with Steve Dineen
Workshops on Theatre (WOT) sponsored by ODN and OTG

Sunday 4 October, 10:00 – 16:00 at Southmoor Village Hall, OX13 5DU

Workshop Outline

How do you find the truth in your character? How do you bring that quality of honesty and realism to your performance? And what happens when your character is a compulsive liar? Or when the actor speaks his mind as well as his lines?

A practical and entertaining workshop to add an extra dimension to your acting. We'll work on finding those sparks of life and injecting them into the characters we create and interpret, on feeling more confident and comfortable on stage and how to apply these approaches to a variety of theatre genres. And you'll find out what to do with your hands onstage! We'll use text-based and improvised scenes. Texts will be sent out in advance so people can prepare some scenes and maybe even put the book down!

A professional actor for fifteen years, **Steve Dineen** has worked in theatre in the West End; toured the UK, Ireland and Europe; has done one of the last weekly reps in the UK and much more - along with feature films and TV. He's created original roles in new plays all over London and the UK. In 2008 he played Laurence in "Abigail's Party" in the 30th anniversary production for over 150 performances, and he's lately returned from Germany where he's been playing the lead in "The Cocktail Hour" for the English Theatre of Hamburg. Steve finds it most useful to explore the amazing richness of English/American theatre text - as so much pro and am drama is text based. He also firmly believes that the best actors are the ones that have an open mind, a willingness to work collaboratively and who haven't grown up too much!

Workshop fee

- ODN members (if you belong to a drama group affiliated to ODN, you are a member) £18.00
 - Concessions (students, senior citizens and the unemployed) £15.00
 - Non ODN members please **add £6** for insurance cover
- No refund of the workshop fee can be made within 48 hours of the event*

Please return completed form and payment (cheques made payable to WOT) to:

Susi Dalton, WOT Committee member, Corner Cottage, Sandy Lane, Southmoor, OX13 5HX
Email susietal@tesco.net tel 01865 820196

Please cut off the form below

Workshop for Actors with Steve Dineen – Sunday 4 Oct 2009

Name: Drama Group (if applicable).....

Address.....

.....Post code

Tel. no..... E:mail.....

I am: *a full OTG/ODN Member, *Not a Member, *Student, *Senior Citizen, *Unemployed
(*Delete as appropriate)

I enclose £..... in payment. Map is / is not required.

Unless you request otherwise, your details will be held on a computer file so that we can advise you of future workshops that might be of interest to you.

PREVIEWS

THAME PLAYERS

A Month of Sundays by Bob Larbey

Where: The Players Theatre, Nelson Street, Thame
When: September 8-12 at 7.45pm
Tickets: £8 and £7, conc £1 off, Tickets Anywhere, Greyhound Walk, Thame or 01844 217228

BREAKALEG PRODUCTIONS

Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde

Romance that sparkles with Wilde's trademark comedy of manners and witty dialogue whilst tugging at the heartstrings in a series of misunderstandings and deceptions of the high society of Victorian London. A model of social rectitude, Lady Windermere learns from an unexpected source the difference between true morality and its mere appearance.

Where: Unicorn Theatre, Abbey Buildings, Abingdon
When: September 23-26 at 7.30pm
Tickets: £5 Wed/Thur, £7 Fri/Sat from Bookstore, The Precinct, Abingdon or phone 01235 821351

DIDCOT PHOENIX DRAMA GROUP

Hellzapoppin – a madcap musical

Based on the 1940s film of the same name, *Hellzapoppin* is guaranteed to entertain with its fast-paced comedy routines and show-stopping songs.

Where: Didcot Civic Hall
When: September 24-26 at 8pm with Saturday matinee on 26th at 2.30pm
Tickets: £6 and £4 concs, from Didcot Civic Hall.

WOODCOTE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Sleuth – a murder mystery by WADS member Karen Foster

Somewhere in England, there's a small village where everyone knows all there is to know about their neighbours. Or do they? Maybe behind the hollyhocks, and net curtains there are guilty secrets and murky pasts? When a stranger arrives threatening to reveal those secrets, then drastic action is needed. Who will be pushed to the limit and beyond? Come and play detective, interrogate the suspects and solve the crime over a dinner served by singing waiters. Each performance over three nights has a different ending. Space is limited so book early.

Where: Woodcote Village Hall
When: October 8, 9 and 10 at 7.30pm
Tickets: £14, must be booked in advance. No door sales. Box office 01491 680556, opens Sept 17.

COMPTON PLAYERS

The Unexpected Guest by Agatha Christie

When a stranger drives into a ditch in thick fog on a country road, he walks to the nearest house for help – only to find a woman standing over a body of her dead husband with a gun in her hand. It looks like an open and shut murder case, but it soon becomes clear that the dead man's wife may be covering up for someone – but who?

With a houseful of suspects with both the motive and opportunity to commit the murder, this play will lead you through classic Christie twists and turns before the true culprit is revealed.

Where: The Coronation Hall, Compton
When: October 14-17 at 7.30pm
Tickets: £7 (£5 concs). All £5 on Oct 14 preview. Box Office 07767 268634, boxoffice@comptonplayers.co.uk

SINODUN PLAYERS

Separate Tables by Terence Rattigan

There's a sense of despair and hope in this celebrated pair of long one-act plays set in a faded genteel hotel in 1950s Bournemouth. The lives of a handful of lonely residents who are common to both plays become intertwined as secrets, lies and past relationships are gradually revealed. Their presence may help or hinder the fragile recovery of a once loving relationship and the surprising deep friendship between two seemingly desperate guests.

This production uses the revised Broadway version modified by the author in 1956 and which has only recently been found and published. The mention of homosexuality would not have been allowed on the British stage in 1954 when the play was first performed in London's West End.

Where: The Corn Exchange, Wallingford
When: October 14 to 17 at 7.45pm
Tickets: £7 Wed, £8 other nights from Box Office, opens Fri & Sat morning, 10-1pm, or phone 01491 825000

HENLEY PLAYERS

The Vortex by Noël Coward

This powerful drama written in 1923 was Coward's first play and launched his career as a playwright and actor. At the time, it caused a considerable stir and Coward had great difficulty getting it passed by the Lord Chamberlain. When he did manage to get it staged, it received critical acclaim as a daring piece of theatre.

It begins as a frothy comedy but as the play progresses, the mood changes. It's a tale of vanity, self-delusion and obsession with youth. There is confrontation between mother and son as the veneer is stripped from their lives but also reconciliation and hope for a better future.

Where: Kenton Theatre, Henley
When: October 20-24 at 8pm
Tickets: Advance booking on 01491 573887. After September 21, from box office, 01491 575698

THE DOMINO PLAYERS

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Dickens' classic tale of doomed and selfless love set in the turbulent years before and during the French Revolution.

Where: Lains Barn, Wantage
When: November 4-6 at 7.30pm
Tickets: £8 (£7 conc). See www.dominoplayers.co.uk

FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Our Town by Thornton Wilder

One of Wilder's two Pulitzer Prize winning plays, this is an affectionate portrait of small town life in his native America and an attempt to put a value on the little events of daily life. The action follows the lives of some of the town's inhabitants over a period of 13 years.

Wilder felt strongly that theatre was limited by the constraints of the typical boxed set and has deliberately pared the set and props to the minimum, relying on the actors to create the atmosphere to convey relationships and emotions. A challenge for the amateur actor.

Where: Faringdon Junior School
When: November 12-14 at 7.30pm
Tickets: £7 & £5 from The Nut Tree, London St, Faringdon, or contact Peter Webster, 01367 240101

CHILTERN PLAYERS

Ancient Lights by Shelagh Stephenson

Three friends meet up after many years – Tom, a self-obsessed American film actor, Bea, a comfortable earth-mother and Kitty, a neurotic TV journalist – with their partners and friends. The play, which contains strong language, takes a wry and very funny look at their past lives, their successes and failures, with a focus on what they have now become.

Where: Peppard Memorial Hall, Rotherfield Peppard
When: November 20/21 and 27/28 at 8pm
Tickets: £7 on the door or phone 0118 972 3628

OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY

My Fair Lady by Lerner & Loewe

Timeless musical based on George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

Where: Oxford Playhouse
When: November 23-28
Tickets: £12-£17.50 (concs available) from theatre

THAME PLAYERS

Toad of Toad Hall by A. A. Milne

Where: The Players Theatre, Nelson Street, Thame
When: December 4-6 and 9-13. Weekdays 7.45pm, weekends 2pm and 5.30pm
Tickets: £8 and £7, conc £1 off, Tickets Anywhere, Greyhound Walk, Thame or 01844 217228

A.C.T.S.

Funny Money by Ray Cooney

Witty and humorous play by a master of comedy writing.

Where: Aston Village Hall
When: 21-23 January 2010
Tickets from Aston Post Office from December 1

REVIEWS

BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS: *Victim by Don West*

The play got off to a slow start. This was more a fault of the play than the acting; in fact it took so long to get to the point, that it was difficult to sustain interest.

The set was very good, giving the impression of being luxurious, but Spartan to say the least, and left doubt for some considerable time as to whether the crew had forgotten to dress it. All was revealed later that it had been stripped of possessions. The lighting was cleverly thought out to heighten the tension, as did the music, which was haunting and appropriate

Christine Hammond (Michelle Mirams) was a little tentative and could have been stronger and more confident. However, her confidence grew as the play proceeded. Susan Marshall (Carrie Smith) was very kindly for an investigative journalist and a little more 'edge' as a seasoned, cynical hack would have been welcomed. Peter Markham (David Sullivan) was not as 'pushy' as estate agents go, but this proved to be a benefit later in the play, when the 'reveal' came.

Ian Kennedy (Neil Smith) shocked us all with his menacing, lugubrious portrayal of the thug. His size and manner were very convincing. Ruth Costello (Rebecca Calverley) was a small cameo part – but was difficult to understand where she fitted in and the significance of the pseudo-mock trial. George Conway (Peter Bloor) played the cameo role of the editor in stately fashion, but, again, left a feeling of why was he actually there?

Overall, a well-acted, good production of a play which let the cast down. It was too long getting to the point; which, when it came, was well presented but still left some confusion about the reason for the characters being brought together. Let's hope for a better choice of play in the future for this talented group.

Nigel James

All our reviews represent a personal opinion and not the opinion of the ODN committee in general. If your society would like a production reviewed, please contact Susi Dalton (details on back page).

WELL DONE KATIE!

Faringdon Dramatic Society member Katie Goodwin has received NODA's Louise English Award. The award is given to a young disabled Society member who has made a significant difference to the group. Faringdon members are extremely proud of Katie, who joined the society in 2004 first appearing on stage as Oli the Clown in their panto *Snow White*. Her nomination for the award read:

"Despite being disabled, and confined to a wheelchair, Katie has since contributed fully to the Society by taking part in many different ways, both on and off the stage, in most of our productions.

For our 60th Anniversary last year, we formed links with a Canadian society, and last summer she went with our

group as "properties manager" to Canada, when they travelled to The Little Garrison Theatre, Fort Erie to perform our summer production *Outside Edge*. Other than this, she is regularly on our front-of-house team and, more recently, appeared on stage as The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe in our pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*. For this role, her wheelchair was decorated as a very large shoe and Katie herself was very willing to have custard pies thrown in her face, insisting that she should not be treated any differently to the rest of the cast.

Katie makes a significant contribution to our Society, despite her disabilities. She is always very cheerful, and willing to help whoever and wherever she can. In all aspects of her life, Katie has never let her disability stand in her way, as she prefers to make the most of her abilities."

**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE: 21 SEPTEMBER.....DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE 21 SEPTEMBER.....
SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAROL EVANS, beagrove@btinternet.com.**

OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA NETWORK COMMITTEE 2009-2010

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Committee Member	Jenny Shepherd	01865 439030	Botley_witch@yahoo.co.uk

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Appleton Players	Mo Alner, Cob House, Whites Forge, Appleton, Abingdon, OX13 5LG, 01865 863850
Aynho Community Theatre	Jayne Ryman jayneryman@aol.com
Balancing Act	Joe Graham 56 Cherry Tree Way, Witan Park, Witney OX28 01993 772197
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Benson Players	Tracy Leiper tracyleiper@hotmail.com
Bicester Drama Society	Nigel Arden, 22 The Bramblings, Bicester, OX26 6SU, 01869 325925
BreakaLeg Productions	Deidre Jones, 14 The Motte, Abingdon OX14 3PA, 01235 527865
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Didcot Phoenix Drama Group	Karen Carey Karen.carey@admin.ox.ac.uk
Domino Players	Brian Morgan 15 Princess Gardens Grove Wantage OX12 0QN
Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society	Angie Paterson angie.paterson@btinternet.com
Dramascope Musical Theatre Yth Grp	Terry Powell, 35 Schofield Avenue, Witney, OX28 1JR, 01993 704820
Drayton Players	Peter Jackson peter.jackson@moteceurope.co.uk
Faringdon Dramatic Society	Karen Whiffen, karen.whiffen@btinternet.com
Goring Gap Players	Enid Stevens, Beechwood, 17 Lycroft Close, Goring-on-Thames RG8 0AT, 01491 874224
Hanborough Players	Raymond Hopkins, 63A Main Road, Long Hanborough, Witney, OX29 8JY, 01993 882950
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Henley Players	Kate Lindsey, kate4lindsey@aol.com
Kennington ADS	James Mansfield, jameselec@googlemail.com
Kidlington Amateur Operatic Society	Alison Jewitt, 148 Headley Way, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7SZ, 01865 762858
Guild of King Alfred Players	Peter King Barbara_and_peter_king@btinternet.com
Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group	Michael Lacey Michael_lacey@talk21.com
Launton Village Players	Steve Procopiou, Brightside, Thame Road, Blackthorn, OX25 1TE, 01869 325320
Marcham Players	Joey Maclean, Collins Farm, Frilford, Abingdon, OX13 5NX, 01865 391242
Nortonian Amateur Dramatic Society	Fred J Clifford, 1 Union Street, Stow-on-the-Wold, Cheltenham, GL54 1BU, 01451 830833
Old Gaol Theatre Company	John Shore, jandgshore@tiscali.co.uk
Oxford Operatic Society	Alex Neil, 22 Poplar Road, Botley, Oxford, OX2 9LB, 01865 790864
Oxford Theatre Guild	Joanna Matthews, joanna.matthews@oxfordtheatrequild.com
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Shrivenham Amateur Dramatic Soc	Angela Morrison, amorri1847@aol.com
Sinodun Players	John Jones John@jones4711.wanadoo.co.uk
Springline Productions	Susie Turnbull susieturnbull@monks court.co.uk
Stagelights	Chris Osland, chris@chris-osland.org.uk
Standlake Players	Phil Burkett plburkett@btinternet.com
Stanton Harcourt Drama Group	Jan Tomlinson, Spindlewood, New Road, Sutton, Witney, OX29 5RT, 01865 881709

Stonesfield Players	Andrew Tacon, andrew.tacon@virgin.net
Thame Players	Tony Long, Oakwood, Oakley Road, Horton-cum-Studley, OX33 1BG, 01865 358907
Wantage Stage Musical Company	Mike Davies, 40 Castle Street, Steventon, Oxon OX13 6SR 01235 834690
Witney Dramatic Society	Carol Lee 165 Moorland Road Witney 01993 774364
Wychwood Players	Phillip Croxson, phillipcroxson@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society	Pauline Bainbridge paulinebainbridge@yahoo.co.uk
Woodstock Players	Richard Marriott, 16 Cadogan Park, Woodstock, OX20 1UN, 01993 811609
Wootton Players	Jenny Shepherd, 17 Deanfield Road, Botley, Oxford, OX2 9DW, 01865 439030
Yarnton Amateur Players	Belinda Davies, 137 Rutten Lane, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 1LT, 01865 372917

The ODN Newsletter is published six times a year, February, April, June, August, October and December, as close to the beginning of the month as possible. Deadline is normally ten days before publication, although the editor would appreciate receiving items before that time. The next edition will be in October. Deadline is **September 21**. Articles submitted for inclusion must include the contributor's name and contact details and may be edited for publication.

Editor: Carol Evans, beagrove@btinternet.com , or 0118 972 3628