

# Sodbury Players Newsletter

Issue 36



Edited by Robert and Diane Owen

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## Jack and the Beanstalk

Rehearsals are now well under way for our 2001 pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" which is being directed by Stan Ward. Details of the cast were included in the last newsletter; Stan is near to finding a full supporting back stage crew:

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Stage Manager  | Phil Lovell             |
| Costumes       | Brenda Allen            |
| Properties     | Margaret and Jacki Ward |
| Lighting       | Tim Hunter              |
| Sound          | Stephen Bashford        |
| Front-of-house | Debbie Bashford         |
| Box Office     | Stephen Bashford        |
| Musical        |                         |
| Director       | Joy Cheverton           |
| Scenic Artist  | Simon Drummond          |

Stan is still looking for a prompt for this show - please contact Stan asap if you can help.

Regular set building sessions are now being held each Sunday at Ridgewood starting at 9:30am - please come along and give a hand - remember it is warm now!!

Our Publicity Officers Mark and Karin are heading a big publicity drive for the panto. It is important to the group's financial security that we make a sound profit on the panto and we are hampered this year by several other local groups doing the same show. If you can display posters or do anything else to help publicise our show please contact Mark or Karin. On Friday 8 December we will be participating in the Victorian Evening in Chipping Sodbury and we will be taking the opportunity to publicise the panto. On the previous Sunday (3 Dec) we will be constructing our "stall". Please come and give your support either with building the stall or on the evening itself. Please contact Robert or one of the committee if you want more details.

## 2001 Spring Play

Details of audition dates for our next year's spring production "A Day of Reckoning" by Pamela

Valentine will be in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, Sue Bridgeman, who will be directing the show is busy with her preparations - contact Sue if you want any further information about this show.

## One Act Festivals - 2001

Our one-act festival entry for next year will be an original play, "Privileges", by Roy Whitlow. The cast is 5 women and 2 men:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Dora Stannard        | 70s; confident, impassive, strong and sympathetic                  |
| Elizabeth Hurlingham | 70s; superior, vain, has 'airs and graces'                         |
| Violet Beet          | 70-80s; eccentric, forgetful, fondly remembers the past            |
| Dennis Potterton     | 70s; a bit of an old lad, joker, brash; good sort underneath       |
| Enoch Pollard        | 70s; ex-stable lad, tipster, fixer, model maker. good sort.        |
| Kyra Grayford        | 30-50s; manager, a new brush, brusque and bossy to start with.     |
| Barbara Hallam       | 30-50s; assistant, caring, helpful to residents, loyal to the home |

Auditions for the show which is being directed by Roy Whitlow will be held on Sunday 10 Dec at 2:30pm and Thursday 14 Dec at 7:30 (both at Ridgewood). Roy is also looking for volunteers for the back stage crew - please contact Roy if you are interested.

## Lighting Course

Three of us braved the Bristol traffic on Saturday morning to attend a one-day course in Lighting & Lighting Design at Bristol University. This was the first time that this course had been run and the university is hoping to run additional courses in drama related topics to make use of the theatre facilities available there. The course started off with an overview of the different stages of designing lighting for a show.

This broke the process into the sections, Design, Planning, Preparation, Rigging, Focussing, Plotting, Staggered rehearsal, technical rehearsal, dress rehearsal and finally performance. We then had an introduction to some of the different lights available and their

various uses. We learnt the correct way to hang a light safely and how to focus the light onto a particular area of the stage. In the afternoon we went through some scenes from various plays and designed lighting to best enhance the scene. We were then given the free run of the theatre to put our designs into practice and observe whether they had had the desired effect or not.

If anybody would like further information then contact Mark Graves, Tim Hunter or Stephen Bashford who attended the course.

## Play Readings

Two more play readings have been held recently. These are a great opportunity to practice your skills without the pressure of auditions! More dates will be set after the panto - watch out for details in the next newsletter.

## Update on Social Events

After a week's postponement due to the bad weather, the Sodbury Players Bonfire finally got under way on November 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a bit of a slow start when the bonfire seemed reluctant to light, but Phil Oliver (master bonfire builder) assured us that it would – and eventually it did. Much warmth was provided by the combination of the bonfire and the mulled wine and mulled cider on hand!

Steve Bashford ably managed the fireworks – although a few members reminisced about the days when a certain pantomime producer used to read the instructions and light the fireworks at Ridgewood by the light of the cigarette drooping from his lips!

Burgers, baked potatoes and sausages were provided in the interval, ably cooked by Rob Owen and his variety of barbecues – the weather stayed fine and we didn't have to resort to cooking them in the kitchen. And as the bonfire burnt down, those members who stayed on to the bitter end were treated to another impromptu firework display – the remains of the multiple fireworks which had been thrown on the bonfire to get rid of them! So much for health and safety!

Above all, we must say a big thank you to Rob and Diane for the use of their garden for the party – without them it would never have happened. And maybe, just maybe, if we all ask nicely, we can put the date in our diaries for next year.....

### Sodbury Players Dinner Dance

So far we have sold about 35 tickets for the Dinner Dance at the Golf Club on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December – at the moment this is down on last year. If any of you have friends or relatives who would like to attend, please speak to Debbie Bashford – we need to let them know menu choices by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November. The Dinner Dance next year has been provisionally booked for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2001, so those of you with previous engagements this year have no excuse for not coming next year – mark it in your diaries now.

### Pantomime After Show Meal

Yes, I know we've got Christmas to get through first, but the pantomime will arrive very shortly after. We're planning a meal out after the first Saturday evening show (20<sup>th</sup> January) – options are back to the Tudor Raj for a curry, the Thai restaurant, or try the new Chinese opening above the George. Preferences (or any other suggestions) to Debbie please.

### Sodbury Vale Sound of Music

A group of the members went to see Sodbury Vale perform The Sound of Music on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November – unfortunately the Sodbury Players turnout was smaller than intended as we could only get tickets on one of our rehearsal nights. We were all very impressed with the standard and the professionalism of the performance – and also with the raked seating installed in the Town Hall for the show. We also managed to get some of our handbills for the pantomime into the foyer before the end of the week. Hopefully this will be the beginning of closer links between the two groups, which should be of mutual benefit. And we want to know the secret of how they managed to sell out every night!

## Dates for your diary

|             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 1 December  | Christmas Dance        |
| 8 December  | Victorian Evening      |
| 10 December | One-act auditions      |
| 13 December | Committee Meeting      |
| 14 December | One-act auditions      |
| 10 Jan      | Committee Meeting      |
| 20-28 Jan   | Pantomime              |
| 18-24 Feb   | Avon One-act           |
| 7 April     | One act regional final |
| 23-26 May   | Spring Play            |