



Dramatic News Dramatic News

www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk

Aug/Sep 2007
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In Our 63rd Year

From the Editor

Well, Summer is over (or is it ... seems nice and warm out there still) and many of us are back from holidays. But the excitement is certainly far from over!

The club is getting bigger (and so are our casting couches). There is a lot to look forward to in the months ahead so spread the word. Tell your friends and family to mark the dates in the calendar.

Also, keep an eye on the website for an up-to-date list of activities and events as well as a record of what has happened in the months (and years) gone by.

This issue

- Jane Eyre.
- Recent activities (a lot has been happening).
- Forthcoming events (... and a lot is still to come).
- A call for information on what assets the club has.
- Some sad news.

JANE EYRE

Rehearsals have now started, with a cast of 20 – a good mixture of regulars, newcomers and people returning after a few years' break.

If you can help out in any way, please contact Ann, the producer, at anmonk@hotmail.com, or Michael, the director, at michael.black@btinternet.com.

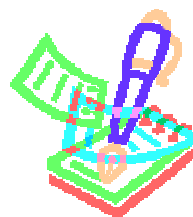
The **first performance, on Thursday, 15 November**, is a fundraiser for the Mayor of Huntingdon's charities: our costs will be covered, and all the profit will go to the charities, which are mainly concerned with disadvantaged children. **Tickets** from jenni.jones@huntingdowntown.gov.uk (there's a link on our website).

We're selling tickets for the **Friday and Saturday performances – book online, or contact Ann.**

For all three nights tickets cost £8 (£6 concessions and for parties of four or more).

CONTACT DETAILS

<mailto:theeditor@huntingdondramaclub.org.uk>
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RECENT ACTIVITIES

A Murder is Announced

Our gamble of putting on a summer production for the first time has paid off, with two very successful performances.

On Friday, 29 June, we performed for the Women's Institute in Warboys, to an audience of around 80. The WI paid us a flat fee to cover our costs, and made a profit that they were delighted with. They've invited us to return.

The next day, 30 June, we were at the Medway Centre in Huntingdon. We're very grateful to the manager there, Derek Adams, who gave us free use of the hall, in recognition of the Club's contribution to the community. The audience was the same size as on Friday (although a week earlier we'd only sold about 20 tickets!), and this time the profits were ours.

Congratulations to Kelly Mason on her directorial debut – she brought everything together very successfully, and kept her cool despite the pressures and provocations. Carol Wadey assisted her very ably (as well as playing a highly convincing Miss Marple), and John Morgan produced, putting in hours of effort to make sure everything went smoothly. We've got several other backstage people to thank, in particular Ann Monk, who, as well as acting, did a lot of work with costumes and props (even creating a Dresden shepherd and shepherdess).

The cast of twelve, which included three people acting for the first time with the Club, performed convincingly, and audience reactions and feedback have been very positive (despite a few minor hiccups!).

I think the Club can once again be proud of its achievement, and I'm now looking forward to our autumn production – Jane Eyre.

Michael Black

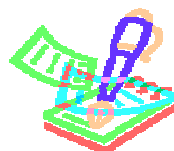
Diversity Day

We had a stall at the Diversity event in Oxmoor in July, which was attended by dozens of organisations and hundreds of people. We met people interested in finding out more about the Club, and networked with other organisations. It was very nice to have people coming up to us to say how much they'd enjoyed *A Murder is Announced*. Events like these help us to become better known in the local community.

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RECENT ACTIVITIES (continued)

LIGHTS FOR THE COMMEMORATION HALL

Jack Hyde helped to found the Club in 1944, and was a very active member until shortly before his death in 2003. He left £1000 to the Club, and we've now spent that on six reconditioned lights for the Commemoration Hall. These will help us improve the technical quality of our productions, and will reduce the amount we spend on hiring lights. There will be a plaque in the hall to commemorate the gift.

Basement clearance

Many thanks to everyone who helped clear the basement of the Commemoration Hall in July, and especially to Carol, who not only helped with the clearance but is temporarily storing our possessions in her garage.

Forthcoming events

Xmas Play Reading Special! - Wednesday, December 5th

{from Carol Wadey}

We will be reading/performing Alan Ayckbourn's "Bedroom Farce" – a comedy set in three bedrooms with a cast of seven.



Alan Ayckbourn

This will be done with some movement so scripts need to be familiarised with (not learnt!).

There will be refreshments for the audience so this should be a 'right good' night out! Please contact me if you are interested in reading and/or want to find out more about it.

Carol Wadey – 01480 431 600

P.S. Pyjamas will be provided

The Woman in Black

12 people from the Club are joining a party to see Michael Burrell starring in *The Woman in Black* on 24 September, followed (if they haven't been reduced to quivering wrecks) by a backstage tour.

Jane Eyre film

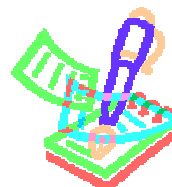
John and Michael have a film of *Jane Eyre*, and will soon arrange with the cast a date for screening it. Contact Michael if you'd like to watch it and aren't in the cast.

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Forthcoming events (continued)

Last of the Summer Wine

Ronald will be holding a garden party on Saturday 22nd September from 2pm in his garden –weather permitting.

Food will be provided by the club, however, please bring whatever you'd like to drink.

Could all those wishing to attend please advise Ronald by email ronstevenson@btopenworld.com so that appropriate numbers can be catered for.

Calling all Assets!

Could everyone please rack their brains as to whether they have been storing in a far flung corner, attic or cupboard any props, furniture or costumes that belong the Drama Club.

We are currently trying to list all our assets so we know what we don't have to beg, steal or borrow when we start any production.

Any information please to Ann Monk Or Carol Wadey

DEATH OF FORMER CLUB PRESIDENT

Some of you will remember Ken Beaton, who has just died at the age of 93. Ken and his wife Kyne, who survives him, regularly attended our performances, and Ken was our President for a number of years in the 1970s and 80s. During this time Ken and Kyne hosted an annual strawberry tea in their garden in Hartford, which was the social highlight of the year for the Club. Those of us who were members at that time will remember Ken with affection and gratitude.

Michael

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