

By the time you read this, rehearsals will be well underway for the autumn production, *Silhouette*, an intriguing mystery by Simon Brett.

The author is a prolific writer of whodunits and has a string of television and radio plays to his credit. He also produced the very first episode of *The Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy*.

The play contains some unusual effects and staging but director Roger Kendal is looking forward to the challenge and is harnessing his technical team for the ride ahead.

Performance dates are November 21/22 and 26/27. Tickets will go on sale shortly at the new price of £7.

For the benefit of those who were not at the annual general meeting in August, the Chiltern Players' committee is now operating under a co-operative of chairpersons. As we were unable to find anybody with enough time to take on that role, each meeting will be chaired by a different committee member. This will allow each member to become fully involved in the running of the society.

The new committee is as follows: Roger Kendal (treasurer), Rosemary House (secretary), Jane Brough, John Evans, Serena Jones, Helen McCutcheon, Nick Moore, Carol Evans (publicity.)

The Players' Pantomime Group, under the direction of Tiffany Saul, will be performing another seasonal masterpiece from January 8 – 11. Further details will be made available shortly, although Tiffany has indicated that she wants to hear from anybody who would like to be involved in some capacity.

A working party is being arranged **on Sunday, October 5 between 10.30 am and 2.30 pm** at Peppard Memorial Hall for the clearing out/tidying up of Players' property. Meet at the Hall at 10am then adjourn for a well-earned pint at The Reformation afterwards (if they're open).

We now have a social sub-committee whose brief it is to organise theatre visits and other fun events, including a possible murder mystery evening. Further details in due course via newsletter or email.

An Annual Dinner is to be arranged at a local pub on February 6. This is instead of the pre-Christmas Dinner. More information to follow.

Jane Brough and Helen McCutcheon have volunteered to run a monthly play reading group. The purpose of this is twofold: to research possible plays for future productions and, as important, to maintain the interest and focus of those members not involved in the current show.

SAND – Subscriptions Are Now Due.

At the first meeting of the new committee recently, it came to light that some Players have not paid their last year's subs. Not really fair for those who do pay, especially if non-payers get parts and their name in lights without paying for the privilege!

It has been decided that from now on, no-one can audition or be allocated a role unless their subs have been paid. And, of course, those Players who don't want to act should also pay up PDQ too!

The amount still stands at £20 – a bargain. Cheques or cash to treasurer Roger Kendal.

We are in the process of setting up a Chiltern Players hotmail email address to act as a central point for receiving Players' correspondence, including enquiries from potential new members.

As everyone is no doubt aware, we are members of the Oxfordshire Drama Network (ODN) and regularly receive newsletters giving information of workshops and other amdram offerings in the area. We are arranging for these to be sent to the hotmail address, from where Serena Jones will re-distribute to all members. So - check your emails regularly so you don't miss your chance to sign up for some very useful and worthwhile workshops, many of which are run by professionals who are in the biz.

The creative talents of this group are constantly emerging. Serena Jones is the fourth Player who has written a play which she will be directing for next year's drama festivals. Serena is an expert on 17th century history and her play, *Falling Star*, is a Jacobean court intrigue which promises to be as colourful in content as in costume.

Food for thought. So far, all of our homegrown playwrights have been women. How about the male of the species showing us their creative talents?

Till next time. Carol Evans