

Newsletter December 2025



Our final Newsletter of the year giving us an opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas on behalf of the Bampton Players. It is also a good time to thank all of those who have been involved in so many ways on so many different activities throughout the year: on stage, behind the scenes and on the Committee. Without everyone playing their part the Players wouldn't be able to function.

It will be a relatively quiet month on the production side, after a frenetic Autumn, but behind the scenes there are a great many people beavering away with preparations for Peter Pan including rehearsals twice a week until mid December. Not only that, we have our Christmas Event to look forward to this month.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Policies

We have updated both our Health and Safety Policy and our Safeguarding Policy in the last month. It doesn't sound very exciting but they are crucial in ensuring that The Bampton Players are taking adequate responsibility for the safety of our members and anyone visiting our productions. The policies are available on our new Website. There will come a time when we should probably stop calling it new but as far as I'm concerned that's not yet as it is still pretty shiny.

Have your Say

Our recent visits to Barnhaven and Castle Grove, where we gave performances of our Mummers Play, were as a direct result of a suggestion from a member. We are also looking at the best way to try and liaise with other local groups to minimise clashes with their productions- again this request came from a member. The Committee are always happy to receive suggestions and comments from our members. Please don't feel the need to wait for the AGM if you have an idea, simply contact one of the Committee members who will pass them on for consideration at our next meeting, which is, incidentally the 13th January.

RECENT PRODUCTION

Mummers Street Theatre

The Mummers Play was performed at the Bampton Fair on Thursday 30th October. It was enjoyed by the crowd although there was a fair bit of competition on the noise front from other nearby attractions. It was a great success and we headlined in the press



Later we performed at Barnhaven and Castle Grove for residents who hadn't been able to attend. As a result of the feedback, particularly from Castle Grove, we will look to try and hold at least one of our dress rehearsals next year on their premises.

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

"Peter Pan"

Bampton Players Present

PETER PAN

A MUSICAL PANTOMIME 



Riverside Hall

18 19 20 21 Feb 2026

Weds, Thurs, Fri & Sat evenings 7:30

Sat matinee 2:30pm

£10/£5 child

Tickets available from Bampton Fresh

The Panto will be performed on the evenings of 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st of February 2026 (with an additional matinee performance on Saturday 21st). As it says, tickets will be available from Bampton Fresh BUT NOT YET!

Now that "Napoleon's Shoe" and the Mummers are complete we have been able to throw all our efforts into preparation for our Panto. Targeted rehearsals are complete and we have moved onto the twice weekly rehearsal pattern although there is a break over the Christmas period. Giving the cast the opportunity to be word perfect once they return in the new year.

Behind the scenes prop building and collation is well underway and all the music has been recorded. Costume creation has ramped up even further; with such a large cast the Wardrobe Team have a mammoth task!

Summer Production 2026

We can now confirm that our Summer Production will be staged on the 13th, 14th and 15th August 2026. It has been penned by our very own playwright Sylvia, hot on the heels of the successful "The Mysterious Mr M". There will be a cast of 13 - 7 male and 6 female characters. As to the title of the play..... well that will be revealed in a future Newsletter along with additional details. If you think this might be for you pop a note in your diaries now and make sure you keep the production week free if you'd like to be considered.

UPCOMING MEMBERS EVENTS

Countdown to Christmas

Technically by the time that you read this it will be a recent event! We were asked by the Countdown to Christmas Committee if we would like to contribute in any way to the celebrations associated with lighting up Bampton to mark the Christmas period and pre-Christmas build-up. We were fully engaged with preparations for Peter Pan and the Mummings play so decided that we would restage this year's Mummings play as it was a showcase of what we do. There will be 2 performances in the church, one at 4:30pm, the other at 5:30pm.

Players Christmas Event



The Christmas Event will be at Riverside Hall on Friday 19th December; it will be catered for by The Toucan with entertainment provided by "Rick The Entertainer". Guests are welcome and, as last year, there will be a reduction on the ticket price for Players members which is £30 for members and £35 for guests.

You will have seen separate emails publicising the details and asking for menu options but at the time of writing we only have 24 confirmed attendees so The Toucan have very generously extended the cut off date until the 5th December. Don't miss out!

Details follow:

BAMPTON PLAYERS CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

19 December 2025

The Riverside 7.15pm for 7.45pm

Festive supper by Steph & Jon from Toucan

Music by Rick the Entertainer

Dancing by choice!

Bring your own drinks

£30 for members and £35 for guests

(no restrictions on extra guests – the more the merrier)

To avoid disappointment – please book and pay for your places

no later than **5th December**

Payment by BACS (account details below) and
preorder (menu below) by email to Xanda@vass-farleigh.co.uk

Main Options

all served with potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Roasted Stuffed Bampton Butcher's Turkey Parcel

(with Christmas stuffing wrapped with smoked bacon)

served with a rich pan gravy & cranberry sauce

Oven Baked Salmon Fillet with Garlic King Prawns

with a white wine and herb cream sauce and a twist of lemon

Chef's Somerset Brie and Red Onion Tart

topped with melting Somerset Brie and Caramelised Red Onion Chutney

Vegan option on request

Desserts

Classic Rich and Fruity Christmas Pudding

with a sweet sugar snow and Devon Clotted Cream

Giant Profiterole filled with Chantily Cream

coated with a warm chocolate sauce

Fresh Fruit Salad

Payment by BACS to: The Bampton Players
Sort Code: 52-30-17
Account number: 32111592
(Please liaise with Xanda if BACS transfer is not for you)

Play Reading

Play reading is always a popular event giving an opportunity for those who aren't able to commit to a production to flex their dramatic muscle. On the 11th March 2026 we will be holding a reading of "Sheila's Island", which we have secured via Library, supporting one of our local amenities. It will be held at Sherwood (Avril and Hugh's place) and the time will be confirmed nearer the date.

PLUGS

Carol Service



St Michael and All Angels, Bampton will be holding their Carol Service on Friday 19th December at 6:00pm

I'd like to thank Jane for spotting that the date of the Carol Service clashed with date of our Christmas event. We were able to push our start time back slightly and the start time of the Carol Service was brought forward so that those who wished would be able to attend both.

And Finally....

Once I aspired to be a great actor in all the great rôles. But now I'm playing a tree in 'Babes In The Wood'. Where did my career go?



It's behind
Yew!!!!

