

Newsletter January 2026



Our first Newsletter of 2026 and it's already looking like it's going to be another busy year for the Players. We are starting to fill the calendar including booking the venue for December 2026's Christmas Do!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

AGM

The Players AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th March at Riverside Hall at 7:30pm. Members will be sent an invitation, by email, around 2 - 3 weeks before the date, which will include the agenda. If there is anything specific that you would like to be considered for the agenda please contact Sue: sue.shaw.wx@gmail.com.

Succession Planning

We are blessed to have a great many skilled and talented actors and technicians in the Bampton Players but we also have some single points of expertise which is always a risk. One of these is the role of Stage Manager and we are looking to bring in an Assistant Stage Manager to support Hugh. If you are interested, or better still have relevant experience, please contact Avril: avril.saxby@gmail.com for further information. We can provide a detailed Role Description, which gives a lot more information on what the role entails, along with an indication of the likely skillsets that a Stage Manager would need. The most important attributes being resilience and enthusiasm!

Membership Renewal

Sylvia will shortly be contacting all current Bampton Players members, by email, with an invitation to renew their membership. We have managed to keep the fees at a very reasonable level: - £10 for adults and free for juniors. She will no doubt be extolling the virtues of Bampton Players membership in her email and has already reminded those taking part in the Panto that membership is a condition of our insurance and is therefore requirement if you wish to be part of any Production.

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). Tickets are selling fast and, at the time of writing, we have already sold over half of them. It really is a case of buying as soon as you can in order to secure the date that you want. Talking of ticket sales a big thank you to all of those in our Saturday Ticket Sales crew who support our ticket sales partners, Bampton Fresh, in all weathers particularly the "interesting" weather during January and February.

Rehearsals are going well and we moved into Riverside Hall earlier this month. This is giving the cast a better feel of the space available and also giving the backstage crew a clearer idea of the challenges to be overcome. On the subject of Riverside Hall a reminder to all the cast and crew from Claire - "Shut the Front Door"!



All the props have been made and nearly all of the costumes have been completed thanks to a sterling effort by the team.

There is still one item outstanding on our prop list, and this is where you may be able to help us. We are after a long handled hoe that we could borrow from now until after the end of Production Week. If you can help please contact Sue :sue.shaw.wx@gmail.com.

"A Doll from the Past"

As you can see, our Summer Production, that will be staged on the 13th, 14th and 15th August 2026 now has a title. There will be a cast of 13 - 7 male and 6 female characters. 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. We will be looking to cast March/April and will publicise the casting dates in our next Newsletter.

Pre-Christmas Production 2026

We are planning to stage another main production in 2026. Avril has been looking at potential scripts and has a "favourite" but we are not yet in a position to confirm what it will be. Come to think about it we still haven't confirmed a date and venue. Rest assured we will be doing..... "something" "somewhen"..... There will definitely be more details available in the next Newsletter although that's not difficult as there could hardly be any less.

RECENT MEMBERS EVENTS

Countdown to Christmas



The restaging of the Mummers Play, as our contribution to “Countdown to Christmas”, inside the Church was very well received. Although in this picture Liz seems to have dropped off mid-play probably overwhelmed by the sheer acting prowess of her compatriots.

Thanks to all who took part especially Judith who pulled it all together.

Players Christmas Event 2025

This year's party, held at Riverside Hall, Bampton on the 19th December was great fun with excellent feedback from all who attended. The festive meal was catered by "The Toucan" who did a fabulous job; they also provided the table decorations and raffle gifts.

The singer, "Rick The Entertainer", made sure that the party kept going well after all the food had been cleared away. It has to be said that the quality of the dancing was "mixed" (there are quite a few fairly serious dancers amongst the group) but what some others lacked in the way of talent they made up for by their exuberance.



FUTURE MEMBERS EVENTS

Play Reading - "Sheila's Island"



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 Bampton Library, supporting one of our local amenities. It will be held at Sherwood (Avril and Hugh's place) and start at 7:00pm.

Players Christmas Event 2026



Yes, you did read that right - it's only January and we are already talking about this year's Christmas Event.

You will have seen earlier in this Newsletter that the Christmas Event was successful but it was not as well attended as last year's. There were a few people who would have loved to have come but they were unavailable. With this in mind we have decided to give as much notice as possible for our 2026 event and also brought the date forward slightly so that it is less likely to clash with other festive offerings.

It will be on Wednesday 9th December at Riverside Hall - save the date now to avoid disappointment

And Finally....

Call me old-fashioned but I preferred it when the sheet had the words and music on it.

