

# Newsletter March 2026



Finally the nights are really starting to draw out and we have entered Spring (meteorological that is, but we all know that is the only definition that really matters - if you don't believe me, Chris will confirm!). There is still a bit too much rain for my liking but to counteract that we have plenty going on within the Players to distract us from the damp conditions.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **AGM**

The Players AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th March at Riverside Hall at 7:30pm. All members have been sent an invitation, by email, which includes the Agenda and the minutes from the 2025 AGM. As per the email, If there is anything specific that you would like to be considered for the agenda please contact Sue: [sue.shaw.wx@gmail.com](mailto:sue.shaw.wx@gmail.com).

### **Membership Renewal**

Sylvia has contacted all the Bampton Players members, by email, with an invitation to renew their membership. Most of you have already responded but if you haven't yet there is still time.

## **Bampton Players 50th Anniversary**

Humphrey contacted the Committee to let them know that this year is the 50th Anniversary of the Bampton Players - the rest of us had no idea!

If you'd like to have a taste of some of what we've been up to over the past few years why not take a look at our past productions on our website: <https://bamptonplayers.org.uk/past-productions/>

We also thought that it would be nice to mark our Golden Anniversary Year in some way - see below under "Future Events".

## **RECENT PRODUCTIONS**

### **"Peter Pan"**



Our Panto, "Peter Pan" was performed on the evenings of 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st of February (with an additional matinee performance on Saturday 21st). This year we scheduled in 5 performances, based on ticket demand for "Alice in Wonderland" which we staged in 2025. "Peter Pan" was a sell out - with some tickets changing hands more than once as returns were quickly snapped up. On the subject of ticket sales we'd like to thank our friends at "Bampton Fresh" for their admirable support.

The show was a triumph and well received by everyone. On top of that our Director, Avril, said that it was "the most enjoyable show that she has ever directed" high praise from someone who, by her own admission doesn't "gush". We have seen the draft review from NODA, who loved it as much as the rest of our audience. As soon as it has been finalised we will circulate their report.

Many thanks to all involved in the production: the cast, crew and all those who helped support us, a real dedicated bunch. Everyone gladly stepped up when needed, be it to cover roles on stage or behind the scenes.

# **FUTURE PRODUCTIONS**

## ***Autumn Production 2026***

We are planning to stage another main production in Autumn 2026. Avril has been looking at potential scripts 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 be more details available - as and when we have them.

## ***Mummers Play***



The Director of our successful Mummer's play last year has decided to step away for a while for a sabbatical (we hope you have a fun gap year Judith) so we are looking for a Mummers Director for 2026. The Mummers play is, typically, only about 10 minutes long meaning that the rehearsal requirements are much less than for our other productions.

In recent years our Bampton Town Charter Day street theatre has taken the form of a traditional Mummers play, but the new Director would have some freedom to either make use of our extensive back catalogue of scripts or commission or write something new. There is also the option of performing a new Mummers style play, which has been developed by Peter with the support of Wendy. The only restriction is that whatever is chosen it would still need to fit in with the general concept.

If you would like to put your name forward to direct please submit an "Expression of Interest" for consideration by the Committee to: [sue.shaw.wx@gmail.com](mailto:sue.shaw.wx@gmail.com). At this stage there is no need to have a fully formed idea, simply a paragraph about yourself, noting any experience you may have and giving an indication of why you'd like to do it. Please note that previous experience as a Director is NOT essential.

## **“A Doll from the Past”**

There has been a change of date for the premiere of our very own Sylvia’s play “A Doll from the Past”, due to issues around availability (or rather lack of it) of key people over the Summer period.

It will now be staged on the 18th, 19th and 20th of March 2027. With read-through/casting taking place on the 2nd and 6th December 2026 and rehearsals starting from mid January 2027. There will be a cast of 13 - 6 male and 7 female characters.

A few of us have already been lucky enough to have seen an advanced copy of the script and can assure you that it will be a blast, both for the audience and also those taking part.

## **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, **THIS COMING WEEK**, we will be holding a reading of “Sheila’s Island”. It will be held at Sherwood (Avril and Hugh’s place) and start at 7:00pm.

If you haven’t already contacted her please let Avril know if you are planning to come so that we can organise enough chairs!

## **Players 50th Anniversary Celebration**



We are planning to hold an event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Bampton Players. The full details are yet to be finalised, however we are provisionally looking at something that will involve an afternoon tea on Saturday 20th June at Riverside Hall - more details to follow.

## **Summer BBQ**



This years Summer BBQ will be held on Saturday July 25th at midday at Sherwood. There will be more details closer to the event

## Autumn Quiz

Save the date - this years Autumn Quiz will be held on Friday 23rd October at Riverside Hall.

## Players Christmas Party



Our Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday 9th December at Riverside Hall - we have secured Jason Toft as our entertainer.

## **And Finally....**

A warm, Funny, modest actor who thoroughly deserves all of the awards and accolades heaped upon her. It really is difficult to dislike Olivia Colman.

But I think we should try.

Agreed.

