

Newsletter September 2026

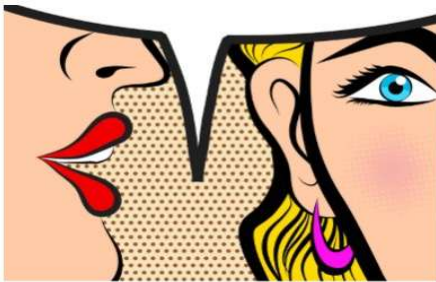


OUR NEXT PRODUCTION IS ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY

Bampton Players Present

RUMOURS

by
Neil Simon



Rehearsals are underway, actors are off the book (mostly!) and **tickets** are on sale from

Bampton Fresh as from 12 September

so head on down to Brook Street and get yours and some for your friends too.

It is promising to be quite a farce!

Riverside Hall
22 - 24 Oct 2026

Thurs, Fri & Sat evenings 7:30
£10 Tickets available from Bampton Fresh

AND THEN.....

WE HAVE THE QUIZ NIGHT

The tickets for the QUIZ NIGHT are also on sale at

Bampton Fresh from 12 September.

If you haven't got a full table or want to join up where there are spare places then contact Avril (avril.saxby@gmail.com) - she may be able to help.



**Bampton Players
QUIZ NIGHT**

Friday 30th October

Riverside Hall, Bampton

6:30 start

Table of 6 for £42

Bring your own drinks
and nibbles



Tickets from Bampton Fresh



AND THEN the day before the quiz night it is

BAMPTON FAIR AND THE MUMMERS PLAY



The call has gone out for interest in the Mummers on Fair Day, 29 October. If you missed the email you need to contact Peter or Wendy on

Peter.michael.james@hotmail.com or
wendyboothroyd@btinternet.com

Lots of over acting and several roles to be had; casting will be underway any day now!

Coming soon!

A Doll from the Past – dates for the diaries

The script and dates in March are set, Production week is 14 – 21 March. We will be putting out a call for interest in a few weeks with read through and casting dates on 18 November, 2 December and 6 December. Keep an eye out for the email with more information!



Don't Forget it's the Christmas Social Event– 9 December

Again, keep an eye out for the email as we will be making some definite arrangements over the next few weeks and sending out invitations but suffice to say it's never too early to look out the party outfit and those toe tapping shoes!

Other news:

The Players BBQ – from Avril

Climate change might be a disaster, but it finally gave us perfect weather, ironically, in the one year we chose not to do an outdoor show—but we will take the win
Under a blistering sun, we gathered for our annual summer feast, which quickly became a masterclass in ensemble acting:

The technical crew dominated the grill, flipping burgers with life-or-death gravity

The stage crew managed the communal food table, which was stacked with delicious dishes and decadent desserts.

Prospective members bravely joined in navigating our random panto songs and dramatic eccentricities with spectacular grace. None fled before dessert, and we have already cast one for the autumn production.

Wine flowed, laughter echoed, and theatrical anecdotes were shared. A standing ovation is due to everyone who brought a dish, grilled, or welcomed a fresh face. If you were there, you know exactly how true this is!

(Very many thanks to Hugh and Avril for their hard work in kindly opening up Sherwood for the splendid gathering)

The Unexpected Guest – from Wendy B

The 50th anniversary of Bampton Players and the 50th anniversary of the death of Agatha Christie, the 'Queen of Crime' have both been remembered this year.

On Friday 21 August the Players offered both members and friends free admission to the film of the dress rehearsal of 'Guest' as it was called during our production in 2013.

Thanks to Humphrey and Sue the recording was of high standard and well projected on the Riverside 'big screen'. We welcomed about 40 guests to a café-style atmosphere with tables, cloths, nibbles, flowers and a bar. Several of the original cast and crew were

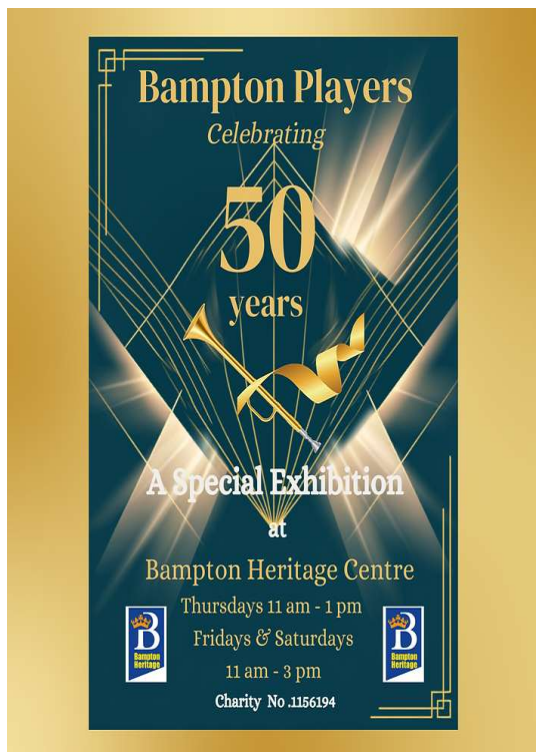
present; some a bit apprehensive about the idea!!! There were some stellar performances and the applause at the end was very well deserved. Feedback has been amazing with congratulations and admiration at the high standard of the play, our production and especially the acting. This was conceived as a 'one off' but we might revisit another play from the archives – watch this space!

No More Crocodile Tears!

The crocodile has been living with Hugh and Avril in Sherwood since February. We tried eBay and the NODA site, with no luck until Marian listed it on a local site for a donation. Immediately she was inundated with people wanting it. The first person to respond has snaffled it. It's going to be used by the link centre Taunton for an event for underprivileged children then it will be donated to the theatre in Minehead. Sleep easy Captain Hook!



Bampton Heritage Centre Special Exhibition



You've probably seen this advertisement in Signpost but please go and see the exhibition in the Bampton Heritage Centre.

Best to have a look at the website:

www.bamptonheritage.com/eventlist

for further details and check out the other BHC events while you are there!

Some thoughts and observations from Chris Beighton:

Can Tech Help Us Learn Lines?

As a keen technologist and fairly new actor, it was inevitable I'd look for ways technology could make learning lines easier.

For *Rumours*, I've been using tools that act like a patient, always-available rehearsal

partner. **Script Rehearser** and the AI-based **ActOnCue** play the other characters while you say your lines, letting you run scenes, repeat tricky sections, or jump between cues. That cue-jumping is useful, though it can leave you knowing what follows a cue without knowing where you are in the play. I've also listened through earbuds while doing mindless jobs — stacking wood works well, but anything needing real concentration doesn't. Getting the script into these tools can be half the battle. For *Rumours*, I photographed every page, converted it to text, tidied it in Word with Xanda Vass doing much of the hard work, then adapted it for the software — with a few corrections along the way. The voices are improving too. **Script Rehearser** can use recordings of the actual cast, while **ActOnCue** is inexpensive, has good voices, and uses AI speech recognition to listen before responding. I've also had access through NODA to a PC-based line-learning tool. I haven't used it enough to judge yet, but it's another option to explore. For *Rumours*, having the script early has made this especially useful, giving me time to learn lines and cues before rehearsals really need them. None of this learns the lines for you, but it helps fit practice into spare moments and makes it easier to run scenes without finding another person.

If there's enough interest, I'd be happy to run a fairly informal workshop sometime after *Rumours* and before *Doll*. I can show what I've been using, how I got the script into it, the various options for voices, the new PC-based tool, and a few of the things that have — and haven't — worked for me. If a few people fancy having a go, let me know and we'll see if we can arrange something. Email: Chris@beighton.me.org

And if you made it this far, it's the

Caption Competition

We had several amusing captions, but the winning one was Sue Shaw's:

"Peter thinks..... Hmmm, how am I going to admit to Hugh that I've stuck my hand to this panel using Superglue"!



Now put your creative juices to what was going on in Teresa's thoughts in this photo as the Mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland?

Amusing, short, kind and repeatable suggestions to:

Membership@bamptonplayers.org

Will it be yours that goes in the next newsletter?