



NEWSLETTER

No 35

APRIL 2011

At long last - a newsletter! We are sorry we haven't published one sooner but here we are with all the latest news.....

DIARY DATES

Sat	9 April		Grand clean up at Highworth Community Centre
Sat	30 April		May Day celebrations
Wed	11 May	8-00pm	Committee Meeting in the Fox
Sat	11 June		Highworth Community Centre official opening day
Fri	24 June	evening	Railway Murder Mystery
	July		Possible Murder Mystery

CANCELLED SPRING PRODUCTION

Despite a significant number of members expressing an interest in the proposed spring play "*A Dish Served Cold*" only four turned up to the recent auditions. As there is a cast of six we found we were unable to proceed with this production. It is now too late to make any realistic alternative arrangements.



We are participating in this community event. We will be dressing up in Elizabethan costume as various historical characters. Members of the public will be invited to quiz us to obtain the answers to various questions set by the organisers of the event. If you would

like to take participate please contact Sandra (762197).

**MAY DAY
CELEBRATIONS
SAT 30 APRIL**



MURDER MYSTERIES

The popularity of these events go from strength to strength! Not only are we in great demand from The Blunsdon Railway but we have been asked to provide similar events for the Tamarind Restaurant and for a company function. We have a regular band of members who participate but if you would like to have a go please let a committee member know. It is a good opportunity to have a go at acting

We have also been invited to stage a short production for Cirencester Agricultural College.

HIGHWORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Under the guiding hands of a band of hardworking volunteers from our town, great progress is being made in converting the ex Northview School into a community centre. A lot has been done already but we have been asked to lend a helping hand on **Saturday 9 April** to give the place a bit of a spring clean ! Please come along for a hour or two to lend a hand.



Please also come along to the official opening day on **Sat 11 June**.

We will be changing our rehearsal venue from the Silver Threads to the Community Centre from 1 May. Not only will the hire cost be better value but we will have more flexibility regarding rehearsal dates and times.

We are planning to stage smaller productions in the HCC starting very soon. Meanwhile we have a few hurdles to overcome namely lack of staging, curtains and lighting provision! It has been proposed that we purchase modular staging (maybe 18" high) which could be easily stored at the HCC thanks to their kind offer to do so. However the staging would cost in excess of £2000 which, although we can afford it, is a large chunk of our savings. Your comments would be welcomed before we proceed with this proposal.

Pete and Tim are to investigate the feasibility of providing a power supply, control equipment and provision for hanging spotlights.

Notwithstanding these problems the committee considers that we should be able to stage a simple play (requiring no special set or lighting) in the HCC in the autumn. Not only would we save a lot of money by so doing but we could get away from the dreaded half term problems and clashing with Halloween!!

Pantomimes will continue to be staged in the Warneford School as it has greater seating capacity and technical facilities.



Sandra, as membership secretary, spends a good deal of time contacting members, usually by e-mail, to tell them about events such as auditions and to ask for views on this and that.

It seems that she often receives no response at all and she sometimes wonders whether she is wasting her time. If you are contacted please

COMMUNICATIONS



find a moment to reply so that she has the answers she needs! Also please let her know if you change your e-mail address. Thanks.

**GET
WELL
SOON**

We send Roger Legg our best wishes. He is not very well at present and was unable to attend the recent pantomime. This must be the first production he has not seen for decades! At least we had a good opportunity to get a lot of messages onto a get-well card!

Get well soon, Roger!

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jo Hall who has just given birth to a baby boy. Well done! And congratulations to granny as well.....!!

Although we've not seen her for a while, who can forget Michelle with her cheeky grin and infectious laugh? Well, she is getting married to Nevil on 4 June. Congratulations to you both.

THE COMMITTEE

The following were elected at the AGM to serve for the next year

Chairman	Sandra Rendall	762197
Vice-Chairman	Alfie Howe	766394
Secretary	Tim Wright	763004
Treasurer	Lesley Towner	765396
Membership Secretary	Sandra Rendall	762197
Play-Reading Secretary	Rachel Hunt	
Committee Members	Pete Selby	763026
	Maureen Penny	861862
	Gareth Davies	763859
	Christian Bushnell	764364

Rachel is starting to look for suitable pantomimes for next year. Three possibilities are:

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
DICK WHITTINGTON
ROBIN HOOD

The recent pantomime made a profit of £606.49 with a total audience of 308. Bar takings were slightly up on the previous year but well down on the year before that.

Venue costs for rehearsals and productions continue to rise and is one reason why we are trying to move most of the time to the HCC.



Ben, who manages our web site, says:

It's hard to think that two years have passed since the web site was set up.

OUR WEB SITE highworthamdram.co.uk The contact form has been used 70 times. In the latter part of 2009 the site was receiving an average of 100 unique visitors a month but in 2010 rose dramatically to an average of 190.

This year he hopes to keep the site more updated by, for instance, including photographs with a few days of a show finishing. He would also like to create a mailing list to help promote production, assist with ticket sales &c.