

The Stonesfield Players

Play reading – ‘Sit and Shiver’

There will be a play reading at Andy and Rosemary Tacon’s home, Wood Green, Church Street on Friday 25 April at 8pm. The play is ‘Sit and Shiver’ by Steven Berkoff, a Jewish black comedy in the Berkoff tradition. This is not a read through with a view to production and you don’t need to be familiar with the play - it’s a social evening and we’ll be performing from the comfort of armchairs. With eight characters in the play, we’ll probably chop and change during the evening so that everyone can have a chance to participate. Come along and enjoy being part of the play as it unfolds, or just sit back and be entertained. And if you’re interested in Berkoff’s work as an actor

Steven Berkoff at Chipping Norton Theatre

On Saturday 14 June Steven Berkoff is performing ‘Shakespeare’s Villains: A Masterclass in Evil’. The Committee had planned to try to organise a Players outing to this, but tickets have already sold so fast that it isn’t practical, so if you’re keen to see the man himself, phone Chipping Norton Theatre as soon as you read this. If you see the show, write a short review for the Newsletter so we all know what we missed!

Safari Supper

On 17 May we are planning a Safari Supper - this is not a feast of bushmeat and you won’t need your solar topi. It’s a meal of three courses, each served in a different location around the village so we go ‘on safari’ for our supper. We all meet at one venue for starters and are told where we’ll be going for the main course, then pudding is at yet another house and we all meet up again at the end of the evening for coffee. Tickets are £12 per person (please bring your own wine) and profits will go towards future productions by The Stonesfield Players. Please

Dates for your diary:

25 April 8pm Play reading, Andy & Rose Tacon’s, Wood Green, Church Street

6 May 8pm AGM at St James Centre

17 May Safari Supper

6 July Treasure Hunt (on foot around Stonesfield)

contact Nicky Holland on 891325 for tickets (which usually sell quickly!). Nicky also needs to hear ASAP from anyone who is willing to host a course – we need several venues for main and pudding courses to make the evening work. In the past people have approached this in

various ways – it could be a traditional ‘sit down’ at the dining table for 6-8 people or a more casual buffet, and sometimes two friends have shared the catering for a course served at one of their houses. Costs of catering can be reclaimed from The Players. It has always been a fun evening and successful fundraiser in the past, so get in touch now for tickets (and to offer to host a course). We hope to end the evening at a venue with a piano so we can have an Old Time sing song in place of the cancelled Old Time Music Hall.

Old Time Music Hall – and future productions

David Stevenson sadly had to withdraw his offer to direct this, for the happy reason that he has a promotion which involves a lot of travel – thanks, David, for all the work you put into the early stages of planning the production, and we hope you’ll be able to get involved again at a later stage. There are still plans to put on a panto and the Committee would be happy to hear from anyone with proposals for other productions, such as a small summer production (which could be an outdoor event). The Safari Supper in May, Treasure hunt on 6 July and a Quiz Night (with supper) on a theatrical theme in September are all being organized to raise funds for future productions and to keep members in touch socially.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be at 8pm in the St James Centre on 6 May. There's a free glass of wine so put it in your diary now and turn up on the night to discuss and vote on the proposal to reintroduce a membership subscription. This was dropped some years ago when the Players were in something of a trough with few productions or other events being organised. This has however created an anomalous situation where it is impossible to determine who our members are. The arguments for a subscription are:

- Firstly, the Players have fixed annual costs such as liability insurance and newsletters. We also need to have funds for the initial stages of any production prior to ticket sale revenue.
- We need a register of members for insurance purposes
- Without a membership list we do not know who is interested in getting involved in future productions or attending performances or receiving the newsletter.

What does your membership provide?

- A regular newsletter to keep you up to date with plans and forthcoming events.
- Social events, such as playreadings, theatre trips, Xmas social.
- Preference in casting for productions. We will not however have a strict members-only rule as that is sometimes impractical. Non-members will be welcome to audition for productions but if offered a part would be required to become a member. Specialists who have to be called in to assist with productions, will not be required to be members

The proposed subscription rates are very reasonable. Adult membership would be £10 a year, Under 18's membership £5 a year and family membership £20 a year.

The Proposal: That membership is granted on payment of an annual subscription, to be paid annually following the AGM.

At the AGM a new committee will be appointed. The new committee creates opportunities for new people to join the committee and help shape the future of The Stonesfield Players. The Committee has to have a Chairman, A Treasurer and a Secretary and up to five additional committee members but no less than a total of five to meet the requirements of it's constitution.

Next newsletter

Please send contributions for the next newsletter to nicky.holland@btinternet.com or tel. 891325.