



# Monthly Newsletter

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## Workshop fun

An enjoyable evening was had by members of the group and potential new members with the Colin Snell improvisation workshop.



## Hats & BBQ

Two of our members recently held a BBQ in their garden. What a wonderful selection of hats there were! A great time was had by all.



## AGM news

After our AGM on Friday July 22nd, we are now able to announce our Directors for the forthcoming year.

Karen Peckover Chair Person

Len Jackson Vice Chair

Duncan Garment Treasurer

Naomi Cope Secretary

Cathy Smith Membership Secretary

Di Jackson Ticket Sales/ Box Office

Rowena Dawson Social Secretary

Julz Dawson, Michael Clarke, David

Valentine, Mark Aldrich

## November Play

Sadly we are having to change the recently cast Wait Until Dark due to a rights issue.

A meeting is scheduled to look at alternatives with a view to a further audition as soon as possible.

Watch this space!

# Members Spotlight

## Meet Chris Henley



I really owe my interest in acting and drama to my brother, Richard. We grew up very close to the Cumberbatch family in Kent, and Richard was a good friend of Benedict's father, Tim, (stage name Timothy Carlton) who played a variety of small parts in TV dramas in the 60s/70s. Richard thought he would do likewise but our father, a naval officer, thought otherwise! My first theatre experience was aged about 5 watching Richard playing the lead role in Julius Caesar, and I was pretty much traumatised by the voluminous tomato ketchup spread all over the stage as he was murdered: I hadn't grasped the "let's pretend" element of acting and I thought he was dead.

My own first role was in the Ghost of Jerry Bundler. I have a copy of the script on foolscap paper if you are interested! I was supposed to discover the dead body, but unfortunately due to an even floorboard in our school hall, I stumbled and toppled over the prostrate form. Dramatic tension out the window! I was always involved in school plays but never in a lead role, although I did have my first experience of playing a woman in A Resounding Tinkle by NF Simpson. At university I was in Romanoff and Juliet by Peter Ustinov before having my first taste of directing with Enter a Free Man by Tom Stoppard.

My talents lay mainly dormant for years until the school where I was working became a Specialist Arts College and the Headteacher came to me and said, "We haven't really got enough Drama on the curriculum". I must have twitched or nodded because in the next breath, he said, "Why don't you take it on? You could do with a change!" I started the Drama Department from scratch and built it up over five years, the best years of my career. We did a major production every year, culminating in a play I wrote myself called A Class Act with 148 students involved, including all the boys' football team.

On retirement I thought I would fade gently away into the wings until my paths were to cross with those of David Valentine. I offered to help out if the Drama Group ever needed an extra pair of hands giving out programmes or whatever. Before I knew where I was, I was the Pantomime Dame...

WE ARE SEEKING NEW MEMBERS WITH AN INTEREST IN LIGHTING AND SOUND.

OUR TWO EXPERTS IN THIS AREA ARE KEEN TO GARNER SUPPORT AND ARE HAPPY TO PROVIDE TRAINING AS NECESSARY.

FOR THOSE WITH SOME PRIOR KNOWLEDGE, WE USE THE THEATRICAL INDUSTRY STANDARD QLAB SOFTWARE FOR SOUND CUEING ON APPLE MAC, OVER A 6 CHANNEL SOUND SYSTEM, SO SOME APPLE KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE HELPFUL BUT IS NOT ESSENTIAL. ON THE LIGHTING FRONT THE EQUIPMENT IS A MIXTURE OF OLD AND OLDER BUT DOES USE CURRENT DIGITAL CONTROL METHODS. ITS LIMITS ARE MAINLY WITHIN ITS OPERATORS SO IMAGINATION AND ENTHUSIASM ARE MOSTLY WHAT IS REQUIRED.

THE GROUP IS A FRIENDLY, SOCIABLE LOT AND HOLDS REGULAR CLUB NIGHTS, MAKES THEATRE VISITS AND GENERALLY HAS A GREAT TIME TOGETHER! ANYONE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT [ebdg@btinternet.com](mailto:ebdg@btinternet.com) YOU WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME!

