

# Oxfordshire Drama Network

## Newsletter



APRIL 2021

### EDITOR'S BULLETIN

There's a lot to look forward to on stage this year, but in the mean time, checkout the films, zoom & radio plays on offer for your entertainment.

There's good news about funding for theatres, and museums (see page 9) I just hope that some funding is left for all of our local theatres.



*Mike Davies*

### WHAT'S ON DIARY (details inside)

**What's On-Line** – New and Old

**What's On Stage** (Covid Permittng!)

#### JULY

- |       |                     |                                  |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7-10  | St Peter's Players  | <b>Ghosts at the Grange</b>      |
| 8-10  | MYCO                | <b>"You Can't Stop The Beat"</b> |
| 14-17 | The Sinodun Players | <b>The Wind in the Willows</b>   |
| 22-24 | Dorchester A.D.S    | <b>The Wind in the Willows</b>   |

#### SEPT/OCT

- |          |                     |                                |
|----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 29-20Oct | The Sinodun Players | <b>A Daughter's A Daughter</b> |
|----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|

#### OCTOBER

- |       |                           |                               |
|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
|       | <i>Kidlington A.O.S.</i>  | <b>HMS Pinafore</b>           |
| 20-23 | The Henley Players        | <b>Saturday Sunday Monday</b> |
| 26-30 | Abingdon Operatic Society | <b>All Shook Up</b>           |

#### NOVEMBER

- |       |                          |                                         |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 17-20 | HAODS                    | <b>"Shrek" The Musical</b>              |
| 24-27 | Jigsaw Stage Productions | <b>The Sound of Music</b>               |
| 24-27 | The Bartholomew Players  | <b>'Table Manners'</b>                  |
| 24-27 | Banbury Cross Players    | <b>The Woman who Cooked her Husband</b> |

#### DECEMBER

- |      |                          |                           |
|------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2-4  | Jigsaw Stage Productions | <b>The Sound of Music</b> |
| 7-11 | Oxford Operatic Society  | <b>My Fair Lady</b>       |

### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Well, we finally have some sort of clarity of when we can start to get back in the rehearsal room... well sort of.. if all goes well.... etc... etc...

I know that there is a lot of excitement, relief and joy that we can at least start planning shows and map out future events, but I also know that there is a lot of trepidation. Some members will be raring to go, and some will be taking tentative steps - everyone is different, and groups should be mindful of this as we slowly emerge from lockdown.

Processes will be different - auditions, rehearsals, set building, front of house management, back-stage management, dressing room etiquette and performances. All these things will need to be thought about in advance, risk assessed, protocol put in place and guidelines shared with the membership- this can be daunting. We all are used to working in a certain way, so changes are going to be challenging.

Unfortunately, we can't tell you the best way to work, that will very much depend on the venues you use for rehearsals/performances and, of course, your membership, but I would urge all committees to think hard about how you manage each aspect of the production process to keep it safe, productive and enjoyable for all.

If you are feeling daunted and looking for a starting point, this document<sup>†</sup> might be worth a read. It is a document that the University of Oxford drew up to offer guidance to Student drama societies. Some of it may not be relevant, but it is certainly worth a read and has some very useful advice. It recommends appointing a Covid Officer (who can delegate some responsibilities) but whose job it is to ensure that UK guidelines are adhered to, as well as any venue specific guidelines and ensures company members understand them. They are also the point of contact for all members if an issue arises or a case of covid occurs. I think this is a really good idea and would recommend that all committees have a designated Covid Officer if at all possible.

As with anything, if you need any advice at all then please email us at (Info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org) and we will do our best to help.

Take care everyone and play safe! *Karen*

<sup>†</sup> <https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/Drama%20Rehearsal%20Guidance%20v1.3%2028.09.20.pdf>  
Or see: [www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/node/123](http://www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/node/123)

Page	INSIDE THIS ISSUE
1	Chairman's Letter
2	Viola! Virtual Vocal Warm-ups
2	Group's activities
3	What's On-Line
4-6	Forthcoming Events
7-8	ODN Survey results
9	Arts Funding ODN committee

Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767)  
Email: [info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork](https://www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork)

## Viola! Virtual Vocal Warmups

By Lavinia Roberts

Stretch out those vocal cords, clear your throat, relax your muscles, take a deep breath, and warm up those voices!

Online acting presents a whole different set of challenges from traditional stage acting. Other aspects, however, remain the same, such as actors using proper diction and projecting their voices using diaphragmatic breathing. When the show must go on online, so must the warm-up exercises! Below are 10 voice warm-ups that translate to Virtual Theatre.

### Group greetings!

Have the actors greet each other but give them different character or animal voices with which to greet one other. Examples include: old friend, sibling, enemy, royalty, superstar, kitten, superhero, wizard, or robot.

### Laugh like...

Have actors laugh in different ways. Examples include: Santa Claus, monkey, witch, robot, baby, ghost. They can even laugh as themselves, especially if they have a distinctly unique laugh. And don't forget the fan-favourite, the classic evil laugh! Aim to use a wide range of laughs, such as a deep giant's laugh or high-pitched, squeaky mouse's laugh. Take suggestions from troupe members on other fun ways to laugh.

### Incredi-pendous portmanteaus

A portmanteau is a "frankenword," blending the sounds and combining the meaning of two words together. Examples of portmanteaus include: spork (from "spoon" and "fork") or brunch ("breakfast" and "lunch").

Have students create their own portmanteau to describe themselves, or the character they are playing, to the group. For example: My name is Lavinia and I am fant-acular, smar-telligent, and creativ-illy! (Fantastic + spectacular, smart + intelligent, creative + silly!).

Pioneer Drama Service -  
[www.PioneerDrama.com](http://www.PioneerDrama.com)

## News from our Groups

### Bartholomew Players:

Still active in Lockdown!!

We've been keeping in touch with our loyal following by sending them regular e-mails about our activities such as the following:

I hope you have managed to stay well during this difficult year and that you are looking forward to coming out of lockdown as much as we are!

We are busy thinking about our November production & relishing the prospect of treading the boards again. In the meantime a group of members have recorded a marvellous play written by one of our own members, Nick Smith, for your listening pleasure.

Nick lives in the village of Fyfield and is part of a group called FLAG who have (successfully!) been battling the housing planners who are trying to build yet another large housing estate in the Fyfield area. Who knows whether his play contributed to the recent decision by the Vale of White Horse to reject the plans - we'd like to think so!

[www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/19094316.controversial-st-johns-college-plan-660-homes-rejected](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/19094316.controversial-st-johns-college-plan-660-homes-rejected)

With a central theme of fighting housing blight, it weaves strands of village & family life with humour & drama.

The link below takes you to our website. So sit down, relax & hit the play button....

<https://www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk/blog>

### Banbury Cross Players

Just a heads up for other groups.

Frenches was recently taken over by a Company called 'Concord'.

On applying for a licence from Concord for a farce – "Out of Order" by Ray Cooney - to be performed next Spring, Banbury Cross Players were quoted £565 for a 4 night run.

Prior to this, the license fee tended to be in the region of £360. A £200, give or take, increase. Something worth bearing in mind, going forward when choosing plays.

Check out other sources first.

Terry Gallager      B.C.P.

N.B. See Publishers page on ODN website. ED  
[www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/node/292](http://www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/node/292)

# WHAT'S ON-LINE

## PREVIOUS LINKS:

### Oxford Operatic Society

CLIMBING EVERY MOUNTAIN!

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=RixwlalySU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RixwlalySU)

### Oxford Theatre Guild

The Recruiting Officer

<https://youtu.be/CXnLXY4SPMY>

Radio Play - Charie's Aunt

<https://youtu.be/CTzLvSfzoqQ>

### Didcot Phoenix On-Line!

Shakespeare Play Reading

<https://youtu.be/2B1g2RbHV70> or  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B1g2RbHV70](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B1g2RbHV70)

You are not alone

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATIOA\\_xwDK0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATIOA_xwDK0)

Panto – “Dick Whittington and his Cat”

<https://youtu.be/WJ6t7guYcPc>

### The Wychwood Players murder mystery

radio play ‘Resting’ adapted by Anthony Goffton.

See our new website: [www.wychwoodplayers.com](http://www.wychwoodplayers.com)

### The Bartholomew Players

“Zoom Christmas Special: Herd Ingenuity”

Watch out for this latest play on the Bartholomew Players website . [www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk](http://www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk)

[Zoom – A Play For Lockdown](#)

[Zoom – The Second Wave](#)

[Zoom – Herd Ingenuity](#)

### MYCO

“Anthem” from their cancelled production of “Chess”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaWtz\\_U18oE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaWtz_U18oE)

### Banbury Operatic

“Another Op'nin', another (online) show”

<https://youtu.be/532aCFPx1g>

### Stanton Harcourt Drama Group

Video we created for the chase in Camelot (2018)

[www.facebook.com/StantonHarcourtDrama/videos/783102508553332](http://www.facebook.com/StantonHarcourtDrama/videos/783102508553332)

## St Peters Players

Virtual Christmas Show

[https://youtu.be/lIOF\\_B87Tow](https://youtu.be/lIOF_B87Tow)

## Thame Players

The B O R I S Initiative

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovPAicBDblo>

## NEW LINKS :-

### Bartholomew Players

'A Little Prick', the latest Zoom play by Marie-José Zuurbier and Tess Townsend....

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wy22WDUxzuU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wy22WDUxzuU)

An original Radio play “The Battle of Fyfield”, by our very own Nick Smith, about country life & the fight against house developers. (N.B. contains swear words some may find offensive )

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lIMPL8lb9gk>

### The Oxford Theatre Guild

FILM of

“As You Like It”

by William Shakespeare



<http://ow.ly/ryL950E4ep4>

Radio play of “St Joan”

by George Bernard Shaw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnXVoAUKLTU>

or see [www.oxfordtheatreguild.com](http://www.oxfordtheatreguild.com)

### The Wychwood Players

“Deathtrap” by Ira Levin

A comedy-thriller video with many plot twists

See <https://www.wychwoodplayers.com/video>

‘Something for the Weekend’.

A murder mystery play

(From 7th April)

by John Drew and Ralph Wears.

A Cornish radio station is holding a

Murder Mystery Weekend at a

local luxury hotel. During the

course of the weekend one of the

guests succeeds in offending and

upsetting the other seven participants.

But who will be the victim and who is the prime

suspect.

See <https://www.wychwoodplayers.com/video>



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Covid permitting

### ST PETER'S PLAYERS

(hopefully) present

## Ghosts at the Grange

by Karen Doling-

A whodunnit with haunting! Lancelot and Guinevere are dead, and have been for a hundred years. They haunt Arthur's house, and are the only witnesses to his murder. But how can they let his family know who committed the foul deed?



**When:** Wed 7th to Sat 10th July 2021 7.30pm.

**Where:** Wolvercote Village Hall

**Tickets:** £9 available from 01865 556120

### MYCO

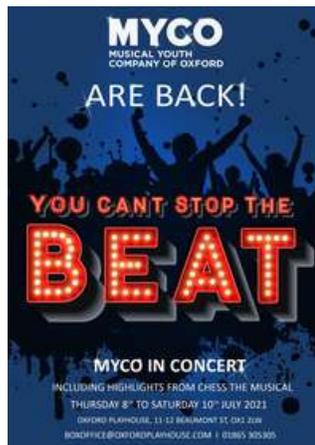
## "You Can't Stop The Beat"

**MYCO Summer Concert**

This will be the first time that MYCO has performed the Summer Concert at the Playhouse and will be an opportunity to showcase and celebrate all things MYCO. The Committee had plenty of suggestions and ideas for the content of the Show, which will be developed in the coming weeks.

**When:** 8th, 9th and 10th July

**Where:** Oxford Playhouse, George St, Oxford



### THE SINODUN PLAYERS

## The Wind in the Willows'

by Kenneth Grahame

Adaptation & Directed by Marilyn Johnstone.

**When:** 14th – 17th July 2021

**Where:** The Corn Exchange Theatre, Wallingford.

**Tickets:** [www.sinodunplayers.org.uk](http://www.sinodunplayers.org.uk)

### DORCHESTER A.D.S.

## The Wind in the Willows

Adapted by Philip Dart for open-air performance. An enchanting version of Kenneth Grahame's classic children's novel, in the beautiful setting of Dorchester Abbey's Cloister Garden.

**When:** 22nd, 23rd July, 7pm + 24th July 2pm + 6pm

**Where:** Cloister Garden, Dorchester Abbey, OX10 7HH

**Tickets:** Avail when government regulations allow performances

**Website:** [www.dads.org.uk](http://www.dads.org.uk)



### THE SINODUN PLAYERS

## 'A Daughter's A Daughter'

by Agatha Christie

**When:** 29th Sept- 2nd Oct

**Where:** The Corn Exchange Theatre, Wallingford.

**Tickets:**

[www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk)



### KIDLINGTON A.O.S.

## HMS Pinafore

By Gilbert & Sullivan

**When:** October 2021

**Where:** Gosford Hill School, Kidlington, OX5 2NT

More Details: [www.kaos.news](http://www.kaos.news)

### THE HENLEY PLAYERS

## Saturday Sunday Monday

by Eduardo de Filippo

Marital misunderstandings, a lover's quarrel, and generational conflict



escalate as passions flare during the traditional Sunday dinner with family and friends. Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall adapted Eduardo de Filippo's sparkling contemporary Italian commedia dell'arte, which looks at the trial and tribulations of a well-off family in Naples in 1959.

**When:** 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2021, 7.30pm + Sat 2.30pm  
**Where:** The Kenton Theatre, New Street, Henley on Thames, RG9 2BP

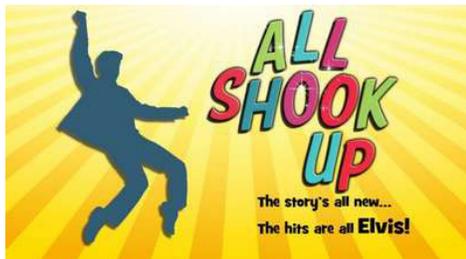
**Tickets:** will be from the Kenton Box Office 01491 575698 or online at [www.kentontheatre.co.uk](http://www.kentontheatre.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.henleyplayers.com](http://www.henleyplayers.com)

---

## ABINGDON OPERATIC SOCIETY

### All Shook Up



The music of Elvis Presley comes alive in All Shook Up which was inspired by Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. A small Midwestern town is thrown into a frenzy with the arrival of Chad, fresh out of prison, a good-looking, motorcycle-riding roustabout, who travels the open roads with a guitar on his back, blue suede shoes on his feet, and a song in his heart.

Repressed by their conservative mayor, the town begins to come alive once more under Chad's influence. Lovers meet, woo, pursue, and more, all in one zany night that will change the town forever.

All Shook Up is a rocking, heart-warming tale about following dreams, opening up to love, and the power of music, featuring a whole host of hit songs from the Elvis songbook, including *Jailhouse Rock*, *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Love Me Tender*, *Blue Suede Shoes*, *A Little Less Conversation*, and many more.

**When:** Tue 26<sup>th</sup> – Sat 30<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm, with a 2.30pm Saturday matinee!

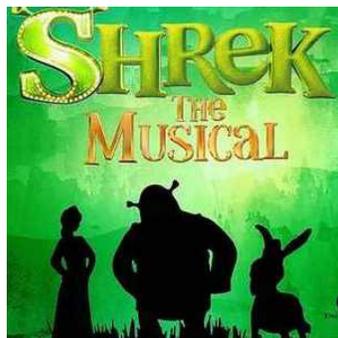
**Where:** Amey Theatre at Abingdon School, Park Rd, Abingdon OX14 1DE

**Website:** [www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk](http://www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk)

---

### HAODS "Shrek" The Musical

Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film, Shrek The Musical is a Tony Award-winning fairy tale adventure featuring all new songs from Jeanine Tesori (Thoroughly Modern Millie, Caroline or Change) and a sidesplitting book by David Lindsay-Abaire. Shrek brings all the beloved characters you know from the film to life on



stage, and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears.

"Once upon a time, there was a little ogre named Shrek..." And thus begins the tale of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Throw in a short tempered bad guy, a cookie with an attitude, and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there's one on hand...and his name is Shrek.

**When:** 17th – 20th November 2021

**Where:** The Kenton Theatre, Henley on Thames

**Tickets:** [www.kentontheatre.co.uk](http://www.kentontheatre.co.uk)

---

### THE BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS 'Table Manners'

by Alan Ayckbourn



By Alan Ayckbourn

Annie has arranged to spend an illicit weekend with her sister Ruth's husband Norman, and for this reason, suitably disguised, has asked her elder brother Reg and his wife Sarah to look after their widowed mother and the house. As it happens the seduction, thought or planned, by each of the six characters never takes place either.

**When:** 24th-27th November 2021. 7.30pm

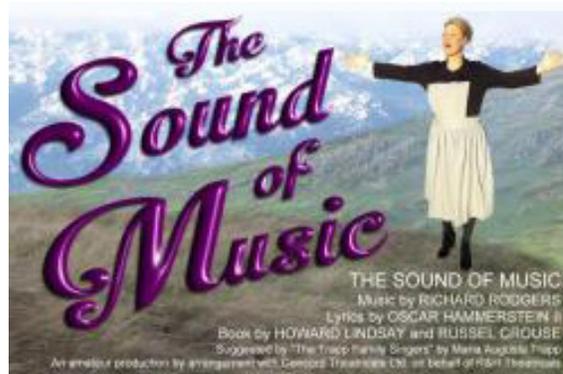
**Where:** Eynsham Village Hall, 46 Back Lane, Eynsham, Nr Witney, OX29 4QW

---

## JIGSAW STAGE PRODUCTIONS

### "The Sound of Music"

by Rodgers and Hammerstein.



The story of Maria and the Von Trapp family will delight you with its award winning score, including, 'My Favourite Things', 'Do-Re-Mi', 'Climb Every Mountain', and 'Edelweiss'.

It tells the true tale of the world-famous singing family, from their romantic beginnings and search for

happiness to their thrilling escape to freedom as Austria becomes part of the Third Reich at the start of WWII.

**VENUES:-**

**The Beacon**, Wantage,

Weds 24th to Sat 27th Nov 2021  
at 7.45pm + Matinee Sat at 2.30pm

**Tickets** £15 (£13 conc) from The Beacon:-  
[www.beaconwantage.co.uk](http://www.beaconwantage.co.uk) or tel 01235 763456

**AND**

**Cornerstone** Didcot,

Thur 2nd to Sat 4th Dec 2021  
at 7.45pm + Matinee Sat at 2.30pm

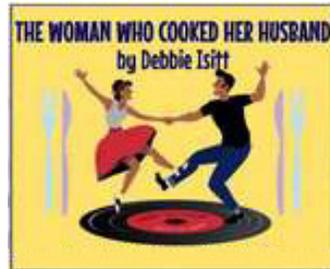
**Tickets** £15 (£13 conc) from Cornerstone:-  
[www.cornerstone-arts.org](http://www.cornerstone-arts.org) or Tel 01235 515144

---

## BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS

### The Woman who Cooked her Husband by Debbie Isitt

Kenneth and Hilary have been married nearly twenty years. But as middle age approaches, Ken finds himself in the arms of another woman. Forced to confront the truth, he leaves Hilary for Laura. Only one problem – Laura can't cook!



When: 24th to 27th November 7.30pm.

Where: The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park Rd,  
Banbury, OX16 5QE

Tickets: [www.themillartscentre.co.uk](http://www.themillartscentre.co.uk)  
[www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk](http://www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk)

---

## OXFORD OPERATIC SOCIETY

### My Fair Lady

This adored musical, set in Edwardian London, tells the story of Eliza Doolittle, a young working-class Cockney flower seller. She is taken under the wing of Henry Higgins, a phonetics & linguistics professor who is determined to win a bet to transform her into a successful and respected 'lady of society'. But who will really be transformed once the bet is won?



**When:** Tue 7<sup>th</sup> - Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021.

**Where:** The New Theatre, George St, Oxford.

**Tickets:** on sale now! From:-

[www.atgtickets.com/shows/oxops-my-fair-lady/new-theatre-oxford](http://www.atgtickets.com/shows/oxops-my-fair-lady/new-theatre-oxford)

## THAME PLAYERS Babes in the Wood,

Will Our Babes in the Wood Be Saved? Oh, Yes, They Will!



The story of two young children (the Babes), who, after their father dies, are abandoned deep in the forest by their wicked uncle and left to die, so that he can inherit the fortune their father left them. But his plot is foiled when Robin Hood and his Merry Men rescue them and, with Maid Marion, they return to the castle. The uncle is unmasked as the villain and the Babes get their rightful inheritance – oh, yes, they do!!

With all the ingredients you'd expect in a Thame Players' panto, with plenty of fun and jokes, music, singing and dancing, for all the family.

To be performed in December 2021. dates TBA

New members are always welcome, email:-  
[membership@thameplayers.co.uk](mailto:membership@thameplayers.co.uk) for details.

Website [www.thameplayers.co.uk](http://www.thameplayers.co.uk)

Twitter.com/thametheatre,

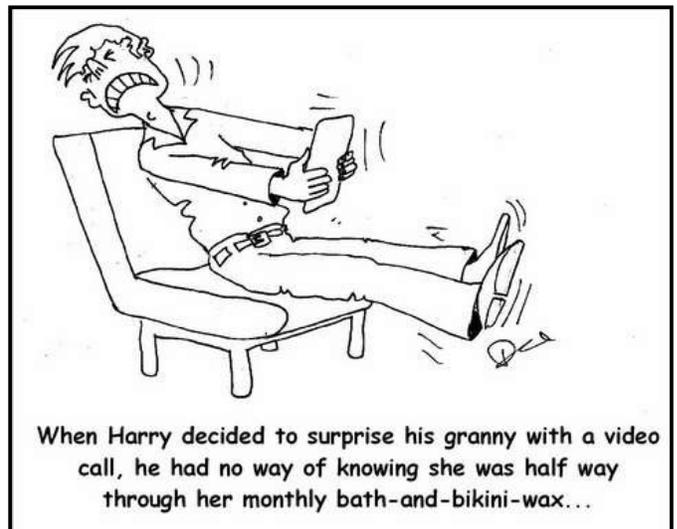
Facebook.com/thametheatre

Instagram.com/thameplayers

---

Dave Hawkins of Compton Players resolved to draw 'a cartoon-a-day' during the lockdowns! Here's another. He's published 100 of them in a book called "What Did You Do In The Lockdown, Daddy?" available from him at:-

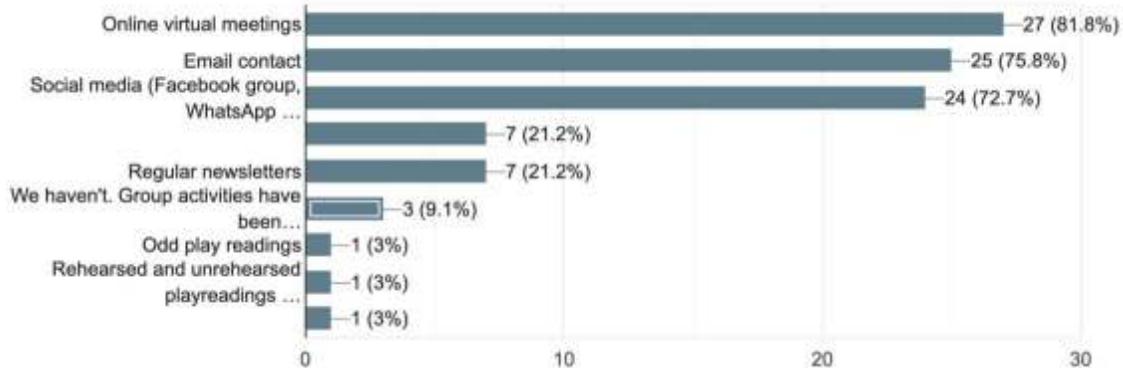
[david@dragondes.co.uk](mailto:david@dragondes.co.uk)



Copyright ©Dave Hawkins 2021

## Survey Results

In the last newsletter we asked our members to complete a short survey to give us a picture of what our member groups have been doing (if anything) over the last year and what support we can offer going forward. Many thanks to all those who completed the survey.

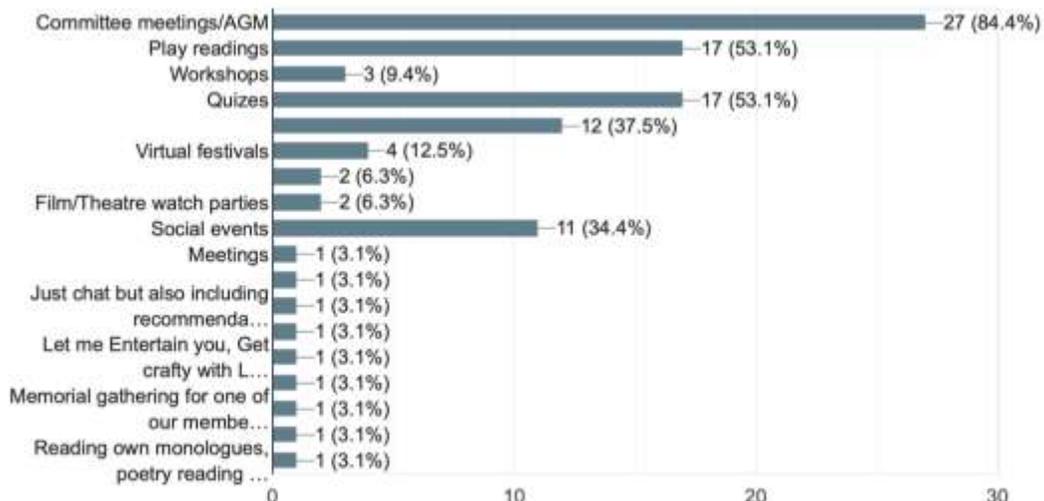


We were really encouraged to see that the majority of groups have been really pro-active and working hard to stay connected with the membership, with virtual meetings (82%) and regular email contact (76%) the most popular method. Although some regular group meetings have been suspended until face-to-face rehearsals recommence, committees were still meeting online, and members were kept up to date.



For those of you who have managed to meet virtually, 30% of you managed to maintain regular weekly meetings which is really impressive, and I certainly wasn't expecting it to be so high.

There has been a really wide variety of activities across the membership with the majority being formal meetings, but still a wide spread of activities ranging from play readings, quizzes, social events, watch parties and even a very lovely memorial gathering for one of the members who sadly died

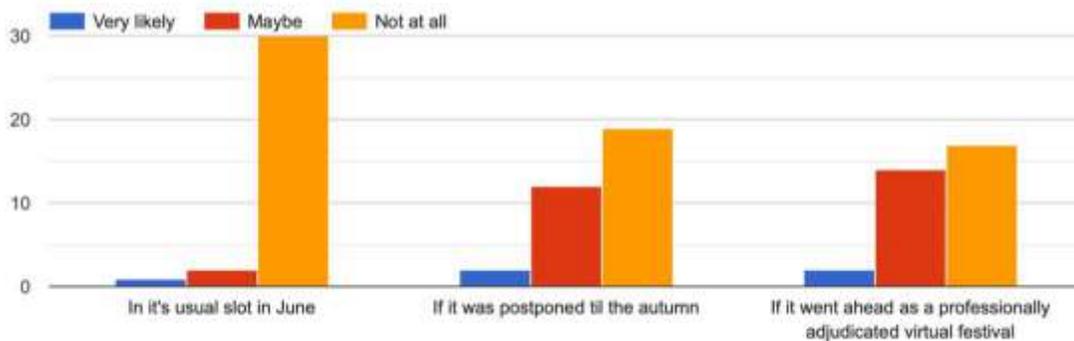


For those of you who did manage to meet up in person during that short window of opportunity last summer/autumn (which weren't many) only a few managed to get some rehearsing done, most were for social or exercise purposes

Looking forward, the 52% of you are hoping to start rehearsing in the autumn for a winter show, with just over 27% planning to start rehearsing asap for a summer show, 12% looking to start in the summer with an autumn show, 6% are waiting until next year and 3% are planning virtual productions until things are more settled.



Unfortunately, it looks like the ODN festival will have to wait until next year before groups are likely to return. I think this is pretty much what we expected, particularly given the fact that most of you will be looking to rehearse in the autumn for a winter show (possibly looking at Panto??).



We also asked for any ways in which the ODN could support you. There were quite a few of these - most to do with recruiting members - actors, directors and technical support roles. We will take all these suggestions on board as a committee and look at ways in which we can help - it maybe that we respond to the groups on an individual basis or put some suggestions in the next newsletter or social media sites if we feel it will be of benefit to all the membership.

Thanks once again to all groups who completed the survey.

## THE ARTS ARE BEING SAVED!!

Hurrah, we've been recognised as in need at last!! The Cultural Recovery Fund Oxfordshire is paying out big money. This has been granted to help us reopen the world of entertainment. More than £300 million has been awarded already to many cultural organisations.



### THEATRES IN GENERAL:

Fear not, help is at hand. The Oxford Playhouse, on Beaumont Street, has been awarded a grant of £1 million to help it reopen on May 28. The Unicorn Theatre off Checker Walk and the Abbey Cinema, based in Abingdon, will also be receiving a grant of £197,917. Performing arts theatre, Pegasus in East Oxford, that provides creative opportunities for children and young people, is set to receive £20,000 from the recovery fund. This support will help the theatre over the coming months as it re-opens its building for drama and street dance classes in preparation for a full programme on stage in autumn.

According to The Oxford Mail and The Herald Series reporter Eiran Jane Prosser, Anneliese Dodds, MP for Oxford East, said: "I am delighted that Pegasus has been awarded a grant from the Culture Recovery Fund.

### MUSEUMS & CINEMAS:

The grant will help museums to reopen later in the spring and develop commercial activities to help strengthen their financial resilience. Independent cinemas will also be receiving funding, including The Ultimate Picture Palace, on Jeune Street. Oxfordshire's River and Rowing Museum, in Henley on Thames, will also be receiving £152,071 to help its reopening on May 20 and to adapt to the post-Covid environment. Over the pandemic, the riverside museum saw a 60 per cent income drop compared to previous years. Apparently, more than £800 million in grants and loans has already been awarded to support almost 3,800 cinemas, performance venues, museums, heritage sites, and other cultural organisations dealing with the immediate challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.

Great news for us thespians and theatre lovers, apparently, this second round of grants will help organisations reopen and recover in the spring and summer months, after a year of closures and cancellations. Did I blink and miss the first-round folks?

Sue Hadley  
Drayton Players - Fellow Director.

Ref: Newsquest Newspapers Wed April 7th 2021  
Reporter: Eiran Jane Prosser  
[www.OxfordMail.co.uk](http://www.OxfordMail.co.uk)

## Your ODN Committee

### Officers

Chair	Karen Carey	(Didcot Phoenix Drama Group)
Secretary	Becki Brewis	(Wootton Players)
Newsletter/Website	Mike Davies	(Drayton Players & Jigsaw Stage Productions)
Treasurer	Peter Brazier	(Didcot Phoenix Drama Group)
Membership Secretary	Sue Tibbles	(Oxford Theatre Guild)

### General members

Mike Lacey	(Kingston Bagpuize)
Sue Hadley	(Drayton Players)
Sarah Ellner	(Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society)
Jess Ebberson	(Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society)
Teresa Miller	(Wootton Players)

N.B. We have held the AGM in Drayton for a few years now and would really like to move it around the county so that other groups don't have to travel so far. We would really like to encourage one of our member groups to host next year's AGM – the ODN will cover any hall hire expenses – so please email us if this is something you would like to do.

Email: [info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org](mailto:info@OxfordshireDramaNetwork.org)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1324585987569767)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork](https://www.instagram.com/oxfordshiredramanetwork)