

# Octopus



FEBRUARY 2008

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Pat Morrissey</b>	<b>418004</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Karen Gill</b>	<b>413783</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bill Healing</b>	<b>417206</b>
<b>Child Protection Officer</b>	<b>Paula Cantwell</b>	<b>418406</b>

Best Actor – Mike Sellars for his consummate performance as a villager. Word perfect from the first rehearsal as well as being ever present and always ready for his cue – A perfect example of an Octopus member.

Dear Octopus members,

With a funny old year behind us, I feel compelled to write and congratulate everyone involved in our pantomime **Treasure Island**: a great debut script by Gill Brooks and superbly directed by Paula Cantwell.



As with a lot of our productions, the transformation from rehearsal to live performance was miraculous. With such a big cast, it was only at the Technical Rehearsal that we had the whole cast together for the first time. Anyway the audience loved it and, as well as an excellent write-up in the gazette by someone called Tony Domaille (thank you Tony!!), we also had some really good feedback from the NODA representative. He really enjoyed the energy and sense of community that came across. At the after performance party, awards were given as usual to 4 categories:

Best Actress – Polly the parrot, played by the lovely Grace Linehan. She stole the audience's hearts and coped very well with working closely with the evil Long John Silver. I am surprised she is not suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Best newcomer – The Fruit Machine, expertly built by Geoff Gill and fully functional except at the crucial moments. I can still see the cast staring at it and wondering whether it would match the sound effects.

Lenny Award (most OTT performance) – The Black Spot, its placement transformed Phil Domaille from his normal professional approach, to a performance, which grew in length and stature with every performance. As someone on the side waiting for his cue, it became a never-ending saga, as he played to the audience with relish and was rewarded with non-stop laughter.

A big thanks to Paula and Adrian for hosting the party at their house.

A final word on the panto and that is it is great to see Len Crayston up and about again. Len had a nasty turn (no pun intended), which really laid him low and just as he recovered from that his back went, so he was really in the wars.

As I said at the beginning, “a funny old year”. No June play and no October show and the

delays with refurbishment of the hall meant that I was starting to worry whether I would be the first Octopus Chairman to go a whole year without a show.

But we now have to look forward and our next production (11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June) is Spirits of the Past, which is a history of Porch House (the parish hall) over the last 600 years. Alison Bagnall is busy pulling this all together and there will be quite a few parts to fill. We expect readings and rehearsals to start in early March – watch out for details.

After this we have a play in October and then a pantomime next January. Although we will discuss at the AGM, we need volunteers to find/write/direct for these two events. If you are interested, please let one of the committee know.

On the social side of things, quite a few members are supporting the “ACT” evening at Leyhill Prison on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> February and, if anyone else is interested, tickets can be obtained through Thornbury Garden Shop or have a word with Jenny Dennis. Tickets are £12.

The committee does not have a social secretary at present and we will again be looking for a volunteer (or 2) at the AGM.

After February, our next event is normally in April and we have pencilled in Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April. At a recent committee meeting, we thought that an informal Sausage/Faggots and Mash evening combined with skittles in the Parish Hall maybe a good idea and we will put this to members at the AGM. It should be inexpensive and give a chance for some of the younger members to come along.

You will be pleased (or not) to know that all of your current committee members are prepared to stand for another year unless of course anyone else wants to stand and, in that case, we will need nominations to be given to our secretary, Karen Gill. For information, I have listed the current committee at the end of this Tentacle.

Well that’s all for now folks (where have I seen that before?) and I hope to see lots of you at the AGM on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in the parlour at Porch House.

Pat Morrissey (Chairman)

#### Octopus Committee Members

Pat Morrissey – Chairman

Nick Baskerville – Deputy Chairman

Karen Gill – Secretary

Bill Healing – Treasurer

Paula Cantwell – Child Protection

Alison Bagnall – Seconded committee member