



Silchester Village Hall

Little London Rd, Silchester, Reading RG7 2ND

Handbook

June 2022

WELCOME TO THE SILCHESTER PLAYERS

The Silchester Players grew out of a fundraising production in 1975 by a group of local people who put on an old time music hall to raise money for Leukemia Research. The show was a great success and the group adopted the name "Silchester Players".

The Silchester Players is a strong community group bringing local people together to put on award winning amateur dramatic productions for the local community and in keeping with the original ethos continue to donate money from each show to charity. To date we have donated in excess of £45,000. The Players also continue to actively support local groups.

Covid restrictions: The health and well-being of our members and audiences is always our first concern and in all our activities we comply scrupulously with the relevant Covid restrictions.

SKILLS

Putting on a production requires a huge team effort, utilising a wealth of skills and talents. Previous experience for any of these roles is useful but certainly not essential.

The group offers the opportunity for you to explore new and old skills under the comfortably experienced arm of other members.

- Acting
- Director
- Front of house: refreshments, ticket & programme sales
- Lighting
- Musician
- Poster, banner, programme and ticket design
- Publicity
- Producer
- Prompt
- Props
- Set design, building and painting.
- Singing
- Sound
- Stage management
- Wardrobe

You can work alongside our experienced technical crew and learn the ropes, you may even discover talents you didn't realise you had.

NODA - NATIONAL OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION.

The Silchester Players are a member of NODA. You will be asked to pay an annual membership fee:

- £12 adults
- £6 juniors
- £24 family membership

This covers our affiliation to NODA and importantly includes insurance.

A NODA representative attends and reviews each of our productions.

The Regional NODA group has an annual awards ceremony and we have been fortunate to receive Accolades of Excellence for "The Importance of Being Earnest 2012" "Twelfth Night 2014" "Blithe Spirit 2018" and "Treasure Island 2019". A huge achievement as we are grouped regionally with much larger groups who have access to greater resources.

PRODUCTIONS

We put on three productions every year: Winter, Spring and Autumn; a pantomime, a comedy and a drama.

Auditions take place:

- February for our Spring production in May
- June for our Autumn production in October
- Oct /Nov for our pantomime end of January beginning of February

AUDITIONS

At auditions we ask you sign up for the skills you most want to deliver or learn.

Potential actors and actresses are asked to read selected parts of the next production.

The Director/Producer then notifies each person over the next week of the role they would like you to carry out.

Children are invited to audition for pantomime (the age of entry is at the discretion of the director).

Once auditions have taken place we meet at Silchester Village Hall twice a week to rehearse on Tuesday and Thursday / Friday 7.30-9.30pm. Refreshments are provided and we ask for a donation of 20p towards the cost of tea/coffee and biscuits.

Rehearsals are followed by a swift beverage at the local public house if you wish to join in extending the evening.

Rehearsal schedule can be found on the website.

Pantomime includes a Sunday rehearsal for children and chorus until January when they join the rest of the cast.

SET BUILD

Each show involves a vast array of skills to achieve the final performances. Set build takes place over several weekends which involve painting and building sets, and rigging technical equipment. Tea/coffee and doughnuts are provided.

PERFORMANCES

During the week of the show we have an additional rehearsal for each of our productions on the Sunday, this is our technical rehearsal, it

includes all cast and crew with costumes and makeup. The purpose of this is to fine tune technical aspects of the production.

Tuesday of this week is a full dress rehearsal and then we go straight into our weekend performances:

Performances are:

Spring and Autumn productions:

Week 1 - Friday & Saturday evening

Week 2 - Friday & Saturday evening

Pantomime:

Week 1 - Friday evening

Saturday matinee

Saturday evening

Sunday matinee (Christmas charity performance for our local Lions Club)

Week 2 - Friday evening

Saturday matinee

Saturday evening

Tickets for the performances can be purchased online or via the telephone number on our publicity posters.

After each first night, when adrenaline is still running and excitement overflows with our achievement, we meet after the show for a "first night curry."

As a mark of appreciation for the enormous amount of hard work which goes into production and direction we like to have a modest collection during the run of each show to purchase small thank you gifts. One of the senior members of the cast usually arranges this and organises the presentation to the director/producer on stage after the final curtain on the last night.

After each last night one of our members opens their house for an after-show party, a celebration of three months of fun and hard work. This is followed the next day (Sunday) by meeting at the hall to all pitch in for the set break which includes bacon butties tea and coffee.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are invited to attend the AGM in June where the year's productions / finances / constitution and issues are discussed.

The Silchester Players have a committee of 10-12 members who are elected by the group at the AGM. The committee meets regularly to manage the running of the Players.

SOCIAL EVENTS

- Christmas Meal - at the Calleva Arms in December
- Summer BBQ - hosted by one of our members
- The Drammies

THE DRAMMIES

Every three years we hold an event at the Silchester Village Hall called "The Drammies".

This event is where we celebrate our achievements over the past three years. We traditionally make this 'black tie' and invite the nominated charities to receive donations from our productions.

The Drammies is also about giving something back to our members for their commitment and achievements. Awards and recognitions are given through a membership voting scheme.

The evening includes food and entertainment.

SWEATSHIRTS




We are proud of the Silchester Players and given the opportunity we wear our sweatshirts which bear the Players logo with pride.

If you too would like one of the sweatshirts you will have the opportunity to purchase one when we place our twice yearly order.

COMMUNICATION

- E-mail
- Messenger
- Newsletter - a regular newsletter is sent to all members
- Website: www.silchesterplayers.org

Follow us on:

-  Facebook
-  Instagram
-  Twitter

Silchester Players would like to thank our audiences for their loyal support over the decades. We are also grateful to those companies and individuals locally who have placed adverts in our program and generously lent us, props, equipment and lighting.