

# ***THE BOARDS NEWSLETTER***

## ***May Edition***

Well, here we are again or perhaps I should say still, as we're all stuck, aren't we? So yes, welcome to the May newsletter. There have been many heart-warming stories among all the tragedies but one of the most touching was about the middle-aged woman and her husband who had moved into a caravan on their front drive. The woman was a nurse and didn't want to risk passing on the virus to her elderly mother who was living in their house. Now that's a loving sacrifice.

No doubt you will have heard about the closure of the Artrix due to ongoing financial difficulties, as a result of the virus pandemic. You may also have seen Alison's posting on Facebook and will be aware that there are many discussions going on between the various interested parties who would like to see a revival of the venue. All and Sundry are of course one of these and will try to keep on the inside of events.

The Bromsgrove Council has said that once the Liquidator has disposed of the assets, they will see if they can come up with a plan (in conjunction with others) to revive an arts venue in the town, albeit not necessarily on the same site. They have made it clear, though, that this won't be done from public funds. This may or may not be successful and in any event could take some considerable time.

In the meantime, we have to find a venue for The Vicar Of Dibley. However, this could also depend on what happens with the Panto and as you may have seen on Facebook, it is still our intention to produce Peter Pan at the Artrix if at all possible. If not we will of course be investigating other venue options.

### Oscars Night cancelled!

Other bad news this month was that the Chateau Impney contacted us to say they were cancelling all their bookings. We found out later that they too were closing their doors. Had the event gone ahead, clearly there would not have been enough shows to compete for awards anyway, so the good news is that your committee has decided that we will host some kind of similar, high-profile social event to replace it towards the end of the year, if possible.

### Better news

Good news to report, at last. The committee has decided that membership fees will be waived for the coming year, even though we hope to be doing at least some productions.

We are still committed to the schools production of Macbeth at the Crescent Theatre next March, with auditions and rehearsals being arranged, when the situation is clear.

After that, the general plan is to continue with the two studio productions that were scheduled for this year. Should the Artrix be revived, of course we'll produce them there but if not, we'll be looking at alternative venues, including the Norbury Theatre.

I think that covers everything for the moment, so I'll leave you with the news that once places are allowed to re-open, there is to be a new Indian restaurant opening up in Bromsgrove. It's going to be called Karma. There'll be no menu, you'll just get what you deserve!

That's all, stay safe,

Rog