



President ~ Sir Derek Jacobi

## Newsletter—April 2026

**Dear Marlborough members** — We're very excited that this week we will be presenting to you our first play of the 2026 season—'Kind Hearts and Coronets'! We have a large cast raring to go—so do come along. Read on for the news from behind the scenes, plus updates about social events planned, our Autumn play and an update about 2025's 'The Ladykillers'.

### **Spring Production—9-11 April, 2026: 'KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS'**

With Lindsey Crutchett making her directorial debut for the Marlborough, we look forward to presenting this stage version of the classic **Ealing film black comedy** to you. Back at our usual home of Brentwood School Memorial Hall, Thursday and Friday at 7:30pm and Saturday matinee 2:30pm only, tickets

are **£16** for subscription and non-members.

If you are a full member,

you have one ticket per person included with your membership—don't forget to let us know which night you will be coming.

You can either book on the website or by calling **Harry on 07746 915348**.

There is a lot of news about the production on our website—from behind the scenes photos from rehearsals, and making the set at the barn, to videos of the cast saying their favourite lines (follow the links to our social media pages.) Plus we have been lucky enough to be interviewed by The Brentwood Buzz podcast and Phoenix FM—both of



*Bill and Colin rehearsing*

which you can listen to again—follow the links from our website. There is of course lots of information about our lovely cast and a synopsis of the play to help set the scene... But most of all we look forward to seeing you in the 'Mem Hall' for the show.



*Colin and Lindsey working on the role of Archie (the elder)*



*Richard, Josie and Graham in a café scene*



*Harry, Bill, Sue and Steve set painting at the barn*

*Photos by Juliette Bird*



*Tim, Abbie, Andrew, Richard and Charlii*

**Turn over for news of our (very imminent!) next social event—Quiz with Hutton Players**



## SOCIAL EVENTS:

### First Quiz—8 May, with Hutton Players

Following the success of our 2025 quiz evening, when we joined with the Hutton Players for the evening, we have talked with our Hutton friends and decided to repeat the event—twice this year! The first chance to come and test your general knowledge skills will be on 8 May, 7pm for a 7:30pm start, at **Shenfield Parish Hall, CM15 8LB**, with the delectable Reg Wheeler as our quizmaster. **Bring your own drinks and nibbles**, tickets are **£10** and you can book by calling Harry on 07746 915348, or by emailing [secretary@marlboroughdramaticclub.uk](mailto:secretary@marlboroughdramaticclub.uk).

Tables of eight max please. There will be a raffle and other small games during the evening and the winning table will receive a prize. Please **book by 1 May**.



## SOCIAL EVENTS:

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The **second quiz** will be held on **18 September** at the same location—and more news about how to book will be released in the summer.

On **25 June** we plan to hold our annual



### Afternoon Tea

and award the Cass Cup to a member of the Club who has provided outstanding service to the Club over the preceding year. Previous winners are Juliette Bird and Bill Wells, and, in May, we will be providing more details on how to book and vote for your 2026 winner.

## Autumn Production 2026:

### 'MY BOY JACK' by David Haig

### Now on 22-24 October 2026

Back in February, we held a couple of auditions for our Autumn production of the play telling the true story of Rudyard Kipling's family's experience during the early part of the 20th century. We are pleased to announce that it is almost fully cast. We are still searching for our 'Elsie'. You can find more details on the character on our website, and if you fancy trying out for the role, contact director Graham Poulteney via [gpoul@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gpoul@hotmail.co.uk). Also, we have brought the show forward by one week—this is so that we don't clash with a tribute event for Mark Griffiths—see the January 2026 newsletter. We also have booked an authentic costume and prop package for this play—as it will feature some pivotal World War I trench scenes.

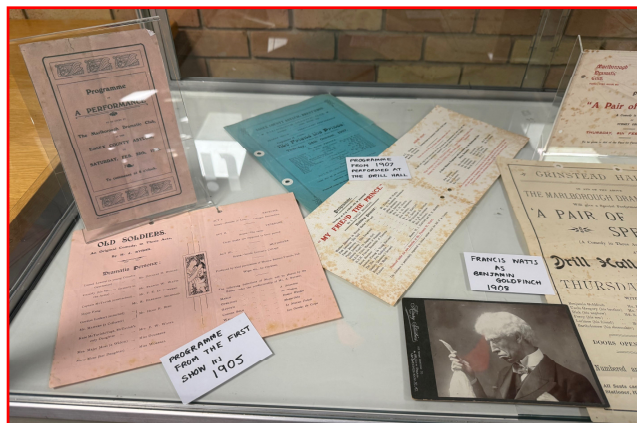


## Club history display

Back in January we let you know that the **Brentwood Museum** had kindly offered us their display case at **Brentwood Library** to show some of our archival materials from the early 1900s. We hope you've had the chance to visit—we will be there until the end of April.



Photos by Juliette Bird





## NODA Awards news!

We are thrilled to announce that **the Club won the Best Technical** award at the National Operatic and Dramatic Association ceremony on 22 March for the ‘**Amazing 2 floor set design and creation in limited space**’ for 2025’s production of ‘**The Ladykillers**’ - directed by Bill Wells. We were there to receive the award—a bittersweet moment as we remembered the late Kevin Wright, who had been instrumental in the set design and build, and the late Mark Griffiths, who had both starred in the show and helped construct and dismantle the set. There’s a more detailed article about our win on the website.



*Karol, Harry and Steve at the NODA Awards*

## Membership update

**Thank you** to all members who have renewed for 2026—we **value your continuing support** of the Club and look forward to entertaining you this year. We are also delighted to welcome new members to the Club: Tim, Abbie, Charlii, Andrew S, Andrew C, Graham, Josie, Mhairi, John, Denise, Colin, Louise, Natalie & partner, Martin and Margaret. We hope you enjoy being part of 122 year old Brentwood institution—the Marlborough!

**NEW!** We also are thrilled to announce that the committee have decided to award **Lifetime Membership** to two very longstanding, hard working and dedicated Club members. A new award, the committee decided that this membership category would be available on very rare occasions to those members who had gone above and beyond in their service to the Club over many years.

**Congratulations to Keith and Jean Morgan** for being the first recipients, and we thank them for all they have done for the Club since they joined in 1982. Keith said “We are overwhelmed with your gracious and generous offer (and) feel very honoured to receive this.”



*Jean and Keith Morgan—in 2017’s ‘Uncle Vanya’ - directed by Bill Wells*

## **Contact us:**

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**Our website: [marlboroughdramaticclub.uk](http://marlboroughdramaticclub.uk)**

**Facebook: [marlboroughdrama](https://www.facebook.com/marlboroughdrama) & Instagram: [marlborough\\_dramatic\\_club](https://www.instagram.com/marlborough_dramatic_club)**

**Contacting you:** If you received this newsletter by post and would prefer to receive it by email (or vice versa) or would prefer not to receive it at all – please let us know using the contact details above.