

## Shining a Light on the founder of the Lightnin' Drama Group Sue Ospreay

The Lightnin' Drama Group based in Rainham Village has been going strong since October 1980. Lightnin' was started by the energetic and somewhat politically incorrect Sue Ospreay way back when everywhere seemed bigger and brighter with Rubik Cube and Post It Notes all the rage and leg warmers part of every-day fashion (shocking)!! The times were almost as colourful and long standing as the outrageous Sue herself, but not quite obviously!!



With her larger than life personality and boundless amounts of energy, looking back now it seems drama was an inevitable path for Sue to follow. It all began when a friend of Sue who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer was campaigning tirelessly doing many fund raisers to try to keep the Oldchurch Cancer Unit Open after its closure had been announced. Sue never able to sit back while others did all the hard work, offered to put together a variety show in the Village so that they could sell tickets and help raise awareness and get support from young and old alike.

The show was put together in next to no time and was such a huge success that it was clear to all involved that Sue had clearly found her calling and that was it the Lightnin' Drama Group was born.

Sue has always been a big supporter of the local community and still supports local causes and charities, fund raising wherever possible and giving locals something to believe in. Sue is in direct contact with Santa and her team work with him each year to get the sleigh on the road and streets around the village to put a smile on children's faces and to help raise money for St Francis Hospice and many other good causes. She's also a great supporter of local kids and is always there with guidance and support and has helped many a lost youth back onto the right track with her no-nonsense straight-talking approach that they can always rely upon.



Lightnin' Drama has proved to be so successful with children in the Village that a new younger group was formed aptly named Thunder Production and now growing from strength to strength



Sue has also become a big part of RAVE (Rainham Association for Village Events) and has been given the obvious roll of Entertainments Manager which has seen the village fares become bigger and better every year since she has been involved working alongside local residents and shopkeepers and local businesses to improve the community for everyone.

The work that Sue and her merry team continue to do is a great credit to the local community and Smartmove are proud to have been sponsors of the lightnin' drama group for a number of years now with many of our team directly involved in the group in many ways.



So, a big thankyou to Sue for all the years of hard work and slog that she has put into our community. She has a great team behind her and leads them so well.

***"Amateur by name but not by Performance"*** quoted by Sue Ospreay of Lightnin' Drama and Thunder Production - and believed by all who've seen them.