



## THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

*Dennis Picott*

**D**EAR FRIENDS, Time moves swiftly on and already the first production of 2019 is behind us. In February director Margaret Kennedy and her excellent cast brought us the very funny and incredibly fast moving *Who's Who?* Four terrific performances and an excellent set all combined with the witty script to keep us intrigued.



Our next production in May brings us something very different. *The Thrill of Love* is a drama based on the life and death of Ruth Ellis. Rehearsals are well under way and I am lucky to have gathered a cast of five talented actors, three of whom are new to our theatre.

I look forward to seeing you all soon, either in our May audiences or before, at one of our social gatherings.

Dennis.

*Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians*

**My eyes aren't what they used to be. They used to be my ears.**

*Spike Milligan*

### OUR NEXT PRODUCTION – *THE THRILL OF LOVE* by Amanda Whittington

The controversially tragic and brief life of Ruth Ellis, a woman whose public story will be familiar to many of our audience, is the subject matter of the next production at Seaford.

This is a sensitive and poignant drama from the pen of Amanda Whittington, the writer behind *Ladies' Day* which was received with much acclaim at Seaford in 2017.

A hostess in West End 'gentlemen's clubs', Ruth Ellis worked hard, played hard and dreamt of a movie-star life. Yet in 1955, the self-styled 'blonde bombshell' was convicted of murder and became the last woman to be hanged in Great Britain.

In this gripping play Ruth's crime is re-examined in the light of the society she lived in and the experiences that led to her shooting her lover. Through the eyes of film noir Detective Inspector Gale – and the haunting voice of Billie Holiday – *The Thrill of Love* explores the enigma of Ruth: a woman whose short but explosive life still resonates today.

The production marks the debuts at Seaford for three of the cast, Leona Davide as Ruth Ellis, Simon Fox as Jack Gale and Rebecca Kite as Vickie Martin, although all three have a wide range of experience elsewhere.. They are joined by Sharon Besant as Sylvia Shaw and Clare Forshaw as Doris Judd.

The production opens on Friday 10 May 2019 and runs through to the following Saturday 18 May with a matinée only on Saturday 11 & Saturday 18 May. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinées will start at 2.30pm.

**Please note that this season we are trialling having two matinées (on the first and last Saturdays), with no evening performance on that final Saturday.**

Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card please) and friends of the theatre are available in advance from Friday 12 April 2019 at our box office:



#### REDGOLD OPTICIANS,

**32 Broad Street, Seaford, BN25 1ND.**

Please note that Redgolds are not able to take any bookings over the telephone. They have very kindly given their services as a place where tickets can be purchased in person, but they are also a business and we would respectfully request that anyone wishing to make enquiries about tickets should only do so using the number below.

Postal applications should be sent to: Diane Guyatt, 31 Pondsye Court, Sutton Drive, Seaford, BN25 3ET

They must be accompanied by a cheque made out to 'Seaford Dramatic Society' and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If the position you request is not possible the nearest available seats will be sent.

It is also possible to reserve tickets by email for collection and payment on the door. Send your application to:

**[tickets@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk](mailto:tickets@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk)**

Please provide your name, address and telephone number and state how many seats you require and for which performance. **Could you also provide an alternative date in case the position or date you would like is not available.**

Again if the position you request is not possible the nearest available seats will be reserved.

The ticket prices are £9.00 each for the tiered seats and £8.00 each for all other seats.

**Please be aware this production contains the sound of gunfire.**

**For general enquiries regarding the next production please ring Liz & Len Treglown 01323 492821**

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The new event, Homedrive, was a lot of fun and enjoyed by those that came along, so a big thank you to Gill who led the evening. And our intrepid explorers had a good laugh and some fine exercise on our second country walk (see below for a report) Now on with more dates for the coming weeks.

## SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE CLEARANCE SALE

### SATURDAY 20 APRIL

#### Easter Fun & Fundraiser

Seaford Little Theatre from 10.00am - 4.00pm.

Join us for a festive fundraiser with our clearance sale of excess clothing, shoes, props and furniture. So roll up, roll up and enjoy the day with lots to buy, games to play and prizes to win. We will have a high quality raffle, tombola, children's craft stall and much, much more. And refreshments and splendid homemade cakes will be on sale in our coffee lounge. Part of the proceeds will be going to the worthy charity of Leukaemia Care. Please note: no rodents will be harmed in the Bat the Rat game ... only Ray's old socks.

### SATURDAY 27 APRIL

#### Another Little Theatre Kath Kennard Walk

Meet at The Furlongs, Alfriston at 10.00am

Our last walk took in the splendours of the river Ouse and Telscombe Village as a hardy band of eight, plus two dogs, enjoyed a balmy day in March, strolling through countryside, farmland and areas of historical interest, followed by a splendid breakfasty/brunchy/lunch in the Courtyard Cafe (where the dogs were impressed with the free sausages). We were fortunate to have two wildlife enthusiasts along too, as Stuart Ridley drew our attention to the warble of skylarks and Dug Godfrey, armed with a compass, spotted a rare species of edible moss and skipped daintily among the snowdrops and bluebells. Needless to say we avoided the edible moss, although it's possible Dug may have been nibbling on mushrooms.



For our next walk we will be exploring the gentle undulations just north of Alfriston at the base of the South Downs, taking in Alciston and Berwick church. The walk will last approx 2 hours, starting and finishing in the same place followed by refreshments in Alfriston. Once we know numbers we will organise transport to make sure everyone can get there and back again.

### SATURDAY 18 MAY

#### The Thrill of Love Wrap Party



There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production *The Thrill of Love*. Please, as usual, bring some food and whatever you want to drink to help celebrate, with the cast and crew of the production, after what I am sure will be another success.

### SUNDAY 19 MAY

#### Theatre Clean Up

Seaford Little Theatre from 2.00pm

All cast and crew members of *The Thrill of Love* to please attend to clean and tidy up the Theatre after this production. The costumes, props etc., will need to be returned and to be sorted beforehand and the Theatre to be cleaned through. There will also be a get together afterwards for a meal.

### SATURDAY 8 JUNE

#### Let's Get Quizical

Seaford Little Theatre 7.30pm

It has been far too long since we have had one of our popular Seaford Little Theatre Quizzes, so it's time to dust off your few remaining brain cells and join Alan for an evening of cerebral stimulation. There will be all the usual rounds to test your knowledge, plus table rounds, jokers and spot prizes and something magnificent for the winners. Cost per person will be £8 to include a ploughman's supper. Please bring your own drink.



### FUTURE DATES:

Seaford's Got Talent - Revised date Saturday 17 August, Playing with Fire Xmas Disco - Saturday 14 December. And if anyone is interested in bowling at Barcombe later in the year I need to know by 1 May so I can book up.

For all events please let me know ASAP if you will be attending. For further details about any of the Social activities, or if you have any comments/suggestions please contact me, Debbie Cox, on 07596709044 or email at [coxdeb8@gmail.com](mailto:coxdeb8@gmail.com). Thank you for your continuing support.

*I look forward to hearing from you soon, Debbie*



For those of you who know how to write, contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. Send your pieces to:

Email: [mail@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk](mailto:mail@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk)

Snail Mail: 25 Sherwood Road,

Seaford

BN25 3EH



▶ Copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 7 JUNE 2019 ◀



Photos from the set of  
*Who's Who?*  
 taken by Andrew Parkinson  
[www.rememberingwhen.co.uk](http://www.rememberingwhen.co.uk)

# What What?



## OBITUARIES

Sadly two of our members have passed away in recent weeks.

Toni Gill-Devito was a great friend to Seaford Little Theatre and loved to support our social events. Not only support but last year she took part in our Murder Mystery Dinner where she played the role of the Inspector with great panache. She will be greatly missed.

Hazel Langley was in the cast of a number of production in the 2000's including **Make Way for Lucia**, **Ladies in Retirement** and **Waiting in the Wings**, our Diamond Jubilee production. She will be remembered for her great enthusiasm in every role she took on.

The condolences and sympathies of all at Seaford Little Theatre go to their families at this sad time.

## PLAY READING GROUP

We always look forward to welcoming new members to our play reading sessions on the first Tuesday of the month at 19.30 in the Coffee Lounge. There is a nominal charge of £1 for refreshments.

In April we read **The Happiest Days of Your Life** by John Dighton, which is one of the plays being considered for a future production. There will be no reading in May due to dress rehearsals for **The Thrill of Love** so the next play reading will be **Rebecca** by Daphne du Maurier which will be read on June 4.

Everyone is welcome to play readings and so are your suggestions for plays, which are subject to availability.

For more details please contact Mary on 07891691341 or young-g4@sky.com



## A BIG THANK YOU

Grateful thanks from us all at Seaford Little Theatre go to Ray Boynton who, thanks to a bequest in his will, has made a generous donation to the theatre via his friend, Jo Tigg. Ray was an enthusiastic audience member and supporter of SLT and thanks to his generosity we will be able to replace the black legs and curtains, which have been overdue for refurbishment for several years.

## A LITTLE BIT OF VAUDEVILLE PRODUCTION MEETING

**VAUDEVILLE!**  
A DAZZLING DISPLAY  
OF  
HETEROGENEOUS SPLENDOR  
DESIGNED TO EDUCATE, EDIFY, AMAZE, AND UPLIFT



A further reminder about the planning/production meeting for **A Little Bit of Vaudeville** which takes place at the Little Theatre on Saturday 29 June at 2.00pm. We would welcome the input of anyone who wants to support this popular and fun event, which takes place on Friday 30 & Saturday 31 August 2019 and helps to raise funds for a worthy charitable cause. So if you have a specific talent or just generally would like to perform; or if you are too shy to grace the stage but can offer some form of practical support such as front of house, tea making, backstage assistance etc. we would love to see you at the meeting.

## UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS FOR THE REST OF 2019

- ▶ 26 July - 3 August **NOT NOW, DARLING** by Ray Cooney & John Chapman, directed by Garry Fowler
- ▶ 30 - 31 August **A LITTLE VAUDEVILLE SHOW** directed by Graham Tubb
- ▶ 08 - 16 November **ON GOLDEN POND** by Ernest Thompson, directed by Trish Richings



## THEATRE WORKS

Work continues to progress on our new workshop as well as the refurbishments to the green room and dressing rooms. The workshop has now been provided with lighting and power, the roof has been completed, the exterior given additional waterproofing, and we are in the process of insulating and boarding out the interior, as well as getting it fitted out with shelving and equipment.

In the backstage area we have been gradually getting the walls painted whilst also re-jigging the layout to the dressing rooms. These projects are all works in progress which we will be pursuing throughout the year as time permits. There are also plans afoot to replace the stage carpeting and to provide additional signage on the side of the building.

## ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU

One of our members, Jayne Marshall, has generously provided us with a great deal of fabric and haberdashery accessories in recent years, which have proved to be a great boon to the society, particularly where the wardrobe is concerned. Without these sorts of selfless actions there would be a far greater strain on our financial resources, so a massive thank you to Jayne and everyone else who has kindly made such donations.



For an on-line version of this newsletter and lots of other information visit the Seaford Little Theatre Website on [www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk)

Audition Date: Wednesday 24 April 2019 - 7.30pm - Seaford Little Theatre  
 Production dates: 26 July - 3 August 2019

A very successful West End hit, this very funny farce is set in the elegant fur salon of Bodley, Bodley and Crouch. Gilbert Bodley has designs on Janie, a beautiful model. His efforts to give her an expensive mink coat go wrong, when the coat is given to her husband's mistress! Mayhem involving Gilbert's wife and the office staff ensues.

<b>CHARACTERS</b>	
<b>MISS WHITTINGTON</b>	Attractive model
<b>ARNOLD CROUCH</b>	Nervous guy, not very worldly. First of the three directors of the company
<b>MISS TIPDALE</b>	Very efficient long standing secretary. Will be in underwear at some point
<b>MRS FRENCHAM</b>	Upper class. Wife of retired Naval officer
<b>GILBERT BODLEY</b>	Carbon copy of Arnold. Second of the three directors of the company
<b>HARRY MCMICHAEL</b>	No nonsense businessman
<b>JANIE MCMICHAEL</b>	Stripper/Exotic dancer. Wife of Harry. Will be in underwear at some point
<b>COMMANDER FRENCHAM</b>	Upper class. Retired Naval officer
<b>SUE LAWSON</b>	Slightly ditzzy secretary of Harry's. Will be in underwear at some point
<b>MAUDE BODLEY</b>	Wife of Gilbert. Third director of the company
<b>MR LAWSON</b>	Husband of Sue

Scripts are available from the Director, Garry Fowler (contact details below). Please read, copy any passages you require and return so that other people can access a script.

Please note that rehearsals will **NOT** just be Mondays & Thursdays. A full rehearsal schedule is available online on our website on the auditions page.

<b>AUDITION PIECES</b>	
<b>ARNOLD, MISS TIPDALE, MISS WHITTINGTON AND MRS FRENCHAM</b>	Page 1 - 4
<b>ARNOLD AND GILBERT</b>	Page 8 - 10
<b>ARNOLD, MISS TIPDALE, HARRY AND JANIE</b>	Page 21 - 23
<b>ARNOLD, MAUDE AND GILBERT</b>	Page 62 - 64
<b>ARNOLD, SUE AND JANIE</b>	Page 77 - 79
<b>ARNOLD, JANIE AND MR LAWSON</b>	Page 86 - 87
<b>GILBERT AND COMMANDER FRENCHAM</b>	Page 102 - 103

If you are interested but unable to attend the audition date, please contact me so that I can arrange an alternative. If you are able to help behind the scenes, I would also be very pleased to hear from you.

**Garry Fowler** Tel: 01323 658354 or 07803294626 Email: garryf1505@sky.com