



STAGEWORK



SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Issue 6 - April 2021

our next production :

THE DIM LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL ... we hope.

Welcome to another lo-fat Seaford Little Theatre Newsletter.

At time of writing a schedule has been put in place that would allow the theatre to eventually re-open for live performances.

This involves a gradual relaxation of restrictions over the coming months, which will enable people to gather together again without being in a bubble, (although as a childhood fan of Matey, I shall bid farewell with some reluctance.)



Obviously there are no guarantees and things could change at any time, but it does offer us the sight of a low energy bulb hesitantly flickering somewhere in the distance.

With this in mind your newly elected Committee is exploring what this means from a practical point of view and exactly how we should proceed as safely and as viably as possible. Once we know more we'll be in touch.

In the meantime we send hearty best wishes to everyone and hope to see you again soon.



Debbie Cox
Tel: 07596709044
Email: coxdeb8@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The on-line play reading sessions, curated by Jon Terry, continue on a fortnightly basis alongside the Zoom quizzes under the stewardship of Roger Trace. Future dates for the quizzes are:

Thursday 8 April	7.30pm	Madge & Trish Hosting
Thursday 22 April	7.30pm	Clare Hosting
Thursday 6 May	7.30pm	Tanya Hosting
Thursday 20 May	7.30pm	Julie Hosting
Thursday 3 June	7.30pm	Roger & Karen hosting



Further dates to be arranged if still required via Zoom. If anyone would like to host or take part, please contact Roger & Karen on r.trace@sky.com

For the play reading please contact Jon on jonterry@sky.com *best wishes, Debbie xx*



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Margaret Kennedy

HELLO EVERYONE. Little did we think when we had to stop rehearsing in March 2020 for a 12 week lockdown (which seemed an age back then), that over 12 months later we would be in yet another lockdown, and still no definite idea of when we can re-open.

Meanwhile our application for a grant for air-conditioning was turned down. Since then it has become apparent that ventilation is also required. Estimates are being sought so we can get this carried out. Whilst new applications for grants locally start on April 1st we wouldn't know the result until July, and larger Arts Council grants won't allow work to start until a positive answer is given, IF we are lucky to get a positive answer.

Therefore it has been suggested that we open a giving page for donations towards this work in order for it to be carried out sooner rather than later, and also if possible, by ourselves and our many supporters. The Rotary have already donated £500 to get the ball rolling. Our grateful thanks to them.

As I write I have just heard that our final surviving Founder Member has died aged 95. She started as a 19 year old ingenue in our first play *At Mrs Beam's*. As someone who has known her the longest, Penny said that she was now joining her

contemporaries who have gone before, in the spiritual Theatre and no longer *Waiting in the Wings*. This was her final play in which many of us oldies were also cast, leaving us with many happy memories, including the Calendar Girls photo shoot, which was shown in a continuous loop on the wall of the back room at the Plough in an Arts Week, mercifully before they began using it to serve meals!!!

Thinking of Penny, her mother Valerie always considered the Theatre her baby, so I guess Penny is its younger sister. Sadly we must say goodbye as she is re-locating to be nearer her family now her parents are gone. She has been our Membership Secretary and Vice Chairman for many years, and at our recent AGM was awarded Life Membership. She goes with all our love and thanks, we will really miss her. The end of an era for the Theatre.

Finally a very big thank you to you all for the beautiful flowers I received following my second eye operation.

Keep well and keep safe till we can safely meet again.

Love, Margaret



GLORIA ROBERTS



As Margaret mentioned overleaf, Gloria Roberts, the last of the founder members of Seaford Little Theatre, has sadly passed away at the age of 95.

Gloria was an enthusiastic and active member of the society from its inception after the war in 1945, and appeared in numerous productions including **Laburnum Grove**, **Taxpayer's Waltz** and the title roles in **The Lady from Edinburgh** and **Mrs Inspector Jones**, where her skill at creating a totally believable character was much admired. In her later years she remained a staunch supporter of the theatre, even though she had retired from the stage and, twenty years later, she was happily persuaded to tread the

boards once more for our 60th Anniversary production of **Waiting in the Wings** in 2005, taking on the role of Estelle Craven alongside her fellow founder Valerie Shepherd. This was a wonderful opportunity to see these elder stateswomen of the society display their stagecraft and show all us younger upstarts exactly how it was done.

It was also a treat for everyone when she later turned up at one of the monthly play readings in more recent years and gave a supremely accomplished and vivid rendering of a young Scottish girl using just the drama and gentle power of her voice.

Her loss is much felt by the society and our sincere sympathies go out to all her family from everyone at the theatre.

DRAMA WORKSHOP USING GUIDED VISUALISATION

We have been contacted by Symantha Simcox who would like to put on an actors workshop for willing participants who would like to do some characterisation work on a character of their own choosing from a play that they know. The proposed format would be along these lines:



1. *Introduction of workshop/ hypnosis*
2. *Introduction of members around the group and the characters they will be working on*
3. *Go into break out rooms of 2/3 people with the short scripts that I have prepared and shared and have a quick 5-10-minute practice of familiarising themselves with the script and reading it aloud in the manner of their chosen characters.*
4. *The group comes together. I conduct 30-minutes of hypnosis (or guided visualisation - I'm not precious about what it's called), inviting the imagination to create the character in question.*
5. *The break-out groups then, each in turn, perform their scripts in character to the rest of the group.*
6. *Group discussion to share how people found the experience. What differences they noted between their first practice reading and the readings after the hypnosis.*
7. *Final relaxation hypnosis to file the character away and end the session with a lovely warm feeling.*
8. *End of workshop.*

Symantha's background is in hypnotherapy, psychotherapy and drama.

Cost: £100 per workshop. Max. 10 participants @ £10 each

Workshop lasts 2 hours Symantha's website can be found at www.symanthas.com

Anyone interested in signing up should contact Roger Trace on r.trace@sky.com

ROGER AND KAREN'S MOUNTING MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE



Well, we finished our 'Everest' Challenge by the end of Feb, as planned. Mount Everest is 29,032 feet high (it grew a couple of feet in 2020 following a new measurement!). Both of us have climbed 29,618 feet over the Seven Sisters, each walk around 5 miles and taking an average 1.5 hours to complete and both of us covering 208 miles. We have really enjoyed the challenge and more importantly we have raised so far £1,669 for **Rays of Sunshine**, a children's charity formed in 2003 to brighten the lives of children who are living with serious or life-limiting illnesses. Thank you so much from the both of us to all of the individuals who sponsored us. It is very much appreciated. Karen & Roger xx

THE TIDE MILLS PROJECT



The Tide Mills Project is a creative heritage project from LYT Productions, backed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England and the South Downs National Park Authority. The project is focused on sharing the unique and diverse history of Tide Mills with new audiences through a variety of creative and artistic disciplines.

This will all come together in a celebration week (20-26 September 2021) where a number of installations will be up and running and people invited to come (all for free) to see Tide Mills literally come back to life!

This is where Seaford Little Theatre has been invited to assist. The organisers are seeking to recruit as many local community actors as possible to take part in scenes, vignettes and generally create a costumed village scene to make the whole experience as immersive as possible for the visitors. There would be minimal rehearsals (on site) with the actual event running at 5pm - 10pm from Wed 22-Sun 26 September 2021. The whole of the performance art sector would be scheduled so people can do as much or as little as they want, with regular breaks built in.

Characters required include:

- Victorian Villagers - Proud but poor (All sizes - lots of)
- A few well dressed members of the Catt family (1850ish) x 6 or so
- WW1 Pilots and officers x 10 or so
- WW2 soldiers (with rifles) x 10 or so
- Blacksmith - Victorian x 2
- Bakers - Victorian x 5
- 1920's/30's nurses x 10 or so

Anyone interested in taking part should make a note on their calendars of the dates indicated above and we will provide more information as and when we get it. If you want to know more about the project you can visit their website at: www.tidemillsproject.uk

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Please let me introduce myself. I'm David Williams, the new membership secretary, and I've taken over the role from Penny Cockell. As restrictions ease later in the year I hope to be able to meet the members – and prospective members – whom I may not yet know.

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL**

The theatre membership year has been changed and now runs from 1 January to 31 December, and the time has come again for membership renewals. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, face-to-face renewal at the theatre is not possible at present, so using BACS for subscription payment may be the easiest option.

The subscription remains at £10 per year (£5 for students) and payment by BACS would be preferred. If you can pay by this method please give your name as the payment reference and make the payment to

Account Name:	The Seaford Dramatic Society
Account number:	42227878
Sort Code:	40 20 06

If, however, you choose to pay by cheque, please send it to me care of the theatre (details below) and let me know whose subscription(s) the payment refers to.

Incidentally, for new members, there is an application form on the theatre website, www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk. Alternatively they can contact me at the email address given below, as indeed can anyone who may have a query about their membership.

David Williams
Membership Secretary
Seaford Little Theatre
4 Steyne Road
SEAFORD, BN25 1HA

Email: memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

Hollywood is a great place to live ... if you happen to be an orange.

Fred Allen

SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE AGM

The Seaford Little Theatre AGM was held via Zoom on Friday 26 February 2021. Anyone unable to attend who would like to know what was discussed can find a copy of the minutes at the Little Theatre website on the Committee page.

SLT ARTISTIC ACTIVITY AREA



1 	2 	3
Take a square sheet of paper.	Fold the top edge to the bottom edge.	Stand up on the edges, eh voila! You are ready to go camping

In this edition we are exploring Origami for Beginners. Just find yourself some paper, warm up those fingers, follow the detailed instructions and you're in business.

Future installments will take you step-by-step through folding a working model of a lifese nuclear power plant from old copies of the Radio Times.

And now it's time for some proper art. For those of you who don't know, Debbie Cox has been very creative during lockdown and produced a series of excellent paintings (right) full of delightful fairy-tale images to captivate and entrance adults and children alike. Absolutely brilliant.

Don't forget, if you have also been creative during lockdown we'd love to see the results.



Contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. Send your pieces to:
newsletter@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk



**For an on-line version of this newsletter and lots of other information visit the Seaford Little Theatre Website:
www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk**

**Potential copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter:
4 JUNE 2021**