



## THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Mary Young

WITH THE 70th anniversary year celebrations over, the winter has seemed relatively quiet in our theatre as most monologue rehearsals were taking place in members' homes. We then burst into life with Victoria Thompson's delightful production of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*. The auditorium reorganisation and technical challenges were met and congratulations go to all involved. The theatre is now busy again with rehearsals underway for Margaret Kennedy's production of the Norman Robbins' thriller, *Nightmare* and the set construction is nearing completion.

The smart new kitchen was installed just in time to be ready for the February production and finishing touches to the flooring should now be complete. Thanks go to Gill Watson for managing the project. The redecoration of the Coffee Lounge is being done thanks to hardworking members of the Workshop Team led by Phil Jenner.

As many of you are now aware, we have had to change the planned programme for our summer production, due to unforeseen circumstances. We now hope to include Neil Simon's *Rumours* in the 2017 season programme. For July, we are pleased to announce a production of *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling, directed by Garry Fowler and presented as a joint venture with Meeching Amateur Dramatics. Auditions have already been held and we look forward to working together.

On the social side the quiz night was well supported and good fun. We are eagerly anticipating the *Rat Pack Tribute Night* and thank Debbie and Ray Cox for organising these events. We are also pleased that Sue Shephard and Tricia Pape are going to represent us at the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain's 70th Anniversary Conference in Birmingham in a few weeks time.

Lastly, our theatre is in a flood risk area of the town and the Management Committee is supporting the efforts of the Seahaven Flood Protection Group. Please try to visit the Seahaven Community Flood Fair on Saturday, 23rd April at Seaford Head Lower School from 10am to 4 pm.

Looking forward to seeing you soon at Seaford Little Theatre.

Mary.



### OUR NEXT PRODUCTION – *NIGHTMARE* by Norman Robbins

**nightmare** (*nīt mār*), n. *A terrifying dream, impression or experience accompanied with a feeling of suffocation and inability to move or speak.*

The above definition is used as part of the introduction, and thus sets the scene, for our next production at Seaford, which is described by its author, Norman Robbins, as a suspense thriller.

Directed by Margaret Kennedy, this enigmatic play concerns elderly authoress, Marion Bishop, whose home is situated on the moors at the edge of a small village. Marion is very successful at her craft and, as a consequence, more than comfortably off, but her health is not all it should be and she requires a lot of care. In her immediate circle of contacts are her primary carer, Katherine Willis, whose brother, Michael, tends to the garden, the local physician, Dr Thorne, a private nurse, Laura Vinnecombe and the owner of the village shop, Doris Meacham. Oh, and then there is also Marion's nephew, Raymond Shapley, the black sheep of the family.

As deceit, suspicion, blackmail and incrimination are subtly woven into a web of intrigue, the story is brought to a shocking and dramatic climax.

The cast includes Angie Wright as Marion, Mary Young as Doris, Peter Barnes as Michael, Trish Richings as Laura, Stephen Cowles as Raymond, Alan Lade as Dr Thorne, and the debut



at Seaford of Sally Burns in the pivotal role of Katherine.

The production opens on Friday 13 May 2016 and runs through to the following Saturday 21 May, with a matinée on Saturday 14 May. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinée will start at 2.30pm.

Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card please) and friends of the theatre are available in advance from Friday 15 April 2016 at our box office:

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

Postal applications should be sent to: David Backhouse, 62 Stafford Road, Seaford, BN25 1UA

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)**

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

The ticket prices are £8.00 each, with a special price of £7.00 each for the matinée.

**For general enquiries regarding this production ring Liz & Len Treglown 01323 492821**

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Thank you to all our members who joined us as our guests at Denton Island Indoor Bowls Club for the fun Race Night back in January, and also to all those who attended the first quiz of the year. Tricia Pape was superbly entertaining as our quiz master (or should that be mistress?) and there was certainly a good atmosphere from all the teams who took part. We have received plenty of positive feedback, for which we are very grateful. Now on to the upcoming social events ...

### SATURDAY 21 MAY

#### **Nightmare Wrap Party**

There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production **Nightmare**. 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 22 MAY

#### **Theatre Clean Up**

**Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm**

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



### SATURDAY 4 JUNE



#### **Summer Cabaret Night**

**Denton Island Indoor Bowls Club**

The Bowls Club will be holding a Summer Cabaret Night as advertised in Seaford Scene in March. Once again you are all welcome to join us as our guests for this evening of entertainment. Tickets are £12 each and you can reserve your place or find out more from me, Debbie Cox 07956709044 or email me at [coxdeb8@gmail.com](mailto:coxdeb8@gmail.com)

### SATURDAY 11 JUNE

#### **Wine & Poetry Evening Seaford Little Theatre 7.30pm**

We are offering an evening of two of life's pleasures; words that are beautiful, funny, reminiscent and evocative, accompanied by the surprise in some wines which may be unfamiliar. The wine will be supplied by Phil Armstrong and the words by a series of performers led by Victoria Thompson. Canapés will also be on offer, made by Debbie and Ray Cox.

There will be a small charge for entrance and numbers will be limited to the first 35 applicants. We have to limit numbers but hope that this lovely combination of pleasures on a summer evening will intrigue and delight you! To reserve your place or find out more please contact Victoria Thompson tel: 01323 892384 email: [directrice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:directrice@hotmail.co.uk)



For the future we will be holding another quiz night in August, the date and time to be confirmed in the next newsletter.

As always we welcome your ideas or suggestions for any future events. Please contact me on 07956709044 or email at [coxdeb8@gmail.com](mailto:coxdeb8@gmail.com)

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

#### Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

**The theatre is so endlessly fascinating because it's so accidental. It's so much like life.**

*Arthur Miller*

**As an actor you became that lightning rod between the person who made the play and the audience.**

*Christopher Walken*

**It's not multiple personality disease, it's a theatre degree.**

*Anon*

**Anything can happen if you let it.**

*Mary Poppins*



*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*



For a full colour 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)

## PLAY READING GROUP

Our Play Reading Group meets at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday each month in the Coffee Lounge at the theatre (unless there is a production). It is a great social evening and an opportunity to have a go at performing without the pressure of an audience, or to read parts you wouldn't normally be able to play on stage! You can even just come along and listen. There is a nominal charge of £1 for refreshments.

In February we read Neil Simon's *Rumours* on the stage (due to kitchen construction in the coffee lounge) and we cried with laughter! I can't wait to see this in production next year. In March we read *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling, before auditions were held a couple of weeks later. This time the tears were of sorrow; so come to our play reading nights for the full gamut of emotional highs and lows!

Our programme for the coming months is:

- ▶ 05 APRIL ***A Fly in the Ointment*** by Derek Benfield
- ▶ 03 MAY ***The Hollow*** by Agatha Christie
- ▶ 07 JUNE ***Cranford*** by Martyn Coleman

Everyone is welcome and so are your suggestions for future readings.

For more information call Mary Young: Tel: 07891 691341 Email: [gmaryyoung@gmail.com](mailto:gmaryyoung@gmail.com)

I look forward to seeing you there.



## PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW SEASON

Following unavoidable changes the programme for the rest of 2016 is as follows:

- ▶ 13 - 21 May **NIGHTMARE** a thriller by Norman Robbins, directed by Margaret Kennedy
- ▶ 22 - 30 July **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** by Robert Harling, directed by Garry Fowler (joint production with MAD)
- ▶ 04 - 12 November **FUNNY MONEY** a farce by Ray Cooney, directed by Mary Young

## WHAT KATIE DID

The recent storms which rampaged across the country have unfortunately also taken their toll on the Little Theatre as our fencing, admittedly already not in the first flush of youth, received a severe battering over the Easter weekend and redistributed itself along parts of Steyne Road. And some of the roof slates went on a small provincial tour as well. So for the time being we have acquired a small unscheduled skylight and an open plan front apron. More expense for our Treasurer to tackle.



*the fencing and roof damage at the Little Theatre in the aftermath of the recent gales.*

## BUT ON THE PLUS SIDE

Despite the recent damage externally, the new coffee room refurbishment is now proceeding apace, thanks in particular to Phil Jenner and Ian Baldwin who have been painting up a storm (sorry) in order to get everything ready for the next production. I'm sure everyone will appreciate the freshly refreshed refreshment area and Front of House will enjoy the more roomy working conditions.



*(L & R) the new kitchen nearing completion with (C) Phil and Ian pretending they know how to use a chop saw.*

▶ Copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 3 JUNE 2016 ◀





Photos from the set of  
*Talking Heads*  
taken  
by Andrew Parkinson

# Head Shots

