

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



HELLO AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

Some of you will have enjoyed the visit of the Players' Collective on December 22, with Jack Shepherd playing Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. This festive production nicely set the scene for a merry Christmas which I hope was celebrated by "every one".

Now we have a varied and entertaining programme lined up for 2013. Rehearsals for *The Titfield Thunderbolt* are well under way and are proving to be great fun. This play is something rather different for Seaford Little Theatre. Many of you will be familiar with the Ealing comedy from which it has been adapted, and it involves quite a complicated set (wonderfully designed by Alan Lade). The workshop team has been busily occupied bringing the railway station, bar and other

places into existence. Characters tend to be larger than life but there are still some poignant moments to be found, and thanks to Margaret Kennedy for agreeing to rise to the directorial challenge! All-in-all a very worthwhile undertaking and I'm sure you will enjoy the result in February.

May will see the staging of a brilliant piece of theatre with an excellent director. Cathryn Parker is to direct *The Cemetery Club* by Ivan Menchell. You will find the audition notice elsewhere in the newsletter. Please note that auditions for this play will take place on Tuesday January 29th, earlier than usual to allow the cast plenty of time to familiarise themselves with the sparkling dialogue before rehearsals begin immediately after the February production.

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OUR NEXT PRODUCTION - **THE TITFIELD THUNDERBOLT** adapted by Philip Goulding



THE TITFIELD THUNDERBOLT WAS a very popular 1953 film comedy made by Ealing, starring Stanley Holloway, about a group of villagers endeavouring to keep their branch railway line open following threat of closure by British Rail, and competition from dodgy local bus operator, Vernon Crump. In 1997 celebrated playwright, Philip Goulding, took on the considerable challenge of turning that film into a warm, funny and entertaining stage play, which has been successfully touring ever since. Based around the station at Titfield, it features a host of eccentric characters and some marvellous theatrical effects and tricks to transform Seaford Little Theatre into a fully functioning village railway line!

Respected local actors, Angie James and Mike Piller, make their debuts at Seaford, alongside the more familiar faces of

Roland Boorman, Jenny Humphries, Sue Shephard, Martin Adams and Andrea Lowe and the long overdue reappearances of Phil Armstrong and Lee Powney, last seen here at the end of the 20th century! To cap it all there is also a cameo stage debut for backstage boy David Heathcote. So don't miss the train, book your ticket on the Titfield Thunderbolt, pack your sense of fun and climb aboard for an evening of joy and nostalgia.

The show opens on Friday 15 February 2013 and runs through to the following Saturday 23 February, with evening performances from 7.45pm and a matinee on Saturday 16 February at 2.30pm.

Tickets for members and friends of the theatre, as usual, are available in advance from 18 January 2013 at our box office:

Sussex Eyecare Ltd, 9 Broad Street, Seaford, BN25 1LS. Please note this is open until 2pm on Saturday.

Postal applications are also available and 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.

The ticket prices are £8 each, with two for the price of one on the First Night, and £7 each for the Saturday matinee.

For general enquiries regarding this production ring Stuart Ridley (01323) 899344

We are fortunate indeed to have such a thriving Little Theatre here in Seaford. I'm certain that members will carry on working together in 2013 to ensure that we continue to fill our seats and provide a great night out both for local people and for those from further afield.

With my very best wishes, **Sue Shephard**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

PLAY READINGS - FIRST TUESDAY IN EACH MONTH (unless stated otherwise)

Coffee Lounge Seaford Little Theatre from 7.30pm

Further Play Readings have been organised and they will take place in the Coffee Lounge at the Theatre at 7.30. The first one scheduled for the New Year will be on **Tuesday 8 January** to read ***The Cemetery Club*** which is to be our May production. Dates following this will be **Tuesday 5 February** and **Tuesday 5 March**. Plays have not yet been chosen for the latter dates but Notices will be put up in the Coffee Lounge and Foyer in due course. Attendance fee, to include Coffee/Tea and biscuits, will be £1 per head

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY

***The Titfield Thunderbolt* Wrap Party**

There will be the usual Wrap Party following the last performance, of our latest production ***The Titfield Thunderbolt***. 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 24 FEBRUARY

Theatre Clean Up Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm

All cast and crew members of ***The Titfield Thunderbolt*** 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 at a local hostelry.

SATURDAY 2 MARCH

Quiz Night & Ploughman's Supper Seaford Little Theatre from 7.30pm

Another **Quiz Nite** is planned for **Saturday 2 March** at **7.30** at the Little Theatre. This is always a popular event and numbers will be limited. Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to attend on 01323 895225 or email – gillwatson@talktalk.net Please bring your own drink. Cost for the evening, to include a Ploughman's Supper, will be £8 per head.

FRIDAY 6 & SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

SeafordLive! 2013 A 'Little' Trip ... Seaford Little Theatre

Once again the Theatre would like to take part in the SeafordLive! event 2013. The official date is not yet known, but it was felt by the committee that the earlier we could put on our Revue the better so that it did not clash with rehearsals for the November production. It has also been suggested that we do 3 performances this time around. Friday night, Saturday matinee and Saturday evening. I am happy to take the names of anyone who is interested in taking part, nothing like getting in early, so contact me on the number above or email and you can also contact Graham Tubbs on 01323 894409.

Social News continued on page 3 ...



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

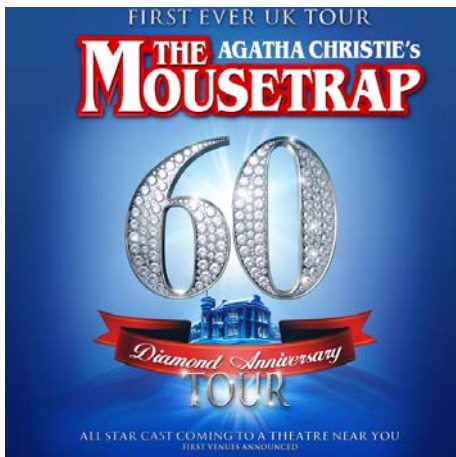
Snail Mail: 25 Sherwood Road,
Seaford

BN25 3EH

Deadline for next edition: 22 MARCH 2013



**For a full colour version of this newsletter and lots of other information
Visit the Seaford Little Theatre Website on www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk**



TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER
Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap Congress Theatre, from 7.30

The Theatre has purchased a block booking of tickets for **The Mousetrap** which will be on at The Congress Theatre, Eastbourne in September. Seats are in the Raised Stalls and the cost is £21.60. **Payment when booking is required please.** Please make your cheque payable to **"Seaford Dramatic Society"** and **send your request** for tickets, sorry no over the phone or email bookings, to Gill Watson, "Maycroft", Dean Road, Seaford, BN25 1AN. Thank you.

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER
An Evening With Dean Seaford Little Theatre, from 7.30pm

By popular demand Dean Ager has been asked to perform for us once again in our Little Theatre. This date you **MUST** put in your diary. **"An Evening with Dean"** has now been organised. Dean Ager, as many of you know, is an excellent performer as **"The Ratpack Man"**. You will find his details on his website **www.theratpackman.com**. The cost for the evening will be £15 which will include a Ploughman's Supper and dessert. Wine or soft drinks will be **available for purchase**, at reasonable prices, either by the bottle or the glass at the Theatre. This should prove to be a very special event once again and to cover the cost of this evening we will need a good attendance. I would respectfully ask for payment at the time of booking and attached is a tear off slip for you to complete and return to me, please. Gill Watson.



Name:

Address:

Tel. No:

Number attending:

Cheque value: £ (made payable to **"Seaford Dramatic Society"**, please)

Please send this form and your remittance to: -
 Gill Watson
 "Maycroft"
 Dean Road
 SEAFORD
 BN25 1AN

Thank you.



The first meeting of this new Knit and Natter group (which has been renamed to avoid confusion with the similar U3A meeting) was a great success and they are looking to continue in the same vein for 2013. The next gathering will be on Wednesday 6 February @ 7.30pm in the coffee room at Seaford Little Theatre, Steyne Road, Seaford, BN25 1HA, One of the suggested topics for this meeting is the production of socks. Other meetings will be held on every 1st Wednesday in the month thereafter unless there is a play in production All levels welcomed, from total newbies to experienced knitters. Please contact Debi Lade on 01323 492177 or email: debilade@btinternet.com for further details.

Dire Straights



Photos From The Set Of
Straight & Narrow
taken by Andrew Parkinson



AUDITION NOTICE - ***THE CEMETERY CLUB*** by **Ivan Menchell**

Audition: Tuesday 29 January 2013 - 7.45pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 10 - 18 May 2013

Director: Cathryn Parker

Don't be put off by the rather funereal title: *The Cemetery Club* is a **poignant and gentle comedy** about the nature of true friendship and love the second time around. Set in Queens, New York, **the comedy is essentially Jewish** and part of the challenge for five talented actors will be to master the cadences of the language and sustain a convincing New York Jewish patter in a manner comprehensible to the Seaford ear!

Ida, Lucille and Doris are three Jewish dowagers coping in very different ways with the middle aged deaths of their comfortably off husbands. They have been friends for over twenty years and each month meet at Ida's home to talk and visit the nearby cemetery to honour their departed spouses. Throughout the play we learn how their various relationships with their husbands colour their adjustment to (merry) widowhood. Ida has immersed herself in her family, Lucille has taken to shopping and dating in a big way, and Doris is content to live for the monthly visits to the cemetery to be with her beloved Abe again. Ida and Lucille have not yet resigned themselves to solitary autumn years, but Ida does not have Lucille's apparent confidence in the singles market.

The balance of their lives is threatened by Ida's burgeoning affection for Sam, an eligible widower, who has a reputation as a womaniser, but who is as uncertain as Ida about trying again. Lucille and Doris take desperate measures to prevent their circle being broken by Sam's presence. The ensuing misunderstandings are both poignant and funny and resolved in a surprisingly bittersweet twist at the end. There is a cameo role for Sam's would be girlfriend, Mildred, in Act II.

This is a comedy which touches hearts and emotions leaving us with a feeling of admiration and affection for these wonderfully warm women. The audience should leave the theatre having laughed a lot and cried a little but definitely the richer for sharing these lives for an evening.

After a get-together read through on **Monday 25th February 2013**, I will start rehearsing the usual Monday and Thursday pattern. We will rehearse on a third day each week either Tuesday evenings or Sunday afternoons. This will be agreed once casting is finalised. We will have to contend with Easter and the Spring Bank Holiday. At the moment I do not plan to rehearse over the Easter fortnight as so many people do go away for Easter, but if we end up with a cast that stays at home we may rehearse on non-Bank Holidays that fortnight. This is a small cast play and rehearsals will invariably involve all characters (except Mildred). In the early phases I can probably be quite flexible so please bring any dates you will be unavailable to rehearse during that period to the audition.

SCRIPTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE THEATRE

Please return them as soon as you have finished reading so that others can also prepare.

PLEASE RING 01444 248129 or email logeoakgeo@aol.com TO CHAT ABOUT THIS WONDERFUL PLAY IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE

and if you decide to audition – please let me know in advance which roles you are interested in.

CHARACTER NOTES

According to the script all characters are in their late fifties to early sixties. I think a playing range of mid-fifties to mid sixties is probably about right but the main thing is that the characters make a credible friendship group and be capable of dancing (or learning to dance) a cha cha cha. The following notes give a brief overview of the characters.

IDA

Plays hostess to the cemetery club. Initially Ida appears to be dominated by her livelier and bossier friends, but she has a streak of determination. A loving and kind woman she appears the homeliest of the three. She sees the good in everyone and is the peacekeeper. She feels guilty about her feelings for Sam and she has her heart broken. Happily her strength shines through and her patience is rewarded in the end. A wonderful part with a whole range of emotions to play with.

LUCILLE

Is a feisty, foxy lady. Her memories of her marriage are not happy ones and she has been quick of the mark to launch herself back into the dating field, much to the disgust of Doris and the tacit disapproval of Ida. She is a fun loving girl not ready to grow old. An unrepentant flirt, she even tries picking up Sam at her husband's graveside. She has smouldering sex appeal and is lively and energetic. She has a vicious tongue on occasion but a heart of gold. She too makes a journey through a wide emotional range during the play. She has a wonderful final soliloquy.

DORIS

Is probably the oldest of the three, but we never know for sure as she's sensitive about her age. Although widowed the longest, she is never going to move on to another phase in her life, she is totally faithful, even beyond death, to her beloved Abe. She is the straightest laced and the severest of the three. She has a sense of humour but it is buried under her sense of propriety. She is desperate to preserve the cemetery club and has no qualms in spiking her friend's burgeoning romance to do this.

SAM

Is a dapper, debonair widower with the reputation of being ladies' man. He is charming and diplomatic and for all his winning ways vulnerable and insecure. He is reasonably easily scared off his courtship of Ida by her friends and dabbles with the affections of the hapless Mildred. His innate goodness surfaces by the end of the play. A role demanding sensitivity and strength. This is no "flash Harry".

MILDRED

Only appears in Act II sc I as a decorative adjunct to Sam. A cameo role, but an important one. She realises early on in the scene that the intimacy she believes she has with Sam is a poor shadow of the strength of feeling there is between him and Ida. She is determined not to give him up without a fight however.

AUDITION PIECES (selected from the Samuel French Inc. edition)

pp. 10 – 17	IDA & LUCILLE	pp. 77 - 86	IDA, DORIS, LUCILLE
pp. 50 – 57	IDA & SAM		SAM & MILDRED
pp. 60 – 66	DORIS, LUCILLE & SAM	pp. 88 - 93	IDA, DORIS & LUCILLE
pp. 67 – 72	IDA, DORIS LUCILLE	pp. 93 – 101	IDA, DORIS & LUCILLE
pp. 76 – 79	IDA & DORIS	pp. 103 – 107	IDA, LUCILLE & SAM
ACT I sc 2	IDA, DORIS & LUCILLE (Sam)	pp. 112 –113	LUCILLE

Cathryn Parker

EMAIL: loneoakgeo@aol.com

TELEPHONE: 01444 248129

MEMBERSHIP FEES



WILL ALL MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT to ensure that they have paid their subscriptions for 2013. Your new Membership Secretary is Penny Cockell and she will be very pleased to receive your fees (which despite all the universal financial squeezing in the world today, continue to be held at previous levels) as soon as possible.

Penny can be contacted via email at memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk
Or by phone on 01323 897517

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

PROOF, IF PROOF BE NEEDED, of the wisdom of paying your subscription comes with this spiffy, free members competition for the new year.

Here are two nearly identical drawings. Compare them both and see how many differences you can spot.

To help you we have highlighted one difference with an arrow.

Can you find the rest?

There should be at least two.

Hours of fun for all from eight to eighty!

