



## THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Mary Young

DEAR FRIENDS, Another year has come an end and I hope you will all have enjoyed the festive season. It has been a special year for our theatre with our 70th anniversary events which involved two anniversary productions, an Open House event and Gala Evening. We really ended on a high note with the production of Noel Coward's *Relative Values*, playing to packed houses and receiving much approval. Thanks to everyone involved with the production and with making our anniversary such a success.

The new seating in the auditorium has been admired and our technical team are working on improving the quality of the video

link to the coffee lounge and green room. This month the new kitchen is to be installed which will make life easier for front of house staff during performances. There will be no more crossing the wings into the green room to collect items from the fridge!

We look forward to the 2016 programme with anticipation, starting with *Talking Heads* by Alan Bennett, directed by Victoria Thompson. The seating at the front of the auditorium will be set out differently for this one production. Plans are underway for the 2017 season and the new Play Selection Group would welcome any suggestions and offers to direct. Please let me know if you are interested in working with us.

Members will be sorry to learn that former member, Pat Marghilles passed away at the beginning of December, she had helped backstage and with front of house for several years.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you soon at our Little Theatre.

Best wishes, Mary.



# ...Happy New Year

### OUR NEXT PRODUCTION - *TALKING HEADS* by Alan Bennett

Alan Bennett is one of this country's best loved residents and, with plays like *Habeas Corpus*, *Forty Years On*, *The History Boys* and *The Madness of George III* he is one of its favourite playwrights, too.

*Talking Heads* was originally written for television, in Bennett's inimitable style, as a series of dramatic monologues in which very carefully drawn and identifiable characters laid bare their lives straight to camera, drawing in the viewer both with humour and poignancy as each tale unfolded.

Director Victoria Thompson is now bringing four of those stories to the Seaford stage in our opening event for the 2016 season: *A Chip In the Sugar*, *Soldiering On*, *Lady of Letters* and *A Bed Among the Lentils*. With performances from Stephen Newberry, Sue Shephard, Tricia Pape, and Sylvia Aston, this show will also feature some innovations new to Seaford Little Theatre, in order to provide the intimacy of atmosphere that the production requires.

*A Chip In the Sugar* concerns Graham who is living comfortably at home with his mam when he finds himself potentially sidelined after his mother takes up with a new man. *Soldiering On* is about Muriel, a pillar of the community, who resolves to take control of her life after her husband dies, only to find that being too trusting is not always the best policy. In *Lady of Letters*, Irene is a woman who is not afraid to speak or rather write when she sees perceived injustice or social ills in the world, regardless of the possible consequences. And *A Bed Among the Lentils* tells the story of Susan, a vicar's wife, who struggles to maintain the image required of her position and



seeks solace from her local grocer, who is only too happy to provide it.

The production opens on Friday 12 February 2016 and runs through to the following Saturday 20 February. Please note that we are putting on an extra matinée on the first Sunday to cope with the demand that such a popular show is likely to warrant. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinées on Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 February 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 January

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 each, with a special price of £7.00 each for the matinées.

**For general enquiries regarding this production ring Ray Cox 07984280067**

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE



### FRIDAY 15 JANUARY

#### **Race Night** Denton Island Bowls Club from 7pm

Denton Bowls Club has a spacious Indoor Bowls and Social Function area with a bar. The team there are dedicated, welcoming and friendly. Race Night is open to their members only but you are welcome to join Debbie & Ray Cox as guests. The price for a ticket is £7 per person.

You can check out the Bowls Club website at [www.dentonislandbowls.co.uk](http://www.dentonislandbowls.co.uk)

If you are interested in coming please contact Debbie Cox on 07596709044

### FRIDAY 29 JANUARY

#### **Quiz Supper Night** Seaford Little Theatre from 7.30pm

**CHASE** those winter blues away. It's **POINTLESS** staying at home. The **COUNTDOWN** is on to our Quiz and Supper Night.

Quiz entry including Ploughman's Supper - £8. Bring your own bottle.

RSVP to Debbie Cox, ring or text 07596709044 by 25 January at the latest.

### SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY

#### **Talking Heads Wrap Party**

There will be the usual Wrap Party following the last performance, of our latest production **Talking Heads**.

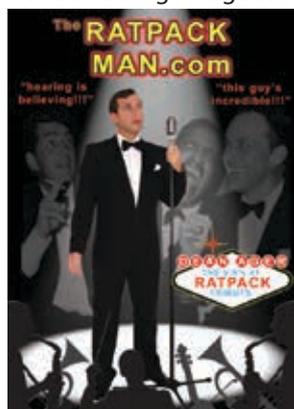
Please, as usual, bring some food and whatever you want to drink to help celebrate, with the cast and crew of the production, after what I am sure will be another success.



### SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY

#### **Theatre Clean Up** Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm

All cast and crew members of **Talking Heads** 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.



### FRIDAY 8 APRIL

#### **An Evening with Dean Ager** Seaford Little Theatre time TBC

Dean **The Ratpack Man** Ager is an excellent live performer who many of you will have seen at our theatre before. We have provisionally booked him to return and entertain us in 2016 on the above date. The total cost for the evening will be £18 per person which will include a Ploughman's Supper and dessert, and wine will be on sale by the glass or bottle. However it is vital that we know in plenty of time that enough people are interested in attending before we confirm the booking.

If you would like to come to this special event, could you please contact Debbie Cox either by phone or text on 07596709044, or use the tear off slip below.

I would also respectfully request payment at the time of booking, thank you.

Replies by the end of January at the latest please.

Don't miss out on this sensational evening.

You can find out more about Dean on his website: [www.theratpackman.com](http://www.theratpackman.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_  
N° Attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheque Value: £ \_\_\_\_\_

(@ £18 per person, payable to Seaford Dramatic Society)

Return this form with your remittance to: Debbie Cox, 17 Sherwood Road, Seaford, BN25 3EH

We really value your support for our social activities and welcome your ideas or suggestions for any future events.

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



*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.

Our programme for the coming months is:

- ▶ 05 JANUARY **Season's Greetings** by Alan Ayckbourn (changed from December when we read **Nightmare** by Norman Robbins)
- ▶ 02 FEBRUARY **Rumours** by Neil Simon (The play for July)
- ▶ 01 MARCH **Ladies Day** by Amanda Whittington (The play for February 2017)
- ▶ 05 APRIL **Dancing at Lughnasa** by Brian Friel



For more information call Mary Young: Tel: 07891 691341 Email: gmaryyoung@gmail.com  
I look forward to seeing you there.

## RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FEES



Will all members please take a moment to ensure that they have paid their subscriptions for 2016. Your Membership Secretary, Penny Cockell, will be very delighted to receive your fees (which as part of our own austerity measures on your behalf, continue to be held at previous levels) as soon as possible.

Penny can be contacted via email at [memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk](mailto:memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk)  
Or by phone on 01323 897517

## PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW SEASON

The programme for the rest of 2016 is as follows:

- ▶ 12 - 20 February **TALKING HEADS** by Alan Bennett, directed by Victoria Thompson
- ▶ 13 - 21 May **NIGHTMARE** a thriller by Norman Robbins, directed by Margaret Kennedy
- ▶ 22 - 30 July **RUMOURS** a comedy by Neil Simon, directed by Lori Boul
- ▶ 04 - 12 November **FUNNY MONEY** a farce by Ray Cooney, directed by Mary Young

## GALA NIGHT CELEBRATIONS



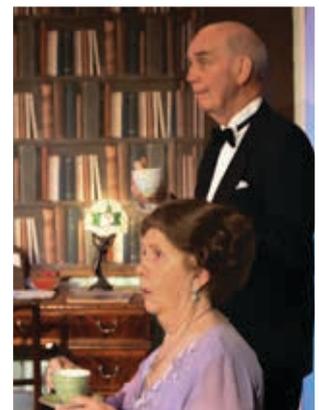
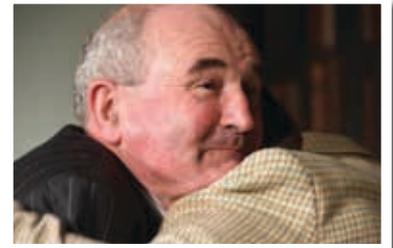
As part of our 70th Anniversary celebrations, the last night of **Relative Values** was a special Gala Night production with a host of invited guests and dignitaries, including our local MP, Maria Caulfield, one of the founders of the society, Gloria Roberts, and many other members and friends who have contributed in various ways over the years to the growth of Seaford Little Theatre. The evening began with a pre show gathering for wine and nibbles followed by the final performance of the show and the cutting of a special anniversary cake by Gloria. A fitting and memorable occasion.





Photos from the set of  
*Relative Values*  
taken  
by Andrew Parkinson

# Value Packed



Audition Dates: Tuesday 9 February 2016 - 7.30pm - Seaford Little Theatre  
Production dates: 13 - 21 May 2016

Marion Bishop, an elderly writer of romantic novels, is dying. Katherine Willis, a kind soul from the nearby village, looks after Marion in a most caring way, while coping with her own mentally disabled brother. When Katherine takes leave to attend her cousin's wedding in Scotland, Laura, an experienced nurse from London, comes to take care of the failing writer on the recommendation of the local doctor. A series of mysterious phone calls and the appearance of Raymond, Marion's rapacious nephew, set off a nightmare situation which becomes increasingly complicated when Katherine's brother is found murdered in a ditch. Deceit, suspicion, blackmail and incriminations are subtly woven into a web of crime which is complicated by a dramatic confrontation scene just before an ingenious twist brings a surprising close.

CHARACTERS	
<b>DORIS MEACHAM</b>	the local grocer
<b>KATHARINE WILLIS</b>	Marion Bishop's carer
<b>DR ANDREW THORNE</b>	Marion Bishop's doctor
<b>MICHAEL WILLIS</b>	Katherine's mentally disabled brother
<b>RAYMOND SHAPLEY</b>	Marion Bishop's nephew
<b>MARION BISHOP</b>	An elderly writer of romantic novels
<b>LAURA VINNECOMBE</b>	A nurse from London

Scripts are available from the theatre (Coffee lounge). Please read, copy any passages you require and return so that other people can access a script. Alternatively you can obtain a Pdf version of the script by contacting me on my email below.

AUDITION PIECES	
<b>DORIS MEACHAM</b>	From opening to top P4 before Andrew's entrance
<b>KATHARINE WILLIS</b>	From opening to top P4 before Andrew's entrance and From Michael's entrance bottom P6 to exit P8
<b>RAYMOND SHAPLEY</b>	From Raymond's entrance on P8 to end of scene
<b>MARION BISHOP</b>	From Raymond's entrance on P8 to end of scene and From start Act 2 Sc2 P40 – top P 45 Andrew "Just in case"
<b>MICHAEL WILLIS</b>	From Michael's entrance bottom P6 to exit P8
<b>DR ANDREW THORNE</b>	From Michael's entrance bottom P6 to exit P8 and From start Act 2 Sc2 P40 – top P 45 Andrew "Just in case"
<b>LAURA VINNECOMBE</b>	From start Act 2 Sc2 P40 – top P 45 Andrew "Just in case" and P59 Laura: "It wasn't the way it sounded." to bottom P61 "It's the truth."

If you are unable to attend the audition date please contact me so that we can arrange an alternative.

**Margaret Kennedy** Tel: 01323 894938 Email: margaretkennedy@talktalk.net

*Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians*

The stage is a magic circle where only the most real things happen, a neutral territory outside the jurisdiction of Fate where stars may be crossed with impunity. A truer and more real place does not exist in all the universe.

*P.S. Baber*

An actor must never be afraid to make a fool of himself.

*Harvey Cocks*

▶ Copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 25 MARCH 2016 ◀