



## THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Mary Young

**D**EAR FRIENDS. We are at the start of another year and looking forward to a busy time again at Seaford Little Theatre. Looking back, 2016 was another successful year for us with four very different productions that were well attended with high audience ratings and good levels of satisfaction. So we have a lot to do again this year to build on that success, to increase our membership and present top quality theatrical experiences for our audiences.

I have a very special thank you to say to the great cast and crew of *Funny Money*, who pulled off such a terrific show in November, in spite of being abandoned by their director just one week before opening night! I was so sorry to miss the performances, but delighted with the reviews and daily feedback I received in far away Sydney! Gill, Penny, Phil A, Milli, Peter, Phil J and Tricia P all helped backstage to make sure the cast were supported and things ran smoothly. To Jon, Jenny, Sharon, Lee, Dennis, Steve C, Steve W and Alan C, I can only say how proud I was of your performances and that I had a wonderful time in Australia, both in Sydney and Adelaide (with reference to the script of the farce!).

Rehearsals are well underway for Dennis's production of *Ladies' Day* which opens on 17 February. It should be another different experience for our audiences and one which I am sure will amuse and surprise. There are some interesting acting opportunities in this piece! The audition notice for the dark drama relating to the suspicious death of *The Late Edwina Black*, the May production, is attached to this newsletter. We need cast, crew and lots of help with the set. I hope these two very different productions will be well supported.

One of the most exciting ventures of this new year is the starting up of A Youth Theatre Group at Seaford Little Theatre. This will be run by Matt Haynes who was responsible for the acting workshop sessions at the Theatre Summer School held here last August. The plan is to offer drama training to young people of 16 years and above, for two hours on Saturday mornings in the auditorium and coffee lounge of the theatre. We hope members will spread the word and this venture will be a success.

Sadly, we learned of the death of Jack Mortimer in November. He and his late wife, Phyllis, were stalwarts of our Little Theatre for many years, acting, directing and helping with the management. Our condolences go to their sons and family.

Lastly, a big thank you to those of you who work so hard for our theatre! A Happy New Year to all our members and I look forward to seeing you at workshop, rehearsals, play readings, social events, coffee mornings or productions at Seaford Little Theatre soon.

Best wishes, Mary.



### OUR NEXT PRODUCTION – *LADIES' DAY* by Amanda Whittington

This is an exuberant comedy about four likely lasses from the Hull fish docks on a day trip to the races, written by Amanda Whittington and directed by Dennis Picott.

Work, love and life are just one long, hard slog for the fish-filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. But their fortunes are set to change when Linda finds tickets to *Ladies' Day* at Royal Ascot the year it relocated to York in 2005.

Out go the hairnets, overalls and wellies as the four ditch work, do themselves up to the nines and head off to the races for a drink, a flirt and a flutter. If their luck holds, they could hit the jackpot - and more besides...

With some old and new Little Theatre faces this production features the acting talents of Angie Wright, Angie James, Clare Forshaw and Cherry Newby as the four ladies, backed up by Lee Coleman-Powney, Don Faulkner and Roger Trace as the men they encounter.

The production opens on Friday 17 February 2017 and runs through to the following Saturday 25 February, with a matinée on Saturday 18 February. 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 20 January 2017 at our box office:

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

Postal applications should now be sent to: Diane Guyatt, 31 Pondsye Court, Sutton Drove, 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)**

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

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

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

## JACK MORTIMER



Once again we have the sad duty of reporting another death, that of Jack Mortimer, a committed member of our Little Theatre for many years. Jack was an active and driving force at Seaford after joining with his wife Phyllis back in 1994, serving both as an actor and behind the scenes, as well as doing a stint as our Chairman.

He had been acting since he first caught the bug as a child at Primary School where his first role was as a tree, and from that early beginning he went on to play many roles, his favourites being Sir Andrew in **Twelfth Night**, Alonso in **The Tempest**, Stewart in **Pack Of Lies**, Narrator in **Doctor & The Devils**, and Herod in **The Mystery Plays**.

At Seaford he appeared in numerous parts both large and small, but for me perhaps his most memorable and poignant performance was as Aylott in **A Month of Sundays** back in 2001 when he played an elderly resident of a rest home who remains fairly fit but is terrified of losing his mind. As always his performance was measured and thoroughly convincing, with moments of poignancy interspersed with laugh out loud comedy.

Jack was always a fascinating man to talk to as he had numerous, wide and varied interests, most especially vintage cars which he could talk about for hours, and the beguiling world of insects, in which he was a fully qualified entomologist. With him in the cast you were not just guaranteed a fine performance out front, but also some stimulating and engaging conversation in the Green Room backstage.

In recent years ill health had forced Jack to step back from having an active role at Seaford, but he always remained a strong supporter of our theatre. Our deep condolences go out to his two sons, Andrew and Tom and their families.



## 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.

We read **The Late Edwina Black**, our May production, last month. I hope members who wanted to join the play selection group will come to our play readings with suggestions for plays they see as potential productions. **Trap for a Lonely Man**, the July production, will feature as a reading later in the spring. We look forward to seeing new people at our meetings.

So our programme for the next month is:

- ▶ 07 FEBRUARY **How the Other Half Loves** by Alan Ayckbourn
- ▶ 07 MARCH **To be confirmed**

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)



## GOOD WISHES



Our sympathies go out to members Douglas Wragg, who suffered a fall at the end of last year and fractured four ribs, and Tony Bannister who, in genuine thespian fashion, managed to actually break a leg before Christmas and had to spend the festivities in hospital. We wish them both a speedy recovery and a better start to the New Year.

And to all our members and Friends we also send our very good wishes for 2017.

## PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW SEASON

The programme for the rest of 2017 is as follows:

- ▶ 17 - 25 February **LADIES' DAY** by Amanda Whittington, directed by Dennis Picott
- ▶ 12 - 20 May **THE LATE EDWINA BLACK** a dark tale by William Dinner & William Morum, directed by Mary Young
- ▶ 21 - 29 July **TRAP FOR A LONELY MAN** a thriller by Robert Thomas, directed by Garry Fowler
- ▶ 01 - 02 September **A LITTLE BIT OF MUSIC HALL** a variety show directed by Graham Tubb
- ▶ 10 - 18 November **RUMOURS** a comedy by Neil Simon, directed by Margaret Kennedy



*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)

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Firstly a huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported our social events last year. We couldn't have done it without you. (Well we could have, but there wouldn't have been much point.) We have taken on board your various suggestions from last year and are working on them all through these long evenings. Winter drawers on.

Now some dates for your diary for our upcoming social events. Hope to see you there ...



### FRIDAY 13 JANUARY

#### Race Night

#### Denton Island Indoor Bowls Club

As we approach the opening night of Ladies' Day, why not get into the spirit of Royal Ascot and join us at Denton Island Indoor Bowls Club for a little flutter on the gee gees ... or the piggies with cute knitted jockeys. Now that's something you can't get at York Racecourse. We believe the entry fee is £5, but that will be confirmed. For more information speak to Debbie, tel: 07596709044 or email at [coxdeb8@gmail.com](mailto:coxdeb8@gmail.com).

Or you can visit [www.dentonislandbowls.co.uk](http://www.dentonislandbowls.co.uk)

### FRIDAY 27 JANUARY

#### Quiz Night Seaford Little Theatre 7.30pm

The wonderful Patricia Pape will be joining us as our captivating quiz mistress once again, so an entertaining evening is guaranteed. The entry fee of £8 includes a ploughman's supper. Bring your own drinks.



### SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

#### Ladies' Day Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production *Ladies' Day*. 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 26 FEBRUARY

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

All cast and crew members of *Ladies' Day* 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 8 APRIL

#### An Evening with Jenny and Chris Seaford Little Theatre 7.30pm

We are really pleased to announce that we have an entertaining evening of live 50's and 60's music with the very talented Jenny and Chris. There will be a buffet with desserts and a bar to buy drinks, with wine by the glass or bottle. Entry fee is £10.

Please contact us ASAP if you will be joining us and if you have any dietary requirements. For further details about any of the Social events please contact me, Debbie Cox, on 07596709044 or email at [coxdeb8@gmail.com](mailto:coxdeb8@gmail.com). Thank you for your continuing support and suggestions.

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

## WORKSHOP CRIMBO DIN DINS



The workshop Christmas Dinner was held on Friday 9 December at The Shore in Seaford and was well attended, especially for a group of people most of the members of which aren't normally allowed out at night without supervision. For once the excited participants were allowed to wear proper clothing and wardrobes were raided as styles, not seen since the heady fashion conscious days of the early 70's, were dragged kicking and screaming into the nightlight and moths fell like confetti from the skies. A lively three course meal was enjoyed by all, with some even managing to use the cutlery provided. Fortunately no arrests were made.

Our grateful thanks go to Ray and Debbie Cox for organising such a splendid evening and a huge thank you to everyone in the workshop team who work so hard to build and paint our sets and get them ready for each new production.



▶ Copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 24 MARCH 2017 ◀



Photos from the set of  
**Funny Money**  
taken  
by Andrew Parkinson

# Funny For Money



Audition Date: Tuesday 24 January 2017 - 7.30pm - Seaford Little Theatre  
 Production dates: 12 - 20 May 2017

On the eve of Edwina Black's funeral, Inspector Martin calls to interview her husband, Gregory, her companion, Elizabeth and her housekeeper, Ellen. Gregory has long endured the domination of his wealthy wife, but is in love with Elizabeth. It is revealed that Edwina had been poisoned. Gregory is the obvious suspect, but suspicion falls on each in turn before the truth is uncovered. A dark tale of suspense set in a Victorian house.

CHARACTERS	
<b>ELLEN</b>	Housekeeper to Gregory Black, elderly, proud and grim, 50's – 70's
<b>ELIZABETH GRAHAM (LISA)</b>	Companion to the late Edwina Black, restrained, charming, 30's - 40's
<b>HENRY MARTIN</b>	Detective, bluff family man, a keen observer, 50's- 60's
<b>GREGORY BLACK</b>	Husband to the late Edwina Black, weak character, dreamy, 40's

Rehearsals: Mondays and Thursdays

Scripts are available from the theatre (Coffee lounge) or from Mary. Please read, copy any passages you require and return so that other people can access a script.

AUDITION PIECES	
<b>ELLEN</b>	Pages 7- 9, 18 - 20, 58 - 60
<b>LISA</b>	Pages 28 - 31, 41- 45, 55 - 56
<b>MARTIN</b>	Pages 7- 9, 24 - 27, 53 - 55
<b>GREGORY</b>	Pages 28 - 31, 41- 45, 55 - 56

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

**Mary Young** Tel: 07891 691341 or 01323 351882 Email: gmaryyoung@gmail.com

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

**Actors need a kind of aggression, a kind of inner force. Don't be only one-sided, sweet, nice, good. Get rid of being average. Find the killer in you.**

*Stella Adler, The Art of Acting*

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

**If you want more people to come to the theatre, don't put the prices at £50. You have to make theatre inclusive, and at the moment the prices are exclusive. Putting TV stars in plays just to get people in is wrong. You have to have the right people in the right parts. Stunt casting and being gimmicky does the theatre a great disservice. You have to lure people by getting them excited about a theatrical experience..**

*Catherine Tate*



**RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Will all members please take a moment to ensure that they have paid their subscriptions for 2017. Your Membership Secretary, Penny Cockell, will be very delighted to receive your fees (which due to our immutability, remain the same as in previous years) as soon as possible. Penny can be contacted via email at memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk Or by phone on 01323 897517