



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



WHEN I LAST PENNED THIS ITEM IT WAS JUNE, summer was about to descend on us, etc. Well now in the middle of September, the evenings are already drawing in and Autumn is upon us. Ho Hum. However *Time To Kill*, our last production, achieved a good success despite some alarms and excursions in its production.

We now look forward to our next play *Move Over Mrs Markham* on 12 to 20 November, 2010. Directed by Sylvia Aston, this production will mark the 65th Anniversary of Seaford Little Theatre's performance of live theatre. To mark this occasion the final night will be a Gala night, to which various local dignitaries have been invited, and will therefore be a black tie evening. I will say a little more about this at the AGM which is on 29 October at 7.30 pm.

Now a cautionary tale. Many, many years ago I was working at the then Castle Theatre, Farnham. The Management had an obsession with the number 13. We worked thirteen hours a day, thirteen days a fortnight, all for thirteen quid a week. They were able to do this because there were only about thirteen of us and we did everything; box office one week, programme sellers the next, acting the next, stage managers after that. Now the first time that I was called on for front of house duties, I sauntered in dressed exactly as I had been for the rehearsal I had been attending that afternoon, sweater, slacks and loafers on my feet. None of which had been recently laundered.

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OUR NEXT PRODUCTION - *MOVE OVER MRS MARKHAM* by Ray Cooney & John Chapman



TO MARK OUR 65TH ANNIVERSARY Sylvia Aston is directing the highly successful and hilarious Ray Cooney & John Chapman farce, *Move Over Mrs Markham*.

Phillip and Joanna Markham are mooching along very quietly as a normal, boring couple until the day their philandering friends, Henry & Linda Lodge, choose the same moment to involve them in their extra-marital affairs. Add into the mix a flamboyant interior designer, a Swiss au pair, a polite businessman, a sexy telephone operator and a prudish authoress and chaos is guaranteed!

Featuring familiar faces such as Lindsay Holledge, Alan Lade, Stella Dench and Alan Clifford; the welcome return of Garry Fowler; and the debuts of new arrivals Michael Bale, Gini Comyns, Angela Chabot and Samantha Chapman, this production is a fitting and

hugely entertaining way to mark our anniversary.

The show opens on Friday 12 November and runs through to the following Saturday 20 November, with evening performances from 7.45pm and a matinee on Saturday 13 November at 2.30pm.

Tickets for members and patrons, as usual, are available in advance from 15 October at **Living Words Bookshop, Place Lane, Seaford**. Please note this is open all day 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 £7 each, with two for the price of one on the First Night, and £6 each for the Saturday matinee. Please note that tickets for the Gala Night will be £10 each (to include buffet after the show)

For general enquiries regarding this production ring Diane Guyatt (01323) 490397

The furious reception that I received from the Theatre Manager left me white faced and shaking and stayed with me for many years afterwards. He pointed out in language not repeatable in a newsletter that may be read by children that I was the first point of call that the audience had and what would they think if they saw me dressed like a tramp. If I couldn't be bothered to dress up to greet them what was the point of their coming out to the Theatre? etc, etc.

Well the tirade went on for some time and I rushed to get into evening dress that fortunately was hanging up in the dressing room. Needless to say, I never repeated the offence and many years later, when I managed a theatre of my own I understood exactly what he had got so hot under the collar about.

We can so easily forget that for most of our patrons their evening at our Theatre is a very special evening. To us it may seem like just another night in the plays' run. But to many of them it could mark an anniversary, a birthday treat, a chance to have a meal in a restaurant, followed by an evenings entertainment. The point that I am trying to make here is that if you are asked to be a member of the Front of House team. I and the rest of the Theatre are extremely grateful and appreciate the time you have given up to sell programmes, ices, etc., but please wear something appropriate. I'm not talking about full evening dress and evening gowns, (although that would be nice), but perhaps a white blouse and dark or black skirt for the ladies and a white shirt and black or dark trousers for the men. I know that many of you dress beautifully, (both sexes), and this is just a reminder of what we do and what we are about.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the A.G.M in October. In the meantime, to quote the late great Dave Allen: 'May whatever God you believe in go with you.'



THINKING OF YOU, TRICIA

I suppose there is a strange irony that in a society like the Little Theatre, where speech is pretty much our *raison d'être*, there are some occasions when words just don't quite seem enough. Although we will all have had to deal with bereavement at some time in our lives, most of us will fortunately never know what it is like to face the pain of losing one of our children. So when it happens to someone we know, it is almost impossible to find the right words to express our sorrow. However, at the risk of being woefully inadequate, I am sure everyone at the Theatre would like Tricia Pape to know that we are thinking of her, following her recent sad loss, and we send her all our love and best wishes.

THANKS

Ted & Margaret Kennedy would like to send their grateful thanks to everyone who has been so kind and supportive during Ted's recent health worries. They have both been very touched and moved by the concern shown.

THEATRE SPRUCE UP

As many of you will be starting to notice, a lot of work has, and still is, being carried out at the Theatre this year. A new central heating boiler has been installed with further radiators added which should provide a much more controllable and efficient heating system, the auditorium is to be painted, the floor sanded and varnished and carpeting throughout is also planned. And many other minor works have already been carried out to help spruce up the building for its 65th anniversary, and see the Theatre moving forward into 2011 looking its very best.



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: **25 DECEMBER**

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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER

Seaford Little Theatre AGM *Seaford Little Theatre from 7.30pm*

What ever you else you do this year, don't miss our Annual General Meeting, where you can put yourself up for Committee, vote and generally have your say about issues and plans for the Theatre. (See AGM agenda attached). You will also be able to pay your annual subscription. Free wine and cheese will be served after the meeting as usual.

SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER

Move Over Mrs Markham *Gala Night*

There will **not** be the usual Wrap Party on the last night of **Move Over Mrs Markham** as this is scheduled as the Gala Night, where there will be wine and a buffet after the performance, with the cast and crew entertaining our local dignitaries. Ticket price for the general public for the Gala Evening will be £10. As this is going to be a very special evening at the Theatre it is requested that all front of house staff dress appropriately. It would be appreciated if the men wear a DJ/suit and the ladies a suitable dress or black skirt/trousers and blouse. We are a Theatre and we would like to make this the "dress code" in future.



SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER

Theatre Clean Up *Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm*

All cast and crew members of **Move Over Mrs Markham** 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.

PLAY READINGS

It has been proposed that we reinstate Play Reading Evenings. These will take place at the Theatre on a Tuesday evening in the Coffee Lounge. I would like to hear from all members who would be interested in attending to make up a Play Reading Group. If this proves to be a popular event it will possibly be held on a bi monthly basis. Please contact Gill on:- 01323 895225 or email her on: gillwatson@talktalk.net

PROPOSED SOCIAL EVENT

AN EVENING WITH DEAN

It is proposed that **An Evening With Dean** be organised as a Social event in the New Year. Dean Ager is an excellent performer as 'The Ratpack Man'. You will find his details on his website deanager.co.uk Some members have already seen Dean in action when they had a very enjoyable evening earlier in the year at Al Duomo in Brighton where Dean performs regularly. Should you wish to catch up with Dean, all the dates he will be performing at Al Duomo are on his website. The cost for the evening will be £12 which will include a Ploughman's Supper and dessert. Wine or soft drinks will be available for purchase by the bottle or the glass at the Theatre. To cover the cost of this evening we will need a good attendance and I would appreciate hearing from as many of you as possible if you would be interested in attending. Please contact Gill on: 01323 895225 or by email gillwatson@talktalk.net.

MARTELLO MERRIMENT

Thanks to the superb hard work of Tricia Pape and Sue Shephard, aided and abetted by several of the usual suspects, Seaford Little Theatre had a marvellous stall at the Martello Tower Market Day (in association with Seaford Martello Rotary) on 1 August, earlier this year.

Packed with masses of useful information and colourful details about the theatre and its activities, our stall attracted lots of interested visitors, who were able to see not only what we do and find out about joining, but have their arms twisted into buying lots of raffle tickets too.

A massive thank you goes to Tricia and Sue for all their hard work, as well as everyone else who helped on the day (you know who you are!)



THEATRE WORKSHOP

Mary Young would like to hear from all members who would like to attend some more Theatre Workshops. Alan Baker has said that he is very happy to come along and conduct some sessions for us. These events, if there is enough interest, will be held once a month on a Saturday in the Theatre. Please contact Mary on:- 01323 894304 or email her on: young-g4@sky.com

TIME TO POSE

Well,
who's poodle is it
anyway?



Jenny Humphries (Liz Thomas) and Sandra Haynes (Jane Abbott)

Susan Everest (Maggie Parkes) and Matt Robinson (Alan Sexton)

Okay,
I promise I will eat
your cooking



Photos From The Set Of
Time To Kill
Taken By Adrian Bowd
Captions By Alan Clifford

Wendy Picott (Helen Francis) and Alan Lade (Don Parkes)

You
should have gone
to Specsavers



You
missed a bit when
you shaved this
morning

Alan Lade and Susan Everest

But
I'm a tall person for
a pygmy



Sandra Haynes , Jenny Humphries and Wendy Picott

AUDITION NOTICE - *THE CHALK GARDEN* by Enid Bagnold

Audition: Tuesday 19 October - 7.30pm
Seaford Little Theatre
Production dates: 11 - 19 February 2011

Director: Stella Dench

Mrs St Maugham advertises for a companion for her granddaughter Laurel, a precocious teenager. The lucky (or unlucky) applicant is Miss Madrigal, who unknown to others has served 15 years in prison. The arrival of a friend of Mrs St Maugham's to dinner, causes great consternation.

CAST

Miss Madrigal	<i>50ish</i>
Maitland	<i>60ish</i>
Laurel	<i>Teenager</i>
Nurse	<i>40+</i>
Olivia	<i>Laurel's mother, late 30's</i>
Mrs St Maugham	<i>Laurel's grandmother</i>
The Judge	<i>Elderly</i>
A little lady	small part
3rd lady	this is a very small part that can be played by member of stage staff (or me)

Please contact me for a script on 01323 891994 or EMAIL: millie15@talktalk.net

Anyone who cannot make the audition date and is interested in a part then please contact me and I will arrange an alternative date for you.

STELLA DENCH

Luvvie Loquacity - the thoughts of thespians

The really frightening thing about middle age is that you know you'll grow out of it.

Doris Day

SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Seaford Little Theatre will be held at The Little Theatre, Steyne Road, Seaford, on Friday, 29th October 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 30th October 2009. (Copy available for inspection at The Little Theatre).
3. Chairman's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. To vote on:
ANY RESOLUTIONS TO BE GIVEN TO THE HON. SECRETARY OR HON. TREASURER 14 DAYS **PRIOR** TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING.
6. Election of Executive Officers of the Management Committee. The following persons have agreed to stand for election:

Chairman:	Alan G Baker**
Vice-Chairman:	Sue Shephard**
Hon. Treasurer:	Margaret Kennedy**
Hon. Secretary:	Mary Young**
Premises Manager:	Gill Watson **
Patrons' Secretary:	Cicely Ridley**
Social Secretary:	Vacancy

**Nominated by the Management Committee

ANY FURTHER NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED **BEFORE** THE START OF THE MEETING.

7. Election of Management Committee Members (4): 2 Vacancies.
(Rule 8. Management. a. (ii) Four other members of the Society elected for 2 years, two of whom shall retire annually in rotation.), Hazel Langley has a further year to serve. There are three vacancies.

ANY FURTHER NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED **BEFORE** START OF THE MEETING.

8. To close the A. G. M.
9. Questions and discussion. (Notice to be given to the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer **Prior** to the commencement of the meeting.)

Mary Young (Hon. Secretary), (01323 894304 or young-g4@sky.com) or Margaret Kennedy (Hon. Treasurer) 01323 894938

Wine and Cheese will be provided for members at the close of the meeting.

OCTOBER 2010