



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Dennis Picott

DEAR FRIENDS, What a busy time it has been in our Theatre since our last newsletter. In July we had *Not Now Darling*, directed by Garry Fowler - another great success. Thanks Garry and all your cast who worked so hard and succeeded in giving our audiences a really slick and funny production, helped as always by a fabulous set.

This production was followed at the end of August by Graham Tubb's show *A Little Bit of Vaudeville*. This was great fun to do for Seaford Little Theatre members jointly with members of the Seaford Musical Theatre. A happy experience for us all. Graham was ably assisted by Rosemary on piano and Tony on drums. I feel we gave our audiences a jolly time and, very importantly, raised a considerable sum towards purchasing a defibrillator for our Theatre.

In between these two productions our stage and wing areas were re-carpeted, a job that badly needed doing. Many thanks are due to the members of the workshop team who gave up their time to clear the area and take up all the old carpet.

On the social side September saw our usual BBQ alongside *Seaford's Got Talent*. Unfortunately I was not able to come this year but heard reports that I missed a really good day. Many thanks to Debbie Cox and her team of helpers.

Coming up in November our next production is *On Golden Pond* directed by Trish Richings and it is already well into rehearsal. This is such a lovely play and Trish has gathered an excellent cast so I am very much looking forward to another success for our Theatre.

On 28th September there will be a coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support, details of which were in our last newsletter. We are also planning a quiz for October.

Another really important date for diaries is Friday 1st November for our AGM. I hope to see you all there. It is very important to have a good turnout as this is your Little Theatre and it is a chance to have your queries answered and views expressed. Do come along.
Dennis.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION – *ON GOLDEN POND* by Ernest Thompson

Our final production of this season is *On Golden Pond* by Ernest Thompson directed by Trish Richings.

Many of you will know the Oscar winning film starring Henry Fonda and Katherine Hepburn that was based on this piece, but dare I say without committing sacrilege, that the play is a better format, as the close intimate setting allows so much more of the poignancy and humour to be revealed and felt.

John Hamilton and Ann Mabey play elderly couple, Norman & Ethel, who are spending their summer, as usual, at their lake house on Golden Pond. While there, they are visited by their daughter Chelsea and her fiance Bill Ray and his son Billy Ray Jr. In this idyllic and intimate setting the often difficult relationship between father and daughter over the years is probed and prodded, whilst also highlighting the complications faced by an aging couple in their twilight years.

Alongside the superb talents of John and Ann we have Peter Barnes as family friend Charlie, Margaret Kennedy as the telephone operator, Alan Lade as Bill Ray and two more debuts to our stage. From Seaford Musical Theatre Paula Woolven takes on the role of Chelsea, and as precocious Billy Ray Jr we have Logan Brewer, a teenage veteran of many Lewes productions.

The play opens on Friday 8 November 2019 and runs through to the following Saturday 16 November with a matinée only on Saturday 9 November. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinées 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 11 October 2019 at our box office:

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

Please note that Redgolds are not able to take any bookings over the telephone. They have very kindly given their services as a place where tickets can be purchased in person, but they are also a business and we would respectfully request that anyone wishing to make enquiries about tickets should only do so using the number below.

Postal applications should be sent to: Diane Guyatt, 31 Pondsde 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

Please provide your name, address and telephone number and state how many seats you require and for which performance. **Could you also provide an alternative date in case the position or date you would like is not available.**

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

The 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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE



Well done and a huge thank you to all the hardworking members and talented acts who helped make Seaford's Got Talent 2019 a rip-roaring success. The BBQ has managed to survive, contrary to rumours, but with slightly less of a shine to its surface. Still all's well that ends well. Trigger-happy Ray has been sent away to BBQ rehab and had the oil spray confiscated, and his eyebrows are beginning to show signs of regrowth. Next year we are going to contact Drusillas to see if they can loan us a small primate to cook the food instead. And a big thank you from Deborah Lade and myself for your incredible support at The Mighty MacMillan Coffee Morning. We couldn't have done it without you. Now on with more dates for the coming weeks.

FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER



Tanya's Quiz & Games Evening Seaford Little Theatre from 7.00pm

Take the grey cells for a spin at our quiz & games evening organised by Tanya Baxter. The cost is £6 and includes a specially prepared buffet, so come hungry and ready to have fun. And after the quiz depending on the time, for those wishing to participate, and playing in teams. we will have a game of either Cranium or Articulate! Please note there is a maximum of 8 people per team, but be advised 1½ points per person will automatically be deducted for any teams of over 6 people. Please bring your own drink.

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER

Another Little Theatre Kath Kennard Walk Meet at layby, Itford Farm on the A26 at 10.00am

Before we get on to the details, I would like to pay tribute to Alan & Deborah's Golden Retriever Poppy who recently passed away. Poppy was the most beautiful, friendliest dog you could wish to meet. She was incredibly gentle, placid and joyously vocal when the mood took her and she was a truly valued member of our walking group. Whenever the opportunity arose she would head straight for the nearest water. The Cuckmere river and animal troughs were a favourite on our first autumn walk, as well as the pond by Piddinghoe Road and any muddy puddle she could find. But she was also incredibly patient and motherly to any other dogs that joined us, had a friendly greeting for everyone she met and was a comforting companion and inspiration to any of our weary walkers. She touched each of our hearts and will be greatly missed. We will think of you always Poppy - especially when the sunlight is glistening on the river and wild poppies are growing in the fields.



For our next walk we will be meandering on the River Ouse and taking in Rodmell village with a pit stop at The Courtyard Cafe at the end.

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER

On Golden Pond Wrap Party



There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production **On Golden Pond**. 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 17 NOVEMBER

Theatre Clean Up Seaford Little Theatre from 2.00pm

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

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER

Playing With Fire Xmas Disco Seaford Little Theatre 7.30pm



Once again join DJ Colin Smith for some retro funky disco sounds from the 60's to the 80's. If you can remember the sixties you weren't there. Tickets are £8 each. There will be splendid retro buffet (all the food will have early 70's sell by dates) just like back in the day, plus a music quiz and a free to enter raffle. Dressing up is optional, of course, but why not dust off those platform heels, take the mothballs out of the pockets of your flares and leave us all wondering who has come dressed in a skin-tight glam rock silver trouser suit and boots that is so tight you can't sit down without serious injury (you know who I mean Garry). Please bring your own Babycham, Blue Nun, Party 7, Cresta etc.

For all events please let me know ASAP if you will be attending. For further details about any of the Social activities, or if you have any comments/suggestions please contact me, Debbie Cox, on 07596709044 or email at coxdeb8@gmail.com. Thank you for your continuing support.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, Debbie



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

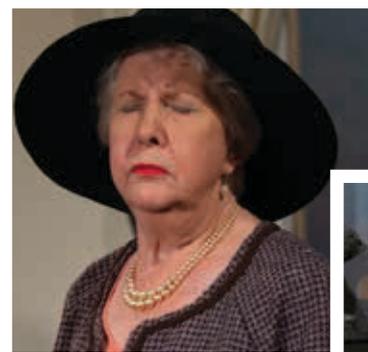


▶ **Copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 20 DECEMBER 2019** ◀



Photos from the set of
Not Now Darling
taken by Andrew Parkinson
www.rememberingwhen.co.uk

Fur Enough



TEA & TOAST COFFEE MORNINGS



Our Tea & Toast mornings take place on the last Monday of each month (excluding bank holidays) with a nominal charge of £1. We have been collecting for MacMillan Cancer Support for a year now, whilst enjoying munching on some lovely toast and crumpets and sipping tea out of fine bone china. To date we have raised a splendid £98.56 from the nominal charge plus the sale of various donated goods. So well done and a big thank you and chin-chin to everyone who has come along. And a special cheers to Cicely for all her catering support and sterling work on the toaster, not just for this but at all our socials.

JOHN GIBBINS

Sadly we have to report the sudden loss of another of our members, John Gibbins, after a recent illness. John was an enthusiastic and active member of Seaford Little Theatre for several years, taking to the stage as Jacob Sargent for *The Copyhold* and as the Reverend Clement Mercer in *When We Are Married*.

He was also a regular participant in our play readings and, together with wife Viv, regularly taking on Front of House duties.

Our best wishes and sympathies go out to his family at this sad time.



PLAY READING GROUP

We always look forward to welcoming new members to our play reading sessions on the first Tuesday of the month at 19.30 in the Coffee Lounge. There is a nominal charge of £1 for refreshments.

At our last meeting we read the opener for next season *There Goes The Bride* by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. For our next reading on October 1 we have *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* by Jeffrey Archer. We are still sourcing plays for future readings, so we will keep you informed of these nearer the time.

Everyone is welcome to our play readings and so are suggestions for plays, which are subject to availability.

For more details please contact Mary on 07891691341 or young-g4@sky.com

Finally I would very much like to hand over the role of organising the monthly play-readings to someone else, so can I make a plea to the membership for someone to take over. If you are interested and would like to know more please contact me as above. Thank you.



THEATRE WORKS



As mentioned by the Chairman in his piece, we have had a new stage carpet laid, which now covers the whole stage and stairs and looks rather spiffy. There are also plans to have the auditorium re-painted, to look at the provision of air conditioning to make things much more comfortable in the hotter months, the refurbishment of the dressing rooms, landscaping and re-fencing to the periphery of the building and the installation of a wi-fi connection with a view to giving us the ability for on-line booking. In addition we soon hope to be able to have a defibrillator installed using funds raised by the summer revue.

All in all plenty of plans to keep us occupied and off the streets when we are not performing. And Christmas is only three months away too!

PRODUCTIONS FOR THE 2020 SEASON

- ▶ 07 - 15 February **THERE GOES THE BRIDE** by Ray Cooney & John Chapman, directed by Phil Armstrong
- ▶ 08 - 16 May **LADIES IN LAVENDER** by Shaun McKenna, directed by Mary Young and Penny Cockell
- ▶ 24 July - 1 August **SHOCK!** directed by Garry Fowler
- ▶ 06 - 14 November **SEE HOW THEY RUN** by Philip King, directed by Margaret Kennedy

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

What's a man's age? He must hurry more, that's all: cram in a day what his youth took a year to hold.

Robert Browning

THE DAISY CHAIN - SEED SWAP

A reminder to all of you with green digits. As you tidy your gardens ready for Autumn please save any spare seeds for our seed swap project. And a big thank you to all the members who have contributed so far.

There is now a box at the theatre for your seed packets to be displayed/left in. Please write on the name of the seeds, your name if you wish, and possibly a message to the person who takes the envelope. And remember anyone can help themselves to seeds from the box.

Any surplus seed envelopes will also be used to raise money at future fund raisers. And any cash taken in this way will be donated to The Daisy Chain Project, a local Sussex based charity supporting victims of domestic abuse.



For an on-line version of this newsletter and lots of other information visit the Seaford Little Theatre Website on www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Two Audition Dates: Mondays 14 & 28 October 2019 - 7.30pm - Seaford Little Theatre
Production dates: 7 - 15 February 2020

Getting a bride ready is always a trying time, but when the bride's mother is 'helped' by interfering relatives and the bride's father is in the process of falling in love with a seductive girl that only he can see – the result is hilarious farce.

CHARACTERS	
JUDY	The bride-to-be. Handling the wedding arrangements well until Polly arrives after which she copes by running off in tears.
URSULA	Judy's mother. Tries hard to keep things together but gets exasperated managing Timothy. Gets a snog with Tim.
TIMOTHY	Judy's father. Pleasant but neurotic, vague and forgetful. Has to take a dive out of the window. "Sings, dances" & gets to snog Polly and Ursula (but not at the same time!).
DAPHNE	Ursula's mother. Forceful and would like to take over the arrangements
GERALD	Ursula's father. Vague, a bit deaf and the main comedy character.
BILL	Long suffering business partner to Timothy.
CHARLES	Father of the (unseen) groom. Driven mad by the bride's dysfunctional family.
POLLY	Appears to Timothy following his accident and not seen or heard by the rest of the cast. Is flirty in the extreme. Sings and dances & snogs Tim.

Scripts are available from the Director, Phil Armstrong (contact details below). Please read, copy any passages you require and return so that other people can access a script.

Rehearsals will normally be Tuesdays & Thursdays. A full rehearsal schedule will be available in due course.

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

Phil Armstrong Tel: 07798520935 Email: phil_armst@hotmail.com

AUDITION PIECES	
JUDY	Page 1 "Who's taken the wretched work basket?" to page 3 ".. so he won't fall off tonight."
URSULA	Page 80 top to page 81 bottom "Plastered."
TIMOTHY	Page 35 middle "Will you please go." to page 36 bottom "Fantastic!"
DAPHNE	Page 83 top to page 84 bottom on exit.
GERALD	Page 83 top to page 84 bottom on exit.
BILL	Page 18 Gerald's exit to page 19 bottom "Barrington."
CHARLES	Page 80 top to page 81 bottom "Plastered."
POLLY	Page 35 middle "Will you please go." to page 36 bottom "Fantastic!"

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, 1st November 2019 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 26th OCTOBER 2018. (Copy available for inspection at The Little Theatre).
3. Chairman's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. To vote on:
Any other resolutions to be given to the Hon. Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting.
6. Election of Executive Officers of the Management Committee.

Chairman:
Vice-Chairman:
Hon. Treasurer:
Hon. Secretary:
Premises Manager:
Friends' Secretary:
Business Manager:
Membership Secretary:
Social Secretary:
Public Relations Secretary:

ALL NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED BY THE HON. SECRETARY **BEFORE** THE START OF THE MEETING.

7. Election of Management Committee Members (4): 1 Vacancy.
(Rule 8. Management. a. (ii) Four other members of the Society elected for 2 years, two of whom shall retire annually in rotation.), Last year 3 members were elected as Ian Baldwin stepped down early. Ray Cox was the other elected member due to step down, but has taken over as Business Manager. There is one vacancy.

ALL 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 351882 or gmaryyoung@gmail.com

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

OCTOBER 2019

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership fees for the forthcoming year are due, as always, on 1 November, so please make use of the form below to get them renewed. Either hand it over at the AGM or send it direct to Penny Cockell.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name(s) _____

I/We wish to renew my/our membership of Seaford Little Theatre for 2020. I/We enclose our subscription fee.

Membership fee for the coming year is £10.00 per person (students - £5.00 p.a.)

Please return this form with the appropriate amount (cheques payable to Seaford Dramatic Society) to:

Penny Cockell (Membership Secretary) 30 St Crispins, Seaford, BN25 2DY
Tel: 01323 897517 Email: memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE

Nomination Form for the Election of Officers and Management Committee Members at the AGM on 1st November 2019

Nominee for the post of *	.....
Name	.....
Nominated by	.....
Seconded by	.....

Nominee for the post of *	.....
Name	.....
Nominated by	.....
Seconded by	.....

Nominee for the post of *	.....
Name	.....
Nominated by	.....
Seconded by	.....

Nominee for the post of *	.....
Name	.....
Nominated by	.....
Seconded by	.....

Please make sure the Nominee is willing to stand before proposing them.

*Posts are: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary , Membership Secretary, Friends' Secretary, Premises Manager, Social Secretary, Public Relations Secretary, Business Manager and members can be nominated as Committee Members.

PLEASE RETURN TO THE HON. SECRETARY, Mary Young AT THE THEATRE BEFORE THE AGM OPENS AT 7.30.PM.
ON 1st NOVEMBER, 2019