



STAGEW



SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Issue 8 - October 2021

our next production : **FARNDALE AVENUE'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society has a hard earned reputation for being unafraid to tackle the most testing of productions. Who can forget (despite trying very, very hard) their enthusiastic performance of *Calendar Girls on Ice*? Indeed several audience members from that iconic first night, when the water freezing machine failed so disastrously, are still undergoing intensive psychotherapy.

Undaunted the ladies are returning this December to bring Seaford their take on Dicken's jovial classic, ***A Christmas Carol***. Mrs Phoebe Reece and her loyal band of diehards, ably assisted by Tricia Pape, Jenny Humphries, Angie Wright, Debbie Cox and Lee Coleman-Powney, are back to give their all for their art and entertain us with a large cheery lump of festive fun.

The show has been penned by David McGilivray and Walter Zerlin Jr. with Garry Fowler gamely seated in the director's



chair, on enough medication to immobilise a large, hyperactive giraffe.

The show opens on Friday 10 December 2021 and runs through to the following Saturday 18 December with a matinée only on Saturday 11 December. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinée will start at 2.30pm.

Although there are no longer any specific restrictions on public theatre events, the safety of our audience is paramount and we would ask everyone to continue to be sensible and vigilant about their actions in a public space and to be considerate of the concerns and feelings of their fellow attendees.

That said, do come along, put all your cares and woes aside and get into the spirit of Christmas with our merry and enthusiastic band of players.

With such an experienced and mature ensemble surely nothing could possibly go wrong this time. Fingers crossed, touch wood, turn round three times and spit on the floor. No, surely not. Could it?

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

What is that unforgettable line?

Samuel Beckett

FOR ALL BOOKING INFORMATION SEE PAGE 8



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Margaret Kennedy

THE PHOENIX has finally risen from the ashes. Unfortunately not with a bang but more with a whimper, as audience numbers for *Mixed Doubles* only averaged 30. BUT it was so great to hear laughter back in the Theatre, even though it was behind a mask. In spite of conditions the team operated as usual like a well oiled, sorry sanitized, team. Well done everyone involved, and we even made a small profit.

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of our former Chairman, David Backhouse. His funeral, which I was able to attend, socially distanced and masked, came on the afternoon of the opening night of *Mixed Doubles*, so I was able to tell his sons that we were

dedicating the production to his memory. They remembered how he had enjoyed performing in many of our plays.

Now we are into rehearsals for our December play, when hopefully more people will be able to attend and the Theatre will once again be filled with laughter. In the meanwhile I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our Cheese and Wine get together on Friday 19 November. Please let us know if you intend coming if you haven't already done so.

Until then.

Love, Margaret



TEA & TOAST COFFEE MORNINGS



Our Tea & Toast mornings are back in operation and take place on the first Monday of each month (excluding bank holidays) starting from 10.00am, with a nominal charge of £1.

Before lockdown scuppered us, we managed to raise £62 for the British Heart Foundation sipping and munching our way through oodles of tea and coffee and acres of toast and crumpets. The charity this time, as suggested by Diane Guyatt, is TASC, the Ambulance Staff Charity, so please continue to show your excellent support each month.

Any new tea and toasters are always welcome as well as all the old faces. You just have to show up and join in. The dates for the rest of the year are Monday 1 November and Monday 6 December. Hope to see you there.



Debbie Cox
 Tel: 07596709044
 Email: coxdeb8@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



As we slowly start getting back into some semblance of normality (apart from Ray, of course who was never normal in the first place) we can start thinking about providing a few social occasions to carve a smile onto your cheery faces.. So here are some dates for the coming weeks.

FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Wine & Cheese Mingle *Seaford Little Theatre* 19.30

A chance to reconnect and socialise with members, old and new, like we used to in the good old days BC (Before Covid). Come along and gorge on gorgonzola and whack down the wine in the convivial atmosphere of your lovely luvvie colleagues. If you wish to attend and haven't already sent confirmation, then please let Debbie Cox know asap so she has an idea of numbers. Mob: 07596709044 Email: coxdeb8@gmail.com

SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER

Farndale Avenue Christmas Carol Wrap Party



There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production **Farndale Avenue Christmas Carol**. 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 19 DECEMBER

Theatre Clean Up *Seaford Little Theatre* from 2.00pm

All cast and crew members of **Farndale Avenue Christmas Carol** 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.

FRIDAY 31 DECEMBER

New Year Hootenanny *Seaford Little Theatre* 19.30

See out the old year with a jolly knees-up hosted by Playing with Fire Disco, with a free raffle, music quiz and mini talent show thrown in for good measure. The cost is £15 per person to include savoury buffet, pudding and soft drinks. (Please bring your own alcohol if required). To book your tickets please contact Ray on 07984 280067 now.



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

THE TIDE MILLS PROJECT 2021



The Tide Mills Project is a creative heritage project from LYT Productions, backed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England and the South Downs National Park Authority. The project is focused on sharing the unique and diverse history of Tide Mills with new audiences through a variety of creative and artistic disciplines.

For one week in September this all culminated in a fantastic free event where hundreds of people came to view a wide range of installations, guided tours and demonstrations which brought the whole area back to life.

And right in the middle of it all were several members of Seaford Little Theatre, one of a number of groups who had volunteered their time to provide colour and context for a particular part of the display. In our case we were asked to portray members of both the armed forces and their associated services from World War I.

So for five gloriously fine evenings (luckily) Emma Davis, Heather Sutton, Jenny Humphries, Dennis & Wendy Picott and Alan Lade strutted their suitably attired stuff amongst the many visitors to the site.

The response was excellent with lots of people keen and eager to engage in conversation, take pictures and enthuse about the entire project. It was particularly gratifying to see the many children enjoying the experience and raring to share their knowledge of the period as learned at school.

Overall the organisers were more than a little pleased with the response and delighted to see so many in attendance. They are determined for this to be a stepping stone to a regeneration of the site and are hopeful for more similar projects in the future.

If you want to know more about this worthwhile project you can visit their website at:
www.tidemillsproject.uk



ON-LINE QUIZZES



Roger Trace is thinking of starting up the on-line quizzes via Zoom again, but he would like to gauge the level of interest first.

His proposal is for them to take place once or twice a month, throughout autumn and winter, if there is enough enthusiasm. If you would like to take part or would even be prepared to set some of the quizzes yourself then please contact Roger direct on r.trace@sky.com.

DAVID BACKHOUSE 30/12/28 - 25/07/21

As mentioned by Margaret, we sadly had to say goodbye to David Backhouse in July and at a memorial service celebrating his life in August.

David was a strong supporter of the Little Theatre whether appearing on the stage using his distinctive voice to good effect, or serving on the Committee as Chairman, or providing a focal point for postal ticket sales. And in later years, despite his failing health, he would often turn out to help with Front of House.

I first met him in the 1999 award-winning production of *Arsenic & Old Lace*, where he had almost the last line in the play which he delivered every night with relish and perfect comic timing. And it was David who somehow persuaded me that I really wanted to be the newsletter editor all those years ago. Even now I'm still not quite sure how that happened.

He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family.



THE CHESS CONUNDRUM



This issue's chess problem was devised by Jeremy Fisher, the outside amphibian created by Beatrix Potter, who was World Chess Champion in the 1970's. Jeremy, not Beatrix. The puzzle is as follows:

White is in the invidious position of having had all his pieces stolen by a light-fingered street urchin, except for a poorly carved pawn. Black meanwhile has not only retained all of his chessmen, but has also illicitly acquired some Monopoly tokens, a Phillips screwdriver and the diver from the game of Mousetrap.

White to win in four moves.

Solution next issue.

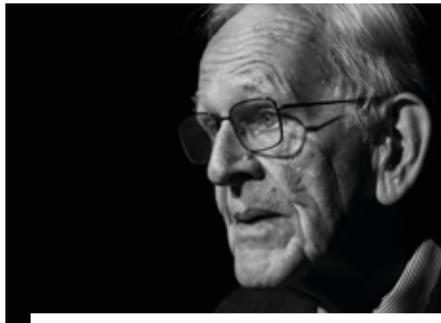
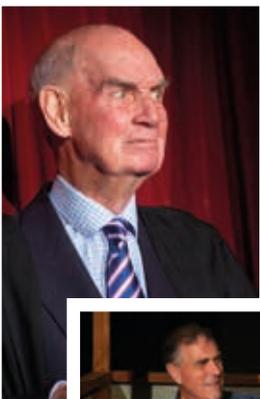


Photos from the set of
Mixed Doubles
 taken by Andrew Parkinson
www.rememberingwhen.co.uk

Game, Set & Match

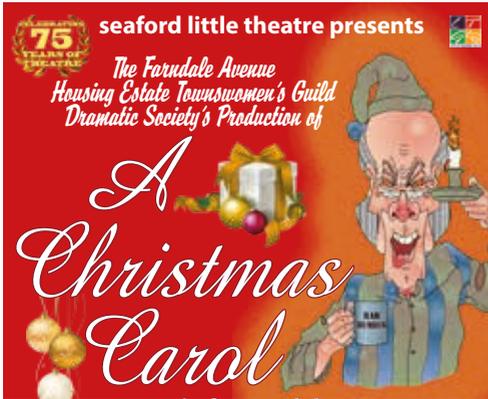


*Mixed Doubles
 with Garry Fowler, Trish Richings,
 David Williams, Sue Williams, Alan
 Lade, John Hamilton, Margaret
 Kennedy, Lee Coleman-Powney,
 Wendy Picott, Dennis Picott and
 Lesley Drew*





BOOKING INFORMATION



We also have an on-line booking system via TicketSource. This can be found at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/seaford-little-theatre

or through our website, address below. Please note a small booking fee applies to all on-line sales. Unfortunately, due to the way in which the system operates, this facility cannot be used when exchanging Friend's Vouchers. These must still be presented at the Box Office as usual.

Postal applications should 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 seek is not possible the nearest available seats will be sent.

Could you also provide an alternative date in case the the one you request is sold out.

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

Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card please) and Friends of the theatre are available in advance from Friday 5 November 2021 at our box office:

SEAFORD TOURIST OFFICE,

37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG

Telephone Enquiries & Booking:

(01323) 897426

Email: seaford.tic@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

Tickets for this production on sale from Friday 5.November 2021



Contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. Send your pieces to:

newsletter@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk



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

**Potential copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter:
24 DECEMBER 2021**