

# STAGEW



## SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

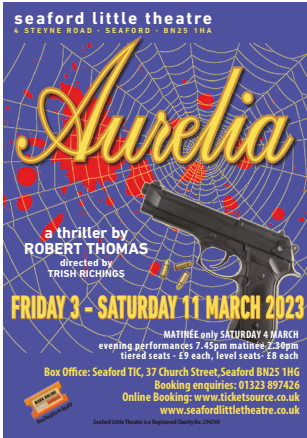
Issue 13 - January 2023

### our next production : *AURELIA* by Robert Thomas

The first production for 2023 is *Aurelia*, a tantalising thriller by Robert Thomas, directed by Trish Richings.

Wealthy art collector Lady Chalmont lives in a cottage in the Cotswolds, cared for by her housekeeper/companion, Vera. Years before the good Lady's nephew, John, left under a cloud of suspicion to go abroad, leaving behind not just his Aunt but also Isabel, the young woman who had become infatuated with him and was a regular visitor to the cottage. Then out of the blue a letter arrives saying John is coming back to England with his new bride.

When the time comes his beautiful, but mysterious wife, Aurelia, arrives but without her husband and soon insinuates her way into the household. Yet all is not



what it seems. As the web of lies and deceit grows increasingly elaborate, this dark, engaging thriller takes ever more deadly twists and turns.

Featuring performances from Lesley Drew as Aurelia, Margaret Kennedy as Lady Chalmont, Tanya Baxter as Isabel, Ann Mabey as Vera, Peter Barnes as Mercer and Lee Coleman-Powney as a mysterious visitor, this intriguing play will keep you entertained and guessing to the end.

The show opens on Friday 3 March 2023 and runs through to the following Saturday 11 March with a matinee only on Saturday 4 March. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinee will start at 2.30pm.

So book your seats now for a night at the splendid home of Lady Chalmont where you will be amused, captivated and beguiled by her assortment of guests and visitors.

## a happy new year to all our members and friends

*Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians*

Theatre is a sacred space for actors. You are responsible; you are in the driving-seat.

Greta Scaachi

FOR ALL BOOKING INFORMATION SEE PAGE 12



# THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

*Margaret Kennedy*

**H**ELLO EVERYONE, and a very Happy New Year.

It was pleasing to end our Theatre year with the festive production of Alan Ayckbourn's *Season's Greetings*. But what a lot of problems they had to endure! Not only was there a plumbing problem with the gents and disabled toilet, with our resident plumber up to his eyes getting people's heating fixed, but there was also a complete blackout on the Tuesday with the audience having to be sent home. (Not our fault I'm thankful to say). So to accommodate those able to return on Sunday another matinee was put on, followed by our usual clear up and a fish and chip supper. So very well done Garry Fowler and your whole team, we really enjoyed it.

Whilst it was very well received by most of an appreciative audience, there seemed to be a few who took it at face value without realising that at the time it was written the author was actually inviting us to laugh at the attitudes and dialogue they

were finding offensive. Maybe we should have a disclaimer as they do on Talking Pictures on TV!

Those of us who have been Theatre members for some time were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Dorothy Hemsley, many of us attending her funeral. She had been a previous Chairman, Friends Secretary, 'chief' of Wednesday Workshop designing, building and scenic painting sets, as well as being a brilliant actress and a great Director. I learned a lot from both watching, being directed by, and best bit, acting with her.

The AGM is coming up (details later in this newsletter); PLEASE make a note of the date and try to attend - we have cheese and wine afterwards!! We will be needing new Committee Members, so do think seriously about this and become a bigger part of the Theatre family team. From experience I know that the more you give, the more you receive back. See you then.

Love, Margaret



*Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians*

**Acting is in everything but the words.**

*Stella Adler, The Art of Acting*



**Debbie Cox**  
 Tel: 07596709044  
 Email: [coxdeb8@gmail.com](mailto:coxdeb8@gmail.com).

# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Happy New Year to you all. We kicked 2023 off with our first Tea and Toast, with a nod to Burns Night, followed by a terrific quiz and huge spread organised by Tanya, which raised around £200 for Macmillan Nurses. A massive thank you to her for such a great night. We very much encourage members to come forward like this with social activities of their own.

Whether it's a wine tasting, Karaoke or anything else, we embrace you. Especially if it's to help other charities as well as our own theatre.

In the meantime here are some prospective dates for the coming weeks.

## MONDAY 30 JANUARY

### **HomeDrive      Seaford Little Theatre from 6.00pm**

Homedrive is a board game similar to Beetle drive. Easy to do and a good way to socialise with other members. There is a nominal fee of £1.00. Please bring your own food and drink .



## SATURDAY 11 MARCH

### **Aurelia Wrap Party**



There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production **Aurelia**. 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 12 MARCH

### **Theatre Clean Up      Seaford Little Theatre from 2.00pm**

All cast and crew members of **Aurelia** 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.



Calling all magicians out there. We will include a Magic section in the annual SGT and BBQ this Summer. (Date TBC) I'm looking ahead but it gives you time to practice. Karaoke went down well last year thanks to our host Jenny. So more of that on the deck of cards as well as other acts that you might be interested in. Remember it's not a competition, it's just for fun.



Is anyone interested in a film night or a race night? St James's have a huge TV In a hall that we can access... let me know what you think and I can put the wheels on the horse and get the cart in motion.

For all events please let me know ASAP if you will be attending. For further details please contact me, Debbie Cox, on 07596709044 or email at: [coxdeb8@gmail.com](mailto:coxdeb8@gmail.com). Thank you for your continuing support.

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

## DOROTHY HEMSLEY



As mentioned by Margaret It was with great sadness that we learned the news that Dorothy Hemsley had died in November last year. Dorothy was, for many, many years, a stalwart of Seaford Little Theatre, acting, directing, set designing and building, stage managing, and doing a vast assortment of unsung jobs behind the scenes to keep the theatre going.

As a director she was clear, precise and inclusive in getting what she wanted, and as an actor she was an award winning performer who was a joy to share the stage with, equally at home in dramatic or comedic roles, with an innate sense of comic timing, and all the sensitive nuances to convey a serious character. It was a huge loss to the Little Theatre when her health forced her to retire, and her joy and enthusiasm for everything theatrical will be greatly missed by all her friends and colleagues here. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family at this sad time.



## TEA & TOAST COFFEE MORNINGS



Our Tea & Toast mornings continue this year taking place on the first Monday of each month (excluding bank holidays) starting from 10.00am, with a nominal charge of £1. Eat and drink as much as you like. If it is during the run of a play, the date will be rescheduled.

This year we are collecting for the RNLI, chosen by Gill, which all agree is a really worthy cause., so please continue to show your excellent support each month. Last year we raised a magnificent £209.50 for The Ambulance Staff Charity.

## DEVONSHIRE PARK (OR ELSEWHERE)

Mike and Sandy Truman have been in touch to point out that The Devonshire Park in Eastbourne is staging the popular *Relatively Speaking* by Alan Ayckbourn in February (Tuesday 14th Feb to Sat 18th Feb with Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday matinees), starring Lisa Goddard, in case any of our members are interested in going. It's also a chance to support the Devonshire Park who are putting on an exciting theatrical programme this year, instead of their usual gamut of murder-mysteries.

And if it is considered a good idea such visits might be something that could be added to our social activities in the future.

## PRODUCTIONS FOR THE 2023 SEASON

03 - 11 March	<b>AURELIA</b> by Robert Thomas	directed by Trish Richings
02 - 10 June	<b>TWELFTH NIGHT</b> by William Shakespeare	directed by David Parton
01 - 09 September	<b>ENCHANTED APRIL</b> by Matthew Barber	directed by Trish Richings
01 - 09 December	<b>ALL MY SONS</b> by Arthur Miller	directed by Dennis Picott

## JOB VACANCIES

As the AGM starts to show itself on the horizon, and with a new year underway, now might be the time to take stock and ask yourself whether there is more you could offer to the world, (or at least Seaford Little Theatre).

In any society there are always a lot of jobs that need to be done in order to ensure the smooth running of that group. Whilst some of these posts may be very visible and obvious there are also those that may be less apparent but are just as vital to keep everything ticking over.

So we would ask all our members to take a moment and consider whether they would be able to volunteer and offer some of their time to fulfill one of these important tasks.

As an example, at present we are in real need of someone to co-ordinate the Front of House rotas for each production, as well as a person to organise and keep supplied the refreshments both for productions and generally during the year.

In addition we would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to have a go at Stage Management, or Sound and Lighting operation. You don't necessarily need to have had previous experience, just an enthusiasm to get stuck in and a willingness to learn.

These posts may not have the glamour that being one of the posers on the stage brings but they are just as vital for any production to be a success and can be extremely rewarding.

If anyone thinks it may be something they could do but would like to know a bit more before committing to anything please feel free to ping over an email:

***mail@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk***

when every attempt will be made to try and answer any questions you might have.

Anyway please give it some thought and if you feel able to contribute please come along to the AGM in March ready to put yourself forward and do your bit for the world (or at least Seaford Little Theatre).







Photos from the set of  
**Season's Greetings**  
 taken by Andrew Parkinson  
[www.rememberingwhen.co.uk](http://www.rememberingwhen.co.uk)

# Sanity Clause



*Season's Greetings with Marilynne Sharpin, Dug Godfrey, Lee Coleman-Powney, Angle Wright, Debbie Cox, Peter Barnes, Kim White, Garry Fowler and Alan Lade*







Seaford Little Theatre  
ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING

**FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**7.30PM**

**AT THE LITTLE THEATRE**

**STEYNE ROAD**

**SEAFORD**

**WINE AND CHEESE**

**ALL MEMBERS,  
CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE  
WELCOME**



**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 Monday, 17th March 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 28th March,2022 (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:  
Membership Secretary:  
Friends' Secretary:  
Business Manager:  
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

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 Prior to the commencement of the meeting.)

Sandy Truman – sandytruman@mail.com

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

*January 2023*

**Seaford Little Theatre**

**Nomination Form for the Election of Officers and Management Committee  
Members**

**at the AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

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, SANDY TRUMAN AT THE THEATRE  
BEFORE THE AGM OPENS AT 7.30.PM. ON 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



If you haven't paid your membership fees for the coming year yet, then please make use of the form below to get them renewed. Membership runs for a calender year, alongside the season's productions, from January to December. Once completed either hand the form in at the theatre or send it direct to the address below.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

<b>Name(s)</b>		
<b>Address</b>		
<b>Phone No(s)</b>		
<b>Email(s)</b>		
<b>Membership Fee (tick one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)</b>	<b>Adult</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Student</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

I/We wish to renew my/our membership of Seaford Little Theatre for 2023.

The membership fee for 2023 is £10 per person (students - £5)

Please return this form either having paid via the BACS system (see below) or with the appropriate amount attached (cheques payable to Seaford Dramatic Society) to:

Membership Secretary, 4 Steyne Road, Seaford, BN25 1HA

Email: [memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk](mailto:memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk)

Tel: **07948 382530**

Our preferred method of payment is by BACS which is simple to set up via your bank. If you choose to pay in this way please use the following details:

Give your name as the payment reference

Make the payment to:

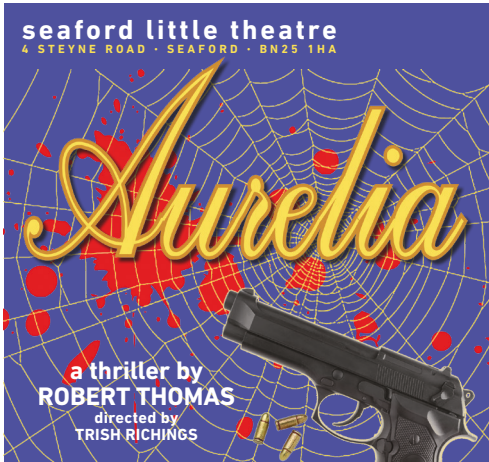
Account Name: The Seaford Dramatic Society

Account number: 42227878

Sort Code: 40 20 06



# BOOKING INFORMATION



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

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/seaford-little-theatre](http://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 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](mailto:seaford.tic@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)

**Tickets for this production on sale now**



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

[newsletter@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk)**

**Potential copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter:**  
**21 APRIL 2023**