

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



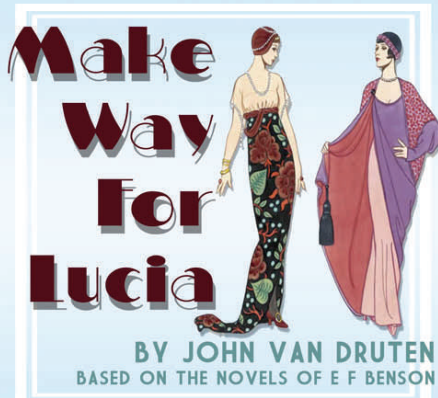
WELL HERE WE ARE AGAIN nearly at the end of another season. With the rehearsals now started for the final play of 2009, **Make Way For Lucia**, and the well deserved applause for **Men Of The World** fading away, we look forward to the 2010 season. But before we do that, there is one extra date that a great many people are rehearsing for and that is **70 Years On - A Wartime Nostalgia**. Sadly, by the time that you receive this newsletter, September 19 will have passed and gone. For those of you unaware of what this was all about, it was part of the Seaford Live 2009 Festival that the Theatre supports, both by providing free accommodation and providing a show ourselves.

Briefly returning to the John Godber play, sadly this had a dip in our audience numbers. Not seriously, 71% or so, but enough for us to take note of. People sometimes wonder why I bang on about audience numbers, so let me explain a little if I can. Constant low audience numbers affect the Theatre in every way. Loss of seat money, of course, but that can result in low programme sales, that in turn can affect our advertisers. Low seat sales mean less taken at the coffee lounge. It is difficult to attract acting and backstage members to a theatre that has persistent low audience numbers. No actor I have ever met likes playing to small audiences. Ask any local small outfits about their struggle to cast even the most basic of productions and you will see what I mean.

Now we are of course nowhere near what I have described above, and hopefully never will be. But we have to keep a constant weather eye open.

Chairman's words continue on page 2

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION - **MAKE WAY FOR LUCIA** by John Van Druten



MANY OF YOU MUST already be aware of the genteel life of Tilling and its best known residents, Mapp & Lucia, from the best-selling novels by E F Benson. This play, directly adapted from those books, brings that world, and the torn village loyalties and conflict that arises between these two forthright women, into brilliant, humorous life.

Directed by Mary Young, with Sylvia Aston and Tricia Pape as the leads and featuring a superb cast of thousands (well, eleven) **Make Way For Lucia** is the perfect end to this year's season of plays and will hopefully leave you amused, delighted and with a warm glow to help ward off the onset of winter.

The show opens on Friday 13 November and runs through to the following Saturday 21 November, with evening performances from 7.45pm and a matinee on Saturday 14 November at 2.30pm.

Tickets for members and patrons, as usual, are available from 17 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.

For general enquiries regarding this production ring David Backhouse (01323) 492509

Chairman's words continued from page 1 ...

On a totally different subject, (Alan Lade is always complaining he never has enough to fill this Newsletter with) I am often asked how we choose the plays that we stage. Well, each year's repertory is usually selected at least one year in advance. This is done by a committee of experienced actors and directors, at presently headed by myself, but always subject to change. They come up with a short list of possible candidates for production and submit them to the Management Committee for their approval. Bear in mind that this can be quite a process, scripts have to be read, discussed, staging's considered, certainly numbers involved in the cast and backstage etc., once four productions have been decided on, it then becomes necessary to consult our small group of directors to establish which ones they would prefer to produce. This done, the production committee can then turn its attention to the next season.

On several occasions in the past, we have consulted our audiences as to what they would like to see at The Little Theatre and they have always expressed a liking for good comedy, thrillers, costume drama etc., roughly in that order.

What occurred to me recently was that it might be a good idea, through this column to ask for YOUR idea of a good play or drama. It could be a favourite play of yours, either modern or older. Maybe something that you have seen recently and would like to see performed at Seaford. Bear in mind that we cannot perform work currently being produced on the professional stage, and we are not either equipped or able to do musicals. But we will consider any reasonable request. A favourite author perhaps? We frequently produce plays that we have done some 15/20 years ago, so it could be a play that you would love to see again.

Drop your idea into the Theatre any time. Most people are unaware of our full address, so here it is: Seaford Little Theatre, 4 Steyne Road, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1HA.

Alternatively phone me: (01323) 586974

I hope to hear from you soon.

Alan G. Lade

Luvvie Loquacity – The Thoughts Of A Thespians

Women should be obscene and not heard.

Groucho Marx

IN APPRECIATION

I feel I must put into words the gratitude I feel to all those in the production of **Men Of The World**; from the three very talented actors who so skillfully brought the story to life, the lighting and sound so cleverly timed to each change of situation, not to forget the back stage crew of Stage Manager, ASM and prompt, without whom I could not have completed my task. So Trish, Jon and John, Alan and Dominic, Rosina, David and Sarah, my grateful thanks for all your hard work and patience with me !!!

Stella Dench



GOT ANY items for the newsletter? News? Views? Articles? Litigious Gossip? Then don't be shy, send it to me. Your choices are:
 1 You can e-mail me on seaford.littletheatre@virgin.net.
 2 If you have a PC put it on disc (WORD format)
 3 A typed or hand written piece
 My address is 25 SHERWOOD RD SEAFORD BN25 3EH
 4 If you are not allowed to use sharp instruments then you can ring me on (01323) 492177 and dictate it over the phone.

I can also make use of photos (good quality, various poses)

NB. Deadline for contributions to next edition is

DECEMBER 26

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

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

FREE Cheese & Wine at the Annual General Meeting

Seaford Little Theatre 7.30pm - ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND

It's that time of year again. Our AGM. We hope to see as many Members at the meeting as possible and for your delight you will receive a bonus of a glass (or maybe two) of wine and cheeses of delicious varieties after the meeting. Start time 7.30 pm.



SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

Make Way For Lucia Wrap Party

There will be the usual 'Wrap' Party on the last night of our latest play. Please, as usual, bring some food and whatever you want to drink to celebrate the success of yet another production.

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER

Theatre Clean Up *Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm*

All cast and crew members of **Make Way For Lucia** 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.

THURSDAY 31 DECEMBER

New Year's Party *Maycroft from 8.00pm*

Please come and join us at 'Maycroft', Dean Road, Seaford from 8 pm. to see in the New Year. A buffet and a welcoming glass of mulled wine will be provided but please bring your own drink. To see our way through to the midnight hour we hope to put on a quiz to pass away the time, and other entertainment. Cost for this will be £10.

* * * *

I am now signing off as your Social Secretary after two years in the chair. I sincerely hope your new Social Secretary and committee will come up with some great new ideas for our future social events. The social side of Seaford Little Theatre is a very important function.

Gill Watson

DRAMA WORKSHOP - ANOTHER INVITATION

"Facing the Audience"

Ann Payne has agreed to run another Drama Workshop for us, after requests from members who came last time. If you missed it before this is your chance to have a go!

Saturday, 31 October from 2.00 to 4.30pm.

Working on Voice, Relaxation and Characterisation, as well as having fun.

Venue: The Little Theatre • Cost: £2.00 (including tea & biscuits) • All welcome

Details and booking from Mary Young - 01323 894304

or e-mail young-g4@sky.com

WWW.EVERYCLICK.COM - YET ANOTHER INVITATION

The Treasurer is once again recommending a painless way to make money for the Theatre. The search engine www.everyclick.com will pay 1p to your own nominated Charity for every search made using their website. It costs you nothing, but at a time when banks pay zero interest, it could earn us money. So if you're on the Internet and are prepared to use everyclick.com as your default search engine and nominate Seaford Dramatic Society as your Charity - No.294769 - we'll get 1p every time you click on! Please think about it. As the saying goes - every little helps.

It's A Small World

Photos From The Set Of
Men Of The World
taken by Jack Mortimer

AYE, SO I SAID, DO YOU KNOW KEN
BARLOW?
AN' HE SAID, I DIDN'T REALISE YOU WERE
SCOTTISH, LUV.



Jon Is Surprised By A Guest Appearance
From Ena Sharples

WELL I FORGOT TO BRING THE CRAMPONS, ROPES, RADIOS,
MAPS AND THERMAL GEAR, BUT I'VE GOT A NICE FLASK OF
HOT BOVRIL IN ME HANDBAG



The GB Women's Mountaineering Squad Prepare For The
First Winter Ascent Of Mount Everest

AYUP, WHERE WOULD
YOU FIND A TORTOISE WITH
NO LEGS?

WHEREVER YOU LAST PUT IT
DOWN



John Hamilton Tries Out His
Impression Of A Turtle Topping
The Bill At A Working Men's Club



And Finally A Group Shot Of The Cast
From The Seaford Live! Show *70 Year's On*
- *An Evening Of World War II Nostalgia*,
Which Might Have Left Poor Adolf
Wondering How He Could Have Got It All
So Wrong

AUDITION NOTICE - *PRESCRIPTION FOR MURDER* by Norman Robbins

Audition: Monday 23 November - 7.30pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 12 - 20 February 2010

Director: Margaret Kennedy

In the seemingly quiet town of Bere Knighton there is never a dull moment for Dr Richard Forth. Not only does he have a hectic work schedule and an awkward friendship with his ex-girlfriend, but his new wife, Barbara, is constantly ill and nobody knows what is wrong with her. When Eric Dawson, a stranger, claims to have known Richard's second fiancée – a woman Richard claims does not exist – Barbara's health worsens and she isn't the only one. With bad luck spreading almost as quickly as bad news, it seems somebody is out to kill Barbara, and anyone else who gets in their way.

This thriller has a twist in the tail that took me by surprise and good acting parts for the cast of 7 as follows:

CHARACTERS

Barbara Forth	attractive, 30's
Dr Richard Forth	mid 50's
Dorothy Livingstone	45
Mary Haigh	late 60's
Allan Haigh	late 60's
Eric Dawson	computer salesman 40's
Julia Moore	Richard's ex-girlfriend, about 45

Scripts will be available from me and I will be auditioning using the following pieces – but do read the whole play so as to get a feel for the whole character.

Dorothy and Julia

from bottom p12 Julia: "Still charring, I see?" up to Barbara's entrance on p14

Mary and Allan (plus Barbara)

from bottom p24 Mary: "....sit yourself down" up to Barbara's exit bottom p27

Richard and Julia

from p37 to middle of p40 when Julia exits

Eric Dawson (plus Barbara and Allan)

from top p49 Eric: ".....Do you mind if I sit down?" to his exit middle p51

Dorothy and Mary

from p55 middle Dorothy: "I'll get it" to Barbara's entrance p57

Richard and Barbara (plus Eric)

from p62 Richard's entrance to bottom p67 Barbara: "I'll bring it through".

Anyone not able to make the audition date, but wanting to take part should contact me on 01323 894938 or email margaretkennedy@talktalk.net

Margaret Kennedy

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, 30th October 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 31st October 2008. (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**
Business Manager:	Vacancy
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.) Sandra Haynes & Tricia Pape have a further year to serve, but Alan Clifford is standing down.

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). Margaret Kennedy (Hon. Treasurer) 01323 894938

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

OCTOBER 2009

IT'S THAT SUBS TIME AGAIN

Not sure about attending the AGM on 30 October, even with all the wine and cheese on offer? Okay, well here's another reason to attend. Next year's subs (£10) are due on November 1, so why not kill two birds with one stone and attend the meeting **AND** pay your dues to your ready and willing Treasurer, Margaret Kennedy. Job done.