



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



TO QUOTE AN OLD POP SONG: 'Well what a night it was, it really was'. Our Gala night was a huge success. Nearly everyone wore black tie, (except for our local MP who confessed he hadn't read either the letter or the ticket).

Hmmmm, makes you wonder doesn't it?

However it was a brilliant evening that started with the final performance of **Move Over Mrs. Markham** so ably directed by Sylvia Aston and performed by a very talented cast, which received an enthusiastic reception from a packed

house. This was followed by a superb supper laid out in the Coffee Lounge. May I thank again the people who worked so hard to make this evening such a success. To all those who gave up their Saturday to come down to the Theatre and prepare all the food, wine etc. you all deserve medals for your efforts. A fantastic cake with '65 Years' on it was cut by Ted and Valerie Shepherd & Gloria Roberts and how wonderful it was to see them there, our link with the very start of our Theatre. A presentation to Dorothy Hemsley for all her years dedicated to designing and building our stage sets and a short, and I may say, very moving speech by Valerie, our President, completed the evening.

But now to the future. On the 11 February, 2011, we open with **The Chalk Garden** by Enid Bagnold, directed by Stella Dench. Further details below.

Beginning on January 8 and for each first Saturday of the month, I hope to run a series of acting workshops. These will be aimed at those people who want to improve their stage skills, people

continued on page 2 . . .

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION - **THE CHALK GARDEN** by Enid Bagnold



THE OPENING PRODUCTION FOR 2011 is this celebrated and classic drama by local playwright, Enid Bagnold, based in Rottingdean and directed by Stella Dench.

Raised in a manor house beside the sea, where the flowers struggle to grow, disturbed teenager Laurel (Stephanie King) runs wild. As her eccentric grandmother (Tricai Pape) tends to the garden, Laurel's need for love forces her into a world of fantasy. But things begin to change with the sudden appointment of an enigmatic governess (Sue Shephard) who brings a mysterious new presence to an already dysfunctional household.

With a strong supporting cast featuring Roland Boorman, John Hamilton, Gini Comyns, Mandy Crnkovic, Doreen James and Sylvia Aston this is a first class drama to kickstart the new season.

The show opens on Friday 11 February and runs through to the following Saturday 19 February, with evening performances from 7.45pm and a matinee on Saturday 12 February at 2.30pm.

Tickets for members and patrons, as usual, are available in advance from 14 January 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 £8 each, with two for the price of one on the First Night, and £7 each for the Saturday matinee.

For general enquiries regarding this production ring Gill Watson (01323) 895225

who feel unsure about taking a role in a production and anyone who is just a pure beginner. Various people over the years have asked me to do this and I have agreed, I do not intend to run it along conventional workshop lines, but more like the final year of a reputable Drama Academy. Please remember that this sort of training is not just useful on the stage, but helps boost self-confidence in public speaking, work and social interactions. So, I look forward to seeing you there. Anyone who visits our Little Theatre recently, will have noticed some improvements. First of all our magnificent Greek Masks that now adorn the proscenium arch. These were designed and created by one of our members, Jo Brown. Various other additions and repairs have been carried out and, apart from a minor glitch, the CCTV between stage and Green Room is now installed. Soon, we hope to have a much bolder sign outside the Theatre, just above the marquee, so that nobody is in any doubt who, what and where we are, So with a new, clean repainted auditorium, new carpets etc. and a vastly improved heating system, we can look forward to the new season with confidence and pride. Pride in our beautiful little Theatre and pride in the high standard of productions we present. Finally, to each and every one of you, a very happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you all soon. Break a leg.

Alan G. Bavel

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 25 JANUARY

Play Reading Group *Seaford Little Theatre from 7.30pm*

Further to the last Newsletter when it was decided to reprise Play Readings as one of our events, I am pleased to say many of you have been in contact and would be very interested in attending. As you can see above the first Play Reading will take place in the Coffee Lounge at the Theatre at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25 January 2011. Coffee/Tea and biscuits will be available at a nominal cost. The first play to be read will be our Spring production **Bedroom Farce** by Alan Ayckbourn, which will be an ideal opportunity for anyone interested in auditioning for a role in this play to get a feel for what it is about.

SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY

The Chalk Garden *Wrap Party*

There will be the usual Wrap Party on the last night of our latest play **The Chalk Garden**. 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 20 FEBRUARY

Theatre Clean Up *Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm*

All cast and crew members of **The Chalk Garden** 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.

More Social News on Page 3....

HELP (AGAIN)

As usual we are still in need of enough volunteers to do the teas, coffees and ices during performances, so if there is anyone out there who can spare a small amount of time for this very worthwhile side of our theatre, then could they please contact Diane on 01323 490397 or email: diane.scott31@sky.com. All offers gratefully received and we'll even throw in a free cup of tea and a biscuit!



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: 19 MARCH

**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 NEWS EXTRA: 'AN EVENING WITH DEAN'

FRIDAY 26 MARCH

**Seaford Little Theatre
7.30pm**

The date you **MUST** put in your diary. A "live" performance from Dean Ager.

An Evening With Dean has now been organised. Dean Ager is an excellent performer as 'The Ratpack Man'. You will find his details on his website www.theratpackman.com.

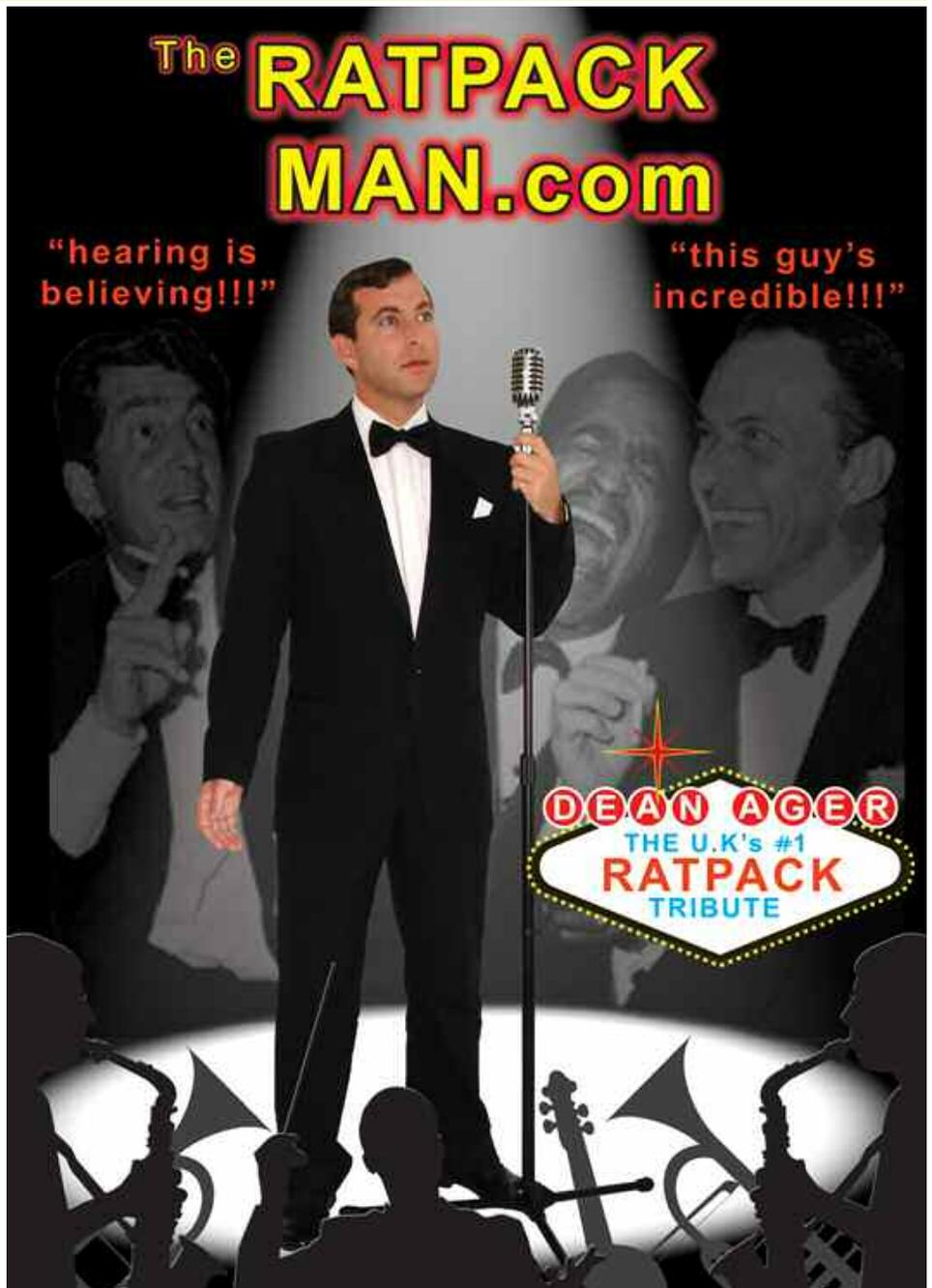
Some members have already seen Dean at Al Duomo in Brighton where he performs regularly. Should you wish to catch up with Dean, all the dates he will be performing at Al Duomo are on his website.

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.

This should prove to be a very special event and to cover the cost of this evening we will need a good attendance.

I would respectfully ask for payment at the time of booking and attached is a tear off slip for you to complete and return to me, please.

Gill Watson:- 01323 895225.



Name:.....

Address.....

.....Tel. No:.....

Number attending.....

Cheque value £..... (made payable to Seaford Dramatic Society, please)

Please send this form and your remittance to:-

**Gill Watson
"Maycroft"
Dean Road
SEAFORD
BN25 1AN**

Thank you.

MOVING PICTURES



Photos From The
Set Of
*Move Over Mrs
Markham*
Taken By Andrew
Parkinson



AUDITION NOTICE - *BEDROOM FARCE* by Alan Ayckbourn

Audition: Monday 21 February - 7.30pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 6 - 14 May 2011

Director: Jack Mortimer

The second production for 2011 is Alan Ayckbourn's hilarious comedy *Bedroom Farce*, first produced in the mid 1970's. In it, within three bedrooms, the shattering effect of the socially dysfunctional on all around is explored to great effect!

Rehearsals will be on Mondays and Thursdays starting from Thursday 24 February.

CAST

Bedroom 1

Ernest *circa 60*

Delia *circa 50*

Bedroom 2

Nick

Jan

Bedroom 3

Malcolm

Kate

Moving Between

Trevor Ernest & Delia's son

Susannah and his wife

These three latter couples should all have a playing age of about 25-35

Both setting the stage and being in charge of lighting should be challenging and we shall need three double beds. So if anyone has any such spare beds do not dispose of them please, without contacting me first!!

It should all be great fun.

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, this play will be the first one to be used at our new play-reading evening on 25 January, so if you are interested in taking part in this production, in whatever capacity, please come along to see what is involved. Scripts will be available at that time or afterwards in the Coffee Lounge at the theatre. (Please make sure you remember to sign them in and out)

I look forward to seeing you all at the audition on 21 February. If anyone cannot make that date and is interested in a part then please contact me and I will arrange an alternative one for you.

JACK MORTIMER (01323) 898267