



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Mary Young

HELLO EVERYONE. The glorious sunny days of early September are behind us and there is a real autumnal feel about now. Our summer production of *Steel Magnolias* was another success and a first for local am-dram co-operation. It was a shared production with Meeching Amateur Dramatics from Newhaven, although some of the cast were members of both groups. Garry Fowler must be congratulated on his direction of this funny and very moving piece.

We were unable to stage the advertised production of *Rumours* by Neil Simon after problems for two potential directors, who found that changes at work and home meant they were unable to undertake the role. I am sure you will be pleased

to know that *Rumours* is now on the season programme for 2017. The new programme will be available at the end of October.

Farce is a difficult genre to tackle, requiring teamwork and good timing. The members of cast of *Funny Money* are working hard together to meet these demands and look forward to presenting a very funny show for our audiences, opening on 4th November. Early booking is recommended.

I am pleased to report that the Shakespeare Summer School held in our theatre at the beginning of August was a success and that a youth group may be formed as an off shoot. On the social side we enjoyed a terrific Summer Barbecue and another super Quiz Night. Thanks go to Debi Cox and her team for their hard work.

The Management Committee look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM on Friday, 28th October at 7.30pm. with the usual Cheese and Wine get together afterwards. Please support Seaford Little Theatre and all those who work to make it a success.

Best wishes, Mary.



OUR NEXT PRODUCTION – *FUNNY MONEY* by Ray Cooney

Henry Perkins, an office worker from Fulham, has mistakenly picked up a briefcase containing an enormous sum of money. A heaven-sent gift which Henry sees as a real opportunity to escape from his humdrum existence and lead the life he has always dreamed of.

But, unfortunately, unforeseen events intervene as an anonymous criminal, desperate to regain the cash, will stop at nothing to get it back just as Henry will stop at nothing to keep it.

As friends, the police, a taxi driver and even a passer-by get drawn into Henry's machinations, the situation descends into a whirlwind of misunderstandings and double dealings that hurtle towards the climax.

Featuring a host of Little Theatre alumni this celebrated farce sees a welcome return to the stage of Jon Terry in the role of Henry, ably supported by Jenny Humphries, Dennis Picott, Lee Coleman-Powney, Steve Wetherilt, Stephen Cowles and two other long time absentees from our stage, Sharon Besant and Alan Clifford.

The production opens on Friday 4 November 2016 and runs through to the following Saturday 12 November, with a matinée on Saturday 5 November. Evening performances



commence at 7.45pm and the matinée 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 7 October 2016 at our box office:

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

Postal applications 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.

It is also possible to reserve tickets by email for collection and payment on the door. Send your application to:

tickets@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk.

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

The ticket prices are £8.00 each, with a special price of £7.00 each for the matinée.

PLEASE NOTE

It is perhaps timely to mention to all audience members a couple of practical issues regarding facilities at the theatre which should be borne in mind when booking tickets.

Firstly for those with hearing difficulties, that although there is a hearing 'T' loop system installed, because the wiring runs around the external walls, the best position to make use of it is in those seats closest to the edges.

And secondly that the Thursday night performance always coincides with heavy use of the nearest car park off of Steyne Road, and that therefore, for anyone attending on that night, it would be prudent to allow extra time to find a parking space.

For general enquiries regarding the next production please ring Ray Cox 07984280067

CATHRYN PARKER



It is with overwhelming shock and sadness that we have to report the sudden, unexpected death of Cathryn Parker whilst in Australia with husband Geoff.

Cathryn only joined Seaford in recent years, both as an actor and a director, but was very well known and respected throughout the various theatre groups and societies in the South East and further afield, and she will be greatly missed by all that knew her.

Although her day job revolved around the law and the legal system, it was perhaps inevitable that in her free time Cathryn should exercise her creative juices through vigorous involvement in the theatrical world. As a child she grew up in North Harrow with parents who were both heartily committed to amateur dramatics, and from the age of five would regularly accompany them to rehearsals and be entranced by the magic she saw being created.

Arriving in Sussex some thirty plus years ago, Cathryn became involved with at least a dozen different groups across the county and in the ensuing years, both as an actor and director, took on everything from straight plays to comedies and dramas with just the odd piece of the Bard thrown in for good measure. In fact, for the last four years, she and husband Geoff, as The Players in the Park, have staged an acclaimed annual Shakespeare play every summer in aid of St Peter and St James Hospice, and raised over £30,000 in the process. And if all of that wasn't enough, only recently, at Lewes Little Theatre, she had agreed to take on the role of Artistic Director, a post to which she was deeply committed and enthusiastic. Her energy and passion for all things theatrical and what it could bring to the community was boundless.

Her debut at Seaford was in 2012 as the deliciously, sexually precocious Muriel Wickstead in Alan Bennett's **Habeas Corpus**, a role for which she received many well deserved plaudits, followed by an equally highly acclaimed performance as the formidable Doris Gow in **Fumed Oak** by Noël Coward. And then, to our great delight, she agreed to don her directing hat for us, firstly with **The Cemetery Club** in 2013, followed by **Humble Boy** in 2015.

I was fortunate enough to be directed by Cathryn both here and at Lewes and it was inspirational to see the level of commitment she would bring to everything she was involved in. No-one knew the script and the concept of the play better than she did, and because of this insight and affinity with each of the characters, no matter how trivial, she was able to bring a clear and organised vision for how she wanted the entire production to appear, not just in the acting but with every aspect, from the publicity to the set, the costumes and the props, to the lighting and the sound and music.



Each play became that overused cliché, a 'journey' for everyone involved, as they came to discover not only who their own character was, but also that of everyone else and the world they were rooted in. Cathryn's great gift was the ability to put in place the mechanisms for that journey of discovery to take place, so that everyone emerged with a greater understanding of what was needed for the play to succeed. No matter how large, complicated and chaotic the production, Cathryn always seemed to remain cool and calm and confident that the final outcome would achieve what she wanted to create and that the entire cast and crew would give of their best to ensure that happened. And, inevitably, it always did.

Cathryn's passing is a huge loss to the theatrical community in this area and she will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her. Our heartfelt and deepest sympathies go out to husband Geoff at this awful and traumatic time. However, as we try to come to terms with the shock of her death, let those of us who knew and worked with Cathryn celebrate her life and take comfort in the enormous legacy of creativity that she has left behind.



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



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 COMMITTEE

The summer BBQ was a great success and the weather was kind to us for once thank goodness. A large group of people turned out to enjoy the chance of ~~a shot of salmonella~~ some perfectly cooked food in the sunshine and a great time was had by all. Thank you to all those who helped the event go so smoothly. Special mention to Debi's mum, Sylvia, for her excellent salads, the recipes for which came from her time working in the kitchens of Henry VIII. (Photo from the day can be seen below). Now on to the upcoming social events ...



SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER

Games Night **Seaford Little Theatre** **7.30pm**

Due to a low response the Games Night has been cancelled. We can, of course, reschedule for another time if this is something you would like to see go ahead. Please let me know.

SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER

Funny Money Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production **Funny Money**. 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 13 NOVEMBER

Theatre Clean Up **Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm**

All cast and crew members of **Funny Money** 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.



SATURDAY 31 DECEMBER

New Year's Eve Celebration **Seaford Little Theatre**

Would you be interested in celebrating and seeing in the New Year at Seaford Little Theatre? A suggestion has been made that members might like to do this, so I am canvassing opinion on the idea. I would need to know as soon as possible please in order for the arrangements to be put in place. Any ideas and suggestions for the format of the evening would also be gratefully received. Please contact me using the details below.

For details about this and any other Social event please contact me, Debbie Cox, on 07596709044 or email at coxdeb8@gmail.com. As always we really value your support at the social activities and welcome your ideas or suggestions for any future events.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, Debbie Cox



Left
The BBQ in full swing in the extensive grounds of Seaford Little Theatre

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

Theatres are curious places, magician's trick-boxes where the golden memories of dramatic triumphs linger like nostalgic ghosts, and where the unexplainable, the fantastic, the tragic, the comic and the absurd are routine occurrences on and off the stage. Murders, mayhem, political intrigue, lucrative business, secret assignments, and of course, dinner.

E.A. Bucchianeri

▶ **Copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 30 DECEMBER 2016** ◀



Photos from the set of
Steel Magnolias
taken
by Andrew Parkinson

Steely Gaze



Audition Date: Tuesday 11 October 2016 - 7.30pm - Seaford Little Theatre
 Production dates: 17 - 25 February 2017

Work, love and life are just one hard slog for the fish filleting women, Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. Their fortunes are set to change when Linda finds tickets to Ladies’ Day at Royal Ascot the year it relocated to York. Out go the hairnets and wellies, as the four ditch work, do themselves up to the nines and head off for a drink, a flirt and a flutter. Their luck is about to change!

CHARACTERS	
PEARL	A fish packer mid fifties about to retire looked up to by her workmates.
JAN	A fish packer mid forties single mum lives for her daughter.
SHELLEY	A fish packer mid twenties celebrity obsessed .
LINDA	A fish packer mid twenties brought up by her Nan but unable to stand up to her no good manipulative mother.
JOE	Their supervisor
FRED	A ticket tout
JIM MCCORMACK	T.V Broadcaster/pundit.
PATRICK	An Irish jockey
KEVIN	A Gambler
BARRY	A bookie

Characters ages are very flexible.

All the ladies have Yorkshire accents.

Joe also has a Yorkshire accent and Patrick southern Irish.

All the other men whatever UK accent you want.

All the male parts could theoretically be played by one person.

The part of Patrick could be played by a woman, but it has to be played as Patrick not Patricia. Until audition I have a completely open mind on this.

Scripts are available from the the theatre (Coffee lounge). Please read, copy any passages you require and return so that other people can access a script.

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

Dennis Picott Tel: 01273 515647 Email: dennisandwendy@talktalk.net

PLAY READING GROUP

Our Play Reading Group meets at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday each month in the Coffee Lounge at the theatre (unless there is a production). It is a great social evening and an opportunity to have a go at performing without the pressure of an audience, or to read parts you wouldn’t normally be able to play on stage! You can even just come along and listen. There is a nominal charge of £1 for refreshments.

We recently read **Ladies Day** by Amanda Whittington, our opening play for next season, at the start of October. There will be no November meeting due to the production of **Funny Money**. Please note we cannot always guarantee to have the play advertised for reading due to difficulties obtaining play sets.

So our programme for the coming months is:

- ▶ NOVEMBER **No reading**
- ▶ 06 DEC **The Late Edwina Black** by William Dinner & William Morum

Everyone is welcome and so are your suggestions for future readings.

For more information call Mary Young: Tel: 07891 691341 Email: gmaryyoung@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you there.



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, 28th October 2016 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 30th OCTOBER 2015. (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 14days prior to the meeting.
6. Election of Executive Officers of the Management Committee.

Chairman:
Vice-Chairman:
Hon. Treasurer:
Hon. Secretary:
Premises Manager:
Friends' Secretary:
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): 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.), There are two vacancies.

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.)

Sylvia Aston (Hon. Secretary), 01323 490444 or aston@asyvia7.orangehome.co.uk or Margaret Kennedy (Hon. Treasurer) 01323 894938

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

OCTOBER 2016

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 2017. 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 28th October 2016

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



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		_____



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

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

PLEASE RETURN TO THE HON. SECRETARY, SYLVIA ASTON, AT THE THEATRE BEFORE THE AGM
OPENS AT 7.30pm ON 28th OCTOBER 2016