

STAGEW



SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Issue 23 - August 2025

our next production : **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** by William Shakespeare

Our next production, this September, is one of William Shakespeare's most popular and widely performed plays, ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***, directed by Tim Telford.

Come with us into the Court of Athens and its enchanting nearby forest as the magical, mystical worlds of fairies and humans collide.

Alas, the course of true love never did run smooth and the Athenian Court is no exception. Duke Theseus, while trying to plan his nuptials with the lovely Hippolyta, is called upon to pass judgement on the lives and loves of four of the young people of the city: Hermia, Demetrius, Lysander and Helena.

Meanwhile The Rude Mechanicals, a local acting troupe, are planning and rehearsing ***Pyramus and Thisbe***, the play they want to stage for the Duke's forthcoming wedding. A process not helped by the domineering attitude of the 'star of the show' Nick Bottom.



At the same time deep in the forest, the king and queen of the fairies, the quarrelsome Oberon and Titania are bickering with each other and both seeking to gain the upper hand in their power struggle.

With all these intrigues and complications, plus an unhealthy dose of fairy magic, what could possibly go wrong?

The play features Darren Heather, Emily Feist, Dan Williams, Alan Lade, Jasmine Chance Ramsay, Sue Williams, Kim Sanger White, Marilynne Sharpin, Debbie Cox, Angie Wright, Sandy Truman and Katie Clammer, alongside newcomers to Seaford, Lauren Brakes, Sonny Williams, Cody Thacker, Claire Coull, Phoebe Bazzard and Ava Dawson.

The show opens on Friday 5 September 2025 and runs through to the following Saturday 13 September with matinées only on both Saturday 6 and Saturday 13 September. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinées will start at 2.30pm. Tickets are on sale now at all our usual venues.

Don't forget there is a special offer of two tickets for the price of one on the first night - 5 September
(subject to availability)

FOR ALL BOOKING INFORMATION SEE PAGE 8



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Sue Williams

HELLO EVERYONE. The first thing to report is that at long last our application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been sent to the Charity Commission for approval. The whole process has been tortuous and long drawn-out and has demanded a lot of patience from the management committee. My thanks to all of them! It will be worth it in the end because we could not go on any longer with the possibility of personal liability hanging over us. Whilst it is unlikely that such a drastic scenario would have presented itself, given that we are most certainly insured, we could not rule it out. So now everyone will be able to sleep more easily. It has, of course, meant that our constitution has had to be re-written along more professional lines and we have had a lot of help with this from Barwells (the solicitors). Once everything has been duly approved we shall have a certified copy for our records: a document to be consulted from time to time... all thirty pages of it!!

As I write we are very close to our 80th birthday event to be held on Saturday 2 August. This is to be a relaxed summer gathering for members to do a bit of reminiscing over a glass of bubbly and a slice of cake. The archives will be on display and of course will be of great interest! If you can bring along some food we can enjoy a picnic together, hopefully in our beautiful garden, weather permitting. The theatre will be open from 2p.m. There is no charge to attend this event.

Since the last newsletter we have had our June production, *Boston Marriage*. Whilst

there has been plenty of positive feedback it has to be said that attendance was poor. We knew that, in presenting this very wordy and rather strange piece, we were asking a lot of our audiences who do seem to have voted with their feet. Several people expressed dissatisfaction with the choice of play and asked us to put on plays of more general appeal. This is giving us pause for thought. There have been many times in the past when having a full house was almost assumed, and many productions featured good, worthwhile and well-written plays. Certainly amongst these there have been some “pot-boilers” but perhaps we are starting to move too far in the opposite direction! It is easy to take for granted that audiences will just turn up, but we are finding now that full-house days seem long gone. It is true that re-igniting interest after the Covid months has been understandably slow, but I feel that we must respect our loyal following and not pass them over in favour of a hoped-for, different and perhaps younger audience. We are “Seaford Little Theatre” and our job, first and foremost, is to maintain our hitherto popular Seaford standing. If we offer too many challenging or obscure plays we shall find our following in the town declines to a very worrying point from which it might be difficult to recover.

What do you, our members, think??

I wish you all a happy summer and look forward to seeing many of you on August 2.

With love

SUE





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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Firstly thank you for your replies to the invitation and offers of food to share at our 80th Anniversary get together on 2 August. Linda Watts has kindly knitted a wonderful SLT tea cosy as a display piece for the coffee lounge (or for Ray to wear on chilly winter nights).

I crocheted one for our 75th Anniversary (a tea cosy not a Ray), so we've possibly started a new tradition.

A big well done and thanks very much to Sharon and Clare for their quiz evening on 28 June. Quiz nights are always a popular and welcome event amongst our members. A very impressive £488 was raised for the roof fund from ticket sales and the raffle (generously donated by Sharon)



Speaking of which, Roger Trace is bringing one of his world famous (all right, East Dean famous) Music Quizzes to our theatre on Friday 26 September, run by Roger and his wife Karen. They are always popular and cater for all tastes and abilities. Very entertaining and great fun and a real social event.

There will be a bar on the night and please bring a plate of food, either to share or just for yourself. NB. we need to know in advance if you will be attending so please let us know. For more details see poster later in the newsletter.

*Thank you for your continuing support,
Debbie x*

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Midsummer Night's Dream Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party (possibly a Masked Ball), following the last performance, of our latest production **Midsummer Night's Dream**. 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 14 SEPTEMBER

Theatre Clean Up

Seaford Little Theatre from 2.00pm

All cast and crew members of **Midsummer Night's Dream** to please attend and clean and tidy up the Theatre after this production. The set will need to be dismantled and costumes, props etc. sorted and returned and the Theatre cleaned through.

TEA & TOAST COFFEE MORNINGS



Tea and toast has been very well attended this year. A big thank you to Phil and Gail, along with all the tidy uppers and, of course, everyone who comes along and supports us.

First Monday of each month, eat and drink all you like - just £2. Please note though - no T&T in August.

ROGER'S MUSIC QUIZ - 26 SEPTEMBER

Roger Trace is our quizmaster for a music quiz this September. Various and varied genres. All profits to the roof fund. Details below:



Music Quiz

with
roger trace

7.00pm

friday 26 september
seaford little theatre

ENTRY FEE £10 PER PERSON
(MAX TEAM SIZE: 6)
MAGNIFICENT RAFFLE
BOTTLES OF WINE TO WINNERS
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINK
ALL PROCEEDS TO THE ROOF FUND

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE OR FOR MORE DETAILS:
CONTACT DEBBIE COX ON: COXDEB8@GMAIL.COM**

VARIOUS GENRES

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

If one good deed in all my life I did,
I do repent it from my very soul..

William Shakespeare

AUDITION NOTICE

PEOPLE

by Alan Bennett, directed by David Parton

Audition Date: Tuesday 12 August 2025- 7.00pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 5 - 13 December 2025

Dorothy Stacpoole, ageing aristocrat and former model, owns a crumbling stately home and is considering her options as how best to preserve the property and its treasury of priceless contents, but without jeopardising her last few remaining years. The National Trust is an obvious strong contender, whereas using the house as a setting for what is, rather more tastefully referred to as 'an adult film', is another. The clash between these two extremes and those of the principal protagonists, is a vehicle for outrageous humour. But, as always with Bennett, there is an underlying theme of humanity which makes the shock of what the audience sees not merely palatable, but relevant in many ways to modern society, its mores and attitudes.

The audition pieces are all available to download from our website, on the Audition page.

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

CHARACTERS *Please note: These playing ages are guidelines only and I am happy to consider actors substantially beyond the given parameters*

LADY DOROTHY STACPOOL	Impoverished aristocrat and ex-model - eccentric. Custodian of Stackpole House. Haughty – semi-recluse. Acerbic wit. Playing age: 60-70+
JUNE	Dorothy's younger sister – brusque – Archdeacon of Huddersfield – practical - social conscience – thinks men are useless. Playing age: 50-60ish
IRIS	Dorothy's companion. Appears to be not all there – but actually very astute. Playing age: 60-70+
BEVAN	Nice young man from the auction house, there to assess and Value contents of Stackpole House. Smooth salesman – always on the lookout for the next deal. Playing age 30+
LUMSDEN	National Trust representative. Thrilled by the house and passionate about his work, Playing age 50-60+
THEODORE	Suave and charismatic. Part of Dorothy's colourful past. Expert but rather dodgy location scout. Eye for the main chance. Playing age 50-60+
BISHOP	Elderly cleric – accident prone – innocent and blind to the outrageous things going on around him. Playing age: 60-70+
BRUCE	The ultimate Mr Fixit. Highly organised – butch but rather camp. Very likeable. Playing age: 30-50
LOUISE	She is the wardrobe mistress, Very amiable and develops a fondness for Dorothy and Iris. Playing age 20-40
COLIN	Adult film actor. Beset by his 'performance' problems – bit of a moaner. Playing age 30s
BRIT	Latvian adult film actress. Sweet natured and passionate about her 'work'. Has faltering knowledge of spoken English – speaks with heavy Baltic-Slav accent. Playing age: 25-ish
NIGEL	Art director – totally in charge of the filming. Determined to get the job done – perfectionist. Playing age 30-50
LES	Camerman for 'Reach for the Thigh' Once worked with David Lean and doesn't let anyone forget it. Consummate professional. Playing age: 30-50

David Parton Tel: 07714 726576

Email: davidparton673@btinternet.com



Photos from the set of
Boston Marriage
taken by Andrew Parkinson

Wedding Snaps

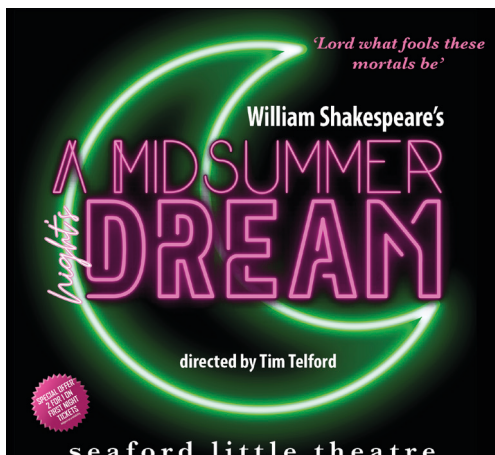


Boston Marriage
with Sue
Williams, Denise
Evans and Emily
Feist.





BOOKING INFORMATION



The ticket prices are £11.00 each for the tiered seats and £10.00 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

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.

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE ON THE OPENING NIGHT!
(subject to availability)

Tickets for this production on sale now



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:
17 OCTOBER 2025