

STAGEWrite

SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Issue 27 - August 2026

our next production : THE DEEP BLUE SEA by Terence Rattigan

Terence Rattigan is one of the UK's most popular dramatists, with some of the most well known and loved plays of the 20th century, including *The Winslow Boy*, *Separate Tables* and *The Browning Version*.

His powerful post-war drama *The Deep Blue Sea* lays bare the emotional cost of loneliness and longing. Hester Collyer, having left her husband for a younger man, finds herself caught between passion and despair as her fragile relationship begins to crumble.

Written in 1952, this is one of Rattigan's finest and most frequently revived plays - a portrait of love, loss, and the quiet courage it takes to go on living. With his trademark compassion and precision, Rattigan captures the ache of being human in a world struggling to reconnect.

Directed by Tim Telford, this piece has ever more relevance to today. As we all become



connected online, many of us are feeling more disconnected than ever. According to the Office for National Statistics around a quarter of adults in the UK report feeling lonely always, often, or sometimes.

This production features the debut at Seaford of Chloe Franks as Hester, with Rob Woodbridge, also in his first appearance here, as Freddy, Roland Boorman is Sir William, Christyan James is Phillip, another debut from Polly

Sands as Ann, Sue Williams is Mrs Elton, Edd Ginn as Jacky, and Alan Lade is Mr Miller.

The show opens on Friday 4 September 2026 and runs through to the following Saturday 12 September with matinées only on both Saturday 5 and Saturday 12 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.

“ *To see yourself as the world sees you may be very brave, but it can also be very foolish* ”

Don't forget there is a special offer of two tickets for the price of one on the first night - 4 September (subject to availability)

FOR ALL BOOKING INFORMATION SEE PAGE 8



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Sue Williams

HELLO EVERYONE. I suppose the thing uppermost in many people's minds is the weather! Phew!! It certainly has been hot but despite sweltering temperatures the life of the theatre has gone along as normal, and in fact we have had a couple of improvements made to the building.

Thanks to donations, lettings, events and Roger's tireless fundraising efforts we have been able to afford a bit of a facelift. The front of the theatre was looking very dingy and let down the beautiful garden so well tended by Simon. Now a much brighter and cleaner face presents itself to the world. This happened on two of the hottest days so far but the young cleaners and painters didn't seem to be affected. Being so close to the sea means that it will not look pristine for long, but it is a great improvement.

The other work has been to treat some interior damp in the foyer and the hall area. This work took a week and we must now wait for several weeks more to let the plasterwork dry out before redecoration can be done. So it does look rather bald at the moment, but the wait will be worth it.

Fortunately *The Actress* - our June production - escaped most of the hottest days, which was just as well because it was a mammoth task for the leading lady (Tricia Pape) who rarely left the stage. It was lovely to welcome Sylvia Aston back to the boards, looking as glamorous as ever!

Now rehearsals are under way for *The Deep Blue Sea* by Terence Rattigan. Tim Telford, who had such a success with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, is departing from his usual more light-

hearted productions to direct this classic play. Our own members are joined by Polly Sands and Rob Woodbridge from MADS and Chloe Franks from Lewes Little Theatre. It's always good to vary the usual mix with new members and we hope they will enjoy their experience of Seaford Little Theatre.

Alan Clifford has kindly volunteered to take charge of the 'teas' rota once more and I am very grateful to him for this. However, making sure that there are plenty of supplies is still my job and I am hoping that someone will step up and offer to take this on. I am in the next production, so thinking about the coffee lounge is not a welcome task. Our usual band of helpers rally round, which is great, but it would be good to have someone with overall responsibility.

Our new season is not yet finalised, but the production committee is working to present their choice of plays and directors to the management committee so that the usual leaflet can be printed in good time.

And finally...we are lucky that Debbie Cox and her team are hosting a members' event on August 8th. Further information elsewhere in this newsletter and on the website. As ever, thanks must go to Alan Lade for keeping the website so well up-to-date, running the workshop (incidentally putting in hours of extra work) and being generally indispensable.

Love to you all

SUE





Debbie Cox
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Email: coxdeb8@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Going to press, I'm looking forward to our Summer Shindig on 8 August. Plans have been very relaxed for this so it will be interesting to see how the day runs.

A big thank you to Shirley who has offered to run a table quiz and to some members who are considering a bit of impromptu singing.

Members have shown lots of interest in the event, so I'm sure its going to be a very enjoyable day. As always thank you to Jenny, Gail and Phil who will be helping on the day and also supporting me with the following events

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER (EVENING) & SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER (MATINEE)

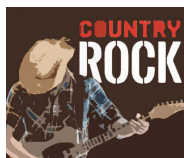
Seaford Sunshine Strummers

The Strummers, a group of talented local ukulele enthusiasts headed by Trevor Jones, will be returning to stage a concert and kindly raise money for our Raise the Roof fund. Light hearted, uplifting, entertaining and always lots of fun.



FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER & SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER (EVENINGS)

The Diablos



The highly acclaimed Brighton based British Country Rock band who write and record their own material, will be returning to our stage. They have had ten number one hits on the British and Irish Country chart. Chris Nieto who is the lead singer and a guitar player has a great sense of humour too. Come and join us for this high energy and exciting event.

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Theatre Clean Up

Seaford Little Theatre from 2.00pm

All cast and crew members of **The Deep Blue Sea** 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.

Please get in touch and let me know what you would like to see at SLT on our social calendar. I am always happy to hear your ideas.

*As always thank you for your continuing support,
Debbie x*

TEA & TOAST COFFEE MORNINGS



Tea and Toast has been a bit disrupted of late with the building repairs etc, but it is always popular.

A big thank you to all the helpers on the day and, of course, everyone who comes along and supports us.

First Monday of each month, eat and drink all you like - just £2.

AUDITION NOTICE
MURDERED TO DEATH

by Peter Gordon
directed by Kim Sanger White

Audition Date: Monday 24 August 2026- 7.30pm
Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 4 - 12 December 2026

Peter Gordon's comedy written in 1993 is a spoof on the classic whodunnit genre. A murder mystery in Agatha Christie style set in a 1930's English country manor where an eclectic group of suspects plus an amateur sleuth are gathered. They are joined by a bungling Inspector and his suffering Sergeant who weave their way through a series of clues where anyone or anything could be the culprit!

Witty dialogue and slapstick humour, with the usual red herrings, blend to make this a fast paced and fun production. Will the murderer be unmasked before everyone meets their doom or will the audience die laughing first!?

Cast: five men and five women, although I will potentially be looking to cast a female for Constable Thomkins. Ages given are only a guide.

CHARACTERS	
MILDRED	<i>owner of Bagshot House (50-60)</i>
DOROTHY	<i>companion to Mildred (any age)</i>
BUNTING	<i>the Butler (any age)</i>
COLONEL CHARLES CRADDOCK	<i>(50-60)</i>
MARGARET CRADDOCK	<i>wife of Charles (40-60)</i>
PIERRE MARCEAU	<i>a French art dealer, french and english accent required (30-40)</i>
ELIZABETH HARTLEY-TRUMPINGTON	<i>very high society, also requires a cockney accent (30-40)</i>
JOAN MAPLE	<i>(50-60)</i>
INSPECTOR PRATT	<i>(40-50)</i>
CONSTABLE THOMKINS	<i>(30-40) male or female</i>

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.

Rehearsals start on 14 September, three evenings a week in September and November and two evenings a week in October, with occasional Saturday mornings in November.

The script and audition pieces are available to download on our website.

Kim Sanger White
Mob: **07754 408473**

PLAY READING - *MURDERED TO DEATH* by Peter Gordon

There is a play reading evening for *Murdered To Death* by Peter Gordon, on Monday 17 August 2026, 7.30pm at Seaford Little Theatre. All who attend who want to read will get an opportunity to do so. We look forward to seeing you on that evening.



A LOT OF HARD WORKS

As mentioned by Sue, we have been having some much needed extra work carried out at the theatre, most crucial of which has been the damp-proofing of the foyer. This is now done but must wait a short while until it can be re-decorated. As a special treat to all our readers here are some pictures of the works so far ...



On the left is the freshly painted front elevation



and on the right is the re-plastered foyer

SUMMER SHINDIG



The next social event is a Summer Shindig on Saturday 8 August at the Little Theatre, from 1pm.

This is a very informal gathering and a chance to catch up with old and new friends, have a bit of a bite to eat, neck something to drink and, almost inevitably, reminisce and share past glories. Refreshments will be on sale, but please feel free to bring along something to drink, and also a plate of food, either for yourself or to share.

We have a large archive of past productions to pore over, but if you have any photos of your own, please bring those along too.

There will, of course be a raffle with marvellous prizes to win, as well as some that nobody wanted last time we held one!

For further details or to reserve your place please contact:

Debbie Cox: Tel: 07596709044

Email: coxdeb8@gmail.com

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

This is the shape of the love I offer you - Theatre.

Finnish poet



Photos from the set of
The Actress
taken by Sally Wynn

Centre Stage

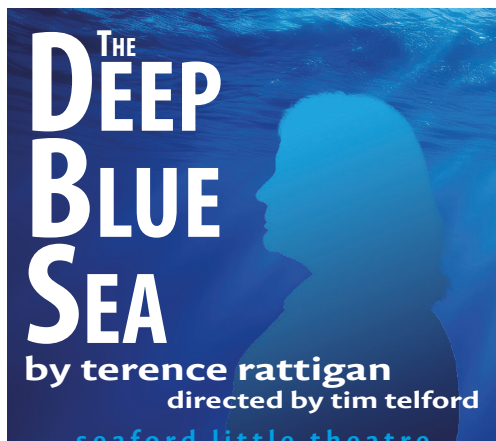


***The Actress* with Tricia Pape, Roland Boorman, Marilynne Sharpin, Sylvia Aston, Kirsty Turner, Roger Trace, Lucy Parkin, Peter Nathan Quinn, and Daniel Williams.**





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:
16 OCTOBER 2026**