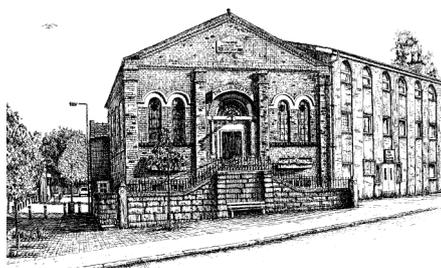


## ALTRINCHAM LITTLE THEATRE

(FORMERLY CLUB THEATRE)

## News &amp; Views



## Chairman's Chat

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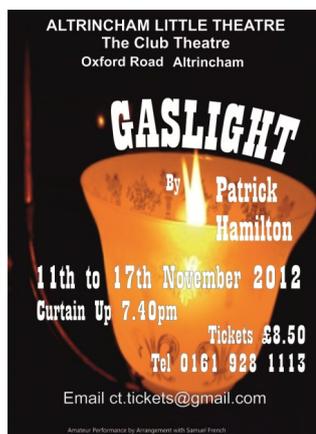
I have just returned from the Little Theatre Guild Northern Area conference at Workington. We were made very welcome by Workington Playgoers who hosted the conference. The conference was very interesting with discussions and workshops led by experts in their field, I certainly learned things which I will be employing over the next few months. Going to visit other theatres always stimulates ideas.

I look forward to the next conference which will again yield more ideas for improvements to the theatre to help you the audience enjoy the experience of attending plays.

*Ian Bowden*

## 2nd Play— 'Gaslight' by Patrick Hamilton

Our second play of the season is almost upon us—where does the time go? Our first play, 'Kindly Keep it Covered', was a great success, being awarded 5 stars (!!!) by reviewer Julia Taylor in the Sale and Altrincham Messenger. Later in this newsletter we tell you what the Cheshire Theatre Guild Adjudicator said about the show. Our second play, 'Gaslight', by Patrick Hamilton is a very different story. Jack Manningham is a real baddie—driving his wife Bella to the edge of insanity in an attempt to achieve his evil ends! Directing this production is a newcomer to Altrincham Little Theatre, Val Watkinson, known particularly for her work with Altrincham Garrick, though her productions have been seen as far away as the Edinburgh Festival (with resounding success). Her cast include well-known actors Nick Angus and Bob Homer, together with returning actors Jacinta Russell and Janine Walters, both back for a second appearance on our stage, and we are delighted to welcome Paula Keen as the tormented Bella Manningham.



## 300 Club Winners

## £100 Winner

£100	Mrs G Taylor	£15	Mrs K Waring
			Miss E H Holt
			Mrs M Ransom
			Mrs B Coombs
			Mrs D Laver
			Mr H Southern
£50	Mrs J Newton		
£30	Mr & Mrs W A Ward		
	Mrs B M Swales		

## 300 CLUB SHARES

Shares in our 300 Club are still available—you can join via the subscription reminder form you will have received or by contacting us at the theatre.

Just a quick reminder that each share costs £10 and there will be a draw during each of the 5 main plays. The prizes for each draw are:- 1<sup>st</sup> £100.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> £50.00; 3<sup>rd</sup> two at £30.00 and 4<sup>th</sup> six at £15.00. This totals £300.00 prize money for each play and the same to the theatre. If we can get 300 people to join at £10 each (you can buy up to five shares each), over the season, the scheme will raise £1500 for the theatre and £1500 to pay out to the lucky 50 winners—all of whom get at least more than their money back.

## MANCHESTER & SALFORD FILM SOCIETY

The Film Society is back with a very full and exciting programme. Please make a note of the dates and contact John Grieve if you require any further details. Guest tickets are £5.00. We have full mounted facilities in the projector and screen.

**Tickets can be obtained by ringing John Grieve on 0161 283 6565  
Email [grieve.john32@gmail.com](mailto:grieve.john32@gmail.com).**

**November 10**

### The Garden of the Finzi-Continis

Vittorio de Sica 1970 ITA/GER 94 mins



The Finzi-Continis are an aristocratic Jewish family, living in Ferrara in the late 1930s. As persecution spreads to Italy from Nazi Germany, they retreat with their friends to their lavish garden – a sanctuary isolated from the oncoming fate to which they subsequently succumb.

**December 15**

### Fanny and Alexander

Ingmar Bergman SW/FR/GER 1982 188m



Bergman's magisterial turn-of-the-century family saga, largely seen through the eyes of a small boy and carrying tantalising overtones of autobiography. When the theatre-owner father dies, his widow marries a clergyman, to the misery of her two exuberant children.

largely seen through the eyes of a small boy and carrying tantalising overtones of autobiography. When the theatre-owner father dies, his widow marries a clergyman, to the misery of her two exuberant children.

## **COMING EVENTS**

You know how it is—you wait all year for the annual Christmas pantomime and suddenly TWO come along, not exactly both at once but certainly in rapid succession.

The first one is the MARGS' production of "**DICK WHITTINGTON**" from Tuesday Dec 4th to Sunday December 9th 2012. (The Margs is the new name for the Trafford Margaretians Amateur Operatic Society).

Further details can be obtained from their website: [www.themargs.co.uk](http://www.themargs.co.uk).

The second is Stage Squad's production of "**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**" from January 31st to February 3rd 2013.

Further details of this show can be obtained from their website: [www.stagesquad.co.uk](http://www.stagesquad.co.uk)

(Actually, I tell a lie—there is a third pantomime this season—Stage Squad will also be presenting an Adults-Only version of their pantomime, this time called "**BROKEBACK BEANSTALK**", on Friday 30th November and Saturday 1st December but this will not be a family show.)

**Bored?**

**Interested in acting?**

**Want to know more about theatre and all that it entail?**

**At a loose end on Sunday mornings from 10.30am to 1.30pm?**

**Want to make new friends?**

**Aged between 10 and 18?**

Why not become a member of **ALTRINCHAM YOUTH THEATRE?**

Experienced Tutors cover all aspects of theatre including the technical side of putting on a production (lighting, sound, set-design and building, wardrobe and make-up) as well as acting. Membership costs £35 a term (£90 a year) For further information contact Ian Bowden (0161 928 1113)

Productions of '**WITCHES**' and '**TEECHERS**' are planned for next April, as well as entries in various local One-Act Festivals.

## Useful Numbers

**ALTRINCHA CLUB THEATRE**

17 Oxford Road  
Altrincham  
Cheshire  
WA14 2ED

Phone: 0161 928 1113  
E-mail: clubtheatresecretary@hotmail.co.uk  
Website: www.clubtheatre.org.uk

There is always someone who will be able to help or put you in touch with the right person if you have any questions or queries about any aspect of the theatre.

Feel free to call **0161 928 1113**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Ian Bowden</b>
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Steve Smith</b>
<b>Play Selection/Casting</b>	<b>Mike Russell</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Peter Ball</b>
<b>Stage Director</b>	<b>Barry Swithenbank</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Meg Cooper</b>
<b>Wardrobe Mistress</b>	<b>Lisa Barker</b>
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	<b>Meg Cooper</b>
<b>Front of House</b>	<b>Alan Reidsma</b>
<b>Ticket Bookings &amp; Altrincham Little Theatre Office</b>	

## What the Adjudicator thought

This year our first four productions will be adjudicated by Cheshire Theatre Guild adjudicator Garth Jones. (He can't adjudicate the 5th play as he is directing it!). He was very impressed with the production on the whole, calling it 'a little gem', though he pointed out one or two areas where he felt we could have done even better. He particularly liked the clever set with its clean lines and minimalist décor, commenting that a lot of thought and originality had gone into it. Sound, lighting, wardrobe and stage management all came in for praise, as did Director Terry Hollinshead for not only directing the play but also playing one of the characters. Garth described the production as making the complicated plot unfold clearly and felt that the cast had created some fine moments of visual and vocal comedy.

## With grateful thanks

You may remember a request we published over the summer for fence panels for the third play of the season—'Humble Boy'. Well, as usual, you didn't let us down. Very soon after the request appeared, Barry Swithenbank, our Stage Director, received an offer of three fence panels and their delivery to the theatre. Our grateful thanks go to Roger Thwaite of Hale for the panels and David Dale, also of Hale, for their transport to the theatre.

## And finally .....

It wouldn't be a proper newsletter without our usual appeal for help with cleaning the theatre before the next show, help front-of-house with coffees and programmes and new stock for the bookstall in the foyer. We are grateful for all the help we get from you but we could always do with a little more.