

ALTRINCHAM LITTLE THEATRE



SEASON 2017—2018

APRIL NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Looking at the plans for the set for this next play the stage crew have their work cut out to build it. One of our team, Chris Nock took himself and his wife off to California to visit one of their daughters and whilst there they were involved in a car crash. Luckily they are now back home and on the mend. Having seen the photo of the crash they were lucky.

Already this is the last play of the season and the choice of plays for the next season is in the process of being finalised now. We have the licences for the first three. When we have obtained and paid for the last two we shall be able to give you the details. As I have said in previous articles, until the licence is paid and a binding contract made, we could be stopped from performing a play.

Ian Bowden Chairman

PLAY No 5 LADIES IN LAVENDER adapted by Shaun McKenna

Ladies In Lavender tells the tale of two sisters, Ursula and Janet, who live in a close-knit fishing village in picturesque Cornwall in 1936. When a handsome and talented young Polish violinist bound for America is washed ashore, the Widdington sisters take him under their wing and nurse him back to health. However, the presence of the mysterious young man disrupts their peaceful lives and the community in which they live.



As Ian has said above, this play creates many problems for the stage crew, demanding a variety of different settings—not an easy task on our small(ish) stage. Not only does this make it difficult for the set-builders but lighting it can test the most capable lighting directors (and we have an excellent one in Steve).

The cast includes five of our favourite actors but we are also delighted to present newcomer Tom Andrew as the young violinist. If we thought creating the set was difficult, try finding a good actor to play the role of a young, handsome, Polish-speaking actor who can play the violin!! It took us a while to find him but welcome to Tom. We hope he enjoys acting with us and look forward to seeing him on our stage in future plays.



What the Adjudicators said about our last play

“The skill employed by the six actors is exceptional and all are stars in their own way. And what an impressive set!” (Julia Taylor in the Messenger)

“Director John Chidgey has coaxed some fine and convincing performances from a strong cast which gels together without seeming to try. The Dinner Party maybe laugh-out-loud funny but this is a quietly touching piece in so many ways. Not to be missed. (Rick Bowen)

“The background set perfectly complements the mood of middle class respectability, with notable attention having been paid to a pleasing marble effect floor. The cast bring over six very different personalities who visibly change as they are forced to deal with their respective pasts !”(the Manchester Salon review).

“The set had been created and designed by Polina Sparks, Alan Reidsma and Steve Smith, and it was very much appreciated by the audience. The use of red, gold and orange colours created an ambience of a high quality restaurant and the lighting, on stage lights and the furniture, helped establish this. As the curtain opened there were gasps and the play began with a round of applause” (Association of Community Theatre).

SUMMER BREAK

Yes, I am joking! What this headline really means is that, with this play we have finished this season and our next show doesn't start until the end of September. So—we have THREE months (September is taken up with preparations for our first play of next season) with nothing to do (in theory!). In practice we have two outside lets—local schools who use our theatre for their end-of-year productions (and have done so for many years) who need our help in putting on their shows, and we are also used by a theatre school for their end-of-course production to parents and friends. We are very proud of our involvement with these groups, giving young children the chance to experience the thrill of performing in a proper theatre with professional standard lighting and sound; hopefully we are introducing them to what could become a lifetime interest (well, **we** are still here). However, it does mean that those who have already been working for nine months here in the theatre have little if any time for a summer break. The theory is that we will use this time for improvements to the theatre, but rarely can we achieve what we want to do.

Therefore, if any of you could spare a little time to help we should be extremely grateful. It needn't be a long-term commitment—if you could spare the occasional evening that would be great. The best way to get in touch is by email (alt.theatre@msn.com) and we will get back to you to discuss how you could help.

300 Club

£100 Mr & Mrs D R Copley

£15 Mr & Mrs D R Copley

£50 Mrs J Cooper

Mr B Homer

Winners can collect their winnings

£30 Mr P Nawn

Mrs L Pilkington

from Ian during the interval of the next

Mrs S Percy

Mrs L A Sykes

play.

£15 Mrs A Coghlan

Mrs G E Tickle