

The Club News

Chairman's Chat

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Welcome to another season. Elsewhere you will be able to read reports of what we have been doing this summer, my thanks to everyone who has worked hard during the summer.

Some work will still be outstanding when we

reopen our doors. As the season unfolds we hope to make some more improvements to the theatre, watch this space as they say.

The first improvement is the addition of extra door magnets to hold the doors open in the auditorium

making the access doors wider.

Further down the page you will see that we have altered the price of raffle tickets, they have been at the same price for about 15 years.

Ian Bowden

Yes, I Know !!

Thank you to those people who spotted the deliberate errors! Our first newsletter of the season was a little out of sequence and not mistake free. I am afraid that this was due to some last minute editing before going to print. (*Not my fault, Ed.*) Anyway normal service should be resumed with this issue. At least it proves you are reading it and reading it carefully! Thank you.

As well as the booking form for our first play you will find the feedback form also included. Realising that it was perhaps being sent out too late we are going to try and do it the other way around so that you can fill it in as soon as you have seen the plays. Last season we found your comments and suggestions very useful.

Once again, well done to all the directors, acting and backstage teams for last season. It was great to see that, apart from 'Anyone for Breakfast', every production received either nominations or awards. Lets hope we can get 100% this coming season although, as most of us know, 'pots don't pay bills' (See below) but they are the cream on the cake!

Going Up !

Feeling the pinch? Unfortunately, we are as well and after managing to hold prices down as long as we can, we are sadly having to increase some. NO, subscriptions are staying the same, NO, ticket prices are staying the same.

However, due to our overheads going ever skywards, we have been forced to make increases in the prices for the raffle tickets, coffee and programmes. They are as follows:

Raffle Tickets will now be £1.00 per strip (A strip is 5 tickets)

Coffee will now cost 80 pence.

Programmes will also increase to 80 pence.

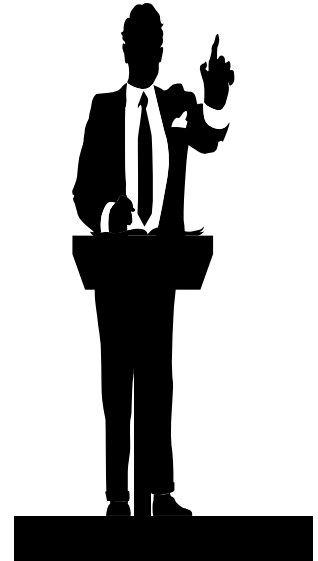
Please note these changes.



Good Luck, Colin

We are very sorry to report that member, Colin Wild has sadly, due to ill health, been forced to give up his role as a tutor for 'Club Drama'. Colin joined the group in 2004 and his special talent was public speaking & voice training therefore making sure the young people could be heard on stage. He has helped with all other aspects of their theatre training and in 2005 jointly won with fellow tutor, John Banks the Best Youth Director Award for 'Club Drama's production of 'Fools Errand' at the Hale One Act Festival.

He will be missed by both tutors and students alike and we thank him for all the contributions he made to the students studies. However we still look forward to seeing him sitting in his usual front row seats with his wife at our productions. THANK YOU , COLIN.



'Club Drama' Tutor Required



As reported we are now a tutor short! This year we have restarted with a full and to an extent new group of students as half of last year's have moved up to the youth group 'CYDS'. Tutors, Val Harris, Ian Bowden & John Banks work with a talented group and calls to join are a regular occurrence! However member numbers are kept down so that each young person can be involved in all aspects of theatre.



We need more help so that the high standards of teaching can be maintained. So if you think you or you know someone who would be interested in helping in some way please call chief tutor, Val Harris on 0161 928 2277. Our young people have always been a very important part of this theatre and we aim to keep that tradition alive.



Clear Out and Clean Up!

We always have a list of projects that we wish to do at the theatre. This year it was the wardrobe. Plans to make-over the wardrobe had been discussed over the past nine months.

who gave up their time to make this happen: *Leila Pilkington, Janet Reidsma, Alan Reidsma, Frances Waite, Mark Dawson, Becky Fitch, Viv Eaton, Elizabeth Vernon, Barbara Fuller, Lisa Barker, Natalie Brown, Katie Heath & Lucy Wilson-Barnes.*

Unfortunately this department had got into a right mess and as time is limited action had to be ASAP! Thanks to, Val Harris a working party was organised and during the course of one Sunday we managed to move all the costumes out and up into the bar area. Over two more evenings the remaining items were stacked in the theatre itself.

All items now have to be sorted, things thrown out, to make space for new stock, and once that is done we can get the wardrobe back to its tidy and efficient self for the new season.

John Banks—Hon Sec

As well as Committee members, *Ian Bowden, Val Harris, Barry Swithenbank, Enid Holt & Christine Heath* I would very much like to thank the following

Update: Many thanks again to Val Harris who with Janet Reidsma has been organising the working parties for the last few weeks so that the above would get done. Thanks to the ladies, some already named above, but also to *Carmel Bird, Natasha Goryl and Lyn Goryl* who have also come down to help Val and Janet.

Cleaning Gang

Yes once again the season is about to start and we need to get the theatre looking smart, clean and inviting for all our audiences, be they established ones or new ones. If you can help, please come to the theatre on

SAT-11th October at 12.30.

Thank you

Old, Young, Classic and New!

The Club Theatre's new season mixes classics, well-loved plays and brand new works providing, we hope, an interesting choice for you all. Directors, backstage personnel and actors all seek challenges and at the Club Theatre, it is our aim to find them and then present all the plays to our audiences in an enjoyable, entertaining and sometimes different light.

Recent award winning director, Val Harris opens the new season with the North West premiere of 'Heroes' a play by Gerald Sibleyras translated by Tom Stoppard. This brand new piece of drama premiered to great acclaim in London with John Hurt, Richard Griffiths and Ken Stott. This play was so successful it won the Laurence Olivier Award for Comedy. In the Club Theatre production actors, Peter Nawn, Alan Gibson and Peter Lawless take the three main roles.

The second play of the season is a play for all the family. 'The Railway Children' is by E. Nesbit and after his mammoth role as 'Sir' in last season's 'The Dresser' well known director, Garth Jones makes a welcome return.

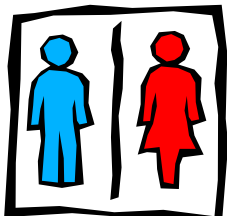
The new year sees one of J.B Priestley's most famous plays 'An Inspector Calls' gracing the programme. This production will see award winning actress, Carmel Bird swap her acting hat for her directing one.

Most of our audiences enjoy a thriller and it makes a welcome return and even though it has some comic elements it really is 'A Sting In The Tale'. The play was written by Brian Clemens and Dennis Spooner the former who incidentally happens to be the Club Theatre's patron and will be directed by Peter Lawless.

Awarding Theatre

The first night of our first play this season is going to be extra special. We are delighted to announce that at the end of the evening, the Club Theatre is going to be given an award by Altrincham's Court Leet. This will be presented by the Provost and is in recognition for the theatre's 100 years and more service to the local community. This is a great honour and we would like to thank everyone who has helped us over those 100 years plus for all they have done to make the theatre what it is and for continuing to maintain the high standards that were set so many years ago. As well as making it an enjoyable place for the people of Altrincham to meet and enjoy an evening of entertainment. Our thanks to the Court Leet for honouring us this way.

More than A Penny



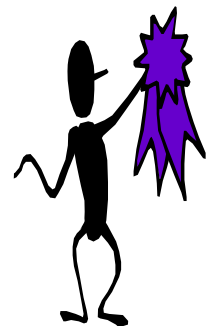
Several months ago there was a man hard at it in the Ladies! Well he's been at it again except this time it's in the Gents! We are of course referring to Alan Reidsma who has been refurbishing the theatre toilets on his own!! This has been long, hard work but he has done a super job. In fact people have gone in to view and been moved by his workmanship. So next time you come to the theatre and feel you need to go, just bear in mind that its thanks to one man's loving care that you are able to enjoy these new, wonderful, bright, sparking facilities. THANK YOU, ALAN.



Next comes award winning 'Club Drama' who present their production of 'Dark River' by Alex Romanes. It is a story that takes us to poorest Victorian London where a mysterious stranger appears among the mudlarks, pickpockets and poor of that time. Who is she and what is the purpose of her visit? There are only three performances so make a note, 2nd April – 4th April, 2009 will be the only time in which you will be able to uncover the secret! (Please note that your vouchers are not valid for this production. However do not dismiss this strong drama)

The season finishes with that delightful comedy 'Blithe Spirit' written by the modern master of wit, Noel Coward. Taking on the directing role is Club Theatre regular, John Banks. This tale of a man's two wives and the ghostly comic goings on that occur when a medium gets involved will bring a delightful end to an exciting season.

Finally, don't forget The Club Theatre will then be hosting between 15th June and 20th June its 'Friendly Festival'. The Hale One Act Play Festival is a very successful yearly event that sees drama societies of all ages, and from all over the region take part in this prestigious competition. We did well in this, this year and look to improve next year.





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Useful Numbers

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**

Chairman	Mr Ian Bowden
Acting , Front of House	Val Harris
Treasurer	Roy Burman
'Thursday Club'	Barry Swithenbank
Secretary/Press Officer	John Banks
'Club Drama'	Val Harris
Ticket Bookings & Club Theatre Office	

Barry's Bit

Contained in the Stage Directors Report at the AGM, great appreciation was expressed for the work of Paul Affleck who sadly, at a result of ill health, has retired. With great trepidation Barry Swithenbank has taken this mantle. With great trepidation because he realises that Paul's sojourn as Stage Director, together with that of his predecessor Steve Smith, is going to be a very hard act to follow. Under the guidance of these two the theatre was awarded the prestigious G.M.D.F Design and Technical Trophy no less than 3 times, latterly two years in succession, a feat not achieved by any other Theatre. During this time we also received nominations and awards for other aspects of technical achievement in sound and lighting and costume. Although you see in the programme credits to the backstage crew, largely they remain unknown to you. Their photographs do not appear on the notice boards nor do you actually see them on stage. Although lighting, sound, scenery, props and costume is not essential to the accomplished actors performance, all these things add to the spectacle and your enjoyment. Spare a thought for these members who give of their time, without thought for physical recognition, only because they enjoy overcoming problems and creating the pictures you see on stage. Barry is delighted that Steve Smith has become his Deputy Stage Director and hopes that in some way this will help him to continue the same levels of presentation and success as has been achieved recently.

Barry Swithenbank

The End Bit

My thanks to my mother who sent me this from St Richard's Church newsletter. A few thoughts on men's advantages!

Why Men are Just Happier People

1. The garage is all yours
2. Chocolate is just another snack
3. You can never be pregnant.
4. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park.
5. You can wear no shirt to a water park.
6. Car mechanics tell you the truth
7. The world is your urinal
8. Same work, more pay.
9. Wrinkles add character.
10. People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them.
11. One mood all the time.
12. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.
13. A five day holiday requires one suitcase.
14. You can open all your own jars.
15. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.
16. Your underwear is £8.95 for a three pack.
17. The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades.
18. You only have to shave your face and neck.
19. Your belly usually hides your big hips.
20. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a moustache.
21. You can do shopping for 25 relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes.
22. You can play with toys all your life.
23. Everything on your face stays the same colour.
24. You almost never have strap problems in public.
25. One wallet and one pair of shoes—one colour for all seasons.