

THE CLUB THEATRE

Friday 4th August 2000

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Membership subscription renewal time!

It is time once again to renew your membership of The Club Theatre. The subscription levels have changed ever so slightly—adult membership has been increased by all of 50p to £18.50 while Junior Membership goes to £9.00. As last year, we have kept this increase as low as possible, but trust you will understand that our prices do have to take account of inflation.

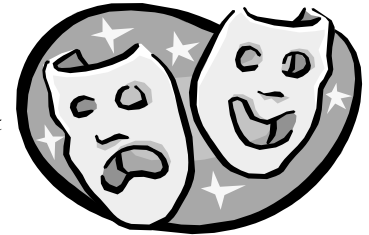
Your membership application form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please return the whole form with your cheque, and then after processing, the form will be returned to you to be your membership card and your receipt. Your membership entitles you to five vouchers, which can be redeemed for play tickets. You also receive

The Club Theatre newsletter five times a year, with your booking letter, about three weeks before each play. Not a bad deal, if you ask me!

The 400 Club continues—a share costs £5, with one £50, one £30, six £10 and twelve £5 prizes per play, therefore lots of chances to win! There is a limit of five shares per member, and you are advised to buy your shares with your membership as soon as possible, as demand is high. We only have 400 shares for sale. The draws will normally be held on the Wednesday of each play, unless the adjudicator is present, in which case it will be rescheduled.

Other prices you need to be aware of:

Extra play tickets: £5.00



Join your local theatre, and keep making a difference to your community!

Coffee: 50p

Programmes: 50p

Raffle tickets: 50p per strip

Please, when you send in your subscription application, make your cheques out to The Club Theatre, and please enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that we can send your vouchers back to you. This will make our life a lot easier.

Dry rot, wood worm and boilers!

It seems that each time we write to you, we're asking for more money. We're sorry to have to do this, and we know that many of you are on low fixed incomes.

As you have probably guessed from the title of this article, we have some rather major building maintenance problems. Dry rot has been found in the cellar, along with an attack of wood worm. This is going to require pressure treating

by Rentokil to kill the dry rot in the walls, though we are doing as much of the repair work ourselves to keep the cost as low as possible.

On top of that, last summer our boilers were given a warrant of execution—they weren't going to last another summer. So this August, they are having to be replaced with one industrial boiler that will hopefully make it easier to keep our

theatre at a decent temperature.

But it costs money. On the membership renewal form is a section for you to offer a donation. Bear in mind that if you make your donation via a gift aid covenant, we can claim the tax back.

Please give as generously as you can, so that we can keep your theatre standing!

The usual reminders, hints and “Helps!”

Well, we always have to do this bit, don't we. Just to remind everyone. Especially as I stopped putting it in every single booking letter.

I don't suppose you've forgotten if you're a long-standing member, but if you're a new member, you might find this section full of useful tips about The Club Theatre, both ways we can help

you, and of course, ways you can help us. Please make sure you've read it all, and you might want to keep it somewhere in case you need it again.

Also, if you're a new member, or even an old one who can remember being new, if there's something you think it would be useful to be told about at the beginning, or a question you

think several people might want the answer to, please get in touch, and I'll put it in the next newsletter, and also make sure it goes into next year's “usual reminders”.

After all, we don't want membership to be complicated, so anything we can do to ease people in and smooth things along the way, we're really keen



**The answers
to all your
questions?**

So here we go!

Parking hints

Sainsbury's have an agreement with the Club Theatre that we can park in their car park any time—and they don't put the barrier down in the evening so you can stay for a drink!

Also, parking is allowed on Oxford Road on both sides (after 6pm) but we would request all patrons to ensure they do not obstruct any driveways, even by the smallest amount. Otherwise we get shouted at!

Special Membership Offer

Incentive to get new members—if you introduce five new paid-up members, we will give you a £5 voucher to be redeemed from your subscription at renewal time for the 2001-2002 season!

So get recruiting!

GCSE Drama

Val Harris, Mike Donohue and Dee Fraser had 24 students last year—watch this space to see how well they did!

Buy one, get one free!

If you buy one seat for a Sunday performance of one of our plays, you can have another seat at no charge! (Coffee and programmes are separate, of course.) Please note this only applies to Sundays, and is only open to members. Please specify the name of the second person on the booking form.

Smarties Scheme

Have a tube of smarties ‘on the house’, fill it up with 20ps (after you've eaten the smarties!) and bring it back to the Theatre to help with all our work. One tube apparently holds £13!

House staff

Ever wondered how on earth we manage to supply all the programmes, raffle tickets and drinks during every night of every play?

The answer—with your help! We always need new helpers, so please, tick the box on the membership form, and come and join the

Memorabilia and Stalls

We have copies of the Basil Morrison drawing of the theatre available for £10, and also the history of The Club Theatre, written by one of our late members, George Maguire, for £2.50.

Our bric-a-brac and book-stall, of course, is always in need of new items for us to sell. Please bring in whatever you have and no longer need or want—we will be very grateful!

‘House Gang’!

In need of a lift!

A lot of our members come by car—but some don't have cars, or don't feel happy driving in the evening. If you can give someone a lift, or if you need a lift, please send me a note when you renew your membership, and I'll try to put you in touch with someone near to you!

MSFS!

The Film Society is with us



Parking hints:

Buy one, get one free:

Smarties:

Memorabilia:

MSFS:

House Staff:

GCSE Drama:

It's all here!!



**Do you need a lift—
or can you give
someone a lift?
Tell me!**

Sitting on the Front Row, by Marian Williams

From my front row seat I see all the expressions on the actors' faces
And I do not have to worry about people getting to their places
Everything is clear to me, the pictures on the wall,
And how a certain doorway leads into a hall.

Every word is clearly heard and some I shouldn't hear
I witness all the nuances of sorrow, joy and fear.
But when things are thrown and actors get into a flap
I shudder at the thought that they may fall into my lap.

And during the interval my feet are in the way
Of people rushing to the bar, as in my seat I like to stay
And when invited to draw the raffle, I do not even pout
When I never ever ever draw my own ticket out!



**Letters from—Marian
(not America!)**

Cinema 'nuggets' requested!

Penn Roberts, one of our members, is a public speaker who raises money for charity—he donates his fee to the MS Society. But he needs a new subject, and he wants you to help him. The subject is "Going to the Cinema, 1939 to 1959". As Penn says, "this is the era when (like many of my generation) I was hopelessly addicted to a regular 'fix' before the silver screen. It's the period from when the "Talkies" were fully established to the time of the mass closure of picture houses due to growing TV competition. Some might say the heyday."

Penn is looking for the personal angle—humorous, nostalgic, not the technical side or biographical stories of the stars. For example—the Saturday morning children's cinema clubs, adventures on the back row, the romantic names adopted by cinemas, war-time cinema going and even the revelations of an usherette! If you have memories of queuing up to pay a shilling, 1/9d or even 2/3d, or an insider's viewpoint, Penn wants to hear from you. Write to Penn Roberts at 3 Highbank, Delehays Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 8DZ.



**Public speaker
in need of new
material!**

Embarrassing memories strike back!!

In the early days Harry Armstrong was an actor at The Club Theatre and was our next door neighbour. He joined us and his housekeeper and her friend as members. As his housekeeper was deaf, when we came to see shows, we always sat on the front row.

His house keeper was an ex-Lancastrian mill hand and spoke very broad and loud—and she just could not resist

talking back to the players. One interval David Lane begged her not to chat as it made them laugh on stage. Can you imagine back chat during Children of the Wolf and plays like that?

One remark she made that will never be forgotten was: "She's got a face like a hen's ..."

Many thanks to Margery Breton for this.

(The editor is thankful she doesn't know who was being referred to!)

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THE CLUB THEATRE

Altrincham's Best Kept Secret



The Club Theatre
17 Oxford Road
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA14 2ED

Phone: 0161 928 1113
Email: annadutson@clubtheatre.org.uk

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.CLUBTHEATRE.
ORG.UK



Your new committee!

Following the AGM on July 19th 2000, I am pleased to be able to announce your new committee. Many are familiar faces, but there are also some new faces in among them.

Chairman:	Ian Bowden	0161 980 2551
Vice Chairman:	Val Harris	0161 928 2277
Hon. Treasurer:	Roy Burman	0161 928 1477
Hon. Secretary:	Anna Dutson	0161 941 2116
Production Director:	Vicki Lane	0161 928 3542
Stage Director:	Steve Smith	0161 941 2116
General Members:	Mike Jarvis	0161 941 2116
	Janet Reidsma	0161 283 0504
	Charles Thomas	0161 998 6354
	Gillean Thomas	0161 998 6354

Fundraising—what we're all doing!

As you will have read on the first page, we have a lot of expenditure coming up this year, mainly to keep our building safe and standing. But while we are asking our membership to help by making donations, we are not just sitting here waiting for the money to come in! And we are also not standing still until the repair work is done!

Anna Dutson, your secretary, has decided that she will get out her walking boots, and walk all the way round the Isle of Man to raise sponsorship money from the general public, for the theatre.

While the final details have to be worked out, Anna intends to enlist the help of local newspapers to appeal to

all the residents of Altrincham and the surrounding areas to donate money to The Club Theatre to enable us to refurbish and re-equip the sound and lighting departments. The lighting equipment used by the Theatre has not been renewed (other than blown bulbs, of course) for at least 25 years! Anna hopes to allow the theatre to really go to town on the lighting design, and to buy up-to-date speakers and sound equipment, so that not only can the theatre be much more adventurous with its lighting and sound effects, but it will also have the facilities to train the young people in our drama schools and GCSE classes in these vital

parts of the theatre.

In the meantime, Gillean and Charles Thomas have started growing lots of herbs and other plants to be sold come next spring, again to raise money for the theatre. If you have any 3" plastic pots, please keep a hold of them—they are going to need an awful lot of them!

We are also hoping to organise quiz nights, maybe a race night, and other events to help bring in the funds the theatre needs to keep up the standards it knows its members expect.

If you have any suggestions or ideas, please do let us know.



Walking round the Isle of Man to raise funds—but who's got the blister treatment?