

# The Club News

## Did it work

Inside this issue:	
Did it work	1
Welcome Back Paula	1
400 Club Winners	1
My Day Out	2
The Price is Right	2
The Snow Queen Cometh	3
Calling all Marigolds	3
Film Society	3
Useful Numbers	3
Deadline 6.15 pm	4
The End Bit	4

Well the first play is over and we have been able to assess the impact of the changes we made over the summer. The general feeling was that we had made improvements with an increase of 10 seats in the bar. The one problem seemed to be the collection of coffee in the bar, the milk

seemed to be the problem area and the committee will be considering ways of improving that. Every improvement to the theatre whether it is small or large is intended to provide a better environment for our members and patrons. There will shortly be some additional handrails installed to assist you all on the stairs and when

coming out of the bar. The next item we will be looking at is the actual bar decor which with the help of a grant from the Laurieston Trust will be carried out next summer.

It's only just November but it is the last newsletter of this year so may I wish you a happy Christmas.

## Welcome Back Paula

What a lovely surprise to see our President, Paula Tilbrook present at one of the performance's of 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. Paula has been in hospital recently but is now out and about, has returned to filming on 'Emmerdale' and will be back on our screens shortly. She told me that the producers have already got her nose to the grindstone!

We are extremely lucky to have a President who takes such a keen interest in all that we do at the theatre and who somehow finds time in her hectic schedule to come and see our plays and give us her support. Thank you Paula and welcome back.

*John F. Banks - Hon Secretary*

## 400 Club Winners

The 400 Club was drawn on Wednesday 13th October 2004. The winners were

£50 Miss P J Derbyshire

£30 Miss W Hayter

£10 Mr M Granger-Brown  
Miss K Laver  
Mr S Smith  
Mrs V A Harris  
Mrs M D Littler  
Mr & Mrs P M Wyche

£5

Mrs B M Swales  
Mr & Mrs W B Coffey  
Mrs B Brooker  
Mr & Mrs J L Harris  
Mrs J Spilsbury  
Mrs J Blinkhorn  
Mrs B Kennerley  
Mrs A Law  
Mr J V C Thomas  
Mr C Coldrick  
Mr R Deegan  
Mrs M Mitchell

**£50 Winner**

**Miss P J  
Derbyshire**

## My Day Out (Apologies to Willy Russell)

Wednesday Oct 20th: I escape from the theatre! Off to London with my daughter in law for the day—to go to the theatre!! This was my first visit to The Old Vic to see a brand new play 'Cloaca' directed by Kevin Spacey. Andrea is like me, a theatre nut. Only last year we went to Nottingham for the day just to see 'Between the Lines' mainly because Neil Pearson was one of the stars. The other star was Julian Glover— both fine actors.

We left Stockport at 8.50 and started our day out with the inevitable cup of coffee courtesy of Virgin Trains. Once we arrived in London we hopped onto the Tube and rode to Knightsbridge, the posh end where we had lunch in Harvey Nichols. This was followed by a visit to Harrods where we saw the tasteless memorial to Diana which has been there since the day she died. Visitors from abroad were having their photographs taken next to it! We quickly left to get the Tube to Waterloo to find the Old Vic.

I have to say that I had concerns because the critics especially Charles Spencer of the Telegraph had absolutely slated the play, the actors and the director. Anyway, the warmth of the welcome from the house staff certainly could not be criticised. Nearly as good as ours!! The Old Vic oozes atmosphere one could imagine any of the famous actors of the past moving around the theatre. There were HUGE vases of real flowers - not artificial! Lilies which filled the place with their perfume, gladioli, delphiniums, - audience members kept touching them. We couldn't believe that in this day and age a theatre would have real flowers.

Our fears about the play were quickly dispelled. A superb set, was used representing a modern apartment which was on three levels. The First Act we watched from the first row of the circle where we were able to clearly view the set. Seeing there were a few empty seats in the stalls we watched the Second Act from there which allowed us to see the actors faces more easily. The play contained both comedy and drama while the acting was first class. We both felt that the critics had not seen the same play. After the performance we retired to the restaurant bar—as you do. While waiting for our meal Stephen Tomkinson, one of the actors, came into the bar. I took the opportunity to thank him for giving us a very enjoyable and entertaining afternoon. He agreed with me that he couldn't understand either why the critics had been so savage about the production and said that the author had been devastated by what had been said about her play. He was surprised that we had travelled all the way from Manchester to see this play and I didn't have the heart to tell him that my daughter in law was in fact a great fan of one of the other members of the cast namely Neil Pearson. He promised to pass our comments to the rest of the cast and before we left he kindly to our table to thank us again and wish us a safe journey home.

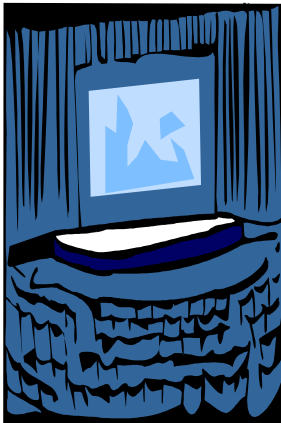
We will be returning to The Old Vic on December the 22nd this time to take my grandson to see its production of 'Aladdin'. The main attraction this time round will be to see Sir Ian McKellen taking the role of 'Widow Twanky'. We certainly hope to see him in the bar afterwards!

*Val Harris*

## The Price is Right

You may not be surprised to know that the cost of the programme for the play mentioned in the article above was £5.00. Yes but that is London, I hear you cry. Not necessarily. The programmes for many shows in Manchester are just as expensive. You will have noticed that our programme at the theatre has changed dramatically in the last three years. Before for only 50 pence you only got the cast list, back stage listings and a word from Vicki. Thanks to the hard work and efforts of Val Harris it is now also contains a piece about the director and several articles. The price however is **STILL only 50 pence!!** So if you would like to help the theatre without spending a fortune then please consider buying a programme. It's a good read, cheaper than any magazine and probably better than any on offer at other amateur theatres.

*Don't forget you can also have an advertisement in the Programme or sponsor a page.*



## The Snow Queen Cometh

First **WELL DONE** to cast and crew for the production of 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. This had not been an easy play to put on with the original director having to withdraw at the last minute due to ill health and Val Harris having to relinquish her part as Lady Bracknell to take charge of the play.

Now we move onward to the Christmas production. After

the very warm reception that greeted last years play, the Play Selection Committee discussed and approved John Banks writing and directing this year's production. He had said 'never again' but then so did Sir Steve Redgrave!

This new story has been inspired by the original written by Hans Christian Anderson and again shows how family love can

overcome the worse nightmare or does it?

As usual this director has been cracking his whip with a ferocity rarely seen outside the rehearsal room and cannot see what the cast have to laugh about!

It will be good, it has to be good otherwise he will be given an offer he can't refuse and never work in this town again!!



**You don't get a second chance to make a First Impression**

## Calling all Marigolds

Thank you to the very small band of people who turned up to clean the theatre before our first play of the season. With their help again the theatre was looking and smelling spick and span in the space of a couple of hours. Presentation is terribly important and the way a theatre looks when people arrive is something that can and must never be underestimated. There were quite a few new people who visited the theatre for the first time this season and they were all impressed. So if you can help us keep up the good work then please join us on **SAT the 27th November at 12.30 am** when we will be getting dusters out before the 'The Snow Queen'.

## Film Society

Just a reminder to all the film buffs of the forthcoming films from the film society.



### 25th November 'Touching the Void' (A Film Four drama documentary. Cert 15)

In 1895 two friends Joe and Simon set out to Peru to attempt to reach the summit of Siula Grande; a feat that had previously been attempted but never achieved. With an extra man looking after their base camp, Simon and Joe set off to scale the mountain in one long push over several days. The peak is reached, however on the descent Joe falls and breaks his leg. Despite what this means, the two continue the descent with Simon letting Joe out on a rope for 300 meters, the descending to join him and so on. However when Joe goes out over an overhang with no way of climbing back up, Simon makes the decision to cut the rope. Joe falls into a crevice and Simon, assuming he is dead, continues back down.

Joe however survives the fall and was lucky to hit a ledge in the crevice. This is the story of how he survived and got back down.

"Superlatives get bandied about a lot but 'Touching the Void' managed to be deeply affecting and inspiring without resorting to mushy sentimentality. This is a film to make you believe in heroes again" Filmfour.com.

### 11th December 'Kolya' 105 mins. Czech Republic 1996 Cert 12 Dir Jan Sverak.

Franta Louka is a concert cellist in Soviet-occupied Czechoslovakia, a confirmed bachelor and a lady's man. Having lost his place in the state orchestra he makes ends meet by playing at funerals and painting tombstones. But he has run up a huge debt, and when his friend, the gravedigger, Mr Broz, suggests a scheme for making a lot of money by marrying a Russian woman so that she can get her Czech papers, he reluctantly agrees. She takes advantage of the situation and runs off to West Germany to be with her lover and leaves her five-year-old son Kolya with his grandmother; when the grandmother dies, Kolya must come and live with his stepfather Louka who speaks only Czech while Kolya speaks only Russian. This is a joyful film with equal measures of laughter and tears. I urge you not to miss it.

All enquires regarding tickets for either of these films and details of this season's programme please telephone me, John Grieve on 0161 864 2151 (day) or 0161 928 7472 (eve).

*John Grieve*



## THE CLUB THEATRE

17 Oxford Road  
Altrincham  
Cheshire  
WA14 2ED

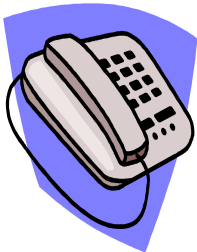
Phone: 0161 928 1113  
E-mail: [secretary@clubtheatre.org.uk](mailto:secretary@clubtheatre.org.uk)  
Website: [www.clubtheatre.org.uk](http://www.clubtheatre.org.uk)

## 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.

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Mr Ian Bowden</b>	<b>0161 980 2551</b>
<b>Acting , Front of House</b>	<b>Val Harris</b>	<b>0161 928 2277</b>
<b>Sponsorship</b>	<b>Val Harris</b>	<b>0161 928 2277</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Roy Burman</b>	<b>0161 928 1477</b>
<b>Stage Director</b>	<b>Steve Smith</b>	<b>0161 941 2116</b>
<b>Costumes</b>	<b>Enid Holt</b>	<b>0161 928 1113</b>
<b>'Thursday Club'</b>	<b>Barry Swithenbank</b>	<b>0161 980 7743</b>
<b>Secretary/Press Officer</b>	<b>John Banks</b>	<b>0161 486 1843</b>
<b>Ticket Secretary</b>	<b>Stella Blackburn</b>	<b>0161 980 8572</b>
<b>Club Drama</b>	<b>Val Harris</b>	<b>0161 928 2277</b>
<b>Club Theatre Office</b>		<b>0161 928 1113</b>

## Deadline 6.15 pm



Thank you to those of you who book early and promptly as it makes my job a lot easier. However I am having to leave home earlier to deal with the large number of people who pick their tickets up at the door. Bearing this in mind if you or any of your guests for any reason cannot make it on the night could you please call me **before 6.15 pm**. I know in the last newsletter it was stated 6.30 pm but the extra quarter of an hour makes all the difference. Thank you very much for that.

*Stella Blackburn—Ticket Secretary*

## The End Bit

We are always hearing about how things in Europe should be adjusted so that everyone should live under the same rules which would therefore avoid confusion. Newsletter was therefore delighted to receive this joke from one of our members

Five Germans in an Audi Quattro arrive at the Italian border. The Italian Customs Officer stops them and tells them; "It's a illegala to putta

5 people in a Quattro"

"Vot do you mean it's illegal?" asks the German driver. "Quattro meansa four" replies the Italian official. "Quattro is just ze name of ze automoblie" the German retort unbelievably. "Look at ze papers— ze car is designed to karry 5 persons."

"You canta pulla thata one on me!" replies the Italian customs officer. "Quattro

meansa four. You have fivea people ina your car and you are thereforea breaking the law."

The German driver replies angrily: " You idiot! Call your zupervisor over. I vant to speak to someone viz more intelligence!" "Sorry" responds the Italian officer, "he can'ta come. He's a busy with a 2 guys in a Fiat Uno."

*Leila Pilkington.*



*We are always looking for fresh, amusing news items, articles or stories for this newsletter and the programme. So if you fancy seeing your name in print or are a writer then please send in your work or any thing you think may be of interest to our members and we will consider it.*