

The Club News

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Chairman's Chat

You may note a small change in the newsletter's format in that the text is slightly larger. We are aware that no one gets any younger and everyone's eyes suffer so we hope that this change will be welcomed by old and young alike.

Which play do you look forward most to seeing from our program this season? We all have our

preferences and we endeavour to satisfy everyone by putting on a varied program.

We have gained quite a few new members over the summer. We still come across a problem though, people don't know where we are. We are looking at ways of raising the awareness of the theatre, there is one simple one which everyone can help

with. If you just tell a few of your friends about us and where we are then you will have helped spread our name around. Thanks to the efforts of a team led by John Banks the theatre has become less of a secret and more people are coming to see our productions. Altrincham is fortunate in having two theatres both thriving - lets keep it that way.

Booking Office is HERE!

As reported in the last newsletter the whole booking system has been transferred to the theatre and will be handled from the theatre office. Therefore please do not ring Stella Blackburn as she is no longer doing this job. Can we again remind you to **PLEASE** ensure that you include your vouchers, stamped addressed envelope and not leave sending your forms in until the last minute so that we can maintain the prompt return service that Stella provided. We will be using a brand new computer ticketing system and we dearly hope that this will be just as efficient as Stella and will not cause us or you any headaches or upsets. There is an answer machine to take messages out of hours so please don't be put off and any queries will be attended to as soon as possible. Finally and once again if you or any of your party cannot attend an evening's performance **PLEASE** let us know **ASAP**.



Staff Changes

Enid Holt has retired from being Wardrobe Mistress and has been replaced by Helen Walker. Steve Smith has also given up the position of Stage Director and in turn, been replaced by Paul Affleck. A big **THANK YOU** to both Enid and Steve for all their hard work but we are equally delighted that they will still be seen around the theatre working and helping in other departments.

400 Club

There are a few
400 club
memberships
left. Contact Roy
Burman to
reserve your
membership.

PSCC?

We know only too well that the hardest task facing any theatre is choosing a season of plays that will interest, delight and hopefully entertain their audiences. Here at, The Club Theatre, we have a small sub –committee, appointed by the Main Committee who’s job is to search out, view, read and discuss the type of plays that could be performed and would make up an interesting play season as well as choosing the various directors. This Committee is the PSCC which stands for ‘Play Selection and Casting Committee’ and is headed up by Val Harris. This season’s committee members are Peter Ball, Barbara Fuller, Peter Nawn, and Keith Spavin. The Committee members are usually a cross section of actors, directors and audience members who see plays at other theatres, apart from our own, and can draw on personal experiences. They are always happy to receive suggestions from members of the Club Theatre audience.



**See, Read
and Discuss!!!**

If anyone would like them to consider any piece of drama please contact Val Harris on 0161 928 2277.

Bookworms Alert!

All of you will be aware by now, we hope!, that the bric a brac stall has moved to the small upper foyer. Well this also is undergoing change! We are going to phase out the bric a brac and just have a book stall there. The books that have been provided over last season have proved to be far more popular



and we have had a very good response from you having received some excellent titles. So if you have any books that you no longer wish to keep but are in good condition then don’t throw them away. Why not instead donate them to the theatre bookstall so we can keep up a good selection. Thank you.

Make Over Sets

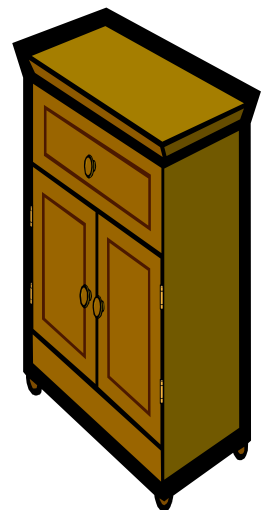
Another thing we are aware of is that some of our stage furniture is getting very old and very battered. Some pieces are broken and beyond decent repair and will be thrown out to make room for new items.

We are always on the look out for bits and bobs that we can use to freshen up and improve the quality of our sets. So if you have any small pieces (not beds, wardrobes, sideboards or three piece

suites which we can’t lift, never mind move) please let us know.

Small cabinets, tables, chairs, paintings or any other objects are always welcome but please give us a ring first so that we can discuss and if need be arrange a visit to view. We are particular short of modern day items but please remember that we do have limited storage space.

So let us give you a tip. Think of us before the skip!



Film Society

At the time of going to press the Newsletter desk had still not received full details of the Film Society’s programme but we hope to bring you that in our next newsletter. As mentioned in the last ‘Chairman’s Chat’ Club Theatre members can obtain tickets and more details by contacting John Grieve on 0161 928 7472.

Hero Worship

In answer to our request for articles the following arrived at the theatre. We are delighted to be able to publish the following from one of our members Penn Roberts. We hope you enjoy it and our thanks to Penn Roberts.

'A focal point at The Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick in Derbyshire is the spacious lawn. By late afternoon on our day of arrival it was crowded with nearly 300 students and their tutors, all attending the 56th Annual Writers' Summer School. Two ladies from Johnstown in Scotland spun on their sensible sandals, anxious to meet other aspiring novelists. The bearded gentleman exchanging brief kisses with two grey-haired ladies was here to conduct four workshops on how to write gripping drama. An arrestingly beautiful woman with oriental features was making friends with a young lady from Switzerland. Speaking in English, they discussed their hopes of learning the best way to research their ancestry before starting their respective autobiographical stories.



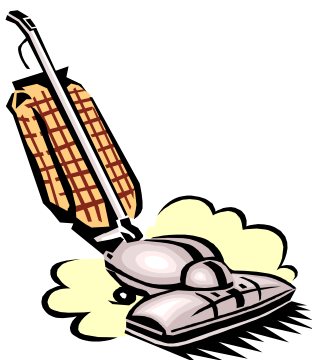
Surrounded by an attentive group of hopeful new writers of best-sellers, an elegant woman in a business suit was not yet ready to give too much away on the down-to-earth practices of a literary agent. Resembling a small gathering of house sparrows, four poets chirped out some carefully chosen words on how during the next six days they might produce a precious gem of free verse.

Among the half a dozen keynote speakers in August 2004 was Andrew Dougan, a successful celebrity biographer. He quickly gained the attention of his large audience. Many took notes for the information was first hand and practical. The title of his talk - *Make Sure They're Dead* - was relevant; in other words, he told us, don't assume the subject of your book is not still alive. "To be no longer in the limelight is not the same thing as shedding your mortal coil", he said. "The central figure of your biography could lodge serious objections if you erroneously recorded him as being deceased".

With a long list of published books to his name, including accounts of the lives of Richard Attenborough, Robert De Niro and Michael Douglas, Mr Dougan's advice was most sensible. We listened with amusement as he related the many pitfalls to avoid when writing about show business personalities. "Be sure to settle on researching the background of a genuinely interesting celebrity before starting the daunting process," he warned. To illustrate the point he mentioned the Hollywood idol, Harrison Ford. There was a deep sigh from one corner of the auditorium. "I put him in nearly every one of my books," exclaimed a romantic novelist. "Well, I'm sorry to disappoint you," said Andrew Dougan, "but in real life, I'm afraid he's rather a dull person. His chief interest away from the film studio is joinery. You're not going to sell many copies of a biography about a man who spends much of his leisure pursuing the hobby of carpentry."

"Excuse me," interrupted a voice from another part of the hall, "but I know of a book about a carpenter that's still in the best seller list."

Penn Roberts



Time Called on the Bar Mites

There has been an awful lot of building work going on in the theatre, in particular in the new bar area so it needs a good dust and polish before the first play. Therefore if you can help us for a couple of hours clean then please join us on **SAT morning the 15th October at 12.30.** Payment as always with coffee/ tea, cake and grateful heartfelt thanks.

**Bright as a button
the theatre of
stars.**



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Website: 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.

Chairman	Mr Ian Bowden	0161 980 2551
Acting , Front of House	Val Harris	0161 928 2277
Sponsorship	Val Harris	0161 928 2277
Treasurer	Roy Burman	0161 928 1477
Stage Director	Paul Affleck	07870 780910
Costumes	Helen Walker	0161 928 1113
'Thursday Club'	Barry Swithenbank	0161 980 7743
Secretary/Press Officer	John Banks	0161 486 1843
'Club Drama'	Val Harris	0161 928 2277
Ticket Bookings		0161 928 1113
Club Theatre Office		0161 928 1113

The End Bit

At the end of last season another member sent to the Newsletter desk a few sayings that she had found amusing and thought that these might just fit the bill for 'The End Bit'. So the blame... Sorry... thanks goes to *Leila Pilkington* for uncovering these gems!?!?

'Shotgun Wedding — A case of Life or Death .

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Reading while sunbathing makes you well read.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway).

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead –to-know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses .

Acupuncture is a jab well done.

She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

Dijon vu– the same mustard as before.

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.



FOOTNOTE: Don't be shy. If you see something of interest that you think would fit 'The End Bit' or any bit of the Newsletter then send it in to the theatre c/o of the Secretary . We **STILL** look forward to a flood of articles!!!!