



STAGE GOSSIP

December 2019

As you receive this newsletter your Christmas Dinner will be a far away memory and we will be looking forward to a new year. We are continuing with the exciting season we have planned with a light hearted play called "Breath of Spring". I have heard some parts of various rehearsals now and again it sounds to be a very promising production.

We must thank our stage crew for their extremely hard work creating our sets, the last play having a very complex set to construct. After our play finished, the stage crew deconstructed the entire set by the end of the day on Monday in order to welcome Sale and Altrincham Musical Theatre—Youth. They then built most of the SAMTY set for their show starting 11 days after our own show finished.

We are lucky in being able to include and call upon some of the best directors in the area within our membership. This season you have seen plays from two leading directors, now a third leading director is guiding this next production. Our 4th play will be directed by the person who directed Anastasia last year and we will be welcoming a new director for our final play.

300 Club Winners

We still have quite a few unclaimed 300 club prizes from last year, is yours one of them? We sent out a list of unclaimed prizes with the membership renewal notice. A further list is at the top of the stairs into the theatre you could be £100 richer by reading this.

The second draw was held on Saturday 23rd November 2019 The winners were

£100	Mrs J Atkinson	£50	Mr I Bowden
£30	Mrs D Laver	£30	Mr & Mrs Granger Brown
£15	Mrs I Emery	£15	Mrs & Mrs D W Copley
£15	James Walton	£15	Howard Thorp
£15	Mrs J Atkinson	£15	Mr & Mrs G R Lane-Young

Contact Information

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Building Maintenance

Our theatre building is split in two main parts—the auditorium & cellar and the bar, rehearsal room, wardrobe and toilets. The main theatre auditorium building was constructed in the late 1850's and the newer bar and main entrance area dates back to only 1984. With the age of the building there are always repairs and improvements we need to carry out—some programmed repairs and upgrades and some occasional emergency repairs. Most of the repair work is done by members of the stage crew especially Alan Reidsma and Don Hines with Steve Smith doing most of the electrical work required.

As I have already mentioned the main project we have is replacing the very dated dressing room toilets with a modern clean facility with additional storage in the general area. The project now is at half way stage with the first dressing toilet refurbishment now completed, we hope to start on the second dressing room toilet in the new year. Virtually all of the fluorescent tube units and downlights within the building have now been replaced over the past 3 years with LED units at a saving of up to about £140 per light over each unit's lifetime.

The dressing rooms have tungsten mirror lights for the cast to apply their make up—these mirror lights cannot be replaced with LED lights or fluorescent lights as these have a different colour temperature to the older conventional tungsten or halogen lights used on the main stage. Makeup applied under the wrong type of light will result in an unbalanced appearance under the specialised stage lights—good for horror but not for drama.

We bought a significant stock of these older 60W tungsten bulbs when the EU announced that they were to be discontinued some years ago, however, due to lights failing or being left on for longer than necessary, that stock has now almost entirely dwindled to nothing. We have now installed timers to ensure that the lights switch off after an hour—so save costs and bulbs, and have also managed to source more bulbs destined for the Bulgarian and Greek market (these bulbs were incidentally manufactured in Bradford).

Publicity

Our publicity team is always looking for new ways to publicise our plays. The best form of publicity is "word of mouth", so please whenever you have a chance tell your friends and neighbours about us. Where else can you have such a cheap night out with excellent productions.

If anyone uses social media please make sure you follow the theatre on Twitter and Facebook and please repeat our messages to your friends it all helps.

One other thing we now offer is a voucher for a play ticket. If you would like to give a ticket or tickets to a friend as a gift we can offer a gift card with a reference number they can use to claim the ticket for any play. The cost of these is £10 per ticket and we supply a decorative card with the information.

Ticket Booking

Last newsletter I told you about the introduction of a new online booking facility called Eventbrite which we are now using to allow you to book seats directly over the internet, with a small booking fee. I am pleased to report that for the last play we sold 68 tickets using this facility. You are still able to use all the other booking methods as before. Eventbrite will issue you with a code and inform us of your booking, you don't need to do anything else.

When you send in a booking with a stamped addressed envelope we will issue the tickets as quickly as possible and post the tickets to you. If we don't have a stamped addressed envelope we will assume you are going to collect your tickets on the night you come. If you telephone your order in and speak to someone (not answerphone) then the tickets will be booked and left waiting for you to collect at the front desk on the appropriate night. Emails will be replied to with your seat number and the tickets will be available at the front desk on the night.

We have only 22 end seats a night and competition is very fierce, especially on Sunday. Sunday fills first followed by Thursday, so if you are planning to apply for tickets for these days get your booking in early.

I turned people away on some nights as there were no tickets available—however on the night there were empty seats—please let us know if you are unable to use your tickets, and please fill in the total number of tickets required, when you just put a tick mistakes can be made.

Professional Help

While most things are done by the membership there are certain things we have to use professional help with. We cannot work on the roof of the theatre as it is too high so we have a local roofing company we always use. Similarly we have to have all electrical and gas installations certified by a qualified person so we have an electricians and a plumber who we will call on.

One thing we don't have is a solicitor and occasionally we do need legal help. We were lucky recently when the bank lost our deeds and didn't seem to be trying to find them. They were found after several trips to Manchester and a threat of legal action. We feel we need to register our deeds with the land registry and if any member who is a solicitor would like to help us (for a fee) we would be grateful.

Using people we can trust is invaluable and frees us up to do the important tasks of producing plays.

Defibrillator

As most of you know last year we purchased a defibrillator in memory of David Garner. We have arranged a short first aid course which will include the use of the defibrillator on Saturday 11th January 2020 from 9.00am till 1.00pm. If any member of the stage crew or front of house staff are interested in attending please let Ian Bowden know as soon as possible, places are limited to 12 persons.

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Breath of Spring						
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29