



# Stage Gossip

December 2022

A belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the committee of Altrincham Little Theatre.

Let the magic of theatre spirit you away from the problems of the day with first class entertainment, while sitting in a warm comfortable environment.

Bob Larby, the writer of our next play "A Month of Sundays", is a name not quickly recognised like Alan Ayckbourn. His credits are myriad and include several iconic television comedy series some co written with his writing partner John Esmond. His most enduring work includes "The Good Life" and "Ever Decreasing Circles" both starring Richard Briers. He also wrote the first four episodes of "The Darling Buds of May", he wrote several other well known comedy series on his own two of which starred Judy Dench firstly "A Fine Romance" and followed this with "As Time Goes By".

## **300 Club**

The winners of the second draw are

£100	Janet Blinkhorn	£50	John Wooler
£30	Mrs Judy Astles	£30	Denise Laver
£15	Mr & Mrs J C Finlay	£15	Liesl Hesketh
£15	Mr D W Copley	£15	Mrs T A Kufeldt
£15	Liesle Hesketh	£15	Mrs Anne Coghlan

Please note that there are still many uncollected 300 club prizes from before June 2020. A full list of names is listed on the third page of the newsletter. Please check for your names as you might be missing out on up to £100 prize money per draw.

### **Contact Information**

Telephone no 0161 928 1113  
Email [alt.theatre@msn.com](mailto:alt.theatre@msn.com)  
Ticket Email [ct.tickets@gmail.com](mailto:ct.tickets@gmail.com)

### **Address**

Altrincham Little Theatre  
Oxford Road  
Altrincham  
WA14 2ED

## **Postal Issues**

Please send in your postal bookings early. We try to process and return all bookings within 2 days but with the current postal strikes and resultant backlog tickets are not always arriving in time for the date booked.

As I have already stated we are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings between 7.30 and 10.00pm to answer the telephone and take bookings directly. The start date for this is Wednesday 4th January.

If you have an email address and we don't send your booking letter by email please consider supplying your email address so that we can send the booking letter to you. Also you don't need to fill in the booking form to send in your order by email. Just send the date, number of tickets and your name (your membership number will help us) to ct.tickets@gmail.com and we will book the tickets and inform you the tickets have been booked.

If you don't enclose a stamped addressed envelope we will keep your tickets for you to collect from the front desk on the night. All telephone and email bookings will automatically be kept for collection on the night.

## **Investing in the Future**

The theatre is continually investing in improvements to the theatre, some you will see and some you won't. Following on from the installation of the new radio microphone mixer we are in the process of updating the rest of the sound system with a new surround sound processor and main amp.

A couple of the lighting units are showing signs of failing, probably as a result of being left for nearly two years untouched. The power supply on each is failing and repairs to electronic components is quite often as much as a new unit.

We have been told by BT that the telephone exchange the theatre is on is going digital in April 2023 and we will have to move to their digital services. We are currently looking at the cost of the new service, which will provide us with additional functions. We are not able to connect to other providers as they either are not available or use BT as the carrier and will therefore be going digital at the same time.

As a result of the failure of the heating last year we installed new more efficient boilers and remote programming via Hive which is helping us to save on gas while still heating the theatre to the same degree as before. Now we can react to weather without having to reprogramme the controllers, instead we can just use our mobile phones to change the settings.

We have a list of improvements we wish to make to the theatre and will be doing them as time and money allow, one which will probably save money is installing double glazing on the first floor, this will be considered for next summer.

## **Credit Cards and Cash**

These days credit card payments are more prevalent than cash payments, and some people come to the bar and don't have any cash on them. We accept credit cards for payment in all areas of the theatre but we do have a restriction on purchases under £5 due to the high fees charged for processing debit cards.

With bank closures and the remaining banks dispensing with counter service we find it hard to get change from the bank. Last year I was told by our bank that they no longer have cash in the branch and we have to arrange to get cash from the post office instead or go into Manchester to the regional head office. Facilities to pay in cheques and notes are readily available, just getting it back is difficult.

## **Programmes**

We try to provide an entertaining programme which is not just a list of actors names, it also includes articles which we hope will be informative or entertaining. In the past I have been at an awards night where our programme was held up and attendees from other theatres were urged to copy us.

We print the programmes at the theatre and this gives us the ability to print just the number we need for each night.

For many years we have been entertained by articles written by Penn Roberts. We are looking for original articles connected with theatre that we can put in our programme.

## **Wardrobe**

The wardrobe department as well as providing costumes and support for our plays has an active hire department. They regularly hire out costumes to other societies and so far this year have earned over £500 for the theatre.

The team have reorganised the wardrobe room and regularly meet on Wednesday night, repairing and hiring out costumes.

If you need a costume why not call us. We have an extensive range of costumes including formal wear for weddings.

The following 300 club prizes are still unclaimed. They include the second draw of this season marked \*. If your name is on the list ask at the bar during the show and we will be happy to give you the money. It is not our policy to send money by post as letters do get lost.

Mrs J Ankers  
Mrs Judy Astles \*  
Mr & Mrs Bannister  
Mrs J E Blinkhorn \*  
Mrs S M Clark  
Mrs Coghlan \*  
Mrs B Coombs  
Mr DW Copley \*  
Mr & Mrs J C Finlay \*  
Mrs D A Greening  
Liesle Hesketh \*  
Mr & Mrs P F Jackson  
Mr A Jeffries  
Mr N Kelly  
Mrs T A Kufeldt \*  
Denise Laver \*  
Mr & Mrs N Makepeace-Warne \*  
Mr E Mardale  
Mrs B Swettenham  
Mrs G Taylor  
Mr & Mrs M G West  
Colin Watson  
Mrs Woodhead

## **Amazon**

Do you buy things from Amazon, if so do you know about Amazon Smile. With Amazon Smile you can donate to charity at no cost to yourself.

Use the link **smile.amazon.com** and you will be connected to amazon in the normal way. The only difference is that you can nominate a charity that will benefit by a few pence per order you place, you still pay the same price for the goods. If you select Altrincham Little Theare we will benefit from your purchases. A couple of members are already using this and it has generated a few small payments to us. Our charity registration number is 517914 and we are registered as Altrincham Little Theatre.