



Stage Gossip

February 2023

The next play is the well known and popular "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime". The play is based on a story by Oscar Wilde so you know that it will be very funny. The cast are all enjoying rehearsals and the director, Barbara Harris, intends to bring out the humour in the play.

I was at Tesco's last Saturday with one of the actors, Stephen Moss, and Don Hines, one of the set construction leaders. We spent the day handing out leaflets about the play and generally advertising the theatre. I thank them both here for their efforts and also for organising and installing the banners we have placed outside the theatre. If anyone has a way of advertising our plays, putting a poster in a shop window or just telling your friends about the theatre we would be most grateful.

Theatre as an artform is under a greater threat than it has ever been with the imminent closure of Oldham Coliseum due to cuts in its grant funding. With the government cutting the Arts Council funding more theatre companies are under threat of closure. We could end up with the only viable theatres operated by amateur groups. I sincerely hope that grants are increased as once lost these theatres will disappear for ever.

300 Club

The winners of the third draw are

£100	Tim Hermolle	£50	Mr & Mrs P Wyche
£30	Mr & Mrs R J Ashley	£30	C M Lloyd
£15	Prof C B Cooper	£15	Sandra Hansen
£15	I Holt	£15	Prof C B Cooper
£15	Liesle Hesketh	£15	Myra Neal

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
Ticket Email ct.tickets@gmail.com

Address

Altrincham Little Theatre
Oxford Road
Altrincham
WA14 2ED

New Members

We are getting a few new members every month. If you know anyone who would like to join before the end of the season please tell them to fill in a membership form, the cost of joining before the next play is only £14.40 per person and reduces to £7.20 if joining for the last play. Membership includes tickets for the remaining plays.

A good night out at reasonable prices with a good selection of drinks at the bar before the play as well as the interval and afterwards. Also where else can you get a decent cup of coffee for only £1.

Turn and Turnabout

Once a play is finished the stage crew strip down the set and build the next one. We don't have a separate workshop so the stage is turned into a workshop for the time it takes to construct the next set. We sometimes have other groups hiring the theatre and we accommodate their requirements as well.

In between we have films shows from two separate film groups, Manchester and Salford Film Society and Manchester Film Weekender, as long as the theatre is clean we are able to switch to showing films in about 2 minutes. Dropping the screen in front of the stage and opening the projector flap at the back of the theatre.

Everyone Loves a Party



The theatre bar has been rented out for birthday parties, weddings and other celebrations. If you are considering a celebration why not think of the theatre. We can accommodate about 35 to 40 people comfortably in the bar and we have contacts with an excellent caterer to provide the food.

You can use our kitchen to serve your guests if you wish to

provide the catering yourself.

Front of House Volunteers

Every play needs people to work front of house to sell coffee, raffle tickets and programs. They are also needed to guide the audience out of the theatre in an emergency. We can always do with a few more helpers.

The work is not too onerous we do have dishwashers and the coffee is made using our coffee machines.

If you could spare an evening to join our front of house team please contact Christine Heath, who coordinates the helpers, on the theatre telephone number 0161 928 1113 or fill in your availability on your booking form.

New Telephones

Apologies if this seems to be a long moan but it is important especially to anyone with a small business.

We were contacted last August (2022) regarding changing our telephone system from the analogue to a digital system still supplied and supported by BT our current provider. We were told that the phone network is going digital so it would be beneficial for us to change early. In December, after investigating our options, we agreed a contract to switch to BT cloud voice from the regular BT network.

On January 17th, just before the last show, an engineer called at the theatre and switched the connections at the exchange to a digital feed. On leaving he told us that it was working fine but our phones will no longer work until the new digital ones arrived. Following several phone calls the theatre telephone number was temporarily diverted to the chairman's mobile phone. The digital phones duly arrived on 25th January but had to be configured by an engineer, which was done the following Monday. We were then informed that our telephone number would not be transferred to our new system till February 16th.

While waiting for the number to be transferred we received a letter stating as we were leaving BT we would have to pay £218 early termination fee. We have had several assurances the this will be waived as we are staying with BT, so far nothing has been received in writing regarding that. In fact a telephone bill including this charge is due to be paid by direct debit this week.

According to Ofcom the normal analogue phone network will be switched off in 2025 and the whole phone network will be digital. I believe that there is a distinction between domestic and business lines in the way they will be connected.

Sale and Altrincham Musical Theatre present

Calendar Girls *The Play*

Based on the Miramax Motion Picture
by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth

28th Mar - 1st Apr 2023

Altrincham Little Theatre
Tickets £13 from samtheatre.co.uk

noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

The Christie
Charitable Fund

Registered charity no.1049751

Supporting



This amateur production of "Calendar Girls" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

