



Stage Gossip

October 2022

I recently attended the northern region conference of The Little Theatre Guild of which we are members. The conference is a good time to talk to other theatres and find out what they are doing and how things are.

It was evident from talking to everyone there that people are still not confident about returning to the theatre. Judging from the comments we are doing better than many.

The weekend was very interesting with discussions on creative writing, performing Shakespeare plays. We always get a tour round the theatre and an evening performance on the Saturday - an excellent production of The Odd Couple. The weekend finished on a high with a talk on the history of Carlisle and a lunch at a local restaurant.

Our hosts were Carlisle Green Room Theatre and they had a tale to tell. They are situated next to a night club which closed down a few years ago and has remained empty ever since. At the end of the last lockdown they received an electric bill of around £20,000 which they were disputing, when on the opening night of the first play the police were all round the building, it seemed that the nightclub had been used as a cannabis farm and had somehow connected to their electricity to run the farm.

300 Club

The winners of the first draw are

£100	Denise Laver	£50	Charles Thomas
£30	Derek Copley	£30	Sylvia Percy
£15	Steve Smith	£15	Judith Copley
£15	Denise Laver	£15	Nils Makepeace-Warne
£15	John Wooler	£15	Mike Russell

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

Contact Information

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Bar Delays

For many years now we have used an automatic till to allow us to enter your drinks and calculate the price and change. It has revolutionised the way we have been operating behind the bar, each person using the till has a different user number so drinks should not get mixed up.

When more than one person is working behind the bar there is a bottleneck in the payment as the till will not work when the drawer is open, causing delays in serving people. Sometimes we get mixed up with the codes and then have to reset the till before we can proceed.

Hopefully this is a thing of the past as we have now installed a new till system that is run from iPads with each person using a different iPad so things will work much smoother. More than one person can take money at the same time and the delays with the till will be reduced. We are also trialling the till

Stage Work

Over the years we have put out appeals for help on the stage which have been reasonably successful. However due to the increasing age of some crew and other people leaving we are now extremely short of help on the stage. If we cannot get some more help then the sets might not get built. So far this season the sets have been built by an average of three people per night.

The work is not difficult and any training you require will be provided. If you can spare a few hours on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 7.30pm and 10pm please let us know.

There is stage work for all regardless of your past experience — we can train you up on anything that is needed. We want to build up the team of helpers again.

Raffle and Coffee

We have restarted the raffles this season. However due to a lack of helpers for the front of house we have had to stop serving coffee in the auditorium.

Coffee is available in the bar during the interval as usual. The cost for fresh coffee is still £1, a bargain you will agree. The raffle and programmes are still £1 each.

Heating

Although the cost of heating has risen enormously for everyone we are classed as commercial so don't get the same level of support for our fuel. To try and offset this we have installed a more responsive heating controller which allows us to adjust the heating quickly.

Booking Your Tickets

With the ever increasing cost of postage we do offer several different methods of booking your tickets.

You can telephone us and speak to one of our helpers on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 7.30pm and 10.00pm.

Send an email to ct.tickets@gmail.com and we will reply with your booking details.

Post your booking letter in the usual way with a stamped addressed envelope, if you don't include an envelope we will assume you will collect the tickets from the box office on the night.

Finally casual tickets can be booked through Eventbrite there will be a booking fee added to the ticket price.

Membership Details

Do we have your correct address?

When we have been processing the renewals we found a few members have moved to a new address and have not informed us of their new address.

On several occasions we have had complaints from people who have not received their booking letters. When we investigated we have found they have moved addresses.

Please let us know when you move house even when you normally receive your newsletter by email.

Sale and Altrincham Musical Theatre

Sale and Altrincham Musical Theatre youth group are presenting Oliver at the theatre between November 29th and December 3rd. They are a very good group. Later in the season the senior group are presenting Calendar Girls between 28th March and 1st April 2023.

Booking for Oliver is through Ticket Source on www.ticketsource.co.uk/samt-youth.

Watch out for the booking details for calendar girls in a later newsletter.

Recruit a Friend

As I have already said theatres on the whole are having a difficult time at present, indeed I am constantly hearing of very good theatrical societies having to cancel productions due to production problems. Even the professional theatre is affected by this with reports of low attendance.

Financially we have been able to continue where we left off and our audience numbers are good enough to keep us running. A lot of local theatres are not quite as fortunate.

As a theatregoer please consider supporting as many productions as you can and if possible introduce your friends to the joys of being a theatregoer.