



1906 – 2006

## Carver Theatre Newsletter

May 2015

Well, I was hoping for a bumper edition and you haven't disappointed me! No pictures to include this time but please read through to the end where there are some interesting and touching pieces for your perusal. I did receive a couple of holiday snaps from one correspondent but decided against including them, probably on the grounds of extreme envy alone, however it made me think that as we wend our way to places near and far for our holidays this year, pictures of Carver artefacts in interesting or unusual places might be amusing. Or maybe pictures of Carvers in foreign lands, street names with theatrical connotations or such like (for example someone posted online a picture of a street called Clarkson Row when the recent Top Gear kerfuffle was underway) – I'll leave it to your imaginations!

### **Choosing the Charities for next year**

I'd like to thank everyone who made a nomination for a local charity/ needy group to receive our support for next season. We had sixteen nominations - though some were duplications and some were local groups collecting for National charities, which isn't quite what we are after as we would like the money to be spent locally. Even taking this into account it means we will have a choice to make, and the exec has decided that we will some time at the AGM to make the choice -by members putting a 'token' into a container of their preferred charity (Waitrose style). The top 5 charities will get a donation of £100 each.

We are hoping that members who nominated a charity will be able to say a few words about the group they have nominated in order to encourage support. We thought we'd let people know now to encourage all to come to the AGM.

Joanna Bircher

### **Short film**

Carver member Adam Bircher filmed a short film (7 minutes) called 'The Rehearsal' at the Carver as part of his Film Studies A level -so if people would like to see the theatre in a new light -then follow this

link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10LD\\_tQiY\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10LD_tQiY_8)

Anyone with a bit more time on their hands might want to watch his 40 minute feature film Aquarium on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rLNruA8Rz0> . You will be able to spot some familiar Carver faces in the cast.

### **Carver Social Update**

On Saturday 18th April we were treated to a variety of music sung by Carver members and the Juniors. We also raised over £100 of sponsorship for Fay Sidebotham's run in the London Marathon. We have already been asked by those appearing and those who were there for this to become an annual event and I am sure it will.

Our next event sees us leave the Carver building to visit the garden of Mike Coleman for a summer BBQ. Please put Sunday 12th July 4.00pm in your social diary. There will be a pay bar and food to suit all tastes. More details nearer the time. If you want to book now please speak to Mike Coleman or Caroline Calverley

Anyone planning on doing a rain dance please restrict your activities until after the BBQ!

If you have any ideas for future events please let Mike Coleman or me know. So far I have had a suggestion of a Quiz night and it would be good to have some more.

Caroline Calverley

### **YOUR THEATRE NEEDS YOU!**

As the AGM at the end of July approaches please think about what YOU can contribute to our theatre, it does not run itself!

All positions are up for grabs, you will have the support of the others on the Exec and each year we do more or less the same so things roll on. It's not rocket science. We meet once a month excluding August, generally on a Wednesday so that the bar is open afterwards!

I came on to the Executive at short notice as the previous General Secretary had a better offer (workwise). I have enjoyed it but other commitments mean that I am not as involved as I should be! No one should do one particular job for too long anyway and if you feel something could be done better – why not just come along and do it!?!

If you would like to have a chat about any particular role please feel free to give me or someone else on the Exec a call. Go on – pick up the phone!

Serena Botterman MBE

### **Coming Soon - The Maintenance Weekends**

This year the Maintenance Weekends will take place on 11th/12th July and 25th/26th July. We have plenty of jobs that need doing this year, including repairing the recent damage to the external render near the main doors, but the major ones are inside in the auditorium, stage and under stage. There's some painting, cleaning, and rubbish removal to be done.

Why the change from one weekend - well the work still needs doing but we have more time this year as the Junior Show is in June and we hope that by spreading it over 4 days more people may be able to help.

Please can you let me know when you can attend either by email to [energy@carvertheatre.co.uk](mailto:energy@carvertheatre.co.uk) or sign up on the list on the notice board at the theatre.

Philip Kiernan

**Door code**

Due to problems with the number 0 on the keypad we are changing the access code to 2374 on the Chadwick Street door. The old code will be withdrawn after the AGM .

This does not affect the Juniors.

Mike Strivens (do we need to eat this newsletter once we've read it? Ed.)

**Production**

We are now approaching the end of our main season, with just the junior show to come.

Congratulations to all involved in such a successful production of 'Mrs Markham' which was extremely well received by our audiences.

The Production Committee are very pleased with this season. All plays have been skilfully directed and we have produced a high standard of acting throughout the year. We have received excellent feedback from our audiences. We have also gained some new talented actors and directors and are very pleased to know that they have enjoyed their experience with us and we hope they continue to stay with us for some time.

Getting the right director and cast is a very onerous job and it takes hours of phoning amongst the committee and to the directors and actors before we feel we have the right combination.

A question has been raised as to how members put their names down to apply to take part in a play. Of course, we hope that many of you will turn up for the Open Forum which takes place on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot attend the Open Forum, you can usually catch me or a member of the production committee in the bar on Wednesday evening. If you can't get to Carver (which is a great shame) you can always e-mail me at [production@carver.co.uk](mailto:production@carver.co.uk)

However, I don't understand when I e-mail members to ask them to take part in a play (having described the character to them) they don't reply. Perhaps I should have a survey as to why I don't get replies! There is also that very old fashioned method of phoning me. (I know we are ex-directory but it appears that everyone and his dog knows my number). We do like to see you though. Mike and I went recently to see a production of the Queen of Spades. We were a little surprised with the young village girl that had fallen in love with the Prince as when he strolled on his appearance was of a short, tubby ageing man which when they were standing together looked completely wrong. Now this was fine because it was for a broadcast on the radio, but Carver isn't radio and we do try to match characters. If we don't see you this can be quite difficult.

This year we are having a slightly more relaxed Open Forum, and this will take place in the bar, so that we can have a drink and listen to our directors who will give you an outline of the play and the characters they are looking for.

Following the Open Forum we are having play readings for:

I Have Been Here Before – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 8pm

Entertaining Angels – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 8pm

We have decided to have the play reading for 'Busybody' on 9<sup>th</sup> September. We have found that when we cast too early by the time we are ready to start rehearsals various things crop up for the original cast and we then have to replace actors which just creates more work, so by not casting so early we hope to avoid this happening.

The Awards Night for the GMDF will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July. If anyone wants to go can they contact Brian Lawson at the GMDF directly for tickets.

Carver always buys two to ensure that we have a representative for the Evening, but if you have been nominated you may wish to attend.

Bernice

### **New members**

We are delighted to welcome Sheryl Haydock-Howorth (Bob's wife) to the Carver. She will be directing the next pantomime.

### **A Life at The Carver**

Long ago in the post WW2 years of the late forties and early fifties I was one of the many local teenage boys who used to regularly attend Carver pantomimes and sit on the chair backs at the rear of the auditorium for a better view. What was the attraction? It was those lovely long legged chorus dancers of the 'Gretta Girls'. Names that set young men's hearts racing; Brenda Bell, Margaret Jones, Maureen Mann, Anne Pearson, Eileen Bailey..... My good fortune, (only a dream then) was that I married one and had 54 wonderful years together.

Anne's life was the Carver. From being in a junior troupe to progressing to the 'Gretta Girls' and then on to singing, choreography, Panto Leads and on to the senior stage. Anne was soon progressing to major roles in many plays and musicals and eventually to writing, firstly one act plays followed by a full length production put on in the theatre. Her next move was into directing and over the years she brought many productions to fruition. Her work was not all 'out front' as she took on the roles of production secretary, theatre secretary and eventually Chair. She also did her share of tea duty, stewarding, make up etc during those sixty odd years she was a member. Only during her last few years when she was struck down with Alzheimer's disease was she forced to relinquish many of these roles as her confidence waned.

Thanks to the mentoring of some of the old carver members like Gretta Sands, Brian Cranshaw, Sid Wilson and Jim Headridge Anne learned her theatre craft well and was ably surrounded on stage for many years by friends like Geoff Harrison, Beryl Swann, Shirley Molloy and many others. Outside the theatre Anne has used drama in her work with The Probation Service and the NSPCC through Psychodrama, Dramatherapy and Play Therapy with children and became an internationally accepted Psychotherapist and Child Abuse Consultant. She gained her PhD in 2002, was an Honorary Research Fellow at Huddersfield University and has been honoured by two psychotherapy associations with awards in her name and has written widely on these subjects.

But to us she was just our Anne.

Thank you to all our Carver friends over many years for fun, friendship and kindness and for all your contributions to the Alzheimer's Society, cards and condolences following Anne's death.

Now, back to dreaming about those heady days of youth.

Stan Bannister.

**Dates for your diary**

Open Forum	10 <sup>th</sup> June
I have been here before – reading	24 <sup>th</sup> June, 8pm
Pirates of the Curry Bean – Junior Show	26 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> June
American style BBQ (aka the next Carver Social)	4 <sup>th</sup> July
Entertaining angels – reading	8 <sup>th</sup> July, 8pm
Maintenance Weekend	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> July
G MDF Awards Night	11 <sup>th</sup> July
Maintenance Weekend	24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> July
Busybody – reading	9 <sup>th</sup> September, 8pm
I have been here before, J.B.Priestley	18 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> September
Entertaining angels, Richard Everett	6 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> November
Ladies down under – reading	18 <sup>th</sup> November
	<b>2016</b>
Dick Whittington - Panto, Alan Frayn	8 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> January
Busybody, Jack Popplewell	26 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 5 <sup>th</sup> March
Gang Show – Marple Scouts and Guides	17 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Ladies down under, Amanda Whittington	6 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May
Shakespeare rocks, Steve Titford – Junior show	24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> June