



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

Editor's note

Unfortunately Paula Whittleworth is unable to produce the newsletter any longer due to continuing ill health, and I am therefore putting this together quickly, so if there are errors or omissions please forgive me. Jess Sanchez has kindly agreed to take over from Paula and therefore all future newsletter contributions should be sent to Jess (see end for details).

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Paula for taking on the task and for all her hard work, and hope her health improves in the future.

Pam Mainprize

Notes from the chair

Welcome to another instalment of the Carver newsletter where you will hear more about what's going on and what's planned for the future. I am just recovering from the experience of watching my husband in stockings and bra as a dancing cabaret girl in Dick Barton (though I did find it necessary to come back and watch him 3 times!). What a fantastic show... though I am obviously biased.

As is often the case with our popular shows, we have lots of empty seats at the start of the run, then no-one can get one for love nor money by the end. We sold out for the second half of the week. Thanks to the members interested in ticketing for jointing Jane, Phil and I in a discussion about how to encourage more people to come at the start of the run. You will be hearing soon about some changes to the ticket pricing structure so that people who book for opening night, at least 2 weeks before, will be able to access a bargain ticket (and then tell all their friends how great the show is). We also decided to reduce the price of children's tickets for panto as there currently isn't much difference between an adult and a child ticket and the children have no income. I thought it might be time to get rid of the over-60s concession but this was thought to be a step too far. However, if you have any thoughts on this, then please bend my ear about it next time you see me in the bar.

Plans are well underway for the Carver Open Day on 1st July, and you will hear later in this newsletter how you can help. Thanks to those of you who have already volunteered.

At this month's exec meeting we discussed the challenge we face in filling the rotas for all the supporting roles during a production (Stewards, Teas, Bar etc). The consensus is that the online rota, carverhelpers.co.uk is great, but that people that don't use their computers very often may not remember to go on it. If this is you, please feel free to ring Jane Taylor (427 4076) to let her know when you are available and she will add you to the rota. If you want a 'regular slot' for each show then this can be arranged. The 'URGENT HELP NEEDED' for Dick Barton worked well –thanks to all of you who volunteered, but it's much less stressful to have the places filled a week before if possible.

Rehearsals going well for Straight and Narrow, Sheryl's insistence we learn our lines early seems to be paying off.

All the best

Joanna

Your Chair

Important Change for Front of House Stewards

The Exec committee has been debating how best to ensure the safety of our audience, something that we were made more aware of during the November play when an audience member had a 'turn' out of sight of the people in the lighting/sound box. We have considered various options, and eventually decided that one of the stewards should sit in the auditorium during the show, as is quite common in other amateur and professional theatres. We are looking in to a special seat being position with a good view of the audience. We are also aware we have some new stewards, which is brilliant, and as a result we will organise some Front of House induction sessions (thanks to Nick Bradley and Jane Taylor for this), to show everyone the procedures and what to do in case of fire. Please contact Jane if you want to be part of this.

Junk money!

The executive recently gave the Stage Committee permission to sell several (8 in total) no longer used stage lights, in various states of disrepair! Of these only two were actually bought by the Carver in the first place. Of the remainder three came from the Davenport, one from a junk shop in Stockport and the last two from the Regent Cinema! Nick Bradley and myself put them back together fitted new cables, Nick pat tested them, and I put them on eBay in two batches.

They raised a total of £546.00 leaving us with around £470.00 after costs, not bad for what most members would consider a pile of junk. Where they ended up is also interesting. One went to France, one to Holland and two to Israel, the remainder stayed in the U.K. Of these I was particularly pleased that the two large lanterns ex. the Regent which also had colour wheels are going to a Yorkshire village hall where they will be used to light children's shows and a Pantomime. We used these for a long time for our pros dressing. They were collected by a lovely chap who came from near Selby to collect just one but ended up buying the other and an assortment of other bits as well!

Carver Theatre Open Day 1st July 2017 - Volunteers Wanted

We are delighted to announce that the theatre will have its first OPEN DAY on Saturday, 1st JULY in the afternoon. We will take groups of up to 10 people around the theatre at 15 minute intervals from 1.00 - 4.15 pm with a short break in the middle.

The following areas will be included in the tour:

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|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Welcome and a brief history | Library |
| Tour of the wardrobe | Wardrobe |
| Watch part of a rehearsal | Rehearsal Room |
| Make-up demonstration | Green Room |
| Stage and backstage tour | Stage |
| Lighting and sound demonstration | Rear Auditorium |
| Refreshments and questions | Bar |

Archive photos will be displayed where possible and, in the spirit of community cohesion and co-operation, we are delighted that Marple Guides have agreed to provide the refreshments and hopefully, as a result, will raise much needed funds for their activities.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to act as Group Guides, FOH and Ticketing on the day. The Group Guides will stay with their group for the duration of the tour. If you are happy to chat to visitors and keep them entertained for a few minutes if there is a short wait (hopefully the timings of the tours will avoid that), then we would love to hear from you. Ver many thanks to all those of you who have already volunteered.

Please spread the word. Tickets are now available on line via the Carver Theatre website. If we receive a good response then we may add some tours in the morning.

Please note we will have a REHEARSAL/RUN THROUGH of the open day on Wednesday 28 June at 7.30 and would ask that ALL volunteers attend to ensure a smooth and professional tour on the day. This will enable us to make any necessary amendments to timings etc.

Please contact Pam Mainprize on 0161 449 9461 or registrar@carvertheatre.co.uk to volunteer. This is an ideal opportunity to attract more active members and should be an exciting day.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Pam Mainprize, Joanna Bircher, Chris Sturmeay and Caroline Calverley

New members

A very warm welcome to our newest members: **Mark Pitts** who is interested in set design and build and stage hand work,; **Alan Parsons** who has also expressed an interest in set build and stage hand work as well as props, FOH and bar; **Danielle Austin** who would like to get involved in set build, lighting, sound and props as well as prompting, publicity, social events and bar work; **Julie Thomas** who interests include acting, set building, wardrobe, make-up, prompting, FOH, bar and teas; and last but not least **Keith Wright** who is an actor.

Good wishes go to Shirley Molloy who has been ill in hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Pam Mainprize
Registrar

New Season Launch

We had an excellent new season launch on Wednesday 5th April. The attendance was very good and many thanks to Caroline for organising supper. Next season's plays will be:

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| September 15-23 | Albert Wigglesworth's Teeth written by Peter Gaskell and directed by Rod Goddard. AUDITION DATE 4 MAY @ 7.45 |
| November 3-11 | Journey's End directed by Steve Stubbs. AUDITION DATE 26 APRIL 7.45 |
| January 12-20 | Panto - details to be circulated later |
| March 2-10 | Enlightenment directed by David Carlisle. AUDITION DATE 14 JUNE 7.45 |
| May 11-19 | Vicar of Dibley directed by Sally Jolley. AUDITION DATE 3 OCTOBER 7.45 |

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you wish to read the scripts before the auditions you will find copies upstairs in the meeting room in the book case. However, Bernice has asked that anyone taking a copy home to read **MUST** please inform her so that she can keep track of the copies. This is very important as we have a limited number of scripts.

Next newsletter

Please send your contributions for the next newsletter to Jess Sanchez by 27 May. Please send to newsletter@carvertheatre.co.uk