



1906 – 2006

## Carver Theatre Newsletter

October 2012

October already! Don't look too far ahead in your 2012 calendars but Christmas is just round the corner! Blimey!

Still lots of good stuff to get through this year though before we start thinking too seriously about next, so here we go into the latest newsletter. I'm starting with a report from our new Chairman, and hope to make this a regular feature. Any feedback about this new venture to either myself or John would be appreciated. Lots of other reports too from section secretaries, and some lovely news from two of our members to finish off with, so without more ado.....

### **CHAIRMAN'S DIARY JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2012**

In my Chairman's Message, sent out shortly after I was elected in July, I listed some of the priorities we need to address in order to secure the future of the Carver, whilst at the same time attending to its day-to-day running. In starting this diary my intention is not to bore you with an account of what I've been up to, but rather to show how those priorities are made real by the efforts of all our members.

They include making new and younger members feel more welcome, valued and trusted. That's an issue that impacts on many areas of our activities including the way we programme our season, communicate with the community around us and treat each other as members. We must attend to the refurbishment of the theatre building, both inside and out, and make timely, cost-effective improvements to our technical facilities. We need to re-energise the social life of the Carver and, of course, continue to mount high quality productions. Speaking of which, by the time you read this, Calendar Girls will have been put to bed and work on Bedroom Farce started.

But let's quickly rewind to the beginning of August when it was so great to see such a large group, several of them new members, working on building the Calendar Girls set. What a fantastic opener to the season this play was and many of those involved, including on-stage and back-stage participants, told me what a happy production it had been. This shone through to the audiences and demonstrates the best aspect of life at the Carver; namely, having fun putting on plays.

In August the Production Committee met to discuss casting of the remaining plays for the season and good progress was made on Bedroom Farce. We need more actors to come forward for the other two plays, and we need to get to know our new acting members better. To this end all new acting members have been invited to a get together and read-through on the 9<sup>th</sup> October. I also learnt how important it is to look at all the plays programmed for the season together, as well as the pantomime, to ensure we are being fair to our acting members about allocation of parts whilst at the same time meeting all the casting needs.

Early September I attended my first Stage Committee Meeting where they appointed a Stage Manager and lighting designer for Bedroom Farce and discussed progress with the various technical aspects of Calendar Girls. Some of the technical roles for the play after Bedroom Farce were also agreed. We still need somebody to take on overall responsibility for Props so please contact [stage@carvertheatre.co.uk](mailto:stage@carvertheatre.co.uk) if you are interested.

Mid-September the new Social Committee met and most of the discussion was about the new arrangements for interval teas and coffees - we need to manage with less volunteers. Please let me know how you think it went during Calendar Girls - we need the feedback to help us decide if it worked. Please also give us feedback on the new Star Lotto: [social@carvertheatre.co.uk](mailto:social@carvertheatre.co.uk). There will be more news about social events and club nights coming soon so watch out for that.

11<sup>th</sup> September was enrolment day for the Juniors for the new season. Everyone seemed to be having a great time and it was very well organised and disciplined. Sorry about my dancing, everyone!

12<sup>th</sup> September I chaired my first Executive Committee Meeting. I was a bit nervous at first but it seemed to go well. Here are a few of the highlights:

- We have £156,000 in reserves.
- We approved four new Carver members.
- We decided if at all possible to programme a play requiring minimal set in the September slot so there is more effort available for stage maintenance during the summer closed period.
- It was agreed that a whole stage crew meeting (not just those on the Stage Committee) should take place to gauge ideas on further work/strategy for stage development.
- It was reported that the decoration over the summer of corridors and toilets was complete.
- Contact Dave Davies if you would like to be trained as a Front of House Steward - it only takes a few minutes and it's part of our legal obligations. [house@carvertheatre.co.uk](mailto:house@carvertheatre.co.uk)
- Denise Vaughan was co-opted as the new Social Secretary and Executive Committee member.
- We agreed the theatre's charity this year will be the Motor Neurone Society Manchester Branch and so they will receive half the proceeds from our raffles/lotto.
- We heard about attempts to attract new younger members to the Carver via an article in the Inside Marple Magazine and perhaps programming one play each season which would be attractive to younger audiences and actors.
- Our view is that the Chadwick Street supermarket development will go ahead but we don't expect it to affect us too adversely, certainly once the development is complete.
- We decided to set up a Theatre Building Development Steering Group reporting to the Executive Committee and initially with responsibility for taking forward the recommendations from the recent survey we had done on the theatre building - with one major exception; we decide not to go ahead with the recommendation to over-

clad the outside of the auditorium and link building. This would have cost approximately £45,000 and we felt this could not be justified for at least the next 10 years.

- We agreed a way forward for the interior design work and will take on board all feedback received on the mood boards. It very much looks as though we will be progressing a more modern design than illustrated on the mood boards.
- It was agreed that the Strategy Team should continue in existence for a while longer and, amongst other things, communicate to the membership on how issues raised at the Strategy launch in March are being taken forward and implemented.
- The dates for 'We'll Always Have Paris' were agreed as Friday 20th - Saturday 28th September 2013.
- Our next Executive meeting is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

16<sup>th</sup> September was the *Calendar Girls* technical rehearsal. This is where the actors have to be patient while the director works with all the backstage people to get all the lighting, props, sound and other effects working as one with the performers to deliver a slick show. Everyone was working so hard.

And finally, to the end of September and the last night of *Calendar Girls* on 29<sup>th</sup> September. What a fantastic show - but the set was gone by the end of Sunday and on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October work will begin on set building and rehearsals for *Bedroom Farce*.

That's all for now. Let me know what you think of the diary.

John Woodruff

[chair@carvertheatre.co.uk](mailto:chair@carvertheatre.co.uk)

### **Calendar Girls**

The calendar has so far raised around £2,000 for leukaemia and lymphoma research. If members haven't managed to buy one yet they can go to Dave's shop or Alan Kennington's. Once these have run out Debbie Durr has some more to sell. We have about 30 left to sell.

Thanks from me to everyone who has contributed!

Joanna Bircher

Whilst we're talking about *Calendar Girls*, I thought it would be good to pass on some comments from the Carver Facebook pages about the show.

Sharon Edwards wrote "Loved the show last night, what a fabulous performance by all - lots of sunflowers but definitely no wall flowers."

Georgina Hargreaves thought it was "A wonderful show", and Trudi Combey "Came to see *Calendar Girls* last night. It was brilliant well done everyone!!"

I'm sure we all agree with those sentiments!

Ed. Just a thought from me here, *Calendar Girls* tickets were highly sought after, with people often turning up on the door on the night of a show hoping for returns. We could have sold many more tickets for each production, so it was disappointing that on most nights there were a few empty seats around the auditorium. Of course, things happen at the last minute to change people's plans, but if you know you are not going to be able

to get along to a show and you don't have time to let friends or family take your place, it would be greatly appreciated if you could let the Box Office know so we can get as many people as possible into each performance. Who knows, if we do manage to resell your tickets you wouldn't even be out of pocket!

### **Social report**

When I was approached by the Exec (ooer!!) to take on the "vacant" role of Social Secretary, I had three weeks before the play season began to set out and deliver the various changes necessary to accommodate the needs of our audience, the actors and stage crew with the "people" power available!! My precious social sub-committee (ie. Jan B, Anne W, Marjorie B, Eve C, Deb W and Mike G..... Thankyou All!) are currently reviewing and updating me on how the teas, cast needs during a production, programme selling and Star Lotto actually went since I was rather busy during Calendar Girls on stage!!

In addition to that part of the Social Sec. role is the need to organise events to provide opportunities for ALL MEMBERS of our wonderful theatre, old and new, to get together and have "fun"! I will promote the idea of four gatherings over the four seasons from the start of the first play and I am delighted to kick start events with an "Autumn Gathering" in the form of an afternoon tea ("Betty's" eat your heart out! Teehee!) at The Carver on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012** between 2pm and 4pm with the added bonus of LIVE music to serenade you while you enjoy your cuppa! Please drop in with family and friends and enjoy a catch up with other members at the theatre and I promise the heating will be on! THEN .....

Winter Gathering

Christmas Party (Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012)

Spring Gathering

Live Band Night

Summer Gathering

End Of Season "Bash".... expect the unexpected!?!

In addition to our "Gatherings", Wednesday night is still our club night and various promotions will be advertised to entice you in to have a midweek tippie. Watch this space..... If you would like to organise a mini event on a Wednesday night at The Carver then please contact me as we already have a curry and film night in the offing. Contact me via e mail [social@carvertheatre.co.uk](mailto:social@carvertheatre.co.uk) or my mobile 07843 444372.

Happy socialising.

Denise Vaughan

### **Invoices**

Will you ask people to put invoices in my `Treasurer`s` pigeon hole rather than under `B`.

Thanks, Audrey

### **Stage Pleas and Thanks.**

Many thanks to the helpers of all ages who have turned out to help build the set for Bedroom Farce. We still have a way to go and the building continues from Monday 8th October and all help is greatly appreciated. If we can finish the set a little ahead of

time it allows us to catch up on some of the maintenance we were unable to conduct over the summer period. Also notes for your diaries of future set builds:-

Jack and the Beanstalk - starting on Monday 19th November with drop/lighting bar moves then the painting starts on the Tuesday for two weeks. If anyone is able to help with the lining out of drops and flats during the day time please let me know.

The Secret Rapture - set build to currently commence on Monday 21st January.

Unoriginal Sin - set build to currently commence on Monday 4th March.

Any help would be gratefully received, experience not necessary, only the willingness to help. (For the building min age is 16 - sorry. Painting - can be younger.)

Also we are still in need of sound and lighting operators for The Secret Rapture and Unoriginal Sin. Plus a stage manager for Unoriginal Sin - any volunteers?

Finally, a huge welcome to the stage team and many thanks to Mike Galloway for agreeing to take responsibility for the props team - please see Mikes note for assistance (below).

Thanks

Matt

Stage Secretary.

### **Props**

At the request of the stage committee Mike Galloway has agreed to take on responsibility for "running the props team and organising the props people for each show".

Mike himself will be in charge of props for *Bedroom Farce*, however he has asked that all Carver members with an interest in organising props for other productions in our 2012/2013 season contact him as soon as possible, either by e-mail to [michael.galloway@virgin.net](mailto:michael.galloway@virgin.net) or by 'phone to 01663-742655, leaving a message if necessary. Mike has asked that, when making contact, interested members indicate which production/s might be their preferences.

Where possible, Mike will be combining experienced and new/young members within each team, in the hope that this will provide an excellent vehicle for integrating the latter into the body of the Carver, and making these new and younger members feel truly welcome and appreciated.

Mike Galloway

### **Carver Front of House Training**

On Wednesday 17th October at 9:00pm we shall be conducting FoH familiarisation for any of you who would like to do FoH duties at the theatre. It is not onerous or difficult and should only take 15 minutes or so to familiarise you with the job. So anybody who wishes to do FoH, or who already does it and would like a refresher, this is a good opportunity to get up to speed (sorry management speak) with what is required to be done.

Regards Mike Strivens, Registrar +44 (0)7860 859643, [registrar@carvertheatre.co.uk](mailto:registrar@carvertheatre.co.uk)

### **Future developments**

Debbie Woodruff and Joanna Bircher are meeting soon to plan a strategy to look at the theatre refurbishment and we will be approaching members to participate - making sure we

have representation from all ages and both genders if possible. If anyone is particularly keen to get involved pleased could they let us know -thanks!

Also if members ever have any ideas for the website then they are welcome to pass them on to Joanna.

And to finish on a couple of happy notes....

Kirsti Jackson writes:

Our beautiful Nancy Beatrice was born 12 days after her due date on the 4th September at 17:41 in Stepping Hill hospital having started labour at 18:00 on the Saturday! Weighing 7lbs 14 1/2ozs. One month on she weighs 9lbs 1oz and we can't remember her not being here! Life will never be the same again! - but in a good way! Thank you to all who have sent good wishes, we really appreciate it.

See you all soon. Kirsti, Xx

Congratulations too to Sarah and Phil on their recent wedding at Mellor Church. On behalf of everyone may I wish you both a very happy time together - the pictures looked stunning on Facebook and you both looked so happy!  
(I wonder if we've recruited a couple of new Carver members? Early days perhaps! ed.)

### **Dates for your diary**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Calendar Girls                     | 21 <sup>st</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> September       |
| Bedroom Farce, Alan Ayckbourn      | 9 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> November         |
| Jack and the Beanstalk             | 11 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> January 2013    |
| Secret Rapture, David Hare         | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb-2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2013    |
| Unoriginal Sin, David Tristram     | 10 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> May 2013        |
| We'll Always Have Paris, Jill Hyem | 20 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2013 |