



December 2016

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am delighted to contribute to this Newsletter at a time when we are well into our current season and yet again we seem to be offering productions of a very high standard that are as popular as ever with our audiences.

We recently held our AGM which resulted in a much changed Committee. **Tori Wakeman** is our new Vice Chairman, **Anne Booth** is now driving Publicity and the members' representatives are **Katy Ball, Andy Bingham, Hannah Tolley, Bob Graham and Pat Gale**. I wish them well and thank also **Hilary Thompson and Sue Downing** for their excellent work in the past. We have also seen the departure of **Siobhan** from her Saturday Box Office role. We shall miss her and we wish her well and hope to see her back in the Theatre very soon. **Faye Stanton** has taken over the position.

We welcomed Kidderminster Civic society and The Friends of

Broadwaters to our theatre – see articles by Hilary and Keith later in this newsletter.

We need to look forward and plan for our 80th Anniversary Season which starts in September 2017. We will keep you informed about our plans and look forward to your continuing support.

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Sue and me to you all.

Stephen Downing.

AND FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR....

Greetings all Nonnies !

It has been a brilliant start to the new season with the joyous 'Jeeves and Wooster', the thought provoking and beautiful 'Visitors' and the fantastic "Flint Street Nativity" entertaining our audiences. As I write this, rehearsals for our fabulous and festive Xmas Ents are taking place as well as the marvellous 'Murdered to Death' which kicks off 2017 in style! As always, the standard and hard work of both onstage and off stage members in putting on these performances is highly professional and supported by a great theatre management team. We should all be very proud of our theatre!

2017 is going to be a very exciting and important year for the Nonentities. Not only have we some excellent shows still to come, (Murdered to Death, Macbeth, God of Carnage, Woman in White, One Man Two Guvnors) but we

also celebrate our 80th Birthday! To mark this, every play in the September 2017- July 2018 season will be taken from the 8 decades we have been performing. Our first DECADES play to kick off the new season will be “Blithe Spirit” by Noel Coward. The rest of the “DECADES” season will be announced at the new season launch in April ‘17.

As we are all aware, none of these shows could go ahead without members volunteering to take part in a FOH, backstage or acting capacity. Sadly, on a number of occasions this year, we have had difficulty in finding members to fill a variety of roles and this causes a great deal of pressure for casts and crew alike, as well as FOH and Bar Staff. To try and resolve this issue, there will be a statement coming out in the New Year to all members which will highlight the need to get involved with a minimum of 3 FOH/backstage roles during the year. For actors, this will be linked to casting so that we ensure fairness for all.

Finally, can I thank you all for your support this year. The skills workshops –which proved highly successful with members- will start up again and I will send out details when I have confirmed with those members who have offered to run them. As always, please do not hesitate to email me or call me to discuss any ideas or thoughts with plays or delivery.

Have a lovely Xmas. - Peace, Goodwill and all that Jazz –

Chris Clarke

PUBLICITY

My head is spinning a little since taking on this role - So much to think about– brochures, posters, press releases, photos, advertising – A big thank you to Deb, Tori and Kerena for guiding me through. I hope to produce a quarterly Newsletter so that members can be kept informed of events and new ideas from the various Committee members. I would love to have contributions from any members who would like to share experiences or views. (Keep ‘em clean!)

If any members would like to help with Publicity please get in touch annebooth@mail.com. It would really help to share the load. If any of you could assist with putting up posters in your local shops, bars, cafes etc please note that we have a stock of them for each show stored in the green room. I am hoping to get a team together to co-ordinate our Publicity – it’s a hard sell world out there. The fantastic quality of our plays does help!

If you are a Facebook user do make sure you are a member of our own group The Nonentities-used for messages, FOH and props pleas, good wishes etc. The Rose Theatre page is there for information – please like and share our posts and write some 5* reviews if you feel you can!

A very important date for your new diary is **STUFFING DAY (of brochures into envelopes and cakes into stomachs) which will be the morning of **Wednesday January 4th** at the theatre. New members most welcome – leading nicely on to**

MEMBERS MATTER

In the last 6 months we have been joined by several talented new members:

Sarah Brookes has been busy on Front of House. Sarah has a degree in Fashion & Textile Design and is interested in joining Carol & Donna in wardrobe soon! **Ryan Green** has made a fabulous contribution straight away by taking on props for 'Flint Street'. Although he wasn't 100% sure what he was volunteering for when he said, "I'll have a go at props," Ryan quickly got the hang of it and did a brilliant job. Thanks to the cast and crew who made him so welcome. Then there is **Neale McGrath**, whose CV is incredibly impressive. Neale has a wealth of experience and luckily for us is directing 'One Man, Two Guvnors' in the summer. His wife, **Gail McGrath**, has also joined and helped on the bar, though I believe her talents stretch much further than pulling a pint! Plus, we have **Isabelle Waring**, who has quickly been cast in "Murdered to Death" and **Mary Field**, who made a brilliant debut performance as the narrator in 'Flint Street'. Finally, we have **Duncan Terry**, who has been an enormous help on Front of House. With a few prospective new members in the pipeline, our membership continues to grow.

I shall continue with a monthly new members evening, working dates around rehearsals and other workshops, coupled with Front of House training. If you know of anyone who would like to chat about joining

our wonderful community, please pass my details onto them.

Thanks **Amanda Clarke**

FRONT OF HOUSE NEWS

Great news about a new app we are introducing for the Front of House rota. The very clever Andy Bingham has built an app which means all members will be able to access the rota directly from their computer or phone. You can add yourself to the rota, click SAVE and you're on! It's really easy to use and looks fab! Obviously I'll still be calling up those members who 'don't do' technology and members can still go into the theatre to book on the rota - Deb and Mena can access it and tell people where the gaps are. What's more, you get a text reminder 48 hours before your duty.

There'll still be appeals via the phone, e mails and Facebook, I'm sure but I'm really excited about this development and extremely grateful to Andy for his time and for being SO clever!

By now you'll have received a link, with information about how to access the app.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all who have helped on FOH this year? I really appreciate your help and hope you have enjoyed your shifts.

Any questions about membership or Front of House please contact me. agclarke63@gmail.com

Thanks
Amanda Clarke

BAR NEWS

We welcomed **Gary Rossiter** as our new Bar manager and he has proved a great asset to our team. Although only one volunteer is now needed per night, it is still a vital role to play. It's great fun to do but does help if you've had a little bit of training. Gary sorts out all the money at the end of the night and you can usually get away 10-15 mins after the end of the show. You'll have enjoyed it so much you won't want to leave!!

YOUTH THEATRE

KRYPT (Kidderminster Rose Young People's Theatre) is now at full capacity with 35 members divided into two different age groups. Senior group (ages 13-18) has 20 members and Junior group (ages 8-12) has 15 members and both groups have a waiting list! The groups meet every Saturday during term time and have been running since September. I am now in my second year as youth theatre leader and am delighted to have been joined by Nonentities members **Alex Parkinson** and **Faye Stanton** as youth theatre assistants. Both groups are currently rehearsing for their Christmas Shows – 'The Elves & The Shoemaker' and 'A Christmas Carol'. The influx of young people has brought a wonderful energy to the theatre on Saturdays and along with their parents some new audience members too. Thanks go to the fantastic team of volunteers who are making it possible for the youth theatre to put on the Christmas shows -**Hilary Thompson, Sue Downing, Lyn Ravenhill, Joe Harper & Amy Baker.**

If you are interested in helping out with future shows, please let us know!

We would really like to find a sponsor for our T-Shirts! Any suggestions? helenmarytimmins@yahoo.co.uk.

Thank you! Helen Timmins

Visit by the Kidderminster Civic Society

The Rose hosted a successful visit by the Kidderminster Civic Society (KCS) on 5th December. It was their annual Christmas Social Event and they like to visit a venue important to the town – well that was us! The KCS was formed in the 90s and takes an active interest in town issues. The request came through Nick Hughes, who is our Solicitor at Painters, who were the firm who did the original negotiation and legal work for the transfer to our current Rose Theatre, with the Nonentities Society as the Charitable Trust to own and run it. We had about 30 visitors who all enjoyed an update from the Chairman, tours of the theatre and then their buffet which they shared with us. Thanks to Gary for providing a welcoming presence in the bar and the Committee and other members who helped. It was good to give the Youth Theatre a profile and as we had two sets of rehearsals underway our visitors saw a living working night down at the Rose.

Many of the KCS are regular audience but had not been downstairs or realised the epic work that we all put in to sustain the theatre for our community. **Hilary Thompson**

THE ROSE REACHES OUT!

*Links have been made with the **Friends of Broadwaters Group** taking the form of Social afternoons at the Rose in September and October 2016. These were organised by me, Keith Rowland, fellow “Nonny”, local resident and member of Friends of Broadwaters. With the theatre being a major cultural asset not only to the town but especially within the edge of the attractive eastern gateway of Broadwaters Park, the aim is to provide an outreach opportunity for the local community to “see what happens inside the theatre” as well as forge new outward- thinking links for the theatre within its location and community to both organisations future benefit.*

After careful discussion with the Chairman and with the support of **Debs and Mena**, we decided upon an explorative first meeting in the theatre foyer on the afternoon of Thursday September 22nd 2016 between 2-4pm as many of the Friends Group would be available. It proved to be a great success, and was attended by around 30+ local residents who were interested to have a back-stage tour & short history of the theatre, led by **Hilary Thompson, Lyn Ravenhill, Pat Gale and Carolyn Brinton**.

Homemade cakes were brought along by the Friends to accompany the tea and coffee and enjoyed whilst I played Keyboard with Friends Group Chairman, Mike Abraham on guitar.

With the very positive feedback received by those who had attended on the first occasion, a further social afternoon was held on Thursday October 20th 2-4pm, With **Sue and Stephen Downing** helping host with **Debs & Mena**. Over 30 Friends

attended. **Pat Gale** gave a very amusing monologue she had written, “Honk for Jesus!” and **Lynn Ravenhill** likewise added to the laughter with a Stanley Holloway monologue delivered in best “Yorkshire brogue”! The band of local musicians had widened to include a flautist and singers, adding to the atmosphere of light hearted entertainment.

It was a great opportunity to promote the many different roles & ways local people can become involved within the theatre. We also spoke about ‘Visitors’, which Lynn was busy rehearsing at the time, and also ‘Flint Street Nativity’, which I’ve recently been Musical Director for. A large group of the Friends then booked for the show and were welcomed by **Anne Booth** on behalf of the theatre on the night. Needless to say, they had had a great time and we enjoyed a drink afterwards in the bar!

The 2.2 hectares of Broadwaters Park encompasses the site of the former Broadwaters Water Mill, whose restoration including replacement water wheel, was achieved via substantial National Lottery funding obtained by Wyre Forest DC in partnership with the then fledgling Friends Group in the 1990’s. Fund raising via many different grant sources and park events has been expertly steered and won by Jane and Mike Abraham and the members of the group who’ve worked very hard over the years to keep and increase the quality of the park at a time of massive local spending cuts and lack of investment. The Friends funding has paid for path resurfacing, timber bridge replacements, major lighting, additional seating, fencing, several art features, sensory garden, tree planting and glade / wildlife projects and bulb planting amongst other things.

It was through a major effort and difficult negotiation with Wyre Forest DC a couple of years back by the Friends, that the car park has remained free of charge and available for theatre audiences likewise. The council proposal had threateningly been to make it a “park and ride” / pay & display carpark or even to sell it and build on it. Fortunately at the end of the day, the Councillors agreed to re-classify it permanently as car park intrinsically for Broadwaters Park. Litter collection is part of the Friends daily voluntary care and supportive maintenance which along with gardening, keeps the Green Pennant Competition awards forthcoming on an annual basis!

Our next Social Afternoon is Thursday 16th February 2017 2-4pm where it would be great to see Nonentities around in the day time enjoying a catch-up over refreshments, but also participating by way of a short monologue / sketch or song...as well as helping with the hosting.

Please let me know by 28th January if you can come along to help host or take part on 16.2.2017 or other occasions as we hope to continue with this venture on the 3rd Thursday afternoon of each month, if sufficient support. Many thanks to all who've been involved and helped so far! It's a great opportunity for promoting our theatre, keeping in touch and participating in informal entertainment - maybe trying out some short sketches / monologues you've found, written or fancy performing along with a song?!

**You can contact me on
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Keith J Rowland

