

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

It's been a busy year for everyone, and a time of many changes. Sue Hunt is unable to present her usual lovely offering this January because, as many of you will know, she has had a stroke and needs to recover, but she has assured me she is managing well and can now drive again so will be back soon to carry on her role as Bringer of News. Get well soon Sue!

In the meantime we have gathered together some interesting snippets of information for you, and on the next few pages you will find what has been going on and how you can continue to help our lovely theatre.

Here's hoping for a better year for us all!

Xxx Jen

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A lovely picture of Bob as David Horton in 'The Vicar of Dibley'!

CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE

As usual, the A.G.M. brings inevitable changes to the structure of our management. This year saw Bob continue his fantastic role as Chair, and I am sure you will wish him well for another term, as he has been our rock during the past few years and held us steady through thick and thin. Jen has stepped down from Artistic Director into the shoes of the Membership Manager, and Hilary is now continuing as Child Protection Officer, working with KRYPT, and helping organise refreshments with Lynn. Amy Baker has taken a rest from Technical Manager, as her day job has grown and David Wakeman is acting Tech as well as continuing as our other rock as Treasurer. Much thanks to both. Stepping up into The A.D. shoes is Richard Taylor, and he is already planning great things for our future. Well done Rich.!

We still have vacant posts for Wardrobe and Tech, so if you are interested, let us know!

Chairman —Bob Graham
Vice chair —Tori Wakeman
Secretary —Mo Higgins
Treasurer —David Wakeman
Artistic Director —Richard Taylor
Membership —Jen Eglinton
Stage Director —Keith Higgins
Publicity —Anne Booth
Bar —Alan Booth
Props —Ros Casewell & Helen Speake
F.O.H. —Jane Holt
Maintenance —Neil Chamberlain
(Wardrobe and technical managers tba)

2022 was eventful to say the least. There have been many highs and only a few lows. Audiences have returned and financially we are back on an even keel and can really begin to look forward to the future. Our success is down to your efforts and the input that you have all given. You have been amazing and I thank each and everyone of you for your efforts in getting the Rose back on its feet. And it is!

Many of you have contributed significantly to our activities, and I hope you will, in your various roles, continue to do so, some have only been able to be called upon occasionally, but no matter how much or little time you have been able to give, I thank you. There are also some of you, who have offered help but haven't yet been called upon. Don't worry, I haven't forgotten, and you will be called upon as we move into 2023.

Future-proofing the society has been at the heart of everything we have done post pandemic and employing staff is the next step and the early months of 2023 will see us take one of our biggest strides forward as we are now recruiting for someone in the office running the business side of the theatre again. We would expect to be able to appoint in the first couple of months of 2023 and when we have someone in place I think we can truly say the Rose is back to normal!

Of course, there are other challenges looming, not least the cost of living – theatres are expensive places to run, but we are now in a strong position to cope with them.

I think we really can look forward to an exciting and successful 2023.

Best wishes,

Bob x

HON. SECRETARY: Maureen (Mo) Higgins

This lovely lady is the wife of our Stage Director Keith Higgins. You may not have met her as you pass through the theatre, but she is a very important person! Mo is part of the exec. Committee and responsible for taking the minutes at meetings, dealing with letters and official post. She keeps note of all legal proceedings and confidential documents, decisions and motions held in meetings. Her hard work is much appreciated as she keeps us all on track and is an asset to the society. On top of all this she helps on the F.O.H. during shows, also with props, and is an enthusiastic choir member elsewhere. She sings in the Christmas Entertainments as well! Thank you Mo.



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Richard Taylor

Hi All, just a few words from me. Everyone is very busy, and I am currently engaged in directing Calendar Girls alongside my new Artistic Directorial duties! That being said, we still have the rest of this season to deliver, so we have some more exciting workshops coming up for you, and a casting notice.

The Play Selection Committee (PAG) and I are about to start the long task of rooting around and finding some gems for us to produce next season. I aim to keep you all updated on progress of that task as we move forward.

Well folks, that's all for now, if any of you have any ideas for plays you would like to see performed in the coming seasons please stop me as I'm wandering around the theatre and let me know.

All the best
Rich

Play Workshops:

Rumours by Neil Simon (*DIR: Tori Wakeman*): 31st Jan @ The Rose

Nell Gwynn by Jessica Swale (*DIR: Jen Eglinton*): 7th Feb @ The Rose

Anyone interested in being in either one of these plays, OR you just wanted to come along and have a read please feel free to join us @ 7:30 on either of the nights above.



Here is the casting notice for *The Children*. Rehearsals are commencing 13th February 2023, best of luck to all involved in this superb play!

CASTING NOTICE *The Children*

by Lucy Kirkwood

Hazel - Skye Witney

Rose - Sue Downing

Robin - Tom Rees

Director - Stephen Downing

Prompt - tbc

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

Jen Eglinton

After taking over the job of Membership at the AGM, I sent out a message asking what sort of things you would all like to have me arrange for you for fun. The answers were varied, and it quickly became obvious that you really wanted some Nonnies' nights. So, I tentatively put together my first, with the Un-Christmas party. Some said no one would come as it was at a very busy time, but lo... we built it, and you came. (Name the quote!)

Thank you all for a great evening, and also thanks to Alan and Anne for the bar and cocktails, and Hilary for the delicious nibbles. I am in the process of sorting out a new membership handbook for you all, and when this newsletter is done and dusted, I can work on finishing it, so you will all have a better idea of how the Nonentities work, and what is available to you.

Also, there will soon be a series of skills workshops to allow you to learn more about the various crafts needed to perform and facilitate our plays. Keep an eye out for emails and posts on Facebook.

XX Jen



F.O.H. MANAGER:

Jane Holt

Vicar of Dibley and *Christmas Entertainments* were a very busy end to last year for Front of House. We sold particularly large amounts of Ice cream during *Dibley* week, and managed to eat our way through 600 mince pies during *Christmas Ents*. KRYPT was a more soothing and fun way to finally finish for Christmas, and Becca and the team always put on a good show with our young actors.

I want to thank everyone who help on F.O.H. They work hard and give up valuable time to keep it all running smoothly, and their help is always very much appreciated by me. We are now looking forward to the new year and very busy weeks with *Tom, Dick and Harry* and *Calendar Girls*. If you want to become part of the team, we always welcome new people, so come and chat to us any time.

Keeping the story alive!

There are so many different aspects to the running of our theatre and Publicity is but one area. If you have any expertise in Marketing or Advertising, Social Media or video making, please get in touch –

annebooth71@gmail.com
Publicity Manager

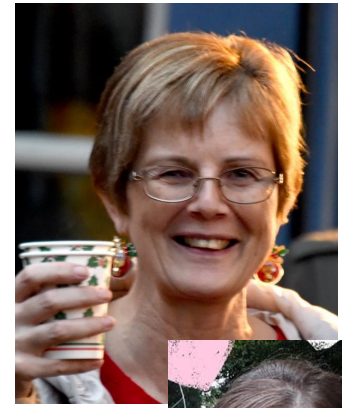
PUBLICITY

Anne Booth, with Katy Ball

OUR NEW WEBSITE

Hopefully by now, you will all have seen our new improved website. You may think it isn't massively different to the old one and it IS still a 'work in progress' but it does give us far more control over the content than the old one. We think that the Home Page gives a more welcoming and informative aspect to The Rose.

Ticket buying and much of the 'back pages' is still the same. However, we can now add 'News items' and upload our photos, newsletters and brochures. Images can be stored and looked back on rather than disappearing at the end of each play.



We are hoping to introduce a secure 'Members' Site', accessible to Nonentities Society members only. Katy Ball has come on board to help with this and also to keep on top of maintaining a record of Past Productions and Cast Lists. Maybe one day ALL our fabulous photos from past productions can be archived here – anybody have a scanner and 500 spare hours??

So, how much did it cost to change? Very little! Cast your mind back to this time almost two years ago when we decided to go with the Crowdfunder (which raised almost £20,000 by the way!). We were contacted by a local web designer, Matt Cook from Blumac Digital; he had seen our campaign -and our old web site!- and kindly offered to help design a new one – FREE OF CHARGE. The offer was too good to refuse and Bob and I, with assistance from Andy Bingham and David Wakeman, set the ball rolling. After several meetings and LOTS of emails and phone calls, we finally went live at the start of the new season. We are very grateful to Matt and his assistants for continuing to support us with this vital part of our business.

ARCHIVE PHOTOS

Photo Opportunities!

What should we do with all the lovely publicity photos that Colin Hill takes? The reality is that they come down from the boards and end up in piles and folders in the office waiting for Mary Poppins to click her fingers and they'd be sorted!

All the photos **after 2017** are digitally stored so, should we need access to them we have it, therefore the committee decided that these left over should be released to members, and have been sorted into blue folders in a large plastic box on a small table in the foyer. If you are at rehearsals or pop into the theatre for any reason, you can have a rummage and take what you will. They will be available until April 3rd, after which the photos will be 'recycled'.

The plan in future is to keep one or two photos - director's choice, together with the programme for that show - in a manageable folder. We have been talking for years about how best to store or archive the older photos, programmes and memorabilia and, as with many projects, this is a 'work in progress'. It's an important part of our history. Several members have done a sterling job in sorting and labelling many years' worth of items which are currently housed in the props room, and there is a lovely display of black and white framed photos in the dressing room area. If we could ever find a volunteer with the time, knowledge and equipment to scan and store the photos digitally that would be a bonus. Maybe there is a Mary Poppins archiver out there.....???

Anne Booth

SET BUILDING: for *Tom Dick & Harry*



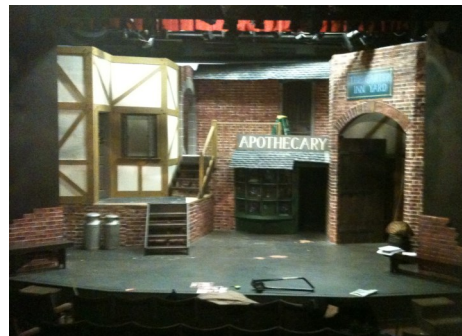
Alan and Mick hanging a door, Sally painting, Gloria taking time off painting as she drew short straw on coffee making, and Richard and Alan making a trick sofa bed. See our next play to find out why!



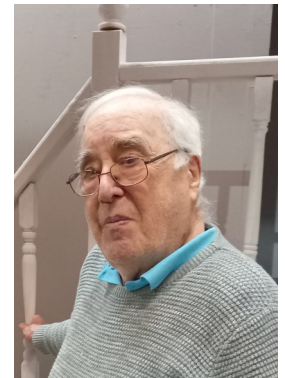
A gallant group of people gather together to create your sets. Whether it is designing, building, painting or creating special effects, they work hard to produce the fine edifices that grace our stage. Under the auspices of the Stage Director and based on set designs, plans and models, the creations wondrously occur. You can join the team if you fancy. Come and make things happen!



From model to stage



Stage Director
Keith Higgins



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

I don't know, you leave them alone for a quiet holiday in Canada, and now look what's happened!



Congrats to the future Mr. & Mrs. Wishart!

NEWS CORNER!

Just a few things to look back on in 2022

And Get Well Soon!
Sue Hunt and Mike Lawrence

IN MEMORIAM

But sadly we have had to say goodbye to one or two friends. Our thoughts are with their families.

~ Dink's husband, Denys Vernon Widdowson, 17.06.30 — 24.08.22

~ Margaret White, who died in October 2022. A long standing member that those of a certain age might remember.

Rest in Peace.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Meet Finn Hunter Lucas, Amy Cooper's new baby, born 11.12.22 at 20:15. Congrats to you and your family Amy.



(Picture with permission.)



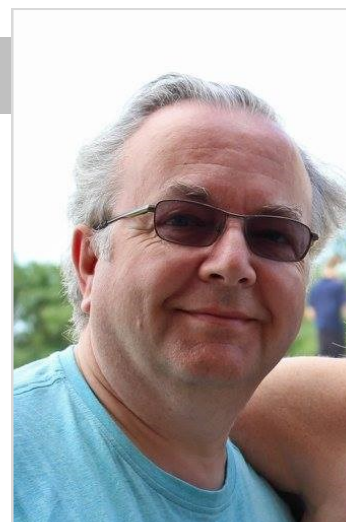
Apologies if any have been missed, but cant print if we don't know xd

Many Hands MAKE Light Work?

**An urgent appeal from David Wakeman,
Stand in Technical Manager. THIS IS NO JOKE!**

LIGHTING AND SOUND NEED YOUR HELP

I know you have heard this before, but we are desperately short of technicians for Lighting and Sound. If anyone is interested in helping, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have not done this before, then training can be provided. Even if you have very modest technical experience, it is still very easy to operate either Lighting or Sound for the week of a show, whilst the preparation and programming can be set up beforehand with one of our more experienced members. You need to be available for the performances plus dress rehearsals on the previous Sunday and the rehearsals during the final week. Like so many of the supporting roles, our productions cannot take place without someone on Lights and Sound so please get in touch and let me know what you can do.



David Wakeman
Many thanks. Contact me on
07976843756 or
david@dwakeman.co.uk

PROPS MANAGERS: Rosalind Casewell and Helen Speake

Here are our lovely Props Managers, Ros and Helen! As you can see, they are dressed for the occasion, as some plays need props changing in full view of the audience. Thus means they need to be costumed accordingly! In this picture they were working on Cranford from last season, so are 'maids of all work'.

Props can be great fun, as you can be asked to provide everything from high tea, with appropriate china and silverware, to stuffed corpses or body parts! Don't worry, we have a store full of useful goodies which they keep in strict order!

Ros and Helen are always willing to help anyone new find their way around the props room, and are keen for new people to train to do props or anything backstage. Let us know if you are interested: we start you off on simple things xd



WARDROBE: Carol, Donna, Alix & Lynn & company

Wardrobe at the Rose theatre is one of the most interesting and enjoyable departments. Two rooms make up a huge dressing up box containing costumes from Tudor onwards. We have thousands of items of clothing all now arranged neatly and organised after our major tidy up and refit of a couple of years ago including daleks, frogs, crows, reindeer and even Elvis!

Despite this vast collection we still make and source new collections each season, such as our beautiful dresses for Cranford designed and made by Jenny and with the help of some sewing elves. Also, one off specialities including half lady half man for Hound of the Baskervilles and 15 identical clown outfits for Oh What a Lovely War.

A recent challenge was how to make a white wedding dress for Geraldine in Vicar of Dibley look like she'd been splashed by a muddy puddle in a matter of 10 seconds. This called for a second identical dress and a lot of fun painting and spraying black acrylic paint about.

Whether it's turning boys into mice, quick changes in the wings or copying instantly recognisable characters, wardrobe is a fun place to play, so why not give us a go?



The fun of the QUICK CHANGE!

That's Donna hiding behind a pushed on truck with a fireplace on it! I bet Richard has never had his trousers removed so fast!

How was it done? Aha! Just one of the tricks of the trade! It's all in the poppers!

BAR MANAGER:

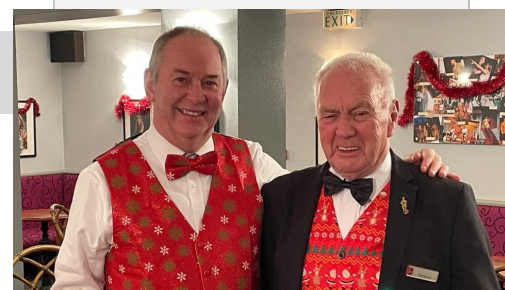
New Year Update by Alan Booth

I'm not quite sure how I ended up as Bar Manager - I do admit to having an interest in alcoholic beverages and have sampled a few in my time. I had found it a pleasant way to spend an evening serving audiences and chatting about theatre and drink, so I thought I'd give it a go. Jane Holt had done a sterling job co-ordinating both Front of House and Bar and it was time to spread the workload so here I am!

I am pleased to report that the bar is operating well so far this season and that we have a good group of volunteers which has enabled us to staff all the required nights. Anne and I have trained up several new volunteers and we have introduced a system of Steward 1 and Steward 2 so that people who do not feel confident about opening up, reconciling the cash and locking up at the end of an evening can still work behind the bar as Steward 2 – this appears to be working well. I would like to thank Anne for compiling the bar rota and introducing a bar staff WhatsApp group. It's not all about serving on the night - I would also like to thank Keith Rowland who has volunteered to come in and stock the shelves and clean the bar in the week prior to any performances.

A few changes have been made - a new bottle chiller and a new sink have been added. In an attempt to be more Eco-Friendly, we have introduced the use of re-usable plastic glasses which can be taken into the auditorium and then collected in bins at the end of the show and washed in the glass washer. The big challenge is making sure people put the glasses in the correct bins and returning them to the bar at the end of the show – we have lost a few, but we're getting there! In the New Year we will be looking at introducing spirits on optics for whisky and gin (maybe plain and pink) and also providing small bottles of Prosecco.

The bar is an important cash generator for the theatre, and I would like to thank the great support of all our volunteers who make the operation of the bar possible. Visiting companies such as KODS and the various Pro-shows that hire our theatre, all need the services of the bar and Front of House so it is important that all members should support these roles if they can.



Alan and Mick spruced up for Christmas Bar duty xxx (Don't they scrub up well???)

Finally, if any other members would like to volunteer for the bar then please contact Anne or myself and we can ensure that you are fully trained - you will be more than welcome to join our jolly team.

Cheers Alan



Sally and Duncan also getting into the Christmas Spirit

Rehearsal Teas: Hilary Thompson & Lynn Ravenhill

Most of you, but not all, will know that on the Sunday before a show week there is a double dress rehearsal. There is a long-standing tradition of a team of members providing a tea for the cast and crew between the two rehearsals. It's a lovely social part of the day, but also ensures much needed energy for a hard-working day. Lynn Ravenhill has been our stalwart tea organiser for some years, supported more recently by Hilary. Lynn's cakes are legendary! Gloria Phillips joined the team last year and provides much needed back up.

We have now embarked on building the team and when we suddenly realised that for "Dibley" not only did we have a large cast and crew, but Lynn and Hilary had the cheek to go away together that weekend it pushed the need for more volunteers. Answering the call came Sue Roberts, Anne Goode and Sue Jones. With Gloria as well they provided a brilliant tea, and we discovered another talented baker in Sue Roberts.

We have one or two other offers of help but want to further strengthen the team. Lynn and Hilary will be doing "Tom, Dick and Harry" on 22nd January with Gloria but would welcome one other helper as well. The next big challenge will be "Calendar Girls" with a big cast and crew – Lynn and Hilary are both involved in the show so a full team needed. Sunday 19th Feb is the date.

If you are interested in joining us, let Hilary know on hilarythompson67@outlook.com



"Join the Teas Team"

Basically they provide sandwiches, savouries and yes! You guessed it! Cakes! The tea is usually about 4.30 on the afternoons obviously there is work to be done beforehand and usually lasts from about 2.00 to 6.00 including the clearing up.

KIDDERMINSTER ROSE YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

Notes from Becca

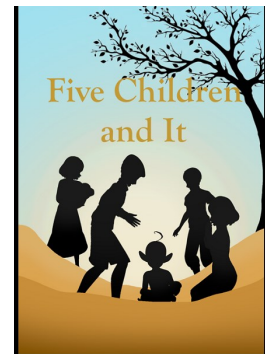


After a couple of years of Covid Chaos, 2022 saw the return of our full KRYPT Company productions. In fact, we were so keen to bring them back that we produced two!

In July, we staged a new version of Alice in Wonderland. Parentless and struggling to find herself, she knocks herself on the head and finds herself seeing talking rabbits! As she descends into Wonderland, the outrageous and audacious characters around her guide her to find the answer to the question which has been plaguing her for her whole life: "who am I? Our members really enjoyed bringing such zany characters to life and getting to have fun playing up for the stage.



Next up was our Christmas show, Five Children and It. Adapted from the beloved children's book, a group of siblings are evacuated and meet a mysterious creature who can grant wishes. Our cast talked directly to the audience to tell this story, breaking the fourth wall, and this style of dialogue added a real sense of mischief and adventure to the tale. We enjoyed bringing the wishes to life, with memorable moments including seeing the Psammead in full costume and our Junior Company portraying a care-home full of old biddies on a day trip. The show was a real success and we'd like to congratulate the cast on their hard work.



Onwards and upwards: KRYPT has some challenges ahead! Our Juniors will be devising their next performance, so I can't give too much away - literally. But we do know they'll come up with something unique and entertaining! Meanwhile, our Seniors are embarking on an entire scheme on Shakespeare to prepare for their summer production, Macbeth. With the kids taking the reins in terms of interpretation and style, we're guessing this will be a very gothic and spooky performance. Watch this space!

As ever, my heartfelt gratitude goes to the KRYPT team for their incredibly hard work and brilliance, and to the support we get from others at the theatre: Jane and the front of house team, Keith and the set builders, and Hilary, Anne and Bob for their energy and expertise!

Photos by
Beth Dalton

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Watch this space for news, or email krypt@rosetheatre.co.uk to register interest for any budding performers you know!

KRYPTfest 2022: Comedy and Tragedy

During the first week of the summer holidays, a fantastic group of young performers joined us for our Summer School. Our theme was Comedy and Tragedy, and we kicked off the week in style with a fantastic comedic workshop delivered by our very own Richard Taylor. Inspired by this, the Summer Company explored a range of texts and styles, from Wilde's witticisms to Greek masked theatre. The work we shared at the end of the week was absolutely fantastic and the feedback from parents and members was really lovely.

KRYPTfest 2023: Jumping through Genres!

24th - 28th July 2023 (Monday and Tuesday evening sessions): "Make new friends as we reveal the hidden secrets of theatre making, dipping our toes into different genres and creating a presentation styled as 'a flick through your telly-box.' Open to ages 8-18, this fun-filled week is sure to delight!"

Home of THE ROSE THEATRE


THE NONENTITIES Society

Tom and Linda are trying to help and his two brothers are messing up his chances. Think smuggled brandy and cigarettes, a bag full of body parts, and two refugees who are no help at all!

TOM, DICK & HARRY

By Ray & Michael Cooney

Mon 23rd - Sat 28th January



THE ROSE THEATRE KIDDERMINSTER
Box Office 01562 743745 / www.rosetheatre.co.uk

THE REST OF THE SEASON...

Home of THE ROSE THEATRE


THE NONENTITIES Society

A simple tale of love and inspiration as the ordinary folks from a Yorkshire village conquer the world and pay a remarkable tribute to one of their own.

CALENDAR GIRLS

A Play by Tim Firth

Mon 20th - Sat 25th February



THE ROSE THEATRE KIDDERMINSTER
Box Office 01562 743745 / www.rosetheatre.co.uk

Home of THE ROSE THEATRE

THE NONENTITIES Society

Grips compulsively. A richly suggestive and beautifully written piece of work which was placed third on a list of the greatest theatrical works since 2000.

THE CHILDREN

by Lucy Kirkwood

Mon 27th March - Sat 1st April

THE ROSE THEATRE KIDDERMINSTER
Box Office 01562 743745 / www.rosetheatre.co.uk

Home of THE ROSE THEATRE

THE NONENTITIES Society

When you arrive at the party only to find the host wounded in bed and the wife missing... Scandals are detrimental to careers! Rumours must be suppressed at all costs!

RUMOURS

A Comedy by NEIL SIMON



Mon 8th - Sat 13th May

THE ROSE THEATRE KIDDERMINSTER
Box Office 01562 743745 / www.rosetheatre.co.uk

Don't forget to book your tickets!

Jan. 23 - 28	TOM, DICK & HARRY by Ray & Michael Cooney
Feb. 20-25	CALENDAR GIRLS by Tim Firth
Mar 27-Apr 1 <i>(Studio)</i>	THE CHILDREN by Lucy Kirkwood
May 8-13	RUMOURS by Neil Simon
June 12-17	NELL GWYNN by Jessica Swale

Home of THE ROSE THEATRE

THE NONENTITIES Society

*"They've disgraced our trade. Raised our art. They've put a woman on the stage."
"Bewdy and brilliant... a wonderful, warm hearted and generous piece of theatrical history."*

Nell Gwynn

By Jessica Swale

An amateur production by arrangement with Nick Horn Books

Mon 12th - Sat 17th June 2023

THE ROSE THEATRE KIDDERMINSTER
Box Office 01562 743745 / www.rosetheatre.co.uk



Special Offer!

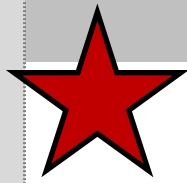
PRE-THEATRE MEAL OFFER! We're delighted to announce that our local pub - The Hare and Hounds on Stourbridge Road - is offering 10% discount on all food orders when a ticket to a Rose Theatre production is shown! The pub couldn't be closer and serves a varied menu to suit all tastes. Check out the details at www.hareandhoundskidderminster.co.uk If you want to take advantage of this offer, please remember to have your ticket with you!

DON'T FORGET TO EAT IN TIME FOR CURTAIN UP!



EVENTS

Open Day



Not much so far, but more to come!

I sent out a letter to everyone earlier in the season asking for ideas about what YOU would like from us. Many ideas were put forward, from workshops to quiz nights, so we will be organising more for you in the near future. Here are a few of the things we have done so far, both old and new, so keep an eye on your emails
XXX



In September we traditionally open our doors to the general public so they can come in and see our lovely theatre and see how it works! Members gather to take them on tours, and displays are set up to show them what we do and how we do it. It's lovely to chat to them over coffee and biscuits and hear how impressed they are. We often get people joining on the strength of our commitment and enthusiasm, and we welcome anyone who expresses an interest in any aspect of our life. **Spread the word!**

Un-Christmas Party



Fancy a Christmas De-Stress!

Why not dump all the wrapping and baking for an evening and come along for a pre Christmas drink. Bring your cards: A post box will be there and Santa may drop by to deliver them for you! Come and have a relaxing evening with us, a bit of nice music and friendly chat.

The Bar will be open and we hope to have a few nibbles.

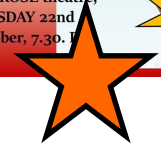
There will be a few fun games and other silly things, and a PRIZE for the worst Christmas jumper!

We will all be exhausted after the Shows, so lets chill, celebrate our successes, and raise a glass to the future!

ATTENTION!
An UN-Christmas party!

R.S.V.P.
or we won't know how many to cater for!

@ the ROSE theatre,
THURSDAY 22nd
December, 7.30.



Thanks to Alan and Anne for opening the Bar, and Hilary for the delicious nibbles. Silly games and lovely chats abounded. Thank you all for coming!

STUFFING DAY

Monday 9th January, when we all gathered together for a good chat and cakes, while stuffing a few thousand envelopes with our new brochures to send out to our patrons!



Keep the ideas coming!

