



# THE PALACE THEATRE CLUB NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2013

The Palace Theatre Club exists to support our local professional theatre in various ways and to promote interest in live theatre generally

### COME AND VISIT THE PALACE

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**OTHER COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS**  
Kathy Axson  
Delia Costello  
Diana Kemp



### BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

Please make bookings for new trips in **WRITING** or by **E-MAIL** before the booking date of **Tuesday 3rd December 2013** and post to Theo or Priscilla to arrive before the booking day and marked with PTC on the envelope. If e-mailing please could you send to both Priscilla and Theo to ensure it reaches at least one of them safely. All envelopes will be opened on the booking day. Thereafter bookings can be made by post, e-mail or phone. For outings and other events for which bookings are already open bookings can be made at any time, by post, e-mail or phone. Please enclose a SAE for your receipt. You can also book at the Saturday morning meetings where there are booking slips available to take home.

\* All calls should be made to land lines. Mobile numbers should be used in an emergency on day of outing only

**A WARM WELCOME**

The Club would like to welcome the following new members. We hope you enjoy the Club meetings and activities and also join us in giving support to the Palace Theatre:

**Maria Bojang  
Linda Martin  
Annie Dennett  
Michael & Marion  
Horner  
Mr & Mrs M Wellstead  
Sally Graham  
Paula Dartnall  
Brenda & Brian Frost  
Janet George  
Sheila Langdon  
Mrs H Skinner**

**2013 to 2014  
MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Hopefully most of you will have renewed your Membership – but for anyone who has not there will be a final reminder with this Newsletter and then those who have not paid will be taken off the list!

Please do not hesitate to contact Ann Whittington our Membership Secretary whose details are on the front page if you have any queries.

**AMATEUR AWARD 2013**

Well we have certainly had an impressive selection of amateur plays at the Palace this year - both main house and in the Dixon Studio. Further details of the Amateur Award will be in the next Newsletter – but get thinking about all those great shows you have seen and which were your preferred ones!!

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Don't forget to keep up to date with local arts news, events and reviews on the **SOUTHEND ARTS COUNCIL** website - **SOSAC.CO.UK**  
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**CLUB FOYER MEETINGS**

**PLEASE NOTE** that our Saturday foyer meetings are held at the Palace Theatre. They take place between 10 to 12 midday in the foyer on the first Saturday in the month. This is your chance to come and meet fellow members, have a cup of coffee and chat to the Committee of your Club. Sometimes we have a taster of up and coming shows to entertain you too! You can also make bookings for our outings and trips as well as book for forthcoming shows at the Palace Theatre.

**Plus do not forget that you save the venue booking fees at both the Palace and the Cliffs by being a member of the Club so do remember to say when booking your tickets! You will though still have to pay agency booking fees that are sought by some touring shows as these are ones that do not go to direct the venue and cannot be waived by Southend Theatres.**

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

We are sending some of you the Newsletter by email rather than by post. This means you will receive it in colour and at the same time roughly as it is received in the post.

We are quite happy to provide the Newsletter by email – all you need to do is email your details to our Secretary Jan at: **janetrwallis@yahoo.co.uk**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

We will be holding our AGM next year on Sat 8th March 2014. As usual this will held be at Trinity Methodist Church at 2.30. We will have some nomination slips available at our foyer meetings if anyone is interested in joining the Committee – there are vacancies to fill and we would love some more help. Please speak to any of our Committee members if you would like to offer your services. Please remember that this is your Club so if you have any ideas about fund raising, outings or anything you would like to see the Club do - never hesitate to let the committee know!



*Season's greetings to all of you from the Committee*

*Come and join us for our foyer meeting on Sat 4th January 2013 and have some nibbles and a glass of wine to celebrate the Christmas season.*

*Also Vivienne Axson our former Treasurer would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas too and thanks you all for your good wishes!*

the white bus  
film exhibition education production



**THE WHITE BUS: "FILMS AT THE PALACE"**

Local film and media company The White Bus is pleased to be continuing its association with the Palace Theatre. From October 1932 to March 1933 the Palace was a full-time cinema, and The White Bus brings big screen entertainment back to this lovely theatre every month or so. Hopefully some of you enjoyed our recent screening of *Les Miserables*.

We're back to our usual day for our following presentation, the heart-warming comedy drama *Song for Marion*, which is playing on Sunday 24th November and then our following presentation, on Sunday 15th December, will be our seasonal 'Films for Christmas'. To cater for all tastes, we have separate performances of the children's favourite *Elf* (at 1pm), teenagers' delight *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (at 4pm) and the wonderful, sublime, heart-warming classic *Holiday Inn* (at 7.30pm), in which Bing Crosby first sang the all-time favourite '*White Christmas*'.

Tickets are just £6 (obtainable from the theatre box office). There will be the usual full supporting programme. For those with access to a computer, full details of all our forthcoming films and events can be found at [www.thewhitebus.org.uk/events](http://www.thewhitebus.org.uk/events), where you can also sign up to receive our e-mail newsletters, which provide details about all our films and events.

David Simpson  
01702 464733

**ART – AUDIENCE OF REGIONAL THEATRE**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

The annual weekend for ART members was held in Portsmouth again as it was two years ago we were last there – but this time with a difference. Sadly, it was decided at the AGM held on the Sunday that this would be our last one, for a variety of reasons as with many other Clubs. But we are going to have one last get-together next year on a date to be decided, when we shall meet at the Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon for lunch followed by a matinee performance. It will be the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the formation of ART organised by Pat Lawrence who has worked so hard for the last 20 years. Thank you Pat!

On Friday the theatre performance wasn't until the evening so Janet Tricker and I took the bus from our hotel on the sea-front to Gunwharf Quays and started off by going up the Spinnaker Tower. I did this two years and had enthused so much about it to Janet that she also wanted to experience it; she said it was just as exciting as expected. Then Janet went to the Royal Historic Dockyard and to learn all about the Mary Rose while I went in all the Outlet Shops – that was exciting too!

After an early tea at the hotel, we went by coach to the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton to see “Slava’s Snowshow”. I don’t know if any of you have seen it but it was definitely something new and unexpected, quite difficult to describe so I have lifted a few quotes to give you an idea: *‘The famous Snow Show – an immersion in the marvellous world of dreams and imagination, the world of childhood revived’* – *“dozens of countries have enjoyed the antics of Assissiai”* – At the beginning of 2013 Slava was the Artistic Director of the Saint Petersburg Russian State Circus. The end of the performance was quite literally mayhem with tons of small strips of paper showering us (snow) huge balloons bouncing round the auditorium all the young people were shouting, screaming, laughing, running round the theatre, and obviously enjoying themselves enormously. So although some of party enjoyed it, others did not - but it did create lots of discussion afterwards which is good.

On Saturday the coach took us to Chichester where we had free time before the matinee performance of “Another Country”. The weather was really hot and sunny so it was lovely to look round the Cathedral and have morning coffee outside in the gardens. This play at the Minerva theatre, being completely different to Friday’s play was excellent and I think everybody really enjoyed it.

After the AGM on Sunday morning, we had a talk about the new Theatre Royal, Portsmouth by Josh Brown - Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The Theatre is in the process of being rebuilt and on schedule to re-open in the autumn next year. It would be nice to go back there to see a performance of the opening show.

Sadly, this will be the last report on ART weekends but we will give you an updated on the final get together next year.

Paddi Cole

**SOUTHEND SCOUT AND GUIDE GANG SHOW**

ESTABLISHED 1966



1966 Show

Forty Seven years ago, one hundred Scouts and Guides met to perform at the Palace Theatre and this was to be the first of twenty five shows, which includes our next one in 2014.

“With no Dixon Studio to extend into, in the first show we were very, very crowded in the dressing rooms which included two under the stage “ says David Goddard who has been involved in all of the shows. “I think one of the highlights was when we were sitting on tiered seating on the stage, wearing white navy tops and we all took out a white hanky, formed a screen which a naval ship was then projected onto”

Even then, the production team were ambitious and we have continued to aim high. We have had singing frogs, flying circus tents and flying carpets, we’ve presented The Willow Pattern, the Owl and the Pussy Cat and the Ugly Duckling and sung lots and lots of songs, and even signed some.

Our cast is made up from Scouts and Guides from around the Southend area, over the years we have given over 1,060 young people the opportunity to perform on a professional stage and another 100 musicians accompanied them.

They are supported by a truly dedicated staff, over the years, nearly 200 of them and nearly half of them have progressed through the cast.

So why do we do it, it’s fun for the staff and the cast, it gives the young people confidence to perform, often those who have no previous performing experience, it showcases what the Guide and Scout Associations can do and it provides a very entertaining evening for our audiences. We hope to see you there to see the results of four months hard, but fun, work.



**A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM KELLY ABOUT FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

**Family Music Day**

**Meet the Percussion: Family Matinee**

*Sunday 26 January 2014, 12pm – Palace Theatre*

This interactive family mini-concert will feature members of the UK's favourite Orchestra - the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Musicians from the Orchestra's percussion section will lead you on an inspirational journey that will include opportunities to hear new pieces of music; discover new instruments and find out more about instruments that you might already know! This is a perfect opportunity for young families to meet the Orchestra and find out more about the world of percussion in this friendly, informal and – above all – fun concert.

*Recommended for 5-12 year olds.*

Tickets: £5.00

Family Ticket (concert and workshop for 2 adults, 2 children): £28.00

**Meet the Percussion: Family Workshops**

*Sunday 26 January 2014, 10 & 11am – Palace Theatre, Dixon Studio Theatre*

Join members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra percussion section ahead of their *Meet the Percussion* family matinee to take part in an exciting mixture of musical games and to play with these top-notch musicians. Many of the instruments that you will see in the matinee concert will be available for you to try out and create your own unique piece of music. No instrumental skills are necessary, but if you've got any kind of instrument, please do bring it along – adults included!

Ages 10am: 5 – 8 year olds & 11am: 9 – 12 year olds

Workshop Only: £5.00

Workshop & Ticket combined price: £8.00

**Have-a-Play**

*Sunday 26 January 2014 10am-12pm – Palace Theatre, Foyer*

If you have a ticket for the family workshop or the family matinee, be sure to make time to visit the Have-a-Play stations, situated around the foyers. Provided by the Southend Music Services, these stalls are the perfect opportunity for budding young musicians to try out instruments from across all the different families of the Orchestra!

*Have-a-play is only available to those with tickets to the show.*

## **Southend Playwriting Festival**

### **Tuesday 4 February – Open Mic Evening (Free Event)**

Dixon Studio

Join Sundown Arts and the Palace Writers' Group for an evening of open-mic poetry and storytelling. Whatever your style; whether it's poems, stories, anecdotes or rhymes, we have a stage waiting for you. Entry is free, and if you want to read, please email [info@sundownarts.org](mailto:info@sundownarts.org) in advance, or get there early to sign up on the night.

Sign-up: 7:15

Open-mic show: 7:45 - 10pm

*Please note there is a 5 minute cap on all performances.*

### **Wednesday 5 – Friday 7 February – Playwriting Festival**

Dixon Studio

Supported by the Palace Writers Group, Full Circle Theatre, Sundown Arts and The Palace Theatre Club, each evening brings different writers and genres together. Their work is presented as rehearsed readings and will delight audiences interested in hearing new voices. Post-performance discussions will be held with writers, actors and directors, whilst The Palace Writers' Group will be launching their anthology in the foyer before the performance.

Tickets £8.00

Concessions £6.00

Three-night ticket £15.00

***Kelly also wanted to pass on her thank you from Southend Theatre's for the Club's wonderful donations to help the Family Music Day and Playwriting Festival events go ahead!***

## **VALENTINE'S MANSION**

If you enjoyed your trip to Valentine's Mansion and would like to learn more, Georgina Green, from the Mansion is giving a talk on Sir Charles Raymond of Valentine's and the East India Company. The talk will be held at the Southend Museum, Victoria Avenue, at 7.30 on Wednesday 20 November.

All are welcome – admission is free but a donation would be appreciated.

**~ WOULD MEMBERS ~ PLEASE NOTE ~**

- All cheques to be made payable to Palace Theatre Club.
- It is inadvisable to walk down the coach while it is in motion. If you wish the driver to stop at a certain place on the return journey, then please ask him at the previous stop.
- Could members of other organisations please mention when booking e.g.: English Heritage, National Trust or Historic Houses Associations, and they will be charged accordingly.
- Non – members are only accepted on trips if there are available spaces and at an extra charge of £3.00.
- All copy for the newsletter is compiled and written by the Club Secretary unless otherwise accredited.

Would members please note that all outings are booked as far as possible in advance. We often have to wait until Theatre's announce their programme, which does not always give a great deal of notice. As an additional complication, we also have to bear in mind that the Palace is now a 'touring house' and endeavour to ensure that nothing we book for is likely to appear at the Palace or the Cliffs! As we are primarily about Theatre, we book these outings first, and then fill in with other outings to places of interest, and so these too are not booked too far in advance as we await potential theatre outings first. Rest assured all dates are given as soon as possible.

**If you are interested in an outing, please do book it by the booking date if possible – often whilst the pay by date and the actual outing date may be a little way off, we often have to pay for the tickets soon after booking – just as you do when you purchase your theatre tickets and it really helps us to have an idea how many tickets we need to purchase!**

**PICK-UP TIMES**

All timings given are the **actual** coach leaving times (unless the pick-up has been completed before then). If you know that you will be delayed and not able to reach the coach by the leaving time, please telephone Theo or Priscilla on their mobile telephones in case it is possible to delay the coach for you. Please only use these numbers on the day of the trip or in emergency: **Theo 07717 613527 Priscilla 07717 625531**

Our timings for pick-ups are rather generous and, depending on traffic conditions and the number of stops, we are generally at each pick-up about 10 minutes before the specified time. Most of our members are at their pick-up points even before this earlier time so this can sometimes mean that the coach may wait for about 15 minutes for someone who may not turn up. This can be worrying for members further along the route. In future we will leave each pick-up point at the specified time, or as soon as the pick-up has been completed, so it would be appreciated if you could be at your pick-up point at least five minutes before the stated time. If you require an alternative drop off, please mention this to Theo or Priscilla rather than the driver. We hope that this will avoid delays on both journeys.

As a safety measure, drivers do not leave each stop until everyone is seated. Your assistance with this would be appreciated.

**Cost of outings**

You may have noticed that the cost of some outings has increased. Apart from the extra cost of coaches, some theatres no longer give group rates but use a pensioner rate which is usually slightly higher. Where group rates are used, extra tickets purchased after the bulk has been paid are also sometimes at a higher cost as they are treated as an individual purchase rather than additions to the group.

We try to obtain the best price for tickets and are sure that you will understand the reasons for what might seem more expensive outings. At the end of the day we will always aim to provide best value outings whilst raising funds for the Palace Theatre.



**OUTINGS ALREADY OPEN FOR BOOKING**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH - SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER**

Our Christmas Lunch will again be held at the Maritime Room of the Cliffs Pavilion. As usual the meal will be three courses and coffee and it will be possible to purchase wine from the bar.

The timing of the meal is 12.30 for 1.00 but if, depending on public transport, you arrive earlier, you are welcome to enjoy a coffee in the coffee lounge. The Cliffs require a pre-booked menu, so it would be helpful if you would give your choice of menu at the same time as booking the lunch.

**Roast Parsnip, Potato and Leak Soup**

with parmesan and tomato croutons

**Hand Carved Scottish Smoked Salmon**

with a potato, red onion and chive salad

**Fine Forest Mushroom, Pancetta and Herb Ragout**

with toasted garlic ciabatta

**Finest Roast Beef**

served with Yorkshire pudding, fondant potato, winter vegetables and red wine gravy

**Traditional Roast Turkey**

with sage and chestnut stuffing, pigs in blankets, fondant potato,  
winter vegetables and rich cranberry jus

**Poached Fillet of Salmon with Hollandaise sauce.**

crushed baby potatoes, and winter vegetables

**Roasted Butternut Squash, Sweet Potato and Walnut Bake**

with fondant potato and winter vegetables

**Traditional Christmas Pudding**

served with brandy sauce

**Baked Vanilla Cheesecake**

with winter berry compote

**Fig, Plum and Pistachio Frangipane Tart**

served with Chantilly cream and cherry glaze

**Cheese and Biscuits**

Tea, Coffee and Mince Pie

The cost of the meal is £22

Pay by 2nd November

**TIME OF MY LIFE BY ALAN AYCKBOURN**

**Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford**

**Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 at 2.30 pm**

It is Laura Stratton's birthday and, to celebrate the event, her husband Gerry, their two sons and their partners are gathered for an evening out in the family's favourite restaurant. The dinner turns out to be a significant moment in all their lives with repercussions for years to come. The first revival by the author since its premiere in 1992

Cost including theatre, coach and driver's gratuity - £39.50      If seats are available, coach only - £18

Leaving Palace – 9.00 a.m.

Pay by date – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**OUTINGS ALREADY OPEN FOR BOOKING**

**OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR - STRATFORD E15**

**THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2014 – 2.00 pm**

Next year is the 50th anniversary of the Joan Littlewood's production of this musical and to celebrate the event the theatre where it all started is putting it on again. If you haven't seen the stage production, you have probably seen the musical as the Richard Attenborough produced film which starred John Mills, Dirk Bogarde, John Gielgud and Kenneth Moore.

Before visiting the theatre, we will spend the morning in the new Westfield Shopping Centre where there will be time for lunch. The theatre is very close to the Centre.

**Cost – including theatre, coach and driver's gratuity £30**

**Pay by date – Saturday 1 February 2014**

**Leaving Palace – 9.00**

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**WEEKEND AWAY 2014**

**THURSDAY 10 TO SUNDAY 13 APRIL 2014**

**PETERBOROUGH**

Our weekend away will take place in Peterborough where we have been able to arrange accommodation at the Holiday Inn, which is situated in landscaped gardens 2.5 miles from the City Centre.

Our provisional plan is that on the Thursday after a coffee break we will stop in Cambridge where there will be time for lunch and explore the town or, if possible, go to the theatre if there is a suitable performance.

The arrangements for Friday and Saturday are very flexible at the moment. Our current plan for the two days is time in Peterborough, visits to Stamford, Ely, Belton House, and Island Hall (a private house owned by Christopher and Lady Linda Vane Percy with a tour guided by a member of the family). The itinerary for these two days will depend on whether we attend a matinee in Cambridge or an evening performance on the Friday or Saturday in Peterborough, if indeed a theatre trip is possible. We will not be able to make definite arrangements until theatre programmes are available. As usual, you are free not to join the trip planned for either Friday or Saturday if you would prefer to spend the time in another way.

On our return home on Sunday we will make a coffee stop at a Garden Centre near Bury St Edmunds and then to Southwold for lunch and to spend afternoon.

The cost of the weekend is £185 per person in a twin room and £225 for those in a single room. All rooms are double or twin.

The cost includes three nights' accommodation, full English breakfast, dinner, all coach journeys and driver's gratuity. Additional costs will include theatre tickets and entry to Island Hall and Belton House. (Belton House is a NT property so therefore free for members.)

It is highly recommended that you obtain travel insurance because if the Club is involved in any out-of-pocket expenses on your behalf, you will need to reimburse the Club and therefore you may want to claim on your insurance. If you have not arranged your own insurance, this is available from Cooks at a cost of £21.50. Insurance from the Post Office or an insurance company may be cheaper.

Deposit of £30, plus insurance if required, payable by 5th October and the balance by 8 February.

Taking bookings from 2nd October.

Priscilla and Theo

**NEW OUTING FOR THE BOOKING DATE 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

**MOON TIGER**

**Rose Theatre, Kingston-upon-Thames**  
**Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 2.30 p.m.**

**Starring Jane Asher**

Compelling, moving and eloquent, one of the great novels of the 20th century is brought to the stage for the first time. Winner of the 1987 Booker Prize, Penelope Lively's *Moon Tiger* is a haunting story of loss and desire.

Claudia Hampton is a popular historian, a strong, beautiful and difficult woman. Now in her seventies, she is plotting her greatest work – a history of the world. She looks back over her life growing up between the wars and remembers the people who have shared its triumphs and tragedies. There is Gordon, her adored brother, Jasper, the charming, untrustworthy lover and father of her daughter, and Tom, her one great love, both found and lost during the El Alamein campaign when she worked as a war correspondent. Against a background of world events, Claudia's own remarkable story provokes a sharp combination of sadness, shock and amusement.

Dame Penelope Lively is a prolific, popular and critically-acclaimed author of fiction for both children and adults

**Cost including theatre, coach and driver's gratuity - £37.50**

**If seats are available, coach only - £18**

**Leaving Palace – 9.00 a.m.                  Pay by date – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Theatre pay-by date: Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014**

**REMEMBER**  
**THE FIRST FOYER MEETING OF THE YEAR**  
**AT THE PALACE**  
**– SAT 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014**  
**WILL BE WINE AND NIBBLES TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR!**

**DIARY DATES**

**BOOKING DATE - TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

|                                                  | <b>DATE</b>                                     | <b>EVENT</b>                | <b>COST</b>   | <b>PAY BY DATE</b> | <b>PALACE LEAVING TIME</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
|                                                  | Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2013               | Foyer Meeting               | Palace        | Theatre            | 10.00 – 12.00              |
|                                                  | Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2013              | Christmas Lunch             | £22           | 02/11/2013         | 12.30 for 1pm              |
| <b>WINE AND NIBBLES IN FOYER &amp; Gang Show</b> | Sat 4 January 2014                              | Foyer Meeting               | Palace        | Theatre            | 10.00 – 12.00              |
|                                                  | Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2014             | Guildford                   | £39.50        | 07/12/2013         | 9.00 am                    |
| <b>1912 in Foyer with Secret Garden</b>          | Sat 1st February 2014                           | Foyer Meeting               | Palace        | Theatre            | 10.00 – 12.00              |
| <b>NEW FOR BOOKING DATE</b>                      | <b>Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b>      | <b>Kingston upon Thames</b> | <b>£37.50</b> | <b>4/01/2014</b>   | <b>9.00 am</b>             |
|                                                  | Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2014               | Stratford East              | £30           | 1/02/2014          | 9.00 am                    |
|                                                  | 10 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2014 | WEEKEND AWAY PETERBOROUGH   | See Page      | 10 for             | details                    |

**WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE**

Although we have a "pay-by" date when members need to pay the Club for outings, there is usually an earlier date by which the Club has to pay for theatre tickets. Both the date the Club has to pay the theatre and the date when members need to pay the Club will in future be shown below the details for each outing. Please note that if you need to cancel your booking after the theatre has been paid but before you have paid for the outing, you are committed to paying for the outing unless a replacement is able to take over your booking. We are sure that you will appreciate the need for this measure as we are raising funds for the theatre and cannot afford to run outings at a loss.