

**Wishing all our readers
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year**

THE
ROSE
THEATRE

SPRING/
SUMMER
2020

Featuring
THE
NONENTITIES
Society



THE ROSE THEATRE | KIDDERMINSTER
BOX OFFICE: 01562 743745 www.rosetheatre.co.uk

Newsletter
December
2019



by Bob Graham

First of all, I must thank everyone for their support in my first year as Chairman and I am already looking forward to the challenges that this coming year will bring.

I was sad to see Pat Gale and Joan Wakeman leave the committee, as they have both always been the givers of sound and wise advice, but it will give them both more time to help out in other areas of the theatre: Pat is still very active with Jen in the Production

Advisory Group and both she and Joan are currently working on 'Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue, S'il Vous Plaît', Joan having just given a wonderful performance as Patricia in 'The Herd'.

Just as I was sad that some committee members stood down, I am in the same measure delighted to welcome Neil Chamberlain and Amy Baker as elected managers to the committee, having been co-opted last year; Faye Bingham, who vacated her post as box office manager to become one of the five members representatives and Jane Holt, who has volunteered as front of house manager. Jane is very keen to get to know everyone in the theatre and I know she is planning to contact you all about front of house opportunities going forward as her column explains. Welcome to all four.

We do still have vacancies for wardrobe manager and the vacated box office manager. If anyone is interested in taking either role or would consider setting up a small team to manage the department in the way that Ros Casewell and Helen Speake have brilliantly tackled props, then I would be only too glad to hear from you.

Christmas is one of the busiest times of the year in the theatre in terms of footfall, as we have three productions back to back: 'The Railway Children', the annual Christmas Entertainment and Krypt's sold out production 'Once upon a Panto'. It is all hands to the pumps and I am happy to say that at the time of writing, all our front of house roles are filled, but I feel I must also thank our friends from Kidderminster Operatic and Dramatic Society for their help in providing chaperones for 'The Railway Children' as well as members of Wymysical Theatre for their contribution to this year's Christmas Entertainment.

I thank every single one of you for your hard work and commitment to our society this year and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous new year.





by Jane Holt

Hello! May I take this opportunity to introduce myself? My name is Jane Holt and I have recently taken on the role of FOH manager, following in Joan's footsteps. I am immensely looking forward to assuming my new role within Nonentities and getting to know you all.



FREE
DRINK
FROM
THE
BAR

OR
AN
ICECREAM
OF YOUR
CHOICE

FREE
TICKETS

I'm hoping that as many of you as possible will help support me by signing up for the odd FOH shift. Just a gentle reminder that acting members are expected to do some FOH duties, when possible, and it's so much easier if we can share out the duties. We are a happy team and there are lots of perks to this role. If you would like to be able to give away free tickets to your family and friends for a Nonentities production, you can earn these by signing up to just 6 FOH shifts. Moreover, outside productions earn double points, so those points can quickly accumulate! During the second half of the performance, after all the hard work is done, you can relax with a complimentary drink from the bar or choose something from our wide selection of ice creams. At times you will get the opportunity to see shows for free when sitting in with the audience. It's also nice to spend time with the audience while serving tea and coffee. If you would like to 'shadow' any FOH duty to find out what the duty involves, please contact me on janeholt61@gmail.com and I will try to arrange this. Thank you to everyone who supported me in taking on this role and to Gary for his help.

SEE
SHOWS
FOR
FREE

DOUBLE
POINTS FOR
OUTSIDE
SHOWS

SHADOWING
CAN
BE
ARRANGED



Don't forget Stuffing Day in the New Year. It's on Tuesday 7th January from 10am onwards until the envelopes are stuffed – then time to stuff yourselves with a delicious early sandwich lunch!



A reminder from the set building team to all that during the day we need set builders and painters. Just ring in the day before and check if there is work to be done. 10.00 till 1.00 on a weekday for those not working full time. It can be fun, messy and a chance to see a different side of the theatre.



Essential work! No set – no play!



From the A.D.'s safe room!

by Jen Eglinton



Well, another lovely production completed last night, and what a feel-good show *Railway Children* was! I thoroughly enjoyed it and really felt the nostalgia. Think there must have been a lot of dust in the auditorium, as my eyes watered a bit at the end. Only another rendition of the immensely popular Christmas Entertainment to go, plus KRYPT's seasonal offering, and we are into Christmas! Audience responses have been very good so far this season, so let's keep it that way. What have we next year? Off we go into the second part of our season, with more exciting plays to go (yes I know traditionally the January play is included in the first half), and I am sure we will be able to give our audiences more varied and challenging performances!

Farndale is into rehearsal with our new directors, Martin Salter and Pat Gale, and is promising to be a scream, as the Townswomen's Guild Am. Dram. Soc. bumble their way through a French Farce. Heaven knows what they will do or what messes they will get into as they become tangled up with their changes of costume, props and scenery! I just hope they all survive!

Rehearsals for *Much Ado* are scheduled to begin on the 30th December, and I am having abridged scripts printed for distribution, as there are a lot of cuts. If anyone wants a copy of the No Fear Shakespeare edition, where the original words are on one page, and the modern translation is on the other, I have 5 copies available. Just let me know. We can circulate them as necessary.



There have been several changes in casting, so here is the final list. I had forgotten how accessible and funny this play is, so look forward to working with you all.

Benedick
Beatrice
Don Pedro
Don John
Claudio
Leonato
Antonio
Borachio
Conrad/ Messenger
Hero

Richard Taylor
Tori Wakeman
Tom Rees
John Spencer
Chris Kay
Bob Graham
Tony Newbould
Matthew Morgan
Jonathan Flowers
Beth Grainger

Margaret
Ursula
Dogberry (Watch)
Maria Verges (Watch)
Tina Seacole (Watch)
Gina Oatcake (Watch)
Lina (Watch)
Mina (Watch)
Father Francis
The Sexton

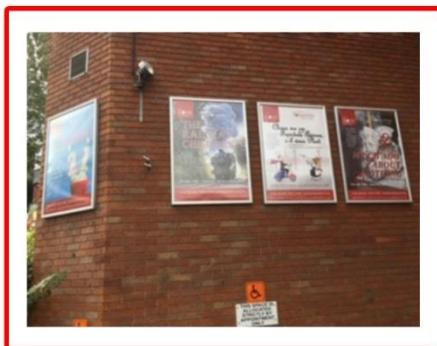
Jessica Schneider
Jane Williams
Pat Gale
Sue Hunt
Katy Ball
Dink Widdowson
Emma Preece
Jessica Bishop
Dan Taylor
Nick Haynes



by Anne Booth

You may have noticed that we are trying to improve the displays and frames for the posters in and around the theatre. The aim is to have a uniform look with frames in the bar and the foyer (behind the toilet doors also!) It's a regular task for Gary to rotate them all and he does a great job. We have purchased some A0 frames for the side of the building – I know, they could always be bigger but we have to consider the cost of printing bigger posters!

There are also new A1 frames which are actually the correct size for the posters. Thanks to Alan Booth and Andrew Davie for helping to erect them. One day we might get round to lighting them!



'Left a bit, right a bit ...'



Committee for 2019- 2020

Executive Officers

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Artistic Director

Bob Graham
Tori Wakeman
Mo Higgins
Brian Gale
Jen Eglinton

Trustees

John Gaston
Pamela Meredith
David Wakeman
Colin Young

Executive Managers

Front of House Manager
Membership Manager
Publicity Manager
Society Stage Manager
Technical Manager
Maintenance Manager
Box Office Manager
Wardrobe Manager

Jane Holt
Hilary Thompson
Anne Booth
Keith Higgins
Amy Baker
Neil Chamberlain
Vacancy
Vacancy

Members' Representatives

Katy Ball
Andy Bingham
Faye Bingham
Richard Casewell
Hannah Tolley

PAG

Jen Eglinton
Pat Gale
Hannah Tolley
Tori Wakeman



Hilary Thompson

Gosh! It's hardly any time since the last Newsletter and we have been really busy in the first half of the season.

Having had a successful last season with 15 new members, we were looking for new members who wanted to act. Lo and behold – success! In the last two months we have had six new acting members,

who are also keen to do whatever else is needed of them, including FOH. Dean Meusz is also joining and will help wherever he can. So welcome to Matthew Morgan, Matt Terrado, Jonathan Flowers, Chris Meusz, John Spencer and Emma Preece. As they appeared just before casting it has been possible to cast them if they were available. If they were not available, they will certainly be in the frame for next season. Thanks to Barry Shufflebotham for some set painting as a new member.

Just to say that Andrew Davie, who does lights and sound for us has been in hospital recently but he is now out and thankfully recovering. We need those lights and sound creative skills as the team is quite small. Anyone interested in learning these skills would be really welcome as, when someone is poorly, we really miss them. Amy Baker, our Tech Manager, would be keen to talk to anyone who wants to develop these skills. Carolyn Brinton, who many will know, has also been in hospital as an emergency but is out now and recovering. Our love to her. And then – gosh! Our ultimate member stalwart and Trustee – Pam Meredith – broke her wrist! She's not now able to trip up in the Farn-dale farce but will be up and running soon.

Good news

Congratulations to Rachel (née Lawrence) Neesham and her husband Alex on the birth of Rowan Rose born on 5th December and weighing in at 7lb 8oz.

The Society goes from strength to strength – we have managed to cast a number of large cast plays for the next half of the season.

Bad news

Perhaps you could check if your subs have expired. I will be checking the casting and crew lists for the second half.

No subs paid – no acting or crew or fun! Subs are a commitment to the Nonentities Society – and make you a member. (It also means you are insured and have a vote in the Society.)

Hilary





by Becca Williams



Autumn Term is coming to a close at KRYPT, and that can only mean one thing... Panto time!

Our members are off on a journey through Pantoland to help Fairy Goodie Two-shoes recover her magic wand from the scheming villain, Bumbling Barry. Will they get there in time to save the day?! ... Of course they will, it's Pantomime. Our members and our fantastic KRYPT team have worked incredibly hard on this production, but special mention to those Nonentities close to us who have shown their support this term - thanks to Sue for costuming our dwarfs, Hilary for managing our stage, Anne for the posters, Joe for his work on the tech side and Amy for agreeing to run them and finally Keith, Mike and the team for their vision in turning a train station into a castle!

Speaking of trains, The Railway Children was a golden opportunity for three of our young KRYPT members to climb aboard a Nonentities' production! Louie, Mae and Luca became the Perks Children, adding the cute factor to the family show. When Luca saw the special effects used during the incoming 'rail disaster', he whispered to himself: "awesome...", which says it all! The three thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to take part.

Coming up for KRYPT in the next terms, we have a murder mystery evening, a production called 'Imagination' for our little lovelies, and 'The Wardrobe' for our Seniors.

This is a play about the historical journey of one piece of furniture, following its life from creation in Tudor times to its installation in a modern museum. It's going to be a very interesting and different piece of theatre for our Seniors, but it does come with a plea - we'd love some help to costume it authentically when the time comes! Any volunteers, please let me know!

I'll leave you with the end of our Pantomime:

And now, I've only one thing left to say... Merry Christmas to all! Now, get on your way!





by Keith Rowland

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, Laura Hines, the Community Liaison Officer for this important lottery funded project at Severn Valley Railway also attends the Heritage Opportunities Group's meetings. The Nonentities has always had strong links with the SVR, providing scary figures to haunt the Halloween trains and we did our photo shoot for Railway Children at Kidderminster station!



Thus, an easy way to show our support for the critical repair project being undertaken by the SVR agreed by the Rose Committee, is for Laura to have a display about the project in the foyer during the 'Railway Children' production and for it to be mentioned in the programme.

Future support and involvement may include some theatrical interpretation and voices for 2020/21 community theatre projects that the SVR hope to include in their community outreach. The idea is to help explain the origins of the SVR and background to the massive sized Falling Sands Viaduct which takes the railway over the Stour Valley and canal, just as it leaves Kidderminster Station. Nonentities' participation in this is to be led by Tori Wakeman, so we look forward to hearing more from Tori on this over the next year and how **you** could be involved!

For more details of the Falling Sands Viaduct Lottery Project take a look at their website: www.fallingsandsviaduct.org.uk



Beth Grainger, Joan Wakeman, Tori Wakeman, Richard Taylor, Chris Kay and Pat Gale covered twelve trains over four nights at the recent SVR Halloween Event. Much fun was had by all!

Josiah Mason

A "Blue Plaque" commemorating the birthplace and life of Josiah Mason was officially revealed at a short civic ceremony, attended by Anne Booth and myself, at Café Masala in Mill Street, Kidderminster. Colin Hill and colleagues from HOGs had carried out the research and made the necessary arrangements. Café Masala has an important association with the Rose, being the oft-favoured location for a mid-week late night curry during the performance week of one of our plays! So next time you're there, cast your eyes to the left of the doorway to see the plaque.



"But who is Josiah Mason?" I hear you asking ... He was an important industrialist engaged in pen manufacture and whose pens were supplied to James Perry, a major stationer in London. He was the founder and benefactor of the Mason Science College, later to become Birmingham University. Born in 1795 on the site of the present Café Masala in Mill Street Kidderminster, he initially tried his hand at shoemaking, baking, carpentering, blacksmithing, house painting and carpet weaving, besides being a

street hawker of cakes, fruits and vegetables! There is no mention of him acting, but he would have been able to draw reference, should he have chosen to do so, from this great array of characters played out in his early work-life! And so another reference to the past cultural heritage of the town has been marked.



No acting tales this time

but a seasonal disaster, well nearly!

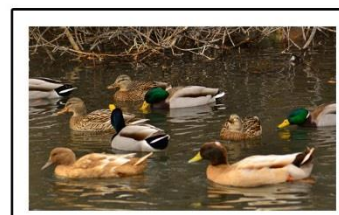
A seasonal disaster

One dark and deeply dreadful night with rain lashing down, the lower school staff took the school mini bus and went to Burford House near Tenbury to look at the gifts and garden centre. I got separated from the rest of the staff. I decided to see if they were across the garden in the garden centre. On leaving the house, two very powerful spot lights illuminating the house front, blinded me as I exited. I kept walking, feeling gravel beneath my feet, until my toes hit a wall or stair. I stood onto it expecting a firm top and found myself stepping into knee high water...I had stepped into the duck pond. I laughed myself silly and clambered out, glad it was dark and no one had seen or knew what an idiot they worked with. I made my way to the garden centre bit. By now I could see, and on finding them all looking for me near the café, we continued to wander around the plants and decorations until someone said, 'Why are there wet footprints following us everywhere?' At last, my dripping trousers and squelching shoes were noted and the truth came out. My 'friends' laughed until they had to hold onto each other to stand up...especially as we were booked into a posh restaurant for a meal and I had to sit in soggy clothes all evening and hope I didn't leave a damp seat for the next customer.

Christmas window shopping? No thanks!!

Happy (dry) Christmas

by Pat Gale



Dates for your 2020 Diary



Thursday 2nd January
Tuesday 7th January
27 January - 1st February

24th - 29th February
30th March - 4th April
11th - 16th May
15th - 20th June

Box Office re-opens *
Stuffing Day (10.00 am)
Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue,
S'il Vous Plaît
Much Ado About Nothing
Heroes
And Then There Were None
Cranford

***Box Office is closed 24th December
- 1st January inclusive**



**At the time of going to press there are still a small number
of seats available for Christmas Entertainment 2019**

Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th December

Book today to avoid disappointment!

September Newsletter Competition

Did you recognise which part of the theatre
this photo was taken in? Not quite so easy,
is it? But then, when you do find out, it
seems so obvious...

Andy Bingham claimed the prize for the first
correct answer (in an impressive 32 min-
utes after the Newsletter was published!)
Well done, Andy. I hope you enjoyed the
prosecco. Answer at the bottom of this
page.



First correct entry
wins a bottle
of prosecco!



Finally, I do hope you enjoyed this Christmas edition of the
Rose Newsletter. If you'd like to submit an article for inclu-
sion in the March edition of the Newsletter, preferably 'Rose'
/ drama related, please feel free to send it to me, ideally by
the first week in March. Anyone is welcome to submit an ar-
ticle, not just committee members. I'd love to hear from you
..... as would our readers too!

Happy Christmas, one and all.

Sue Hunt

Rose Newsletter Editor

PS. A few of you, having seen my tantalising teaser on Facebook advertising the imminent publication of
this newsletter, have asked after the identity of the hearthrob very famous actor who has recently joined
us. If you missed the mention of that news, I can assure you it's in this newsletter somewhere!

Taken in the foyer. The door frame to the left is the door leading to the box office. The two doors to the right are the doors leading to the kitchen.

The Herd

directed by Louise Fulwell

A play about a supposedly joyous family occasion, crumbling into personal chaos, anger and bitter resentment.



'At one point her bitter exchange with her mother had a true sense of reality and her pain showed through in a way that stunned the audience into further silence'.

Behind the Arras

Bob Graham 'adds a sprinkling of warm comedy to the mounting tension whilst also dispensing his Shakespearian wisdom from an armchair that he often needs help to get out of'.

Behind the Arras



Joan Wakemean 'reveals in the role as the mischievous matriarch of the family, ready to deliver her opinion to anyone who is in ear shot'.

Behind the Arras



Carol played by Katy Ball has 'plenty of opportunities to raise the anger level and her exchanges with her daughter and ex-husband, played by Martin Salter, were both powerful and heartfelt'.

Behind the Arras



Mark and Claire (played by Joe Harper and Hannah Tolley) 'have news that tightens the family ties to breaking point'.

Behind the Arras

A rare moment of tenderness between grandad and granddaughter



'At no time does your interest flag or concern for these characters wander and once again the Nonentities deliver a powerful and thoughtful production'

Behind the Arras

Railway Children

directed by Richard Taylor

One of the very finest children's stories of the 20th century, cleverly adapted for the stage by Mike Kenny.



'You don't need a real train to perform this play... the most powerful prop is the imagination of the audience, the most effective tool the skill of the actors'

Mike Kenny, adaptor

Faye Bingham was 'the spirited if not, at times, precocious Phyllis with Peter played confidently by Tom Powell. Jess Schneider was Bobbie and was tasked with the lion's share of the narration'. Behind the Arras



Jen Eglinton 'has created a splendid railway setting and the team have spared no detail in the creation' of a Railway Bridge and tunnel'. Behind the Arras



Those immortal words that reduce the audience to tears: 'Oh, my daddy, my daddy'.



Stuart Wishart was Mr Perks the station master with Becca Williams as Mrs Perks and 'both did a fine job in their supporting roles'.

Behind the Arras



The whole cast and crew

