

# Welcome to our new Autumn Season

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 24th September at 7.30.  
'Much Ado About Nothing' workshop  
(Jen Eglinton)

Tuesday 8th October at 7.30.  
'Heroes' workshop (Pam Meredith)

Tuesday 22nd October at 7.30.  
'And Then There Were None' workshop  
(Sue Downing)

Sunday 27th October at 7.30.  
AGM

Tuesday 29th October at 7.30.  
'Cranford' workshop (Bob Graham)

Monday 4th - Saturday 9th November  
Performance nights: 'The Herd' (studio)

Sunday 17th November  
All day Rehearsed Play reading. Time tbc

Monday 2nd - Saturday 7th December  
Performance night: 'Railway Children'

Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th December  
Performance nights:  
Christmas Entertainment

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd December  
Once Upon A Panto by KRYPT





# The Haunting

'Tori Wakeman directs this epic work and the company must be commended as whole for the sheer amount of detail in every facet of the play both in the performances and the technical delivery'

Behind the Arras

'the combined result lifts you at several moments out of the theatre and gives you a genuine sense of dread'

Behind the Arras



'none of this would be relevant without the stellar work of just two of The Nonentities' most experienced performers, Andy Bingham and Stuart Wishart'

Behind the Arras



'the sound design by Joseph Harper and the live cueing was exceptional. From the balance of the ghostly footsteps to distant moorland winds and blistering thunder claps - all against the onstage dialogue - to the quiet creaking of doors and key turns'

Behind the Arras

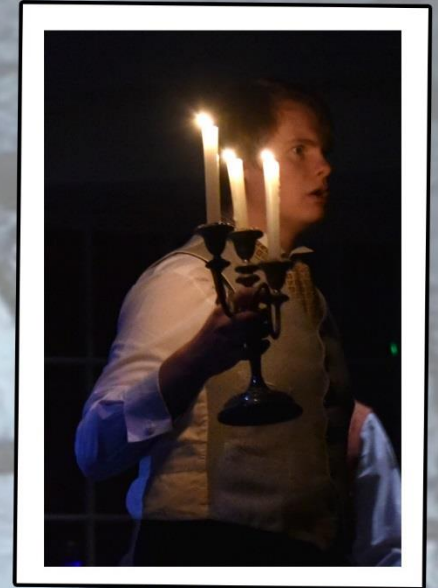






**‘Then the lighting by David Wakeman. This is probably one of the most ambitious productions for its lighting alone’**

Behind the Arras



**‘Wishart’s performance was exceptional in his poise and was the perfect, logical anti-dote to the passionate delivery of Bingham, whose character moves from servitude to virtual hysteria in the final moments’**

Behind the Arras



**‘subtle changes in isolating scary moments were crucial to the visual effects with scenes transitioning from moody candle light to day light and then the key lighted blackness and timing to reveal the horror of the scary moments were well thought out and executed’**

Behind the Arras



**‘...did I mention the ghost? She made quite an impact ...’**

Behind the Arras





# Greetings from the Chairman

**by Bob Graham**

At the time of writing, the summer recess is drawing to a close, and I am reflecting on what I think has been a successful closed season. We haven't got everything done that we'd like, but that will always be the way.

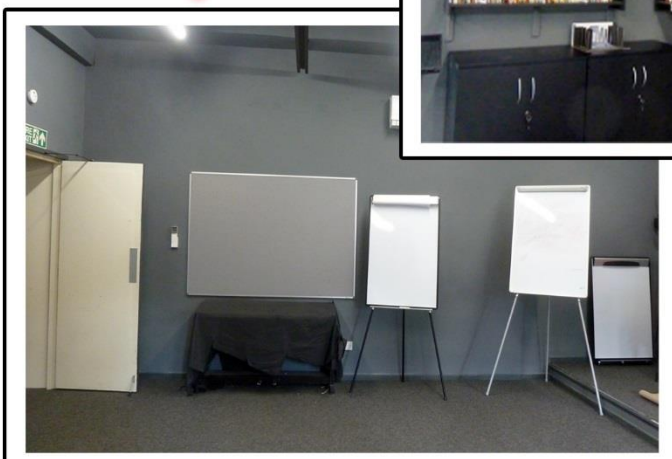
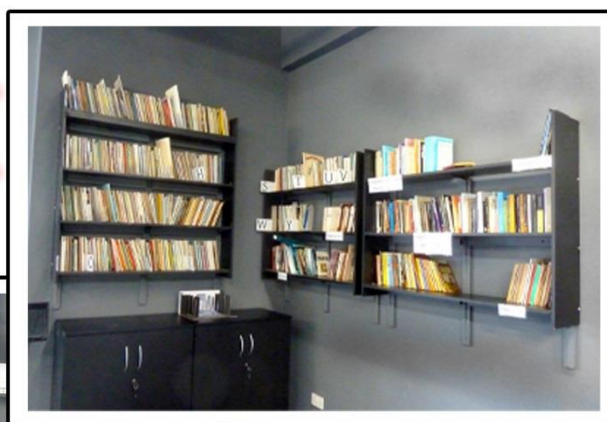
However, we should be very proud of the things that have been done. From refurbishment of the lighting box to clearing the walkways around the building's exterior, great efforts have been made by a host of members and not just on what was a very successful clear out day, but in the weeks following. Moreover, it was all done whilst creating a fabulous set for 'The Haunting', which I hope you will all have seen by the time you read this.

However, the real pièce de résistance is the Green Room refurbishment, of which you will read more in this newsletter. It was wonderful to see the camaraderie and teamwork from the members and we now have a rehearsal space that really is fit for purpose.

Last season was a reasonably successful one in terms of audience figures and the financial position of the society is still very good, but there is always room for improvement - not every show is a 'Vicar of Dibley' - so we are exploring ways of promoting our programme and over the coming months you may see us trying a few different things to hopefully improve audience figures.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed and here's to a successful 2019-20 season.

Our newly  
refurbished grey  
Green Room!





# 'Every Picture Tells a Story'

Clear Out day saw the start of the long awaited Green Room refurbishment project. Whose bright idea was that? We started with a massive clear out of furniture, books, models - you name it! As part of the project Jess and her team have sorted out all the scripts into order as well.



Getting going on Day One - Andrew, Hilary, Jess, Stephen and Sue - the 'squad' - painted for England. Andrew even washed the ceiling girders and light fittings. We were then joined by so many helpers and our illustrious Chairman played a blinder! Painting was interesting with those able to climb ladders and those not. It was a long job and Anna discovered plastering skills. So now we have really tasteful grey walls and we even did the woodwork in eggshell. Nick was the skirting board expert - how posh is that for the Rose!

Carpet fitting was booked, only to discover that we needed to completely re-board the floor. So not to be thwarted the squad ripped up the carpet and then amazing job of doing the floor ready for carpet. We were much aided and abetted in this by Colin Taylor - sawing and fitting the jigsaw pieces.

So now we have the carpet laid thanks to Steph and Matt Gibbons- this will be so great for the Youth Theatre starting back this month. New cupboards ordered - OMG - flat pack!

The next task will be to empty the Studio of all the rubbish. Studio has had a coat of paint too. Meanwhile the light and sound box has been painted courtesy of Andrew, after Keith, Mike, Alan and David manfully ripped out old extractors. David W has re-wired. Henceforth this is now 'Mission Control'.

This is now an area to be really proud of - the tidiness police will be on duty! Seriously, everyone has worked really hard. It would be invidious to list all who have helped but you know who you are.



by  
**Hilary Thompson**



# From the Artistic Director's Safe Room!

by Jen Eglinton

And so it comes around again: it doesn't seem five minutes since the end of last season! At the time of writing this, our first play of the new season, 'The Haunting', is set to run next week, and the cast and crew have put a lot of effort into creating this production. Well done to everyone: it was obvious they were having a lot of fun both on and off stage. Our first Studio play, 'The Herd', is due to start rehearsals in a couple of weeks and promises to be a belter! If you haven't already booked your tickets, please do so, and tell your friends! Both plays have excellent casts, and I promise that you won't be disappointed!

## All set for the second half?

Workshops for the first half have all been completed, and there were lots of attendees. Great fun was had, and I was pleased to see both old and new friends at the sessions! It is good to see people come along for the fun of it, even if they are not available. That's what it is all about, so please keep coming!

If you remember, 'Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue, S'il Vous Plaît' did not have a director, but I am pleased to announce that Martyn Salter has agreed to take on the burden, ably assisted and mentored by Pat Gale, a lady of many talents. The casting lists for the first half have all been sent out, and the P.A.G. have done their best to accommodate everyone who put their name down for performance, so hopefully all will be well.

Workshops for the second half have been announced, and top up availability sheets are available in the office for anyone who is new, or just wishes to amend their original submission.

A reminder that the 4 remaining workshops / read throughs will all take place either at the end of September or during October. (See 'Dates For Your Diary' page for the details.)



Please could you return any amended AV sheets to the office by the date of the A.G.M. After the workshops are completed the Directors are invited to submit their Wish Lists, and it is hoped that P.A.G. will be able to process the gathered information and announce the casting for the second half within a few weeks after this.



# Update on FOH procedures



## Duty Managers

There will be a new system for disabled parking in an attempt to simplify arrangements. Patrons requesting a space at the time of booking will be allocated a bay numbered 1 2 3 or 4. They will be sent a ticket with this number on and asked to display this in their wind-screen alongside the blue badge. We will still keep a record in the usual folder for double checking. Duty managers are advised to keep a check on the parking, particularly with visiting acts where the audience is not as familiar with our arrangements. There should always be a 'spare' steward on these nights as there will be no programmes for sale.



Please close - not lock - the entrance doors after the audience has left to prevent the public from wandering into the theatre at the end of the evening.



## Duty Manager and Steward

There's no need to collect the ticket stubs any more. Just meet and greet, help audience members to locate their seats and use the clickers which should be in the Front of House manager's pigeon hole. Fill in your total on the record sheet as usual.



## Head Stewards

FOH money record slips can be found in the set of small filing drawers near the box office microphone. We have had a little tidy up of the office!





Remember that double points will be issued to front of house and box office staff for outside pro shows (exc KODS/Carpet etc). We realise that many of these nights are at the weekend, usually very busy with unfamiliar customers and often it is difficult to fill the slots. We are trialling this for a season and welcome your comments.

## Office/Communications improvement points



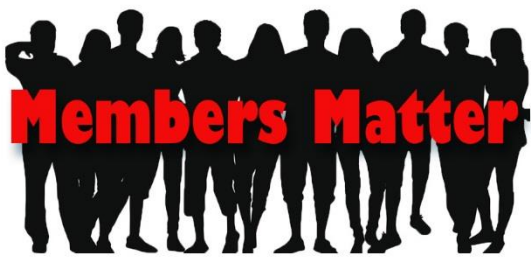
On the notice board in the front office will be found a Day by day Calendar Grid of all the rooms in the theatre and their usage for rehearsals, meetings, play readings etc. If you are planning anything, please make sure that the details are on the planner either by writing it yourself, once it has been confirmed, or by asking the office to do so. It's also a good idea to check with the planner before fixing any date as you never know what it might be clashing with! It also helps to keep the office guys in the loop about activities.



We have re-instated a Communications book (Big A4 diary) located underneath the Calendar Grid. This is used by Gary , Natalie and Josh to leave memos for each other but can also be used by members to leave messages eg front of house things- box office issues re tickets, customer comments/requests; can more j cloths be bought, ladies loo not flushing etc, - we're trying to get away from bits of paper and post it notes.

Anne Booth





**by Hilary Thompson**

Hi everyone and  
welcome to the new season.

Over the past 12 months we have welcomed fifteen new members. This is great! These include: Steve Bougourd, Wendy Myers, Sally Howes, Ruth Follos, Alan Booth, Jane Holt, Julie McBeth, Stella Bagnall, Heather Hill, Alan Parsons, Elaine Micklin Tom Chawner and Ros Blackmore, who has returned to us now she is retired.

Some have been hard at work for more than 12 months, some are more recent additions and finding their feet. Most recently we welcome Barry Shufflebotham and Katie Brown. Acting, props, set building, sound, publicity, rehearsal teas and all things Front of House have benefited. Only two new acting additions and we are very much hoping to attract new acting members this year. We have 3 in the pipeline as possible. If you know of anyone, just tell them to contact the office and they will pass it on to me.

I am always grateful to members for making new recruits welcome. I rely on everyone to help with this. Once people have joined, it's not always easy for new people to feel confident in such an established group. New members like to be contacted if we need help and that can be any of us - contacts always available from the office or myself.

Rehearsal Teas - Sundays before production weeks for the double dress rehearsal. Lyn Ravenhill coordinates these so please contact her if you feel able to help.

### **Good News**

Congratulations to Steph and Nat Austin on the birth of their baby girl Edith in August. If we can't recruit new members well at least members are producing potential stars for us for the future! We might have to instigate a baby sitting rota at this rate.



Many happy returns too to Keith Higgins who celebrates his 80th birthday on the 26th September. Congratulations on your milestone birthday, Keith.



### **Sad News**

Annette Doyle, a loyal Front of House and Bar staff member, has died after a long struggle with cancer. She has been a really active member of the local community in many ways, but still found time to volunteer with us. Her cheerful, practical and positive input to FOH and bar will be much missed. I attended her funeral on our behalf and gave our thoughts to Gareth and her family.

Reminder from  
Gary .....

Have you paid  
your subs?

Message from  
Keith .....

Thank you to everyone  
who helped out on Clear  
Out Weekend



News from Sue Downing about a forthcoming production of .....

# AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

**BY AGATHA CHRISTIE**

In production 11th – 16th May 2020

Rehearsals will start towards the end of March

Rogers – a manservant  
Mrs. Rogers – his wife  
Fred Narracott – a servant  
Vera Claythorne – 25  
Philip Lombard – 30-35  
Anthony Marston – 20-30

William Blore – middle-aged,  
General Mackenzie – elderly  
Emily Brent – spinster 40s  
Sir Lawrence Wargrave – late middle age  
Dr Armstrong – 40s



Watch  
your backs!



At each turn a murder ....  
The toy soldiers disappear one by one ....  
A sinister nursery rhyme echoes around the room: ...  
Just who can you trust?  
And could **YOU** be next .....

Come along and have some fun at the workshop on Tuesday 22nd October at 7.30. I'm open-minded about ages, and possibly genders! If anyone would like to read the script prior to the workshop, please give me a call on 07850 832547. Sue Downing

## Rehearsed Play Reading

**Sunday 17th November**

We are re-introducing rehearsed play readings at the Rose. Plans are to rehearse a text during the morning and afternoon - time to be confirmed - culminating in a no-charge public performance in the Studio in the early evening. We need to have some idea of members interested prior to making a play choice - so please get in touch! Call me on 07811 167818 or email [stephen.e.downing@btinternet.com](mailto:stephen.e.downing@btinternet.com).  
Stephen Downing



# **Social Events News** by Hilary

On 7th June 40 or more of us set out for the Crescent to see 'Spamalot'. It was great to have a trip out after such a long time. Our own Joe Harper was in the lead as Arthur so good to support him.

On 16th August, after recovering from Stuffing Day, 30 or more of us went to Cafe Masala for a Curry Night. Great idea from Hannah Tolley. The Masala staff were delighted to welcome us, especially as we arrived at 7.30 and not at our usual time of 10.30! It was good to support them as they have supported us over the years.



Hannah has taken on the Social Events lead and would welcome support and helpers. She has her thinking cap on now for the next events.

## **Feedback needed**

We have been discussing the thorny issue of whether to reinstate the Dinner Dance - some favour it - some don't. Also we could possibly do something different - one suggestion has been a Casino Night. We need thoughts and ideas please - to Hannah, Hilary or Office.

## **Props** by Ros and Helen

We have almost finished sorting out the props room. We still need to cull a few more items and now we have started to label the boxes and catalogue the larger pieces. Could we just say, if anyone has a personal attachment to anything in the props room, could they please claim said items as they could get thrown out. We do not have a working crystal ball (although Madam Arcati's is here, sadly it doesn't work for us) so we don't always know that we may need certain items in a play in the future. The props room is chock a block, so we are just saving items that can be used generally and items that can't easily be found in charity shops.



Also we would like to say that we are here to help if needed. At the end of a play we would be pleased if you could put props back where you found them and leave any new items for us to list and put away. We hope we can see a few more people offering to do props because it really is very rewarding and such fun.



# A Super Summer with KRYPT

by Becca Williams

Things at the Youth Theatre have been all go lately! Our Senior Group worked tirelessly through the Spring and Summer terms on their production of Silva Semerciyan's 'The Light Burns Blue' and, finally, it was time to perform in early July. The production demanded a level of elegance and grace which is often lost on teenagers, and yet our performers excelled themselves. They played multiple roles with skill and dexterity, wowing their audiences with captivating emotional moments and immersive physical routines. Coupled with the magical ambience created by Andrew, Keith and Anna's atmospheric designs, 'The Light Burns Blue' was truly a performance to remember.

Following their triumph, our members attended the first ever KRYPT Awards ceremony. We were able to celebrate talents, skills and funny moments which occurred over the last year. Here, we said a sad goodbye to Andy, our erstwhile Senior Assistant, but also happily welcomed Thom and Beth as official staff members at KRYPT.

The summer holidays meant a well-earned break for many of our members, but work at KRYPT didn't stop: we embarked on our first Summer School! A talented group, made up from a mix of longstanding members and new faces, began work on Monday morning learning about the works of William Shakespeare.



Part of the atmospheric set of 'The Light Burns Blue'



Summer School members

Through text work, storytelling, poetry and ensemble acting, our Summer School members worked for one week to produce a series of scenes, sketches and sonnets. On Friday, Andrew Davie (supported by one of our Young Leaders) added in the lighting, and our performance was ready to show to friends and family that very evening. Five days of hard work resulted in an energetic, striking performance to be proud of. Well done to all involved!



While KRYPT members rested for the remaining summer days, behind the scenes the staff have been beaver away to get everything ready for the start of our new term in September, when we will begin rehearsals for our next production - 'Once Upon a Panto'! We are so excited to get started on something so far outside of our comfort zones and we know our Christmas show is going to be fantastic - oh yes, it is! Don't hesitate to get your tickets and come and support your Youth Theatre.

## Reaching out to local schools

Some members may not be aware of the goings on in the theatre apart from our advertised shows. The summer months saw a great influx of young people to the theatre. Becca has already told you about the exploits of our own KRYPT. Here's a little up-date of two ventures which involve Nonentities members working with local primary schools:

### Joan Wakeman at Comberton School ....



Comberton School has been performing its end of year show at the Rose for 15 years. They choose a theme and book specialists to work in school to prepare the children and are always impressed at the full participation of the kids who all join in with gusto. Sometimes we have had children on stage dancing with crutches and broken arms! No-one ever wants to miss out. Themes over the years have included The Willow Pattern, Australia, Shakespeare and even Elvis. The staff frequently end up on stage in the final part of the show. All Key stage 2 classes take part. Each class will do 3 items- dances and songs. The Year 6 children are fully involved, working out budgets and making props and costumes. The theatre prints the tickets but school runs its own box office. The older children sell tickets to parents, mark up a seating plan and design and make their own programmes.

The link between the Rose and Comberton has been useful to both. It helped the school to achieve an Artsmark gold and Hugh Meredith referred to it during a grant application. We have society members who first came as Comberton performers. The Comberton dinner ladies enjoy our plays!

I carried on helping with the shows even after retiring 6 years ago and Dave always does their lights and sound. Chris Kay has also been involved the last few years since he's been a teaching assistant there.



# Anne Booth at Bewdley Primary School



This year saw a new school venturing onto the stage at the Rose when Bewdley Primary School year 6 performed their end of school show The Wizard of Oz on July 8th. Huge thanks to Hilary Thompson, Andrew Davie and Alan Booth who assisted on the day as Stage Manager, Lighting and Backstage. Of course, these things don't just happen and those three members plus Gary, Natalie, Ian Williams (a school governor who in his spare time is a TV extra in Poldark!) and I were able to help give the staff and children a pre-show day at the theatre looking at backstage, the lighting box, wardrobe etc. Andrew and I also went into the school to discuss plans with the very keen and knowledgeable 11 year olds - hopefully theatre-goers of the future and possibly Nonnies members via KRYPT - you never know!

The evening was a great success with parents full of praise for the theatre and staff here. Considering the children had only the morning to rehearse the show on our stage for the first time, they did remarkably well to put together a top class show by 6.30. It was a lot of hard work to co-ordinate but it was all worth it on the night. It's difficult to know if nights and events like this can be repeated because of course there are knock-on effects to other shows in the theatre. We had hardly cleared the decks from the KODYS show - another regular group of young people to grace our stage- before Bewdley were here and then our own KRYPT were ready to stage their show the following week!





# Theatrical Disasters



by  
**Pat Gale**

## Some real theatrical disasters from my various drama groups:

The 'baddie' in Carousel got arrested for embezzlement on the day of the dress rehearsal and the director had to take the part!

The stage crew took against a cast member in White Horse Inn and filled the trunk he had to carry with stage weights. (He couldn't even lift it off the floor and had to drag it off!) How the crew laughed!

Dressed in a skimpy costume (it's OK I was only 21 and a whole lot slimmer !!!) in Kismet, I lost a new (and expensive) contact lens down my bejewelled bra top and began looking and feeling for it along with 'help' from other cast members. The audience became mesmerised, forgot the play and cheered when I found it..... The Director did not!



A member of the lighting crew, whilst crawling through the roof space to alter a light, missed his footing on the wooden spars and legs appeared over the audience heads and pieces of plaster rained down upon them. I, on stage, recognised my brother's leg but soldiered bravely on! I will only say the theatre is a dangerous but interesting place!



.... to all those people (and there were lot of you!) who turned up on Stuffing Day to stuff envelopes. The job was made so much easier by the preparatory work done beforehand by Gary and Nat, who set up all the trestle tables, franked the envelopes and printed off the labels. So a big thank you to you too! We finished in record time at 11.15. Too early to eat the piles of delicious sandwiches kindly prepared by Hilary? Hardly ... the hungry stuffers devoured the lot! Thank you, Hilary!





# Heritage Opportunities Group

**by Keith Rowland**

As I'm composing this short note for the newsletter, I'm reminded of this time last year as we prepared to perform our very successful street theatre re-enactment of Mrs Pankhurst's speech at Kidderminster Town Hall! It was preceded by a collaborative series of workshops which had introduced new members to the Nonentities and provided an enjoyable shared project to which individual members contributed.



This year's Heritage Day event in the Town Hall will be taking place at the same time as the theatre's Open Day, but no doubt will be a lot quieter! Duncan and I, as representatives of the Rose Theatre, will be on duty throughout the event, distributing brochures and manning display boards! The HOG group meets monthly and looks out for the opportunity to promote and celebrate local historic events through interpretation. A series of information panels with maps and photos will be installed in Kidderminster streets during the autumn. The lives of famous and important local people, such as Josiah Mason, manufacturer of writing pens in Birmingham, who was born in Kidderminster, will be celebrated. Accordingly in Mill Street a blue plaque is to be installed in his honour.

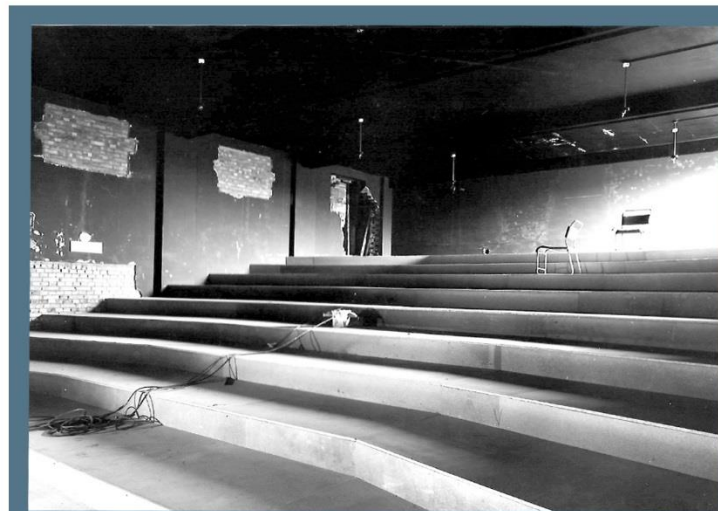
Since other mainly voluntary local organisations attend the HOG meetings, it is an opportunity to network and keep in touch with wider cultural projects and events. One such example, recently undertaken by the Severn Valley Railway, is a very large lottery project which involves restoration works to the Falling Sands viaduct which takes the railway out over the River Stour & canal into the valley, from Kidderminster Station en route to Bewdley. The project has lots of community outreach opportunities being built into it, including the commissioning of theatrical interpretations and potential opportunities for collaborative projects within the local area over the next couple of years, so watch this space!



# Memories from 1980 ...

**....and win a prize in our competition!**

Whilst there may be a good number of members who remember this period of the theatre's history quite well, there are no doubt many of us who weren't yet involved with 'The Rose'. No matter which camp you fall into, hopefully you'll find these few photos below of interest. And do you recognise which part of the theatre the bottom right hand photo is in? You may have to look in all the nooks and crannies of the theatre before you find it!



First person to send a correct entry to my e-mail address (sue2hunt@yahoo.co.uk) will win a bottle of prosecco. Only entries sent to this e-mail address will be accepted.

Oh yes ... and I hope you enjoyed my second newsletter. If you have anything you wish to have included in the next edition in December, please send it to this same e-mail address.

Sue Hunt

Do you recognise which part of the theatre this is?

First correct entry wins a bottle of prosecco!