



Home of the Nonentities in Kidderminster

# *New Year Newsletter* January 2014

*Happy New Year!*

We are almost half way through our 2013/2014 season and as always we have had some very successful productions. I do want to thank everyone who took part in the first four shows for their commitment and hard work. We have welcomed many new faces to the stage and I hope you all enjoyed the experience and will be back for more!

Boeing Boeing is well into rehearsal. The cast and company are having a wonderful time and can confidently predict a very funny farce to open the New Year.

We have a number of problems to solve however, most notably the need to appoint a new FOH Manager and Technical Manager. The office staff and Kath along with Keith and Mike are plugging the gaps but it would be good to fill these roles.

We are also experiencing a fall in ticket sales which we must address, and one or two of our Professional shows have not produced the revenue return that we had expected. If anyone has any particular ideas regarding the sort of show we should buy in, please let me know.

It was felt during the autumn that we needed to change the leadership of the Youth Theatre, and we are delighted to welcome Louise Fulwell to the post of Youth Theatre leader. Please do what you can to support her and the young people as they start a journey in January towards a summer production. May I take this opportunity to thank Gina and Ryan for all their work in the past and wish them well for the future.

I said when I became your Chairman that the single most important element of my role was to maintain the very high standard that we set on stage. We have to plan very carefully for the future as well as ensuring that our current productions are performed to the best of our ability. We must hope that we never again put on a play that does not have a Director in place as we were forced to do with *What the Butler Saw*, [special thanks must go out to that company] and this probably means that we have to plan and announce our Play choices and Directors as early as possible.

Sue joins me in wishing you all a very Happy and successful New Year.  
We look forward to meeting you all at the Rose.

Stephen Downing.

Chairman.

*The first half of the season has had some triumphs... and it's all down to your hard work, so well done all!*

*We began the season with **What The Butler Saw**. A chaotic frenzy with plenty of laughs from audiences.*

*We moved on to **Flarepath**. This show saw new comer Joe Harper almost stealing the show with his polish accent! This was a lovely return to the stage in a lead role for Laurie Pollitt, and it's great to have her back.*

***To Meet Oscar Wilde** was the first foray into directing for Marika Farr, and she certainly did herself and the society proud, with a polished production with great performances from all the cast. Particular mention must go to Colin Young for his chameleon-like characterisations!*

*And last but by no means least was **The Wind in the Willows**. This was Chris Clarke's directorial debut and he produced a show that enchanted adults and children alike. With a large cast containing more new members, this was no mean feat! Albert the Horse, played by David Wakeman was simply brilliant!*

## **Membership Matters!**

**Happy New Year to everyone from your new Membership Manager.**

Still feeling a bit in the shadow of Vilma who did such a great job.

This year I want to concentrate on “**recruitment**” and **fun**”. You all have a role to play in these.

**Recruitment** – never miss an opportunity to get friends involved. I will be pushing on the backstage and technical front to support Keith and Mike. When I have specialised events for recruitment get involved pleased – building that all important link between acting and support roles.

**Fun** – well that can't be hard. I thought a Quiz? I thought an end of season party? What do you think? Vilma has kindly agreed to continue with the Dinner Dance and we need sign up as soon as the date is finalised.

We still need a Front of House Manager, and thanks to Menna this does not now involve filling the rota – but stocking and style still critical

**Good News** - Colin Hill, who does our photos has joined and has offered to do Duty Manager shifts.

**Gardening Manager** – we are looking forward to a new partnership with Broadwaters and Wyre Forest – is there anyone interested in looking after our landscape?

As ever I need to say - can you keep an eye on your membership payments - then I don't have to moan. No-one can be cast or assist without membership – insurance requires this, but then - who wouldn't pay to have a whole theatre to play with and keep going – we must be one of the best charitable trust societies in the Wyre Forest!

See you all soon

Hilary (Thompson)

Membership Manager

## **And Finally, some musings from Sue...**

One night in October, whilst rehearsing for *To Meet Oscar Wilde*, I was suddenly overwhelmed by a sense of theatrical emotion. Standing on the top landing awaiting my entrance into the studio, I found myself in the audible crossfire of three productions:

***Singing I've got the horse right here. his name is Paul Revere.***

One would need to have a heart of stone to read of the death of Little Nell without laughing.

It takes people different ways – I always cry.

**Toad, is that a dress?**

**Yes.**

**I thought so.**

***Singing Marry the man today. rather than die in sorrow. marry the man today and change his ways tomorrow.***

I have just realised that I, a self-confessed lord of language, have been ruined for life by a foul-mouthed marquis whose conversation as a social disaster, who has only a nodding acquaintance with grammar and can't spell.

**Poop, poop!**

**And I suddenly realised what an amazing place the Rose Theatre is – we never stand still in an effort to keep our audiences entertained and ourselves stimulated. Long may it last!**

**Sue Downing**