



The Prompter



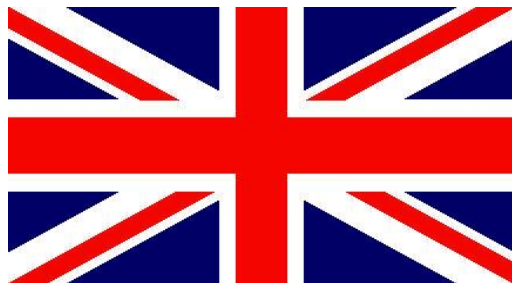
Workington Playgoers' newsletter – November/December 2016

We look forward to seeing you at the Theatre Royal.

The Theatre Royal

Workington Playgoers

Present



Dad's Army

Revisited

The War Dance

&

For The Love of Three Oranges

Directed by Gwyneth Savage

Written by David Croft and Jimmy Perry

December 6th - 10th

7.30 pm

Booking **on-line** or 01900 603161

(Answer Machine)

Dad's Army – Director's Notes

Our Christmas production this year is two episodes of Dad's Army – 'For the Love of Three Oranges' and 'The War Dance'. You will meet all your favourite characters – Captain Mainwaring (Tony Parker), Sergeant Wilson (Geoffrey Hall), Corporal Jones (Laurie Mansfield), Pike (Andrew Young), Godfrey (Derek Thompson), Frazer (Brian Young), Walker (Mike Hoggarth), Sponge (Stephen Mitchell), Hodges (Ed McGee), The Vicar (Neil Richardson), the Verger (Maynall Weir) and a cast of thousands – at least that what it feels like when trying to rehearse a Church Hall dance and set up a Bazaar!!

After some initial problems Gwyneth Savage agreed to direct (ably assisted by my good self – got to blow your own trumpet sometimes!!) and managed to pull together a cast including several who appeared in our last production in 2006. They have enjoyed (I think that is the correct word!!) learning how to dance the Foxtrot, Waltz and Gay Gordons. Choreographing moving 35 people around the set is now starting to take shape!

The episodes are full of gentle humour as you would expect and we hope that you enjoy seeing the characters come to life and watching the stories unfold and predictably ending up in chaos!!

Dad's Army runs from the 6th to the 10th December from 7.30 p.m.

Jane Douglas

DAD'S ARMY

DON'T PANIC!

BOOK ON-LINE OR BY PHONE NOW

YOUR THEATRE NEEDS YOU!



December 3rd. Open Day

Join us for coffee and cake and view the art work of Playgoers' members Neil Richardson and Phil Cram, along with the work of local Cockermouth artist Anne Irving.

Theatre tours are available along with information about all aspects of our organisation.



Christmas Music

December 11th at 4 pm

Come in from the cold and enjoy a warm and entertaining afternoon in the company of Soundwave's Community Choir.

They will be performing a concert of Christmas Songs including many favourites in the theatre. This will be followed by mince pies.

Cost £4.00 on the door

If you would like to join the choir led by Claire Humes, they practise every Wednesday afternoon in our Blue Room between 1 and 3 pm.

Cost £4.00. Open to everyone, whatever their skills. See a member of Soundwave to register. Viv Young assures us it is great fun!

Soundwave Presents...

The *Fusion Dukes playing on 15/12/16* supported by some of our participants. This event will mark the end of the DIY Music programme that we started in September.

The DIY project will take 26 young people from Workington and Whitehaven through the process from inception of a song, right through to recording, shooting a video and marketing. On the 15th, we will premier the music videos created by participants of the project.

The Fusion Dukes are Brad Kavanagh, Steve Norman, Emma Dockeray and Calvin Thornborrow.

There will be tickets available.



Second Star Youth Theatre presents...

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th December 2016, 6.30pm



George Bailey never got a chance to fulfil his life's ambitions of exploring the world. As he watches his friends and family become success stories he dreads running his father's building and loan business, rivalling the grumpy old Mr. Potter. When a financial discrepancy puts George in a difficult position, an angel comes to show him what life would have been like if he had never been born. In the end, George realises he truly does have a Wonderful Life."

Tickets Adults £7 Children £5.

Socialites

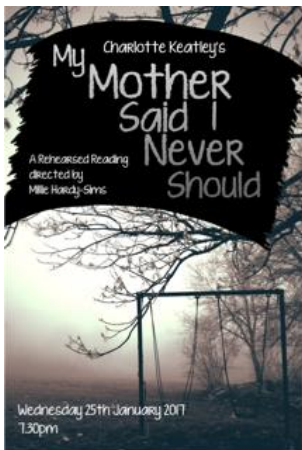
November 30th – Our regular members' night will take place as usual. As Dad's Army will be rehearsing, we won't be planning anything specific, but the bar will be open and we hope members will pop in to catch up and have a chat.

December 28th – Christmas Party night. We would love members to bring food for a Faith Supper and maybe their favourite party game? To be held in the foyer and the bar will be open.



Halloween Party - Well, what a wonderful evening! Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make our Halloween Party a success. The younger members were joined by a hard core group of stalwart members and together we played traditional games with a modern twist. Those who had made the effort to dress up were magnificent! (*Special mention must go to Lylee and John Urwin who looked fabulous. I just hope they were travelling by car and not bus! Ed.*) Thanks especially to Millie who provided the games and decorated the foyer ready for the evening's entertainment.

January Members' Night



Members are cordially invited to this rehearsed reading directed by Millie Hardy-Sims on **January 25th**.

The story explores the lives and relationships of four generations of women: Doris, Margaret, Jackie and Rosie. Their loves, expectations and choices are set against the huge social changes of the twentieth century. A different style of members' night.

‘Selfies’

...presented by the ‘Fit ‘n’ Active’ theatre group. A new drama society has been founded as part of the U3A offering in Cockermouth. Last year they played at the Lowry Centre, Salford Quays, this winter they’ve booked the **Theatre Royal on January 19th** as part of their West Cumberland tour. The society is unusual in that it has nearly as many writers as performers and so this season’s show is a series of poignant-comic sketches entirely written by its own members.

For this reason it’s called ‘Selfies’ – snapshots of everyday life. It’s a full evening’s entertainment with two acts and an interval. Each sketch of ten – fifteen minutes, is a careful observation of ordinary people with all their singularity and banality – all their humour, their heartache and hope.

Don’t underestimate it because it’s written by people you may already know. Come. And be surprised.

Morgan Sweeney



Liz Fitton, one of the founders of the above group, sadly died on November 8th. The group is named after her. Below is an extract from a eulogy written by Stewart Grant.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Liz Fitton who died of pancreatic cancer in the Eden Valley Hospice. She wasn’t a Workington Playgoer, but many members will have seen her in plays and some will have acted with her. She was a founder member of CADS and acted with them until her diagnosis in July of this year. Liz was a superb character actress and comedienne and people may remember her performances in ‘Abigail’s Party’, ‘The Killing of Sister George’ and ‘The Vagina Monologues’. Her theatre work outside CADS included roles at Carlisle’s Green Room Club, running workshops for the NHS and appearing in Murder Mystery events. This year she co-founded the Cockermouth U3A Drama Group. (See above.) She was a truly unique and remarkable person.

Cumberland Festival of Drama

Though only a few of our members can, now, remember it happening, our lovely theatre was originally built in 1866. This means that this year, 2016, is the 150th Anniversary of The Theatre Royal.



In honour and celebration of this milestone, next August Workington Playgoers are planning a Festival of Drama for amateur drama societies within the boundaries of the ancient county of Cumberland. We are hoping to interest five theatrical companies who will take any show they have presented during the previous twelve months and present it for one night during the festival week (**August 14-18 in 2017**). So we will have a different play on every night from Monday to Friday.

(It seems appropriate, since we celebrated the 80th anniversary of our club after 81 years, to celebrate the theatre's 150th after 151.)
Morgan Sweeney



Peter Macqueen presents The Professor of Adventure

February 3rd

Peter Macqueen performed his one man play 'Old Herbaceous' in our theatre during 2013. We are delighted to welcome him back with his latest one man show, 'The Professor of Adventure', which has recently played to great acclaim at Theatre by the Lake. Based on Millican Dalton, the real life caveman of the Lake District, the play takes you not only into the cave he calls his home, but also into the mind of a man ahead of his time.

Lottery & Funding Update 1 November 2016

There are three distinct areas where grant money is still available, namely:

FIXTURES & FITTINGS

Due to the superb job done by James and the management team, we were delighted to find there was a surplus of around £19,000 still available to spend after the main contractor and all the other bills had been settled. The committee has decided to spend this as follows:

- Scaffolding & painting of Wilson Street façade £2,100
- Intercom, CCTV & door release for Wilson Street £850
- Wardrobe £250
- Leaking flat roof repair £600
- Projector, lenses and motorized screen for the Auditorium £10,500

BUILDING CAPABILITIES

A substantial part of this £15,000 grant has been spent on the Wingspan Organisation Report and on the development of our new Website and Ticketing System.

Approx. £5,800 of this money is still available. We will use some of it to commission James Watson to prepare and manage the next phase of funding (Phase 3 - see below).

We are also seeking external help to develop a volunteer recruitment strategy, volunteer development and training and the production of a “training pack” for new volunteers.

MARKETING & PUBLICITY

Approx. £6,700 of this £10,000 allocation from the BIG Lottery fund is still available to develop and implement a Marketing Plan to promote Playgoers, the Theatre Royal and Soundwave. Chairman Pat and her publicity team have been tasked with developing a detailed plan, possibly with paid professional assistance from an external source. We need to progress all of these items fairly urgently. It really will be case of “use it or lose it” !

It seems that funding sources are rapidly drying up and grants are becoming harder to obtain. Nevertheless we have asked James Watson to prepare a plan for Phase 3 Funding.

At the moment, we anticipate that we would like to look for funding to do the following:

- Replace our ancient Flying Grid (say £50,000)
- Redecorate the Washington Street Façade
- Repair the Proscenium Arch
- Fund the development of Second Stars

Replacement of the Auditorium seating is also on the “long term” wish list.

There is no guarantee of course that we will get further funding for any of these items, but any ideas or suggestions from Playgoer Members about any final items would be most welcome!

Peter Inglis (Grants Co-ordinator)



A Plea!

The walls in the auditorium and foyer are easily damaged. PLEASE do not stick notices or posters onto them with either blutack or sticky tape as it is pulling both plaster and paint off the walls

Booking Your Tickets

Our **on-line booking system** is now working!
You can now book

- On-line via the new web site
theatre-royal-workington.co.uk
- On the door
- By phone to the theatre answer machine 01900 603161
- Through a ticket agent



Please let Glynn Scurr or Gillian Scholey know if you want a ticket agent. (An agent would ring you prior to each production, check when you wish to attend and where you would like to sit and will book your tickets for you. You then pick them up and pay at the theatre on performance night).

Booking on line is easy, you can select your seat from the seating plan and pay by card. Your tickets will be emailed to you.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU CAN NO LONGER BOOK THROUGH THE CARNEGIE.

A Note from our Treasurer

As treasurer I need to be sure that we are on a secure financial footing going forward. It costs £60 per day to run the theatre, 365 days a year, whether we have a performance or not. To this end Council have ratified my recommendation to increase ticket prices wef from the beginning of 2017. Therefore all tickets will increase by a £1 so full tickets will be £11 and concessions £10. However, if you book your tickets on line, there will be a reduction of a £1 per ticket during 2017. Season tickets will increase in 2017 to £44 for full paying and £40 for concessions. This means you are getting 5 performances for the price of 4.

Gilda Wells

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Yes! PG and SW were very pleased with the Macmillan coffee morning, altogether we raised £211.00.

This was a good opportunity for The Playgoers and Soundwave to work together. Tracy Forbes, Helen Storey and Hayley Wilson ran things from the Soundwave side providing a splendid array of cakes and scones and Pat Brinicombe and Gillian Scholey manned the coffee bar.



Unhappily Ever After

Directed by Millie Hardy-Sims, this half term project by the Youth Theatre saw a public production after only four days rehearsal. Remarkable. The verve and enthusiasm of the cast was inspiring.

The Wicked Queen, was skilfully played by Georgia Douglas Brown, daughter of Gareth and Charlie, and she was also a Miss Junior Cumbria finalist this year. Well done, Georgia!

Concert in aid of The Air Ambulance

October 16th saw the theatre packed for a concert featuring a host of dancers from the GMS Dance School. Organised by Charlotte Cuthell, in memory of her friend, Courtney-Luci Burns, compered by dad (and Playgoer), Ian and also featuring mum (and Playgoer) Lesley in the finale, the concert raised £500 for The Great North Air Ambulance.





Old Friends

A note from Ron Dickens and his new wife, Fiona...

We were married in Blairgowrie on the 4th of Oct. It was all very lovely and even more so when we found that my girls had cut in and up graded us to a suite in the lovely hotel we were staying at. On our return to Leck Fiona's house we found that all the neighbours were throwing a dinner and party for us, it was superb. We will still be using both houses for some time though I have bought a small house in Ullock.

Ron and Fiona

...and an update on our President

Geoff and Marjorie are now both settled into Dalton Court, Cockermouth where Geoff's fractures are healing well. (Thanks, Jane)

New beginnings...

Look around you when you come into our old theatre and you will see new innovations everywhere. The old window lights were condemned and have been replaced with new led ones and we will now have a rolling screen tv in the window to advertise our wares.



Our new Box Office is almost complete and work has started on the front office. To go with the Box Office there is our on-line booking system with card payment on the new website. Soon you will be able to pay by card at the bar as well. In the auditorium there will be a state of the art projector allowing us to show films, enhancing our productions and benefitting the new film group. New auditorium seating is being considered when funding permits.

Outside, Wilson St is shortly to receive a new coat of paint and there will be lights so that you can see the keypad!

Most importantly, we have had a number of new members over the past few months. Welcome, you are our lifeblood



Definitive Therapy

A group of keen Playgoers have started work to create a film. The group, who are receiving support from industry professionals are aiming to produce the film during the latter part of 2016 and early 2017.

The project is entitled Definitive Therapy and is based on a short story by Fantasy writer F.Paul Wilson. The story has been adapted (with written permission from the author) for the stage and for the screen by Ben Brinicombe. Also involved in filming are Morgan Sweeney and Peter Tyler who is a technical professional who has been involved in many TV and film productions.

The story follows Dr Hal Lewis, a psychiatrist specialising in the criminally insane. Hal gets the opportunity to work at one of the most infamous of secure Hospitals - Angelus Asylum located on the outskirts of the town of Blackwater. Hal is to work with one of the Asylum's most notorious criminals but as he starts his work he discovers that all is not as it seems in the Asylum and his life could be in danger. He needs to find out how the mysterious inmate Mr Punch has so much influence over those around him and the outside world before it is too late.

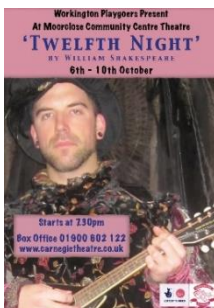
It is the intention of the group to have a screening of the film at the Theatre Royal and to submit the film to various film festivals. Eventually the film will be made available to all on a social media platform. The group need volunteers to help in a variety of roles, from extras to technical support. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Ben Brinicombe at: tel: [07747093585](tel:07747093585)

Email: benbrin@talktalk.net and definitivetherapy@gmail.com

The Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players

The Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players are Cumbrian Shakespeare enthusiasts who believe that Shakespeare belongs to everyone, not just to watch but to perform. Over the last few years, they have benefited from workshops with several professional theatre practitioners, including Bardy Thomas and Jennie Buckman (former Dean of Studies and Head of Acting at RADA), who helped them prepare their first show 'Shakespeare's Christmas Party' (selected scenes from several plays) in 2011.

In 2013, the group was selected for the Royal Shakespeare Company's Open Stages project, which provided professional training and mentoring for amateur actors and directors. They then put on their second show 'Fanfare for the Common Wo/Man' (selected scenes focusing on the ordinary people in Shakespeare's plays, rather than the kings and queens) in early 2015. This was a great success, running for several nights at the Theatre Royal and going on tour to several village halls in Cumbria. The group was even invited to take the show down to Stratford-Upon-Avon, where they performed to enthusiastic audiences at the open-air Dell Theatre. In addition, two scenes from this show were selected for the Northwest Open Stages Showcase, held at the Contact Theatre in Manchester.

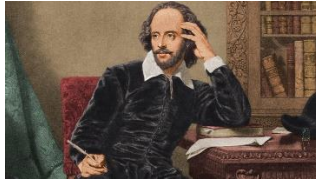


In Autumn 2015, the Workington Playgoers put on 'Twelfth Night' in full period costume, with a cast largely drawn from the Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players. The Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players put on their first full-length play in 2016, a modern-dress production of 'Much Ado About Nothing'. This show again ran for several nights at the Theatre Royal and went on tour around village halls in Cumbria.

The group will be putting on a Shakespeare play in early July each year. The 'Scottish Play' is scheduled for 11 to 15 July 2017.

If you would like to find out more about the Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players' activities, please contact Tony Parker:

parkerstbees@outlook.com (Mobile: 07864 682733).



Your Theatre Royal Mail newsletter and your Prompter!

Hopefully you will by now have read the new Theatre Royal Newsletter and you may be confused about why there are now two publications.

The new look Prompter is a members only newsletter and is concerned mainly with Playgoers matters and theatrical events. It is edited by Gillian Scholey

However these days the theatre is home to much more than The Playgoers and your new and glossy quarterly Royal Mail newsletter covers anything that may be happening in the building from Wilson St. to Washington St. and is available to anyone who comes into the theatre and to all our supporters and funders. It is edited by Ben Brinicombe.

We hope you enjoy both and would really welcome your feedback – negative or positive. News and articles are also welcome. Email : news@theatre-royal-workington.co.uk or talk to us in the theatre. Gillian Scholey.



Diary

December 6-10 th	‘Dad’s Army	Playgoers
December 11 th	Comm. Choir Concert 4pm	SW
December 15 th	Fusion Dukes + support	SW
December 17 th -18 th	It’s A Wonderful Life	Second Star
December 28 th	Xmas Party	Members Night
January 19 th	‘Selfies’	‘Fit ‘n’ Active’
January 25 th	‘My Mother Said I Never Should’	Members Night
February 3 rd	The Prof. of Adventure	Peter Macqueen
Feb 20-23rd	Dance Festival	Hire
March 21 st -25 th	‘The Beauty Queen of Leenane	Playgoers

Stage Nights ... every Tuesday and Thursday. Help is always needed with sets and lighting.

Members nights... the last Wednesday in the month. All welcome. The bar is open and the coffee brewed.

Help also needed FOH, in wardrobe and on props. Ask the membership secretary for contact details