

## **Newsletter September/October 2008**

Dear Theatre Friends

### **With Regret ...**

We start the autumn season with some sad news. Volunteer, Terry Clouting passed away at the end of August. Terry came to the theatre's bar team after being invited by director, Michael Berry and his experience as a pub landlord was invaluable. Our condolences go to Terry's wife Lil, and his family.

### **Fiddler on the Roof**

**Saturday 20 – Saturday 27 September, Tickets £10 - £13**

Tickets for Fiddler on the Roof are selling fast. This production is in aid of Derian House Children's Hospice and the cast includes many experienced local NODA members from societies such as Clitheroe Operatic Society, Burnley Light Opera Society and Accrington Amateurs. There's a whole website dedicated to the project – follow the links from our main site to see which faces you recognise and their behind the scenes secrets. This is a high budget production with a 10 piece orchestra, imaginative staging, and breathtaking high kicking from the Orlyk Ukranian Dancers. There's an afternoon performance for those who prefer to attend the theatre in daylight hours. Yes - there's a football match on Wednesday but we've come to an agreement with Rovers to use the far end of the car park for patrons. On other nights security will be patrolling when a £1 fee will be taken towards our costs.

### **Hallowe'en**

**Friday 31 October & Saturday 1 November, Tickets £8 & £11, Family Tickets £32**

Very soon the supermarkets will be devoting aisle space to a wide range of plastic spooky novelties and off the peg Hallowe'en costumes. The trend for children to walk the streets after dark, knocking on doors seems to have caught on from America. In order to provide a safe outlet for families to enjoy the witching season, we are trying a new idea; a Hallowe'en Variety Show. The idea is that parents will be able to bring their children along to the theatre wearing their costumes to enjoy a lighthearted variety show presented by our pantomime team, Pendle Productions and compered by Ben Thomson of BBC Radio Lancashire.

There are two performances which fall at the end of half-term week. In addition we are offering a 4 day dance, drama and craft workshop for children who want to take part in the shows. The cost is £70 which includes make, wear and take home costumes and craft and 2 tickets to a performance.

### **Shirley Valentine**

**Thursday 23 October to Saturday**

Carol-Anne Connelly is a talented local actress who has performed with drama societies across the North West. She is presenting the one-woman comedy, Shirley Valentine to raise funds for her favourite charity, the East Lancashire Hospice appeal.

## **Daytime Events**

Our programme of afternoon events continue to be successful, with our Monday Club membership recently capped at 160 in order to ensure that less able members can book a ticket in the stalls. We've now decided to extend this membership to all but later members cannot be guaranteed tickets downstairs on busier performances. Tickets to Monday Club events are £5 for visitors/non members and £2.50 for members.

K&O entertainment (Ken and Olive Sharples) also organise Silver Stars events in addition to the Monday Club programme. All tickets for these events are £2.50.

We have had a number of groups attending the theatre with patrons with impaired mobility. We ask group organisers to make sure they have the necessary number of carers for each patron in a wheelchair or requiring assistance. Unfortunately, the volunteer stewards are not trained in manual handling and we are unable to help patrons in and out of wheelchairs or up and down stairs. If you require additional tickets for carers these can be provided free of charge.

Rhythm and Brews kicks off on Wednesday 10th September - our weekly gentle exercise group to your favourite musical tunes. We're working with Alison Haymer, Age Concern's ageing well co-ordinator. We'll start with a selection of tunes from the musical, Me and My Girl!

## **2010 – Share ... Learn ... Celebrate ... Participate**

We have launched ambitious plans to celebrate the centenary of the venue in 2010 and are seeking £50K funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Full details are available on our website and in the flier enclosed with this mailing. As you will see, we are hoping to produce an online archive about the history of the theatre and cinema, using the memories of local people. We will also produce a booklet, interactive CDrom, and a local walk around the area. We aim to use this history to create a community performance and a year of heritage events and activities for all ages.

## **Volunteer Recruitment**

Do you know that you can make a difference in the same time or less than the same time it takes to watch a week's worth of your favourite soap? The following departments are in need of new recruits.

The theatre is always in mint condition thanks to June Parkington who has split the job down into easily manageable tasks - from polishing the brasses to buffing the mirrors and vacuuming the theatre bars. There's a great sense of camaraderie, a brew and a biscuit and the job gets done in no time! It's such a laugh I've decided to join in myself!

We also need volunteers to extend our office hours as we head towards the pantomime. This would suit a theatre sixth form or college student who can work in the office after 3.30pm till 6pm.

You'll be given full training and assigned to a mentor to help you settle in. Please contact the theatre if you'd like to be involved. You'll certainly make new friends and have a laugh.

Thank you for supporting our lovely venue.

**Best wishes Harriet Roberts Chief Executive**