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Company of Four website - www.thecompanyoffour.co.uk/

Facebook - www.facebook.com/thecompanyoffour

E.mail - info@cof4.co.uk

Dear Friends -

Hello again everyone, here we are (were), basking in autumn sunshine following a very indifferent summer weather-wise. We hope that you have been able to make the most of the last few months by getting away, even if only for a few days. The pandemic has certainly been responsible for changing all manner of things in our lives and it's been interesting to see how people have dealt with not only the threat to health but with all the changes to legislation and advice from some many different sources of information, Generally though, confidence to 'get on with life' is increasing; so let's give it a go with as much optimism as possible -

'Friends' Membership -

First of all, a big Thank You for all the donations received during the current 'free year' membership that we offered; it was so kind of you. Following on and to those of you whose membership year will be 1st November 2021 through to 31st October 2022, we are taking the opportunity to enclose a renewal form and hope to hear from you in due course.

Cof4 Accommodation -

In previous newsletters, we highlighted the current problems with the existing workshop/scenery/costumes store and the need to find new site and/or building, the Company thought that accommodation had been found only for the deal to 'fall through' at the 11th hour. Being back to square one, they continue looking and we ask whether the Friends (or friends of) have any suggestions, in which case, please let us know.

Fete in Elmhurst Park, Woodbridge -

Saturday 21st September was the day that the local branch of the Royal British Legion held an event to commemorate the 100 year Anniversary of the national Royal British Legion Organisation. The Company of Four were pleased to be involved and decided to organise and run a coconut shy event. Some of the 'Friends' joined in the fun as well and helped Vicky, Oliver, Adam, Neville and Paul (as Dame with coconuts in the appropriate place on his/her costume) to make it a fun event which hopefully can be repeated in the future.

Company of Four Annual General Meeting -

This was held 21st September at Fred Reynolds Centre with members present either in person or by 'Zoom'. Three of the Trustees didn't offer themselves for re-election and Paul Leech (Chair) and Penny Davies (vice Chair) have been succeeded by Lily Griffiths and Oliver Fosker, respectively. Amelia List (Secretary) position has not been filled at this time so if you know anyone who would like to apply to take up this really interesting position, please let us know

E.A.D.T fundraising event -

Recently, there was a 'pot of money' made available for groups to dip into, split proportionally depending on how many vouchers were collected from local newspapers. Some members chose Cof4 to benefit and it is likely that they will receive in the region of £100.00. Neville (Treasurer) wants us to pass on his/their grateful Thanks.

C/4 PRODUCTIONS & EVENTS

Nothing since Pantomime February 2020 which has been dreadfully frustrating and disappointing for everyone.

FUTURE C/4 PRODUCTIONS

'BE MY BABY' - By arrangement with Nick Hern Books - Martlesham Community Hall -

Friday 15 October - 7.30pm

Saturday 16 October - 3.00pm and 7.30pm

Sunday 17 October - 3.00pm

After 18 months, The Company are bouncing back to the stage with an intimate and immersive performance of Be My Baby which is a poignant drama about attitudes to teenage pregnancy in 1960s Britain.

Be My Baby is a 1997 play by British playwright Amanda Whittington, set in England in 1964. The protagonist of this play is 19-year-old girl called Mary. Her mother discovers that Mary is seven months pregnant and sends her to a religious mother-baby home before dishonour is brought upon the family. Other pregnant girls staying at the home are Queenie, Norma and Dolores. Queenie is a street-smart girl with a past and also dreams of being a singer, Dolores is a dreamer whilst Norma is not very bright. Each of them is forced to come to terms with their pregnancy, and through the time that they spend at the home, not only do they learn a little bit about pregnancy but the four girls also become great friends, bonding over songs by The Ronettes and The Dixie Cups.

The Director is Lily Griffiths who says "The company hasn't staged a play since 'Outside Edge' in the late 90's and having been away from the stage for so long because of the pandemic, we thought that this would be the ideal opportunity

to stage 'Be My Baby'. It is such a poignant drama and totally lends itself to a more intimate audience in an immersive setting. 2022 is to be such a big year for the Company as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, but in the mean-time, we are so looking forward to being back performing this October with an incredible cast in a hugely touching play".

Ticket price £10pp (seating un-numbered) maximum 80 per performance, available at

a) <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-company-of-four>

b) Telephone number 03336 664466, where there is a £1.80 booking fee, or

c) By contacting Penny and Vernon where we will take bookings with cash payment at time of booking (preferable) or on the door prior to the performance.

PANTOMIME 2022 - 'SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS'

Riverside Theatre, Woodbridge

Saturday 19th to Saturday 26th February (school half-term holiday)

It is likely that as usual, there will be 12 performances; with times and pricing to be announced as soon as possible

'CELEBRATING 50 GOLDEN YEARS' 1972 - 2022

A Summer Song and Dance Spectacular

The Company are planning to celebrate their 50th Anniversary with a nostalgic and exciting variety show in June 2022; dates, venue and pricing to be announced as soon as possible.

PREVIOUS OUTINGS & EVENTS

Nothing since we went to Brick Lane Music Hall in March 2020, just prior to first lockdown.

FUTURE OUTINGS & EVENTS

CLACTON WEST CLIFF THEATRE - 'Brassed Off' - Saturday 27th November 2021

We propose going to see Clacton Amateur Dramatic Society featuring Tendring Brass Band, presentation of 'Brassed Off' which portrays 'Love, Loss, Faith & Flugelhorn's'. We previously saw this society perform 'Wife after Death' in March 2019 which was thoroughly enjoyed.

On the way to Clacton, we shall call in at Clacton Shopping Outlet for the obvious, plus refreshments and then onto the theatre. After the show and on the way home, we will stop at Brantham Bull PH for a 2-course meal + tea/coffee.

The cost which includes show ticket, coach transport, meal and driver gratuities. will be £48.00 per member, £50.00 per non-member (if places available).

When booking, please indicate choice of meal; there will be a £3 supplement for fish and chips.

- It is likely that the coach will leave, Woodbridge Swimming Pool at 10.00am and will pick up at Ipswich (Woodbridge Road/Central area) on the way to Clacton. We anticipate arrive back in Woodbridge (via Ipswich) at approximately 8.30pm.

'WARNER HOLIDAY - THORESBY HALL, NOTTINGHAM

Friday 8th to Monday 11th April 2022

As this venue was the last Warner holiday that was unfortunately cancelled because of Covid, we propose asking whether you are interested in making a booking to the same venue but this time, earlier in the calendar year. We haven't obtained exact prices yet because Warner Group Bookings are proving difficult to contact, but we are suggesting a figure of £360pp (to be confirmed) for standard room accommodation, coach transport and driver gratuities. Room upgrades can be arranged and we will be able to tell you the additional costs at time of booking. Please let us know if you are interested in this holiday and we will then let you have a booking form. We will be asking Warner Leisure to advise room upgrade charges, deposit details, covid cancellation guarantee, single occupancy room details and cancellation insurance costs.

FROM AMATEUR TO PROFESSIONAL - (No. 11)

You will no doubt remember Don Spall who was Company of Four stage show wizard who took on most 'backstage' roles including Chairman at various times, for the whole 50 years of the existence of the Society. Don and his wife Lyn had three daughters, Helen, Amy and Katie, who not only performed on stage as youngsters but watched their Dad carry out all the technical and backstage duties and joined in to the point of becoming proficient enough to achieve professional careers with various theatre companies in the UK. Although their careers generally kept them apart, Lyn tells us the time when they came together recently. Lyn writes -

"It was a normal day in London, until disaster struck. Company Manager Helen had a dilemma. Her Assistant Stage Manager had come into work feeling unwell. Negative Covid test, but she was definitely under the weather. If she worked today, she would probably be off for the rest of the week, and may pass on the awful cold to the rest of the crew.

Helen sent a hopeful message to her sister Amy, who had learned the role a week ago in order to cover in an emergency. This was the emergency and Amy's skills were needed. She replied in a few seconds, 'I'm on my way!' No sooner had Helen breathed a sigh of relief than her wardrobe

supervisor appeared, looking decidedly peaky. 'Not you as well!' exclaimed Helen. 'You look as if you should have stayed in bed this morning' 'I didn't want to let you down' replied the girl.

'You need to go straight back home to bed,' Helen told her sternly. 'Don't worry, I'll cover you until I can find a replacement. Just tell me what I need to know.'

Notes were taken and instructions read, then Helen once again picked up her phone.

'Katy,' she said to her youngest Spall sister, 'Are you doing anything this evening? No? Well, come down to Shaftesbury Avenue as soon as you can. We need you to fill in at the Lyric!'

This true story happened in the West End on a day in August. The show was 'Six, the Musical'. The three sisters were our very own Spallettes doing what they do best when they aren't singing together. Helping each other out and loving it.

Wouldn't their dad be proud?"

....and finally, from Penny, Shirley and Vernon - be sure to look after yourselves and we look forward to seeing you very soon.

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FRIENDS OF THE COMPANY OF FOUR

'BRASSED OFF' - WEST CLIFF THEATRE, CLACTON - Saturday 27th November 2021

Reserveplace(s) @ £48.00 per member, place(s) @ £50.00 per non-member

Total £

I/We enclose £ full payment (cheque payable to Mrs P Burrows). I/We agree to comply with Covid protection measures as current at time of travel, to not travel with any symptoms of Covid-19, be aware of external temperature check by coach driver prior to travel and be prepared to wear masks/visors in enclosed spaces.

Name(s) Member No(s)

Address

Tel. No Mobile phone No

	Name	Name
	=	=
Sausage and mash		
Filo pastry, cheese, salad		
Steak/Kidney pie		
Fish and chips (£3 extra)		
Apple crumble/custard		
Apple crumble/ice cream		
Profiteroles		
Ice cream		
Tea or Coffee		

Additional date for your diary -

Riverside Musical Theatre Company will be presenting
"Swing into Christmas" at St Marys Church, Woodbridge, on
Saturday 4th December at 7o'clock.

Tickets are priced at £12.50pp and are on sale from 24th October and available from
St Marys Church Shop tel. 01394 383000 and/or
Riverside Theatre, Woodbridge tel. 01394 382174