

Dear Friends -

Hello everyone; we hope that you are all well and have enjoyed the summer months even if the weather got a bit confused at times. It's been lovely to see the lawns green of course but spare a thought for Penny who has had to fit in some grass cutting into her busy life. Perhaps I should explain that there were times when I wasn't 'allowed' (medically) to do such chores. We both appreciate the contact and support that many of you have given during this time.

Company of Four have continued to be very busy with members working hard to prepare new storage and workshop facilities; a little way from Woodbridge unfortunately as nothing appears available locally. For the majority of 40 years, they have had their own building adjacent to the previous council offices on Melton Hill but East Suffolk Council have declared the 'landlocked' parcel of land as an asset that can realise a sum of money on the open market. Those officers in Lowestoft offices making the decision not to renew a lease for Cof4 to stay on site appear to have no consideration for all the good that Cof4 have done for 50 years and continue to do for the Woodbridge area especially for the young people; many who have gone on to continue to entertain, work backstage, etc. and make a living within the professional world of entertainment.

For circumstances beyond our control, we haven't been able to give you notice of ticket sales before general public, for the next Cof4 show which is 'Little Shop of Horrors' (see Future Productions below) but they are on sale now.

'Friends' Membership -

We take this opportunity to advise those of you whose membership subscription year expires 31st October by enclosing renewal form for your kind attention. On the form, please be sure to indicate whether you are interested in outings and (possibly) an annual holiday break, as keeping our records up-to-date ensures that we notify you when an item of interest comes up; in-between issues of our newsletter.

Costumes for Hire -

After costumes have been transferred to 'new' accommodation, it will be possible to start re-hiring again; likely to be from mid-November. For more information, please contact us and we will put you in touch with the relevant person at Cof4

Accommodation for Hire -

The single storey 'Fred Reynolds Centre' in Woodbridge is available for hire; please call 07935 333457 to check dates and/or to make a booking.

Many, Many Congratulations to -

- Katie Higgins, who, following many years performing with Cof4 as a young person and leaving Kesgrave High School, has completed one year at Evolution Foundation College, Colchester followed by 3 years at Bird College (formerly Doreen Bird) Sidcup, including recent graduation ceremony. Katie secured employment and is currently performing at Euro Disney Paris.
- Gavin Lee, who, as a Woodbridge young person performed for many years with Cof4 (1980s/90s whilst attending Farlingaye School and Bird College. He entered the professional world of show business (cruise ships, London west end, New York Broadway, etc., etc) and is currently performing in Stephen Sondheims 'Old Friends' at Gielgud Theatre, London.
- Paul Leech (Cof4 Dame fame), who, as Clinician from East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust represented the nation's ambulance service that formed part of the honour guard for the King's Coronation. Paul and chosen colleagues from around the country and other services, lined

the route of the coronation in full dress uniform and had close view of the King and Queen as they passed through to the ceremony. Never one to miss an opportunity, Paul asked Queen Camilla for use of her dress for Cof4 Pantomime next year but she said "NO" because it had to be returned to the Charity Shop.

PREVIOUS C/4 PRODUCTION

SISTER ACT Jnr - Woodbridge Community Hall

Saturday 17th June 2023 - Performances at 2.30pm and 7.00pm

How right we were when watching a couple of rehearsals and when we came away assured in our minds that the cast of 'Sister Act Jnr' were going to enjoy themselves when performing 'on the day' and ensure that the audience were going to have a great time. Wow! The young performers certainly enjoyed themselves ably supported by producers, director, choreographers, technical guys, stage crew, chaperones, etc.

The audiences thoroughly enjoyed themselves and showed as much by the level of applause and standing ovation. Many members of the 'Friends' said that they enjoyed the show and wished that the musical was longer. Well done everyone.

We held a raffle at each of the performances and raised a terrific sum £207.00. Many thanks to those of you who donated raffle prizes and/or bought tickets

FUTURE C/4 PRODUCTIONS

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS - SECKFORD THEATRE - TICKETS ON SALE NOW

25th to 28th October 2023

Little Shop of Horrors is a delectable sci-fi horror musical with an electrifying 1960's pop/rock score by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman.

Show Dates & Time

Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Friday 27th – all 7.30pm

Saturday 28th at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Seat Prices - General £17.50 - Children £15.00 - Premium* seats £20.00

All tickets can be bought from the Riverside Theatre box office 01394 384806 (from 14:00 daily)

OR online <https://www.theriverside.co.uk>

NOTE - TICKETS from Riverside Theatre but SHOW at Seckford Theatre, Burkitt Road Woodbridge

ANNUAL PANTOMIME - JACK & THE BEANSTALK - Riverside Theatre, Woodbridge

Friday 16th to Saturday 24th February 2024

Auditions have been held for this traditional, annual pantomime with rehearsals due to start soon after 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

It is likely that tickets for 'Friends' (only) will be on sale Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December with general sale from Wednesday 6th Dec., from Riverside Theatre Box Office (01394 382174) open from 2pm until 8pm daily or can be booked online. Look out for special price seats for opening evening performance. Regarding 'early' date for Friends to book tickets, we suggest that you check with the theatre or us, nearer the time.

OCTOBER 2024 - THE RAILWAY CHILDREN - The Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge

This production can be made known very early in the calendar because it takes some time to secure the rights and it's good to let current Cof4 members plan for the future.

More details to follow.

PREVIOUS OUTINGS

WARNER 4 DAY HOLIDAY - SINAH WARREN HOTEL, HAYLING ISLAND, HAMPSHIRE

Friday 8th to Monday 11th September 2023

Over the years we have been to this hotel several times and again there was no disappointment at all. In fact, it was equal to all previous holidays plus drinks were included in the price this time; from 6pm to midnight each day. Lovely weather on the Friday that we left Suffolk and we arrived at the hotel well in time for evening meal, entertainment, etc. On a gloriously sunny Saturday, we travelled to 'The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum', Chichester where over a large open area there are numerous buildings of Bygone era; some refurbished, many brought to site and reconstructed; all to original detailing as far as possible. The main theme for our visit was the location for 'The Repair Shop' which series are shown by BBC Television. We were aware that a close-up of the barn/workshop wouldn't be permitted because there were to be tv recordings that week-end. What was evident was tv crew setting up for a Christmas edition of the programme; as explained by 'Polly' who was responsible for Set Design.

Sunday was a 'free day', with plenty to occupy us as guests with Warner Activities or by just 'chilling out'. Some had other ideas and walked to the 'local' for a drink/snack and lots of chat.

On Monday, we set off in bright sunshine and headed to Portsmouth where we stayed for a couple of hours; some shopping, some watching waterfront activity and others taking to the water for a cruise. We then left for home arriving Woodbridge approximately 6.30pm.

We think that it's safe to say that this was a thoroughly enjoyable long week-end as we received several lovely messages; one of them being -

What a lovely weekend - yet another fantastic Company of 4 adventure!! We both thoroughly enjoyed the whole weekend - the company, excellent accommodation and food, the laughs, the museum was fantastic and of course my retail Therapy in Portsmouth - not sure if Peter has recovered from actually going into a shop!!! I bought some flour from the Museum, so I will be making a batch of bread. Once again thank you for all your hard work in organising / arranging such a lovely trip - not an easy task!!!! Take care, see you soon. Di & Peter.

Also received was the following; from Kath Woods who was given a note book and pen to occupy her on the journey to and from the hotel and who used it to compose the following -

AN ODE TO OUR TRIP.

You gave me materials to write so here goes

An ode to our trip I had to compose:.....

We've been on a trip with a nice load of folk

We had many a laugh and Vernon told us a joke.

The Hotel was great and The Repair Shop trip too

They were preparing the Christmas show, what a to do!

Christmas trees were sprouting out of the ground Yet bright sunshine shone all around!!

We shopped in Portsmouth on the way back,

Never mind carrier bags, some needed a sack.

Then back on the bus someone needed the loo

That was the funniest sight too'

Watching him shoe-horning himself in the space

As he disappeared through the door you should have seen his face

He emerged like a genie, on his face was a smile

Then settled himself back in his seat for a while.

We then came back to Woodbridge without a fuss

With our transport home folk waiting for the bus.

So 'Thank you all for your company, but to Penny and Vernon particularly

*For organising everything to give us fun, a great time away with much sun.
You two are special to everyone there, you plan the trips with such great care,
So, 'thanks again, now have a good rest,
Cos as Tina (Turner) would say 'You're ...Simply the Best'.*

'DIVAS SHOW' WITH AFTERNOON TEA - BRICK LANE MUSICAL HALL, LONDON

Thursday 28th September 2023

Thankfully, anticipated bad weather missed us completely. Left Woodbridge 8.30am and arrived Galleons Reach shopping area by 11am with 2 hours to 'go off' on our own. Back on the coach at 1pm and made short journey to the music hall with viewing of the Thames and City Airport close by. Seated our reserved tables, we enjoyed first half entertainment, afternoon tea during the interval followed by second half of the Show. Had to endure traffic for the start of our journey home but arrived Woodbridge by 8pm. Very enjoyable outing confirmed by several people

FUTURE OUTING

CLACTON WEST CLIFF THEATRE - 'The Christmas Show' & 'Meal'

Thursday 21st December 2023

Seats have been provisionally booked for 'The Christmas Show' and a two-course meal at Brantham Bull PH. On the way to Clacton, we shall call in at Clacton Shopping Outlet for shopping (obviously), enjoy refreshments, etc., and then onto the theatre for the matinee performance. After the show and on the way home, we will stop at Brantham Bull for the meal + tea/coffee. We anticipate leaving Woodbridge Swimming Pool at 10.00am and (if required) will pick up at Ipswich (Woodbridge Road/Central area) on the way to Clacton. We suggest arrival back in Woodbridge at approximately 8.30pm.

The cost which includes show ticket, coach transport, meal and driver gratuities. will be £63.00 per member (£66.00 per non-member if places available) with a minimum payment of £20.00pp required when booking. Balance payable by 30th November.

- those of you making a booking, we will let you have the menu so that the food can be chosen before the day and sent to the PH; all together as a block booking.

GENERAL NOTES REGARDING OUTINGS, ETC. -

- If anyone is unsuccessful when applying for an outing/event, we invite you to let us know if you would like to be considered for cancellations.

- Guests - Regarding guests wanting to join us for any outing or holiday, we try to make places available whenever possible but members must be given priority.

- Seat numbers - We prepare numbered seating plans for every outing but, sometimes these will conflict with the actual coach seating and/or theatre seating provided. Please bear with us for any changes forced on us and be assured that there are always sufficient seats available.

... **and finally**; Best Wishes to you all as we head to autumn (and Christmas) and we look forward to seeing you at forthcoming Company of Four shows, events and outings

Membership - Vernon Burrows - 91 Seckford Street, Woodbridge IP12 4LZ - 01394 384806 -
vernon.burrows@talktalk.net

Social - Penny Burrows - 91 Seckford Street, Woodbridge IP12 4LZ - 01394 384806 -
pennyburrows@talktalk.net

Treasurer - Shirley Hadgraft - 24 Michigan Close, Kesgrave IP5 1HG - 01473 677158 -
shirleyann2412@gmail.com

Company of Four website - www.co4.co.uk

Facebook - facebook.com/thecompanyoffour

E.mail - co4secretary@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF THE COMPANY OF FOUR

'THE CHRISTMAS SHOW' - WEST CLIFF THEATRE, CLACTON & MEAL

Thursday 21st December 2023

Please reserveplace(s) @ £63.00 per member, place(s) @ £66.00 per non-member

Total £

I/We enclose £ deposit OR full payment (cheque payable to Mrs P Burrows).

I/We agree to not travel with any symptoms of Covid-19 and to comply with Covid protection measures as may be applicable at time of travel.

Name(s) Member No(s)

Address

Tel. NoMobile phone No

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