

Dear Friends -

Hello everyone; we hope that you are all well and are pleased to welcome springtime after so many weeks of wet weather; or is there more to come? So many summer activities to look forward to whether taking part or just watching perhaps. All that lovely weeding, grass cutting, etc., just makes you feel great to be alive. Perhaps you have holidays in mind; whatever you do have a lovely summer.

'Friends' Membership -

We take this opportunity to advise those of you whose membership subscription year expires 30th April 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.

Stage Costumes - For Hire -

Now that costumes have been transferred to new accommodation, it is possible to start re-hiring again. For more information, please contact Katy Spall 07871218233 or by email - katyspall@gmail.com

Fred Reynolds Accommodation - For Hire -

The single storey 'Fred Reynolds Centre' in Woodbridge is available for hire. Anyone wishing to hire a single storey building for a birthday party, an afternoon tea, or are looking for a suitable venue for group or Club use, then please contact Oliver Fosker - 07759 180960 or email - frcbookingsecretary@gmail.com to check dates and/or to make a booking.

Please allow us to mention the sad passing of Cof4 member Michael (Mick) Hadgraft who not only actively took part in stage shows and behind the scenes but who was a huge character on numerous 'Friends' coach outings and holidays. Mick was front of the coach when majority of travelling Members embarked and not many got past him without a 'Hadgraft Hello' which set the atmosphere for the duration. He was always available to take part in comedic moments and was often 'set up' by his so-called friends. **RIP Michael.**

PREVIOUS C/4 PRODUCTION & EVENTS

ANNUAL PANTOMIME - JACK & THE BEANSTALK - Riverside Theatre, Woodbridge
Friday 16th to Saturday 24th February 2024

Another successful pantomime production to add to the many over past years with credit this time to Producer/Director Oliver Fosker and ALL cast, and many, many supporting personnel. Oliver said that several audience members commented on the speciality parts, the fabulous beanstalk, the magnificent Giant, the funny Cow, excellent singing and dance routines. He was also incredibly pleased with the Get Out on Saturday night, with lots of help from the cast, company members and a couple of audience members who stayed behind and said they'd like to help! With so much help, we were finished, packed away and home by mid-night....unheard of!

St Elizabeth Hospice - The Cof4 recently presented the Hospice with a cheque for £2655.19; money raised during the Pantomime from donations by kind members of the audiences.

East Anglian Children's Hospice - Prior to Christmas, Santa and his sleigh with some of the Cof4 members helped to deliver leaflets advertising Panto '24 and raised £104 from generous members of the public for the Hospice who were very pleased with their efforts. Local children were very excited to see Santa out and about just before Christmas.

Panto Party - The Company organised a Panto Party at Martlesham Community Hall for a week after the pantomime, to invite all members to further reflect and celebrate the successful Production 'Jack and The Beanstalk'.

The event was well supported with many joining in the games and having a boogie along to some cracking tunes.

Barn Dance - organised for two weeks after the Panto party -

One of the participants reports - *"Well, we certainly grabbed our partners and Do-Si-Doed the evening away! It was great to be able to hold another Barn Dance, our first since the lockdown of 2020. We were joined by many non Cof4 members and this added to the wonderful atmosphere of the evening, dancing with new partners! Stumpy Oak were phenomenal as usual and got the most timid and shy of people up dancing throughout the evening. The occasion was supplemented by a Fish & Chip supper and a raffle, aided by the massive help of the younger members who pulled out the numbers! A massive Thank You to Vicky Fosker for her planning and organisation and everyone who supported the event.*

FUTURE C/4 PRODUCTIONS

SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL - YOUTH EDITION - Woodbridge Community Hall

Saturday 1st June - 2pm & 6pm and on Sunday 2nd June - 3pm

Auditions for the Show have been held and the Company is pleased that there is a full cast of 31 youngsters who will make this a great production following on from Sister Act Jnr last year. Rehearsals have started and many of the children have already learnt their lines.

Synopsis - *"When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea world. With lives hanging in the balance and all hope lost, a most unexpected hero rise up".*

Tickets will be available from Woodbridge Riverside Theatre (2pm to 8pm) on Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th **April** for '**Friends**' and from Friday 13th for general public.

Seat prices - Adults £13pp, Children £8pp & Family (2+2) £36.

Penny will organise a raffle at each performance

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN - The Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge

Four performances spanning the 24th, 25th & 26th October 2024.

Auditions will be held on Sunday 23rd June from 10am and Tuesday 25th June from 19:00 at the Fred Reynolds Centre, Woodbridge. More information to follow nearer the time.

PREVIOUS OUTINGS

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

Thursday 21st December 2023

Another coach outing with first stop at Clacton Shopping Outlet for shopping (obviously), to enjoy refreshments, etc., and then proceeded to West Cliff theatre for the matinee performance of 'The Christmas Show'. Following this and onto Brantham Bull PH for 2 course meal + tea/coffee, a raffle (many thanks for prizes) and small wrapped gift for everyone paid for from price charged for the day. All in all, a really lovely prelude to Christmas.

FUTURE OUTING

THREE ON THE TROT - Wednesday 5th June 2024

1 - CHERRY LANE SOUTHVIEW GARDEN CENTRE, Fritton, Gt Yarmouth

Time for exploring many items on sale as well as looking around the garden centre and taking of refreshments.

2 - NEIL SANDS - THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES - Marina Theatre, Lowestoft

Arrangements have been made for this show with their publicity as follows - *"Join Neil Sands for his matinee show as he brings back more musical memories The Fabulous 40's, The Rocking 50's, The Swinging 60's and The Sensational 70's. In fact, everything from Vera Lynn to Abba with lots in between. This brand-new production for 2024 is guaranteed to have you singing along from start to finish with over 60 all-time favourite songs that have been the timelines of our lives, bringing back so many happy memories of golden days past, and celebrates the 80th anniversary of D-Day in a patriotic flag waving finale paying tribute to the veterans of our armed forces. This feel-good afternoon is mixed with stunning voices, dazzling costumes, tons of good old fashioned fun, and a truly unique atmosphere that will brighten any day"*.

3 - BUFFET MEAL - The Lion Inn, Little Glemham

Arrangements have been for a stop here for a Buffet prepared just for us and where we can purchase liquid refreshments from the Bar, have a chat, etc.

The coach will pick up at Woodbridge swimming pool at 9.30am (to be confirmed) and travel to the first stop along the A12 northwards. As most people will know, there is adequate parking in the car park adjacent to Woodbridge swimming pool.

The total cost for the coach, theatre, meal and driver's gratuity is £60.00 per member (£63.00 per non-member).

AMATEUR TO PROFESSIONAL - Katy Spall

As the daughter of Don & Lyn Spall, Katy was destined to become involved with music & entertainment; both on stage and off stage by feverishly working 'behind the scenes' with all tasks and in particular dealing with costumes. She somewhat modestly writes as follows - *"I have been extremely lucky to have had a career through costumes in professional theatre for over 10 years, including working on large scale UK and European tours and even the West End in London. I now feel luckier than ever to have found a position doing my job, Head of Wardrobe, and being able to live in my beautiful hometown of Woodbridge again. I was appointed the Group Wardrobe Manager for Potters Resorts back in December, and have been finding my feet the past few months running both wardrobe departments in their two resorts, Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk, and Five Lakes, Essex. It is a joy working with such wonderful performers, putting on spectacular shows every night of the year, even if it is slightly exhausting at times! But very fulfilling. I thank the Company of Four and my dad, Don Spall, for everything they taught me about theatre and stage etiquette, and basically how to put on a show!"*

... **and finally:** Best Wishes to you all as we head to summer months and we look forward to seeing you soon

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.cof4.co.uk

FRIENDS OF THE COMPANY OF FOUR

THREE ON THE TROT - Wednesday 5th June 2024

Reserveplace(s) @ £60.00 per member,place(s) @ £63.00 per non-member

Total £

I/We enclose full payment (cheque payable to Mrs P Burrows) and s a e for receipt

Name(s) Member No(s)

Address

Tel. No Mobile phone No