



The Chorus Line

The Newsletter of The Company of Four

January 2022

Welcome from the Chairperson:

Happy New Year to you all! I couldn't be any more excited for the fantastic year we have ahead. Covid permitting, we have many events planned to celebrate our Golden Year, 50 years of the Company of Four, what an achievement. We kick start the year with our annual pantomime, all being well, after a year off we can't wait to be back. There are lots of opportunities throughout this year for members new and old to be involved in so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Lily

Welcome from the Editor:

Happy New Year to each and every one of you. Yes 2022 is here and all that entails. Pantomime will soon be upon us and this is where the real hard work starts. I wish to thank again all those kind people who sent lovely messages about the last newsletter, it really does make the effort and time feel worthwhile in completing the task. If you have any ideas you would like see in following newsletters, please don't hesitate in getting in contact with me, all the details are at the bottom of this edition. Some mad members also said they liked the jokes, so I'm afraid they shall be a recurring addition from now on. So, grab a cuppa, and enjoy the January edition of The Chorus Line.

Oliver

[Did you hear about the man who took Ryanair to court over his lost luggage? The Judge said there was no case to answer for.....](#)

Friends of The Company of Four:

Nothing major to report this month's from the Friends, However, if you wish to donate anything for the raffles, to be held during Panto, We would be very much appreciative. Donations can be delivered to our address of 91 Seckford Street, Woodbridge. Also, just a gentle reminder to any Cof4 members who are also Friends members, subs are now due from 1st November 2021 - 31st October 2022.

Junior Committee:

We are looking to form a Junior Committee to be the voice of The Company of Four youth. You would ideally meet a two or three times a year to discuss any new ideas that you would like to put forward, whether these be show titles to consider, or events you'd like to support. If you would like to be considered, please get in contact with any member of the committee by the end of pantomime. We would like to know your name, your age, your favourite thing about The Company of Four and if you were Chairperson for the day, what would you do?

50th Gala Dinner:

Tickets for the Company's 50th gala dinner on Saturday April 2nd are now on sale.

Please see **Lily, Catherine or Lisa** for tickets

Tickets are £45 per person (sorry, over 18s only)

This includes arrival drinks, canapés, 2 course meal and disco entertainment.

Black Tie and Sparkling Dresses a must!

Menu:* Roast chicken with all the trimmings

OR

*Vegan Shepherd's pie with bubble and squeak mash

*Profiteroles with warm chocolate sauce

Santa Sleigh:

Santa Claus came to town, And what fun it was to ride and sing! Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th December saw 6 or 7 people braving the slight chill in the air to walk around Woodbridge, as Santa made his way around two of the local areas. We were pleased with the turnout of children on both days, who came to visit Santa and also the volunteers managed to hand out a large amount of handbills to advertise the Panto. We managed to raise a total of £330 and it has been decided that all the money shall be donated to the East Anglian Children's Hospice. Thank you to Natalie, Adam K, Adam T, Neville, Darren, Ysabel, Poppy and Ian our driver for their help. There are photographs at the bottom of the Newsletter from the event.

Vicky

What do you call a factory that makes okay products? A satisfactory.

Thank You Very Much:

With Panto very much under way, were now starting to look ahead at our Summer Show. As reported in the December NL, **Thank You Very Much** is to be staged at the Riverside during the week of June 20th (actual dates are still being finalised).

Auditions though are to take place thus:

Sunday 6th March - Ensemble Groups (times to be confirmed)

Tuesday 8th March - Script

Friday 11th March - Script and Solo Singers (if needed)

Sunday 13th - Ensemble Groups (if needed)

There are two male and two female parts that run through the entire show, these won't be in any of the ensemble numbers. Other parts are available, including a Music Hall Chairman, Panto characters inc a Dame, Cinderella, Buttons, Snow White & Dwarfs as well as speaking parts for others. As well as the ensemble dancing groups, I am hoping to have a singing chorus for those who wish to participate, but don't want to dance. I really hope members will be interested in coming along to audition for this 50th Birthday production and giving the Company a celebration it deserves.

******STOP PRESS**** Noda Award Nomination:**

Our 2020 Panto of **Robin Hood & The Babes in the Wood** has been nominated for Best Panto in the upcoming Noda awards. The awards are announced on Sunday 10th April, so fingers crossed that the Panto gets the recognition for all concerned.

Future Productions:

The Committee would like to ask for suggestions for future productions. We are looking for offers of Pantomimes for 2023, and a Musical for the Summer 2023. If you have wanted to try your hand at writing or directing and can put a production team together, please get in contact with any member of the Committee who will be happy to discuss it with you, and put your suggestions forward at the meetings.

Did you hear the rumour about butter? Well, I'm not going to spread it!

A Short Story:

My thanks once again goes to Geoff Jacobs for supplying the Newsletter with a short story. This one from 1984, although I have taken the liberty to change a few names to bring it up to date....Enjoy ☺

REHEARSAL TIME

Yet again rehearsals start, so us lads must play our part
Despite the things we have to do, rehashing old steps learning new.
Singing tenor, or mere bass, putting on a smiling face.
For example take last Sunday, be described as quite a fun day,
First we wiggled, then we pranced, some stood still while others danced,
Walked all funny, rear stuck out, poked the odd finger up our snout.
"We could turn our hands to look like goggles". What a twit, the mind just boggles.
"Oh Paul what a splendid idea"! Stupid bloke needs a punch in the ear.
"Lovely Alan, very good, behind's stuck out just like it should.
You'll wear a skirt and knickers Lee"! Great, what the hell's she got in mind for me?
"Geoffrey pay attention please, and try to do something about your knees,
And stop larking about this is not a farce, you're fast becoming a pain in the ar....
Very nice Michael, knees a bit higher". I have to admit he's a ruddy trier .
"Vernon dear, copy Geoff less, he'll only get you into a mess,
Smile please Oliver, Darren move to the right". Does she think we have all night?
"Neville you will be a plane". That means Carl's the sergeant again.
"Come on lads you're not building houses, Stella! We need padding in Adam's trousers
Right now Simon have you got all that? If he hasn't he'll look a total prat.
It's half past five, time we were leaving, come on boys once more with feeling.

Michael Crane:

The sad loss of our Life Member Michael was a great shock, even though he had been unwell for some time. Mike's strong involvement with the Company goes back a long way, from appearing on stage in various roles over many years and directing many Musicals, his last with us being 'Half a Sixpence' in 2019.

The funeral was held on 16th December and the Company were able to provide Eirwen with the use of the FRC for the 'wake'; free of charge. We will also be making a donation to the "Colchester and Ipswich hospital charity Woolverstone Ward" as per the family's wish.

Accommodation:

We are still very much looking for a usable space to house our extensive wardrobe of costumes, as well as scenery store and make a place to build the scenery. Work is still on going from the Committee to source a new building to rent for the Company, but we are asking our members again if they know of anything suitable for our needs. The building would ideally be close to Woodbridge, with facilities including electric/water and toilets. If you know of any such space to rent, please contact **Adam Thorpe** in the first instance.

What does a Tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common? They're both Paris sites.

Adult Helpers & Chaperones:

We are in need of Adult helpers and Chaperones for the Panto. If you are a registered Chaperone and can help out in any way with the production, for as many or few days as possible, then your help would be very much appreciated. Please see either **Charlotte Lamb**, or **Penny Davies** at rehearsals, and they can give you the details.

Star Profile

Yes, it's that favourite time of the Newsletter again where we shine the spotlight of stardom onto one (or in this case two!) members of the Company, to share their answers in the Star Profile. This month is the time for **Mother & Daughter....Caroline & Ellen Morden....**

Name Caroline Morden

Age 46

Occupation? Healthy Child Practitioner (Health and Childrens' Centres)

Do you have any Pets? Two dogs ~ Narla and her daughter Rey

Favourite Song Oh my goodness there are so many. The top ones would be Separate Lives and Groovy Kind of Love by Phil Collins.

Favourite Bands are Def Leppard, Roxette, Take That.

Artists Ed Sheeran, Elton John, Phil Collins, Will Young, David Essex.

First Music album you Brought? I think it was one of the ' Now ' Cassette tapes!!! Think my first single was 'First Love' the Coca Cola advert , use to buy them from Woollys in Woodbridge.

Favourite Food? Spaghetti Carbonara, Roast very close second.

Tea/coffee Tea, cannot stand coffee.

Who's your Hero? Don't have one but I admire many people - too many to mention. Don Spall being one

Favourite Book? Anything by Marian Keys, Jo Jo Moyes, Sophie Kinsella.

Do you have a Nickname? Carolina, Carolina Moon, Caz, Caz Mad, Mimi (if you know you know), Noggs (Mum Dad and Sister only call me that, apparently I couldn't say ' Caroline ' when I was little so came up with that!!!!)

Favourite Film? Cocktail, Lion Witch and the Wardrobe , Anything with Liam Neeson in, Love Actually. Notting Hill, Pretty Women, Any good old British films!!!

Favourite Saying/Quote? 'Life is what you make it. ' And when I tell a story to my friends, I tend to say

'You need to listen' because they need to hear the whole story... like the snail story!!!

Do you Collect Anything? not really now, but I do tend to 'collect' a lot of stationary and bags!!!

Favourite T.V Show? Downton Abbey, Call the Midwife, Victoria, Miranda, Sex in the City, I've just started watching the new series 'Just Like That'. No Soaps though!!!

What would you do with a Million Pounds? Pay off our mortgage, buy another property, invest, go shopping of course!!

Name Ellen Morden

Age 15

Occupation/School? Year 11 at Kesgrave High School

Do you have any Pets? Same as Mum

Favourite Song (And who by?)?

Jess Glynne - Take Me Home

Favourite Food? Pizza

Tea/Coffee (If neither, then what)?

Neither, But I do like Fanta Fruit Twist, Water or Oasis

Favourite Film? Nativity or Wonder

Do you Collect Anything? Crystals and Disney Decorations

Favourite T.V Show? I'm A Celebrity

What would you do with a Million Pounds?

Save some for my future, Give some away, and buy a house & car.

What do you call someone with no body and no nose? Nobody knows!

What did one hat say to the other? Stay here! I'm going on ahead!

60 Seconds with.....

This month we delve a little in to the world of another long term member, as we introduce: **The Treasurer**

Name - Neville Woolnough

Occupation - Pensioner - retired Accountant

Pets - None

First Company of Four show you performed in? - South Pacific 1994

Favourite Food - Toad in the Hole

Favourite Song - Mr Blue Sky (ELO)

Unusual Fact about Yourself - I am an avid fan of Military and Brass band music

Proudest Achievement - Giving up smoking (without Patches; Vapes; Nicotin; or therapy!!)

I don't trust stairs. They're always up to something.

Santa Sleigh Photos....

We thought we'd like to share some of the photographs from our trip around with Santa for all of you to enjoy....



Santa & His Elf.....



Santa and his willing helpers...



Ready for the off...



Santa found a fan.... Penny Burrows!

*That's it for another Newsletter. Please do remember that if you have anything you wish to include in any future Newsletter, please email me ofosker@aol.com, the deadline for submissions for the February Newsletter is **January 25th**. Have a great January, don't forget to start learning your Song and Dance routines... it won't be long until Pantomime....Oh Yes It Will!*

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