



The Chorus Line

The Newsletter of The Company of Four

February 2022

Welcome from the Chairperson:

Hello everyone. This month brings the sad news of our Pantomime cancellation due to Covid related complications. Yet another February half term without the usual chaos of Panto is bitterly disappointing. We are however taking this time to get our planning and party hats on as a committee and can't wait for some of our many planned events to start taking place. Be sure to get involved and book your places. Enjoy a restful half term and whatever you do have fun! If you are out and about please share your pictures with us, it would be great to know what you're getting up to instead!

Lily

Welcome from the Editor:

Already a month into the New Year and things have changed for us as a group. It was and still is a huge blow for us as a Company that we shan't be putting on a Pantomime this year, in our 50th anniversary, this cannot be helped and rest assured the decision was not made lightly. **HOWEVER**, we still have a lot to look forward to over the next few months; with two productions ready to go and details of various social events are in this Newsletter. Please do try and support these events to make this year, a year to remember in the Company's history.

Oliver

Why did the Farmer win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field!

Friends of The Company of Four:

Sadly, not much has happened over the past month with The Friends, so we thought we'd share some background information on how and why the group was set up. The 'Friends' were established in the early 1980s by Lyn Spall, when husband Don 'volunteered' her services. Lyn then encouraged and signed up the first number of 'Friends' and carried on with this for a few years until she handed over to new volunteers. This small committee had to change following the sad passing of Allan Kitchen (Treasurer) and now comprises Vernon, Penny and Shirley. Many, many thousands of pounds have been raised for Cof4 funds over the years, by holding the raffles at the productions and fund raising at our holidays away. Raising the money has enabled us to purchase items the Company needs, items that have included the large 'A' Frame ladder that is in use at the theatre by the staging crew and recently, a set of Radio Mics. If anyone would like to know more about the 'Friends' or can encourage new members, please feel free to contact us. In the mean-time you can read our latest newsletter on Cof4 website.

Vernon

50th Gala Dinner:

Tickets for the Company's 50th gala dinner are still on sale. The date to save - Saturday 2nd April.

Please contact **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



Thank You Very Much:

Planning has now started in earnest on our Summer Show **Thank You Very Much**.

Auditions are to take place at the Fred Reynolds Centre thus:

Sunday 6th March - Ensemble Groups:

Children 10:00

Junior Dancers 10:45

Dancers 11:30

Chorus Singing & Dancing 12:15

If you wish to audition for a solo, these can be done at the times of your group auditions.

Tuesday 8th March - Script 7pm at the FRC.

Friday 11th March - Script (*if needed, advised during that week*)

Sunday 13th March - Ensemble Groups (*if needed, advised during that week*)

There are two male and two female parts that run through the entire show, these won't be in any of the ensemble numbers. 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.

The 5 performances shall take place at our home of **The Riverside** on these dates:

Wednesday 22nd - Saturday 25th June (7:30pm daily, 2:00 & 6:00pm on Saturday).

The Dress rehearsal shall take place on **Tuesday 21st** and the *Get In* will be on **Sunday 19th** during the morning, after which a full run through of the show will go ahead.

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.

Future Productions:

The Committee would like to ask for suggestions for future productions. We are looking for offers of Pantomimes for 2024, and a Musical for the Summer of 2023. Does anyone fancy producing a Christmas show for Winter 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 about the guy who invented the knock-knock joke? He won the 'no-bell' prize.

Membership:

The position regarding subscriptions that have been paid this year is being discussed at Committee and will be notified to members as soon as possible. We do hope of course that many if not all subscriptions will be transferred over to cover the Summer show *Thank You Very Much*. Any questions or comments regarding this, do feel free to get in touch with any member of the committee.

50th Anniversary BBQ Birthday Bash

The Company would like to hold a BBQ Birthday Bash on Saturday 2nd July at Bredfield Village Hall. This will be open to all current and old members, as well as the Friends of the Company, who wish to come and reminisce about the old days, and have a burger or too! Games of rounders will be compulsory, and some entertainment for the children will be looked at being provided. We would love to see as many people as possible to celebrate the 50th year of the Company. If you know any older members, please do inform them. More details will be in a future Newsletter, however, Burgers and Sausages will be provided, but please bring a bottle of your own tippel!

Camping Trip

Hi everyone, No doubt you will have seen the email go out regarding this, but just in case you missed it, here is the last chance for you to be able to book a pitch on this event.

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations we are organising a number of events throughout the year. We are organising a camping trip for two nights, to Orchard Campsite in Wickham Market on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th July. Pitches are £30 per night or £34 with electric hook up. Tents, motor homes, caravans and camper vans are all welcome. Families, children and dogs welcome too.

The site has toilet and shower facilities as well as a fully stocked camp shop and off licence selling over 200 varieties of beer and wine.

We need to know numbers ASAP, as the campsite pitches are selling fast, as you can imagine for a weekend in July. If you are interested or would like more details, please email me at cof4secretary@gmail.com, and let me know how many pitches you would like and how many people will be coming.

Vicky

Why can't a nose be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot.



Hut Clearance:

A team of eager beaver volunteers shall be gathering at our Workshop (aka The Hut!) on Wednesday 23rd February, to start having another clear out of costumes and paints etc that are surplus to requirements. Meeting from around 10:00, tea and coffee (and a biscuit or two...oooo!!) shall be provided, and the possibility of going for a spot of lunch after shall be encouraged. If you have a couple of hours to spare to lend a hand, the team would be most appreciative of your help. Please drop *Lily* or *Adam T* a message, so we have a rough idea of numbers.

Did you hear about the kidnapping at school? It's okay, he woke up.

The Treasurer Writes:

With the unfortunate cancellation of the Panto, we will also still have some costs to cover and we are finalising them as things are resolved. The Riverside Theatre did a sterling and expedient job in getting the refunds back to customers within ten days! Full details of the final expenses will be hopefully be available by the end of February.

We are always open to ideas of fund raising for the Company. We have a good balance of funds at present, but we have a significant amount allocated to hopefully finding new Accommodation. Meanwhile the underlying costs of the Company are still there to be covered, including costs of Productions

If you wish to discuss anything regarding the finances of the Company, please do get in contact with any query you may have.

Neville

I used to hate facial hair...but then it grew on me.

Beauty and the Beast....A London Trip:

Vicky Fosker has secured 50 tickets and is organising a trip to go and see Beauty and the Beast at the London Palladium on Saturday 3rd September, with a matinee performance. The price is £85 per person, this includes your theatre ticket (Stalls @£65) and your return coach travel (£20). This is strictly on a first come, first served basis, and payment needs to be in full by Sunday 20th February, as payment for the tickets will be needed then, due to the popularity of the production. This is being opened to all Company members, families, and friends as well as The Friends of the Cof4.

N:B This production features the Company's ex member Gavin Lee, who has gone on to starring roles in the West End & Broadway since his early days with Cof4. (However, We can't guarantee him being in the performance in case of sickness etc).



If you are interested please email cof4secretary@gmail.com and get your name on the list!

Vicky



Star Profile

Yes, it's that favourite time of the Newsletter again where we shine the spotlight of stardom onto one (or again this month with two!) members of the Company, to share their answers in the Star Profile. We introduce long term life members and Husband & Wife team....**Sharon & David Wright**

Name Sharon Wright

Age 58 (*You don't look it Shaz ~ Ed ☺*)

Occupation? Commercial Administrator - Openreach

Do you have any Pets? Gheko - Monty (Now deceased)

First Cof4 show you were involved with? 1972 Showtime when I was part of the Kay Goddard Dancers who were asked to come along and fill a spot in the show. First show choreographed 'The Wizard of Oz' - 1983

Favourite Song (And who by?)? 'Get Down On it" Kool & The Gang (Can't divulge why)

First Music Album you brought? 'Top of The Pops' compilation album very much like the 'Now' albums

Favourite Food? Curry & Chilli, followed very closely by a good old Sunday roast

Tea/Coffee (If neither, then what)? Tea & Coffee equally, although Gin & Whiskey closely follow

Who's your Hero? Dame Margot Fonteyn when I was young as always wanted to be a ballet dancer

Favourite Book? 'DaVinci Code' - Dan Brown

Do you have a Nickname? Mostly Shaz - As in Shaz & Dave

Favourite Film? Don't really have one favourite film, but like mystery thriller's & space films

Your Favourite Saying/Quote? 'What goes round, comes round' - And it does!

Do you Collect Anything? I have a soft spot for bags - but Dave collects enough things for both of us

Favourite Tv Show? I don't really have one, although Dave would say I watch lots of rubbish

What would you do with a Million Pounds? Would love to travel the world.

Name David Wright

Age 66

Occupation? Head of Engineering - Hatcher Components

Do you have any Pets? Monty - Gecko (recently deceased)

First Cof4 show you were involved with? Robinson Crusoe 1973

Favourite Song (And who by?)? 'Life on Mars' by David Bowie

First Music Album you brought? 'Sergeant Peppers Lonely Heart Club Band' - The Beatles

Favourite Food? All Day Breakfast

Tea/Coffee (If neither, then what)? Both equally - followed by a single malt Whisky

Who's your Hero? Leonardo DaVinci - Renaissance artist, engineer, sculptor, architect & scientist

Favourite Book? Nothing specific but like history books

Do you have a Nickname? No not really, but some of the Cof4 like to call me 'Guvnor'

Favourite Film? Zulu - First film I saw on my own at Woodbridge Cinema

Your Favourite Saying/Quote? Make spare when you've got plenty then you will always have something when you have got nothing - My Dad's favourite Suffolk saying

Do you Collect Anything? Sharon would say too much, but I do like to collect antique red glass.

Favourite Tv Show? At the moment 'Digging for Britain'

What would you do with a Million Pounds? Build an Eco house and SKI the rest with Sharon (spend the kids inheritance)!

Fred Reynolds Centre:

The Centre continues to be open, but we have no pandemic. At the same time this has helped with use several weekly free evenings in the diary. If you would like to hire the centre for a birthday party, coffee morning, or you know a group who are looking for a hireable space, then please contact 07935 333457 to see what's available.

I made a pencil with two erasers. It was pointless!

Costume Hire:

The Company is once again pleased to be able to hire out costumes. Our extensive wardrobe is brimming with delights from full sets to ones offs. If you wish to hire anything, please contact Kathy Hilton who would be glad to lend a hand 01728 746492. **You think swimming with sharks is expensive? Swimming with sharks cost me an arm and a leg.**

60 Seconds with.....

This month we dig into the world of committee and long term member, who started many years ago as one of the cute Juniors:

Name - Catherine Dale

Occupation - Sales assistant at Sainsburys

Pets - A Labrador called Beanie

First Company of Four show you performed in? - It's a Musical World ~ 1996

Favourite Food - Crisps

Favourite Song - Wig Wam Bam by The Sweet

Unusual Fact about Yourself - Holding the record for the longest Burp in a dressing room...I believe around 8 seconds!

Proudest Achievement - My 4 lovely children

I once had a dream I was floating in an ocean of orange soda. It was more of a fanta sea.



There we are, another Newsletter completed. Please do feel free to send me anything you wish to include in a future Newsletter, this can be some good news you may want to share, a birthday shout out, a poem, a short story, or if you wish to be included in the Star Profile section, it really is as easy as emailing me on cof4secretary@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions for the March Newsletter is February 25th.

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