

# The Chorus Line

The Newsletter of The Company of Four



March 2022

## Welcome from the Chairperson:

Hello all, this year is going so fast already! This month we are into exciting new projects, and I couldn't be more excited. I am looking forward to the company having the opportunity to get back in the theatre and do what we do best. Things are certainly looking more positive. The next couple of months see the start of our events, some of these are to celebrate the Company of Fours anniversary and double up as a great opportunity to fundraise. Please make sure you do your best to support as the future of our wonderful community depends on it. See you on the dance floor!

*Lily*

## Welcome from the Editor:

Hi everyone, and welcome to the March Newsletter. This month we see the start of auditions for our summer show *Thank You Very Much*. The team behind the scenes are raring to go and I'm sure we all want to get back on stage as soon as we can. Details of this production and the next are further down in this Newsletter. It leaves me to say, grab yourself a hot (or cold!) beverage and enjoy the Newsletter, I look forward to hopefully seeing as many of you at auditions. Take care and stay safe.

*Oliver*

**What has more letters than the alphabet? The post office!**

## Friends of The Company of Four:

We have an existing 4-day coach holiday arranged at Warner Thoresby Hall Hotel, Nottinghamshire for Friday 8th to Monday 11th April. The usual Warner facilities and attractions will be available, and the weekend is billed as a Festival Break - 80s, starring Chesney Hawkes and his Band, Simply Re-Red with their 7 piece live Band, Men of the 80s and a DJ every night. At the time of writing, the hotel still has a couple of rooms available for anyone interested in joining us; please contact Vernon Burrows - 07881790004.

Also, if you, or anyone else you know would like to become a member of the Friends, for only £7.50 a year, then please also get in touch on the number above. Our latest Newsletter is on the Cof4 website, details at the bottom of this Newsletter.

*Vernon*

**Did you know corduroy pillows are in style? They're making headlines.**

### 50<sup>th</sup> Gala Dinner:

Tickets for the Company's 50<sup>th</sup> gala dinner are still on sale.

The date to save - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Please contact Lily on [cof4secretary@gmail.com](mailto:cof4secretary@gmail.com) or through the Cof4 Facebook page 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:

Thank you to everyone who has enquired about the Summer production, It really is wonderful to hear people wish to come and get back into the swing of things! As mentioned last month, Auditions are to take place at the Fred Reynolds Centre:

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 will be done at the times of your group auditions. All groups shall be required to sing throughout the production, so a singing audition shall also be held. The songs for the auditions shall be "Hard Knock Life" for the children and "No Business like Showbusiness" for the older groups. The music for this can be sent before the day if you wish. Please email me and I can get it sent over.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March** - Script 7pm at the FRC.

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

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 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. A few minor roles are also available, mainly in the pantomime section, if you're interested in reading for these, please do let us know on the 6<sup>th</sup> when you audition and we can take down your names etc (Depending on the number of people interested, not everyone will get a chance to read). 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 22<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June** (7:30pm daily, 2:00 & 6:00pm on Saturday).

The Dress rehearsal shall take place on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>** and the Get In will be on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>** 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 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday production and giving the Company a celebration, it deserves.

**Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself? It was two tired.**

### 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.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BBQ Birthday Bash

Planning is now in full swing for the Company's BBQ Birthday Bash at Bredfield Village Hall. Please note **a date change** from the last Newsletter, this shall now be held on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July** from 1pm - 9pm.

This will be open to all current and previous 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! Fun & games will be taking place throughout the afternoon, and some entertainment is being organised. We would love to see as many people as possible to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup>

year of the Company. If you know any of any former members, please do spread the word and tell them to save the date, it would be great to see as many people as possible there from the past 50 years to talk about the good old days.



### The Treasurer Writes:

Despite the considered decision to cancel 'Panto 22', we also were left with some production costs that had already been incurred. (scenery; rehearsal and early publicity costs). Not as large an amount as might have been, the sum of around £2,500 had to be written off. This does however include £400 costs for the FRC hire for rehearsals, so overall is not a cost to the Company.

### Fred Reynolds Centre:

We have applied for a further small Grant from the Council (£2,700) offered to cover for any Omicron effect on our FRC business and hiring. This is not related to the Panto cancellation but to the Pandemic effect on our FRC operation.

We do have calendar hiring space available at the moment, if anyone knows of people seeking a suitable venue (single hires or longer block bookings), then please give the telephone number a ring, details of which are on the Cof4 website and the new FRC Facebook page. Also, while we are on the subject of the FRC, if anyone has any spare time coming up over the next few months, we are always on the lookout for volunteers to help with gardening and maintenance of the building. This can be as little as a couple of hours a month, or more if you so desire! If you or you know of anyone who would be interested in lending a hand, please do get in touch.

*Neville*

**I used to play piano by ear. Now I use my hands.**

### **Goodnight Mister Tom**

Just to advise everyone, we are still planning on staging Goodnight Mister Tom this October at the Seckford Theatre. Plans have been in place for a couple of years now, but it is likely that auditions shall take place around July 24th with the 3 performances being October 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. These are not yet confirmed, but these are what are being looked at, at present. More details of this production shall be in following Newsletters.

### **A Short Story:**

Due to space issues last month, I had to omit this inclusion, but Geoff Jacobs once again supplies the Newsletter with a short story. This one he wrote in 1986, where I imagine a very long dress rehearsal caused him to writing this ditty...Enjoy ☺

*The chorus boys are all great lads, despite their little whims and fads,  
One or two won't wear a hat, then there's them who likes to chat.  
One or two are going grey, one nice chap is awfully fay,  
The odd guy who is overweight, another stands like a farmyard gate.  
Some footwork is a real disgrace, loss of memory is commonplace.  
But look just what they're asked to do, dance and sing, bill and coo.  
Wearing shorts in funny poses, dressing up as flowering roses,  
Suffering all those cruel digs, in skimpy skirts and girlie wigs,  
We keep on smiling like the sun, pretending that we're having fun  
When really it is pure hard graft, prancing round and looking daft,  
We do far more than our fair share, while the dancing girls preen and comb their hair,  
Fix their bras or change their tights, not a care for us fellas plights.  
We can sing and prance all night, so long as they're turned out alright.  
Sound may whistle, spot light flickers, they're still backstage changing knickers,  
We keep on going, holding things steady; girls arrive when they feel ready.  
Thanks a bunch girls, take your time, just turn up when your make-ups fine.  
They don't care, Paul's zips in doubt, as long as their good bits all stick out  
Or that Julian's back has gone, they just complain their skirts are too long.  
Finally they decide to appear, to prove the adage "a right pig's ear".  
Us blokes we sometimes maybe slow, but you have to admit we steal the show.*

### **Accommodation:**

Although we have been looking for a new storage facility for our scenery and costumes for a while, we are now following up on a building which we consider could be a good replacement site for us, from the hut. Further rental details and costs are being sought as this Newsletter goes out to our members, and although it is a significant rental spend, it looks to be in the range of our current finances and sustainable for the immediate future.

Even if it turns out successfully, it is not the end of the accommodation issue, but the start of a different chapter in the way forward for the Company. Hopefully some good news will be given in a future Newsletter.



### **\*Star Profile\***

Star Profile time again! For this month's Newsletter we shine the spotlight of stardom onto two members of the Company, One who has been around for several years, and his wife a few, but a very welcome few years! We introduce long term life member and Husband & Wife team.... **Paul & Mary Leech**

**Name** Paul Leech

**Age** 47

**Occupation/School?** Paramedic Manager with The Ambulance Service

**Do you have any Pets?** See Mary's answer!

**First Cof4 show you were involved with?** Annie in 1989

**Favourite Song (And who by?)?** Jeff Sums it up from Tootsie (of course it's a musical)

**First Music Album you brought?** I never bought one!!

**Favourite Food?** Roast Beef Dinner

**Tea/Coffee (If neither, then what)?** I love a tea, can't stand coffee

**Who's your Hero?** Florence Nightingale

**Favourite Book?** 50 Shades of Grey

**Do you have a Nickname?** Paul Poo (*Luvvy or Everard! ~ Ed*)

**Favourite Film?** Mrs Doubtfire

**Your Favourite Saying/Quote?** "What's Matter"

**Do you Collect Anything?** Gadgets

**Favourite Tv Show?** Dad's Army

**What would you do with a Million Pounds?** Again....see Mary's answer!

**Name** Mary Leech

**Age** 51

**Occupation/School?** Community Paramedic for GP surgery plus work in A&E

**Do you have any Pets?** We have 3 dogs, Big poodle Monty, little poodly thing Reggie and tiny yorkie thing Molly. Plus a frog and a gecko

**First Cof4 show you were involved with?** Aladdin 2015

**Favourite Song (And who by?)?** Insomnia by Faithless (or anything from Beyoncé)

**First Music Album you brought?** Bucks Fizz & Wham at the same time

**Favourite Food?** Steak, with all the trimmings

**Tea/Coffee (If neither, then what)?** I love a cappuccino (but we both love a Gin!)

**Who's your Hero?** William Shakespeare

**Favourite Book?** The Handmaids Tail by Margaret Atwood

**Do you have a Nickname?** Mary Moo

**Favourite Film?** Titanic

**Your Favourite Saying/Quote?** "Love you to the Moon and Back"

**Do you Collect Anything?** Shoes of every kind

**Favourite Tv Show?** Peaky Blinders

**What would you do with a Million Pounds?** We're both the same ... Give lots to family and friends and buy a B&B by the sea!

**I decided to sell my vacuum cleaner—it was just gathering dust!**



### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clothing:**

As mentioned in a previous Newsletter, the Company is going to be offering some 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary clothing for our special year, embroidered with the Company's logo on one side, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo printed on the other (featured further up in this Newsletter). We shall be offering: Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Polo T Shirts & T Shirts, all available in black. The individual prices are: Adult Hoodie £30, Child Hoodie £26 Adult Sweatshirt £28, Child Sweatshirt £24 Adult Polo Shirt £17, Child Polo Shirt £15 Adult T Shirt £15, Child T Shirt £14.50 If you wish to order and purchase any of the above, please see Vic Fosker who shall have a size guide and she'll be happy to help.



### **Queen's Jubilee celebration in Woodbridge:**

The Company has been asked if we would like to be part of the Queens Jubilee celebrations, to be held on Kingston Field in Woodbridge on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. We have agreed to run a coconut shy again (after the successful running in Elmhurst Park back in August) and also to perform a small selection from our Summer Show. More details of this shall be included in the future Newsletters, and discussed during rehearsals for *Thank You Very Much*.



### **Hut Clearance:**

The Company's workshop was given a much needed clear out during the half term week by a small team of eager volunteers. It was decided that the majority of the costumes in the back room were past it, after years of not being used and the encroachment of the dreaded damp. These have now been sent away for recycling. The backroom roof sadly has quite a few holes in, allowing the ingress of rainwater every time a small rain shower attends Woodbridge. This has made the room not fit for purpose any longer, so the decision was made to completely empty it of all belongings and allow it some time to dry out, maybe allowing the shelving units to be used whilst the summer show scenery is built in the main body of the hut. Much more is to be sorted over the next few months, so updates shall be given on the progress as and when it happens.

**I've got a great joke about construction, but I'm still working on it.**

### **Beauty & the Beast:**

We would like to Thank all those members who have got in contact and brought tickets for the upcoming West End production of Beauty & the Beast. We are delighted to be joined by a handful of the Friends of the Company as well as previous members and friends and families.

### **Camping trip:**

Another Thank you for all the members who are interested in coming camping in July. The pitches have been booked and were ready and raring to go.... let's just hope the weather holds for the weekend! I shall be in contact with those who have booked soon with further details.

*Vic*

### **60 Seconds with.....**

This month we dig into the world of a committee member, who has arranged various social events over her time on the committee:

**Name** - Vicky Fosker

**Occupation** - Careers Lead & Assistant head of Year 11

**Pets** - 4 Ducks (Susie, Donald, Monty and Jemima) & a cat called Percy

**First Company of Four show you performed in?** - The Final Celebration - 2005

**Favourite Food** - There are too many to choose from, but Steak is high up there!

**Favourite Song** - Greatest Day - Take That

**Unusual Fact about Yourself** - I spent a day at a Circus school where I learnt to juggle with balls, clubs & fire and ride a unicycle.

**Proudest Achievement** - Getting married & achieving a Grade 8 with Distinction in Musical Theatre singing.

**I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know...**



*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](mailto:cof4secretary@gmail.com). The deadline for submissions for the April Newsletter is **March 25<sup>th</sup>**.*

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