

The Chorus Line

The Newsletter of The Company of Four

September 2022

Welcome from the Chairperson:

Hi everyone. This month, we find ourselves at the AGM again, I really can't believe where this year has gone. I would like to thank everyone for getting involved in everything we have done this year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Company. I'm also pleased to say that rehearsals are going well for our next production *Goodnight Mister Tom*, the team behind the scenes and the actors on stage are having a wonderful time and I hope that all our members can support the production, either by purchasing tickets, sharing our social media posts or helping out where you can. I look very much forward at welcoming you all at the AGM, don't forget that it is a chance for you to hear about how the Company is doing, and also your chance to give suggestions and your point of view over. That's it from me for now, see you all soon.

Lily

Welcome from the Editor:

Hello everyone. It has been a pleasure this year to bring you a Newsletter each month, and letting you know everything that is going on. It's been great to showcase some writing talents from our members, as well as celebrating the 50th anniversary with the various events we had planned through the year. If there is anything anyone would like included in the Newsletter, competitions/poetry/bits and pieces for the children/different profiles etc, please do get in touch with me. As I've said before, this Newsletter is a representation of the Company and its membership and is here for you. I look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM and please enjoy this edition of The Chorus Line.

Oliver

I tried to steal spaghetti from the shop, but the female guard saw me, and I couldn't get pasta.

Friends of The Company of Four:

Nothing to report from the Friends this month, however, we are looking forward to being involved with *Goodnight Mister Tom* & the Pantomime. We hope everyone had a lovely summer and look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the AGM.

Vernon



Goodnight Mister Tom:

by David Wood, based on a novel by Michelle Magorian.

Rehearsals are now in full swing, and it has been great to see some of the new talent that is on show so early in the rehearsal period. With the whole of Act 1 now blocked, we shall get on with Act 2 and start the big task of polishing everything. The set is now designed and started to be altered from what we have in store, if any members wish to lend a hand with set

building/modifying, please do get in touch. Tickets are now also on sale via the Box Office <https://www.theriverside.co.uk/programmes/cof4-presents-goodnight-mr-tom/> or by calling 01394 382174. I'll reiterate to members that this show is being staged at The Seckford Theatre, and the Riverside are kindly providing us with the Box Office. If anyone wishes to lend a hand with the staging of this production, please do get in touch, we still have a few bits and bobs that need assistance with.

Oliver



The Company of Four AGM:

Nominations for the new committee are in and Thank You to all those members who have shown interest in joining the team. You should have received by now an email with the resolutions for the AGM and agenda for the meeting, please do get in touch if you didn't receive it. Just to remind everybody, the AGM shall be held on Tuesday 13th September at The Fred Reynolds Centre, with doors open from 19:00, starting at 19:30. This really is a chance for members to see what has been going on behind the scenes within the Company, with a review of the year, as well as your chance to ask questions and make suggestions in the open forum. The Company accounts for the year 2021/2022 are also available to view, if you wish for these in advance of the AGM, please email the Secretary who will pass on your request to the Treasurer.



Quiz Time:

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, the committee are organising a Quiz to be held on Thursday 10th November at The Royal British Legion Club in Woodbridge. Details are being finalised as this NL goes out to members and shall be available in next month's edition. We are looking at including food as part of the evening and within your ticket price. Teams up to 6 people and of all ages welcome.



I hate early funerals - I'm not a mourning person.

Star Profile

Welcome to Star Profile time again! This time we shine the parcans of illumination onto not 1, not 2, but 3 (Yes...oooooo!) fabulous sisters, who have grown up with The Company of Four, and now supply their own cabaret act and fabulous singing in the Forties style....We introduce to you.....The Spallettes.....

Name: Helen Spall

Age: I will be 40 in November!

Occupation/School? Went to Farlingaye of course.. now i'm Company manager for SIX the musical on the West End

Do you have any Pets? I've become shared owner of Hope the dog, who is the first animal I've properly made friends with!

First Cof4 show you were involved with? I mean I was born in the night of a spa show get out! Luckily I hung on until 7 in the morning so dad has just about finished unloading the van 😊 But so think my first show was Cinderella? 1986 ish? I was a rabbit, a cat and a pretty flower among other things!

Favourite Song (And who by?)? Impossible, but probably something by Frankie

First Music Album you brought? I actually think my very amazing boyfriend at the time Robert convinced me to buy Radiohead's OK Computer, which I loved! ...but I also think this was around the time I also bought the single of Orville's 'I wish I could fly' ...I think eclectic of the word for the music collection in our house!

Favourite Food? Bread

Tea/Coffee (If neither, then what)? Cofffffeeeeeee (then diet coke obv)

Who's your Hero? My daddy (sorry mum x but she knows 😊!)

Favourite Book? The Vanished Man or basically anything by Jeffery Deaver

Do you have a Nickname? My meano sisters call me Heflen ...after the heffalump in Winnie the Pooh 😊

Favourite Film? The Great Escape

Your Favourite Saying/Quote? 'You can't take it with you!'

Do you Collect Anything? Somehow I've ended up with quite a collection of trivial pursuit games!

Favourite Tv Show? Anything crafty, love the Repair Shop and the Great Pottery Throwdown!

What would you do with a Million Pounds? Buy the Riverside Theatre!

Name: Katy Spall

Age: 34

Occupation/School? Head of Wardrobe/Seamstress

Do you have any Pets? None of my own but I am definite the go to cat or dog sitter among family and friends 😊

First Cof4 show you were involved with? I believe I was in my mums tummy during a show she was in, if that counts as being involved...?! Otherwise first time on stage in Snow White 1992

Favourite Song (And who by?)? Too many

First Music Album you brought? Probably Westlife!

Favourite Food? Chocolate

Tea/Coffee (If neither, then what)? Black Tea please!

Who's your Hero? My Mum and Daddy

Favourite Book? The Faraway Tree or Papillon

Do you have a Nickname? KtK8

Favourite Film? Ice cold in Alex or Robin and the Seven Hoods

Your Favourite Saying/Quote? "Just be yourself, everyone else is taken"

Do you Collect Anything? I seem to have far too many tape measures but that's not a conscious effort, just comes with the job I guess!

Favourite Tv Show? Haven't had a TV for a long time... so not sure

What would you do with a Million Pounds? Buy the Riverside Theatre!

Name: Amy Spall

Age: 37

Occupation/School? Freelance Stage Manager

Do you have any Pets? Yes! The most prettiest cat called Cinders.

First Cof4 show you were involved with?

Sinbad 1990 at the grand old age of 5

Favourite Song (And who by?)? Nope, that's too hard!

First Music Album you brought? I think it was Hanson, The Middle of Nowhere! (Still a fan)

Favourite Food? Breakfast 😊

Tea/Coffee (If neither, then what)? Diet Coke all the way

Who's your Hero? Definitely the Parents

Favourite Book? Any Lee Child book of the Jack Reacher series

Do you have a Nickname? Aims

Favourite Film? Shawshank Redemption

Your Favourite Saying/Quote? There's always one, and if you can't see them, it's probably you.

Do you Collect Anything? Not since my very impressive Troll collection of the 90's! No idea what happened to them.

Favourite Tv Show? Friends

What would you do with a Million Pounds? Pay for all the shows that would need to be put on at The Riverside Theatre once my sisters bought it 😊



Pantomime 2023-Snow White:

We are pleased to announce that we'll be putting on Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs as our annual pantomime in February 2023 half term week. We had to postpone this production in 2021 & 2022 so we're really hoping that it's third time lucky!! We delighted that all of our adult cast members will be remaining in their principal roles, however, we will be re-auditioning for the roles of the Seven Dwarfs and all our Dancing & Singing Ensemble (Juniors, Junior Dancers, Seniors, Chorus & Singers). These auditions are open to anyone to come along as well as those who were cast previously and would like to be involved again.

AUDITION DATES.....

Our main auditions will be on **SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER** at the Fred Reynolds Centre (FRC) in Woodbridge (IP12 4UU)

10am - Seniors/Dancers

11am - Chorus/Singers

12noon - Juniors/Junior Dancers

1pm - Dwarfs Script & Singing Audition

If you are unable to come along on 18th September, please let us know as we can also hold another session on Tuesday 20th from 6.30pm, again at the FRC

Pantomime rehearsals won't start until November due to our current production of Goodnight Mister Tom.

Penny, Mary & Paal

Royal British Legion 100th Birthday celebration:

The Company of Four were proud to be part of the centenary celebrations of the Woodbridge branch of the Royal British Legion. A fun day was held on Kingston Field in Woodbridge on Saturday 27th August, where lots of the local charities were in attendance, showing off their products and information, along with a 1940's singer (ex-member Rachel Foskett, who mentioned the Cof4 stall several times...Thanks Rachel!), stalls including the 4x4 rescue team, motorcycle blood transporters and a host of Emergency Services, as well as Classic Car Show. The Company held a Hoopla Stall, which was well attended, even making a small profit, but the main aim of the day was to get our name back into the community and advertise Goodnight Mister Tom. Thank you to all the willing volunteers who gave up their Saturday to help.

Fred Reynolds Centre:

Just a reminder to everyone that The Centre is always available to hire, at a very reasonable cost. If you know of anyone wishing to hold a children's birthday party, an afternoon tea or a coffee morning, the venue is perfect. Please do spread the word about its availability to hire. As always, we are looking for people to help with bits and bobs around the centre, if you or anyone you know has a few hours to spare and fancy giving us a hand with keeping the gardens in check, or a bit of fence painting, then please do get in contact in the usual way.

I used to live hand to mouth. Do you know what changed my life? Cutlery.

A Short Story:

After an absence of a couple of months, due to space issues, we welcome back a short story from the pen of long-term member Geoff Jacobs.....

A New Hobby

I'm a fairly active sort of chap but age became my crime,
pensioned from my workplace I sought a new pastime.
In my quest for a hobby, I asked a friend of mine,
He told me to forget it, doing nothing was just fine.
I said I fancied gardening, digging, planting seeds,
He said I would regret it; all I'd get was huge great weeds.
He was right, my sprouts all shrunk, I suffered mild heat stroke,
Then on Friday morning my dibbler went and broke.
Golf I thought, I'll learn that quick, golf couples like to swing,
But my niblick gave me grief, and wearing shorts was not the thing

Club captain had a word, said I was out of place,
carting clubs in a shopping trolley didn't help my case.
Darts I thought a simple game and alcohol galore,
But I'm a bit short sighted and my aim is rather poor,
My darts stuck in the ceiling and landed in folks' beer,
and one that really went astray pierced the landlord's ear.
He lost his cool this friendly guy, who had appeared quite matey,
threw me roughly out the door before I'd scored 180.

Snooker! Indoors in the dry, again with lots of ale,
hitting balls with lump of wood at this I could not fail.
The cue I got was somewhat bent and didn't have a tip,
it went and slipped clean off the ball and cloth began to rip.
The owner wasn't happy, I gave a nervous cough,
He made me pay him eighty quid and then said "Just clear off"

Rugby! Couldn't hack it, all those rucks and mauls,
Ping pong proved a bit too fast I couldn't hit the balls.
I even took up singing but learned I was tone deaf, a
nd when it came to jogging, I just ran out of breath.
Next, I tried bell ringing, but I couldn't keep in time,
and as for Salmon fishing had trouble casting line
I was on the point of giving up, of searching I was tired,
doing nothing seemed the only course, then inspiration fired
Finally, I found it, a hobby without a jinx, I'm now the local champion, I mastered tiddly winks.

Thank you once again Geoff for your creative writing. If any of our younger members wish to submit a short story, we would be very happy to include them in a future Newsletter.... please send them in!





Photos of the Hoopla Stall at Kingston Field for the Centenary Celebration of the Woodbridge Branch of The Royal British Legion.

My attempts to combine nitrous oxide and Oxo cubes made me a laughing stock.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

New This Month in **RED...**

Tuesday 13th September 2022 - The Company's AGM at The FRC from 7pm

Week of Sunday 18th September - Auditions for Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs

Thursday 20th - Saturday 22nd October - Goodnight Mister Tom at The Seckford.

Thursday 10th November 2022 - Company of Four Quiz

Saturday 11th - Saturday 18th February 2023 - Snow White at The Riverside



*There we are, another Newsletter completed. I hope you all have had a wonderful summer holiday. 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 September Newsletter is **September 25th**.*

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