

The title 'The Chorus Line!' is written in a large, red, bubbly font. The word 'The' is smaller and positioned to the left of 'Chorus'. The word 'Line!' is also smaller and positioned to the right of 'Chorus'. The title is decorated with musical notes and two Santa hats. A treble clef is on the left, and a bass clef is on the right. The background is white with a black border.

The Chorus Line!

The Newsletter of The Company of Four

December 2022



Welcome from the Chair:

Season's Greetings one and all, merry tidings and all that jazz.

The festive season is upon us as we round up what has been a phenomenal year for the Company. Some successful shows, fantastic trips and golden celebration events have made for a wonderful year. After a very trying couple of years, I feel the frivolities and spirit of the Company of Four has been recaptured. I am delighted we have welcomed the return of some past members this year, as well as feeling overjoyed at greeting many new members of all ages. I can't wait to see what 2023 has in store for us. I wish you all and your families the very merriest of Christmases and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

All the best

Lily x

Welcome from the Editor:

Hello everyone. Welcome to the December & Christmas edition of the Newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying rehearsals for Pantomime if your involved with the production. Another year has flown by, and what a fantastic year it has been for the Company, with the 50th anniversary show in the summer and Goodnight Mister Tom in October, as well as all of the fabulous social events that have occurred this year, it truly has been a Golden 50th Celebration. The committee, at our last meeting, are certainly hoping to continue with a variety of social events for next year, as well as an exciting array of productions. All the detail for these will be available soon, we are just making the final arrangements before we advertise them, but you will all be the first to know what's happening, either through the Newsletter, or a special bonus (oooo!) email once things are sorted.

I know that I have said it before, but we are wanting the Newsletter to reflect our membership. If any member would like to submit anything for the next or future editions, please do get in touch with me. This can be anything, from a birthday shout out, to showing off your talents in the writing department, even a piece of artwork that you'd like to share with everyone, we'd love to see it.

This just leaves me to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and hopefully a prosperous New Year.

Oliver

Where do you find reindeer? It depends on where you leave them!

Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs:

Rehearsals are now full steam ahead for panto with a cast of over 50 adults and children and what an amazing time we're all having. Everybody has committed enthusiastically to dancing, singing and the script rehearsals. Thank you to everyone so far who is involved and those who have offered to help. We still need more help though, so please do get in touch if your free that week or in the run up during rehearsals.

We have also been delving into the depths of the costume store, and found some fantastic costumes, so it's hopefully going to look spectacular too!

Tickets go on sale on 7th December to the public, all the details are below. Please get spreading the word!

Saturday 11th 2:30 & 6:30* is BSL Signed performance
Sunday 12th 2:30, Monday 13th 2:30, Wednesday 15th 2:30 & 7:30
Thursday 16th 2:30, Friday 17th 2:30 & 7:30, Saturday 18th 2:30 & 6:30

Tickets Prices:

Adults £16.50 Children (under 16) £12 Seniors (Over 65) £14 Family (2+2) £50
Saturday 11th 6:30 performance all tickets £10 if booked by 31st December 2022
Call the Riverside Box Office on 01394 382174 or via the website.

Penny, Mary & Paul



A Visit from Santa's:

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Company has received a letter from Santa, asking us to help spread some Christmas cheer in December. This really is a great opportunity to collect some money for charity and deliver some leaflets advertising our upcoming Panto. We have two runs booked in with Santa, these being on Thursday 8th December around the Bury Hill area of Woodbridge and Tuesday 13th December around the Peterhouse Crescent area of Woodbridge. I believe that we shall be joined this year by Snow White and her Dwarfs, but we are still looking for a few more volunteers to help with these runs each night, either by distributing the leaflets through doors or holding (but not shaking!) the donation tins. We shall aim to start around 17:30 - 18:00 and the runs last around 2 hours. We may even be able to have a mince pie and glass of mulled wine at the end of the runs! If you are interested, please let Vicky know.



Why did Santa put a clock in his sleigh? Because he wanted to see time fly!

Quiz Time:



"What a fabulous evening" was one of the comments we gratefully received after the quiz. And what a wonderful evening we all had, getting the old grey matter working. With 6 teams battling it out for two tubs of chocolates, hosts Adam K and Oliver certainly got the room quiet and thinking for a few hours! Halfway through, scores were tight, but nothing mattered as the break was announced and the chilli and nachos were soon whisked to the tables of hungry competitors, hoping that a dose of food would help their thinking caps! Second half came and the final scores were totted up, the runners up in last place (we don't have losers!) were tied between The Wickham Wanderers and Team Committee (who had been leading all the way through, until the picture round was scored up), both having to share the wooden spoon award! Team Harlequin (6 members from Grundisburgh Am-Dram group, who joined us) was next over the finish line, and just in



front of them were team "It's sadder than that!" (Our current panto production team if you hadn't guessed!). Second and a very credible performance from the team were Donald's Ducks, but beating them, by only half a point, were the Misfits, 6 members from the Friends of the Company of Four. Congratulations to everyone who took part. It really was nice to hear the comments about the organisation and the food, so much so, there is likely to be a repeat performance soon. Also, a **BIG** thank you to Vicky and Catherine for organising the night.

How is the alphabet different on Christmas from every other day? There's Noel!

Friends of The Company of Four:

Just a couple of weeks to go before our next 'Friends' coach outing which is before Christmas but soon enough to the Big Day to get into the 'swing'. It's off to Clacton for shopping (it has to be done!) followed by the Christmas Show at West Cliff theatre and then on to enjoy a Christmas meal and drinks at Brantham Bull PH.

We intend to urgently send a newsletter to all the 'Friends' of Cof4', to let them know about booking arrangements for 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs', so KEEEEEEEP rehearsing!

For any friends or relations interested in joining 'The Friends'; please contact us by phoning 01394 384806 or 07881790004 - Vernon and Penny.

"Happy Christmas Everyone"

Where do Christmas plants go when they want to become movie stars? Holly-wood!

The Treasurer Writes:

Thanks to all those things we mentioned in the November newsletter, we finished with a surplus on the *Goodnight Mister Tom* production of £4,600. A great result, when you consider as we entered October, we were hoping for at least a break-even situation.

The final run up to 100% sell out of seats was significant!!

And so, after the Christmas activities and festivities we move on to Panto 2023.

We usually see this as our 'funds injection' production, but we must remember it will be three years in Feb 2023 since our last Panto in 2020 and we must not rest on our laurels, but must now start to sell, sell, sell the Panto to try and emulate GMT and fill all the performances. We really need to remind our regular audience of what they have missed over three years and encourage all those new members and friends to rock up for *Snow White*. Financially a good return on the Panto gives us more scope to undertake other different sorts of productions like musicals, plays and shows like *Thank You Very Much*. That just leaves me to say...

Jingle tills, jingle tills, Panto's on the way! Get selling those tickets!!

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Neville

What would you call an elf who just has won the lottery? Welfy

Future Productions:

As mentioned in last month's NL, as well as the opening piece above, the committee are looking at some very exciting productions for 2023, one for late July and one for October, as well as 2 submissions for Panto 2024 and a further two productions for that year. We are hoping to announce these as soon as we have all the details in place, so keep an eye on this space. Also, if any members wish to submit any plays, or musicals you think we should be looking at performing, then again, please do get in contact.

What do you get if you cross a Christmas tree with an iPad? A pineapple!

Accommodation:

The committee were sad, but not surprised, to take a phone call at the beginning of November from the Estate Agent who has been dealing with our issue of accommodation and the building we had looked at securing. Sadly, this has now slipped through the net, due to planning regulations that are on the building. With no real guaranteed way of us getting the planning application through, due to the local oppositions and opinions in the village, the landlords have had to make the awful decision to find someone else to fill the building. So, this takes us back to square one on the snakes and ladders board of the saga of the accommodation. We are still currently looking for suitable premises to move our extensive wardrobe and scenery building workshop too, so we ask all of our members, if you hear of a building for rent, please do get in touch with us as soon as possible, so we can look into it further.

Why do Dasher and Dancer love coffee? Because they're Santa's star bucks!

Short Stories:

After a couple of months of lack of space, we glad to bring you back some short stories from regular contributor Geoff Jacobs. This month, they have a Christmassy feel about them...

I have a friend called Oliver...

I have a friend called Oliver, who just hates Christmastide
He turns from Dr Jekyll to a frightening Mr Hyde.
Wish him season's greetings and all he'll do is curse,
Mention Christmas presents and he locks away his purse.
Seeing all those lovely cards will turn his legs to jelly,
And he'd rather be arrested than watch the King on telly.
If you mention Father Christmas, or stockings filled with toys,
He'll reach for his inhaler and make a wheezing noise.
Turkey, pud and brussel sprouts turn his face bright red,
And talk of singing carols and he heads straight for his bed.
There is an "up" side to this man, what one might call a "perk"
While the rest of us all celebrate, he's quite prepared to work.
(I'm sure Vicky will agree with that one Geoff...Thanks!)

MRS SANTA CLAUS

My names is Mrs. Christmas a carefree happy soul,



Until it gets to Advent when I tend to lose control.
That's because I worry, and take the blooming flack,
While hubby gets the credit ho ho hooing with his sack.
You think I'm being picky, well let me put you right.
It's me who has to organise and plan for the big night.
"What's the big deal?" I hear you cry, "it's not a mammoth task,
You clean his suit, trim his beard, and pack his thermos flask".
If that was true, there'd be no probs, but it don't work like that,
I do it all from checking sleigh to feeding the flippin cat,

And what about that hoard of elves down in the packing shed?
I not only do their washing, I have to see they're fed.
I open mail, I check requests, computerise and file,
Then I plot his journey down to last single mile.
You can't conceive the worries that Christmas can impose
I even have to make sure there's a glow on Rudolph's nose.
Getting back to hubby, he's a hypochondriac
If he hasn't got pneumonia, there's a problem with his back.
He's always got excuses why jobs are never done,
He says that mending toilets are not his idea of fun.
I tell him, doing ironing is not the highlight of my day
Especially for 300 gnomes, without a penny's pay.



The weekend prior to Christmas he says he needs a rest
So he spends 2 days on sofa watching telly in his vest,
It takes away the magic, the children's hero of the year,
Lounging with the T.V. guide, and 20 cans of beer.
Finally it's the 24th, I've packed his flask of tea,
Cut his midnight sandwiches, made sure he's had a wee.
I wave him off, then settle down, make myself a brew,
This year I've left reminders of just how much I do,
So perhaps he'll pull his socks up, next year he'll do his share,
'Cause this night will be a long one I've starched his underwear!

THE BACK PAGE

The Committee:

Chair: Lily Griffiths

Vice Chair: Oliver Fosker

Treasurer: Neville Woollnough

Secretary: Neil Thorpe

Committee Members:

Natalie Barker, Catherine Dale, Vicky Fosker, Adam Kearney, Allan Rogers, Katy Spall, Adam Thorpe & Sarah Wheatley.

If any member has any questions, issues, concerns, or suggestions, please do speak to any of the committee members above, and if they can't help, we shall guide you to who can. We are here to support the Company and you as the membership, so please do get in touch with us.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

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

Wednesday 7th December 2022 - Tickets for panto go on sale.

Wednesday 7th December 2022 - Company of Four Christmas Meal

8th & 13th December 2022 - A Visit from Santa - Cof4 to help him with his rounds!

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



Follow us on our socials:

www.cof4.co.uk

facebook.com/thecompanyoffour

twitter.com/Companyof4

instagram.com/thecompanyoffour

EMAIL: cof4secretary@gmail.com

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 November Newsletter is December 25th.

