

The Chorus Line

The Newsletter of The Company of Four

February 2023

Welcome from the Chair:

Hello everyone, February is here! That means it's time for panto season, "oh no it isn't, oh yes it is!" I am delighted to be playing the role of Snow White, we've had so much fun at rehearsals I can't wait to get on stage now. Thank you to those of you already showing your support by buying tickets, if you aren't in the show please do come along. If you are, make sure you tell all your family and friends about it. After the pantomime we have some great shows lined up for you, more about that later. It's already been a great start to the year, and I'm excited to spend the rest of 2023 with you all.

All the best

Lily x

Welcome from the Editor:

Hello everyone, I hope the January blues didn't catch any of you and we're all looking forward to panto, whether that be as a member of the cast, helping backstage or even coming to watch. I have seen a few of the rehearsals, and it's certainly going to be a knockout! There are a lot of things to tell you this month, so I shall stop my ramblings here and let you enjoy the Newsletter... Bye for now!

Oliver

Dad, can you put my shoes on? No, I don't think they'll fit me.

Panto Party:

"I wanna put on, my my my boogie shoes!"

After an absence of a few years, the committee would like to hold a Panto Party. A regular event in our social calendar, that has sadly been missing for a few years, is now back, and hopefully to stay. Lots of fun and games are being looked at, including 'Little Willie', 'The toilet roll game' and dancing to all the usual hits 'The Music Man', 'The Conga' and



'The Hokey Cokey!' It really is a fun night out for all of our members. So come and join the fun at the Martlesham Community Hall on Saturday 4th March from 7pm. Ticket price is £5 Single Ticket and £10 Family, these can be obtained from Catherine Dale during panto rehearsals and the show week or can be brought on the door. Please bring your own food & drink.

I could tell a joke about pizza, but it's a little cheesy.

Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs:

We are only two weeks away now from the opening of our pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs... and the nerves amongst the cast are mounting!

Rehearsals are in full swing, and we're now rehearsing on the stage at the Riverside. Fitting everyone with costumes has been a tall order for a cast of over 50, but we think we're nearly there. It's just the finishing touches to go.

Everyone has been working so hard to make this Panto come back a success, to which we Thank everyone for all their hard work so far in getting it to this stage. So please support us by buying tickets and spreading the word. If

you can offer help in anyway, it would be hugely appreciated, please get in contact with



any of us to see what needs to be done. Whether it's distributing leaflets, helping backstage with scenery, or just sharing our Facebook posts, every little helps!

One prop we've struggled to source is a mannequin, if anyone knows where we might be able to source one, please please do let us know, see the picture on the left of what we're looking for.

Hope to see you there...

Penny, Mary & Paul



Future Productions:

The Committee are now in a position to be able to advise our membership of our plans for the next year, with three exciting productions in the pipeline coming up.

First off, our summer show this year will be '**Sister Act Junior**', with two performances being staged at the Woodbridge Community Hall on Saturday 17th June, (There may even be a chance to extend to a performance on Friday 16th June if ticket sales are strong). Auditions for this production shall take place on Sunday 5th March, with a morning workshop 10-12.30, then a lunch break for half an hour and then auditions from 1-4. A venue is currently being sought for auditions, so please keep an eye on our social media or contact Lily or the secretary for when updates for this become available. *This production is only for members aged 18 and under.*

Our Autumn production, to be staged at the Seckford Theatre in October half term week (The week beginning 23rd) shall be '**Little Shop of Horrors**'. More details of this with the audition dates etc shall be posted in future NLs.

This will lead us onto our Panto for 2024, where we shall be staging '**Jack & The Beanstalk**' in our regular February Half Term week slot. Again, more details of this shall be posted in NLs throughout the year.

The committee also have some exciting plans for 2024, the details of these are being finalised and looked at as this NL goes out to our members. We can also proudly announce the Panto for 2025 shall be '**Dick Whittington**'. Lots of productions to look forward too for all ages of our membership.

I had a neck brace fitted years ago...I've never looked back since.

Fred Reynolds Centre Clear Up:

Are you green fingered? And do you have a couple of hours to spare on a Sunday? Well, we need some help! The garden, lawns and fencing at the Fred Reynolds Centre has got a little wild this last year and is now in need of a little bit of a makeover. We are looking for an army of volunteers to help trim the hedges right down, mow the lawns short and even give the boundary fence a coat of paint or two. At the same time, the inside of the FRC shall be getting sorted with a clear out of the office space, cleaning of the windows and a general tidy up. So, if you feel you could help us with any of these, please let Oliver or Neville know, or do come along on Sunday 26th March from 9am. Vicky has also said she'll be on hand with tea/coffee/cans of drink and bacon rolls to feed and water the hungry workers! It would be great to see you there (*This is all dependent on the weather of course!*).

When two vegans get in an argument, is it still called a beef?

Quiz:

After the roaring success of our quiz night back in November, the committee are going to be staging another evening of brain teasing and general head scratching (*and that's nothing to do with nits!*) So come and join us at the Woodbridge Royal British Legion on Thursday 4th May, doors open at 7pm for a 7:30 start. Teams of 6 and the cost is £4 per person. As before, a bowl of nachos and chilli will be available during the break for your refreshment. If you're interested in coming along to the evening, please let Vicky know, so we can keep an eye on numbers for food etc.

Friends of The Company of Four:

Not long now before it's 'Curtain Up' on Snow White, and we've taken the opportunity to 'pop in' to rehearsals at the Riverside and have been very impressed with what we have seen, so "well done" everyone on stage and behind the scenes. As you know, The Friends will be organizing a fund-raising raffle and selling programmes at each performance so please come to the foyer to see us, and if you have any raffle prizes, we would be more than happy to accept them. We will also have application forms to join The Friends, so if you're interested, please ask any family and friends to speak to Vernon or Penny.

Vernon & Penny.

I was going to tell a time-traveling joke, but you guys didn't like it.

Short Story:

This month finds another short poem from member & resident story writer Geoff Jacobs. Especially with the weather being rather cold at the moment (*at the time of writing this NL, its currently -1 outside!*), this certainly made me think that Geoff should maybe move house?!

CHANGE OF HEART

The cold is intense, snow falls thickly, "Must find the place", hands numbing quickly.
Wind howls, the torch grows dim, "At last the door, must hurry in".
Safe inside, yet it still feels cold, Even the torch seems hard to hold.
As draughts creep in through every crack. Panic, "Will I find my way back?"
I think of my family warm in bed, why didn't I listen to what they said?
"I shouldn't dear you must be crazy". But it didn't seem so when warm and hazy.
Now I wish I had paid heed, then there would have been no need
To venture forth on such a night, And land myself in this damn plight.
My mind is clear, one thought shines through, we'll just have to get an indoor loo.



Star Spotlight

Drum Roll please...After a couple of months absence, everyone's favourite part of the Newsletter is back (*Horraayyyy...I hear the cries!*). This month's par-can has swung round on to the Producer of Panto and all-round Jack of all trades...Join us as we delve into the world that is...**Penny Davies**

Name: Penny Davies **Age:** 54

Occupation? I work as Business Support at BT Adastral Park, I've been there for 36 years!

Do you have any Pets? Yes 2 dogs - 14-year-old Poppy who is a Jack Russell/Patterdale cross and 5 year Frankie, a Dachshund/Jack Russell cross - we got him as a rescue during lockdown

First Cof4 show you were involved with? My first show was Jack & the Beanstalk in 1978 - I was part of the Kay Goddard Dancers. We did a 'Nurseryrama' section and I was 'Little Boy Blue'

Favourite Song (And who by?)? I will always dance around the kitchen to Uptown Funk by Bruno Mars but also love 80's hits - particularly Tainted Love by Soft Cell and Sweet Dreams by Eurythmics

First Music Album you brought? I think one of my first Albums was the Double LP of 'Chess the Musical' Original Soundtrack - I was so excited to get it for Christmas

Favourite Food? Has to be chocolate... or crisps

Tea/Coffee (If neither, then what)? Coffee - I'm partial to a Latte or Mocha

Who's your Hero? This week it's my hubby as he fixed the heating in my car!

Favourite Book? I've most enjoyed reading all the Harry Potter stories

Do you have a Nickname? I've been given nicknames by a few people in the Cof4!! (*Four Piles Penny....Ask Adam K! ~ Ed*)

Favourite Film? My most watched film has to be Grease - but I also love the Shrek films. My favourite recent film is 'Untouchable' - it's in French and about a quadriplegic - I know it doesn't sound great but it's one of the funniest movies I've seen!

Do you Collect Anything? Theatre programmes - I've been lucky to see lots of shows

Favourite Tv Show? I'll always watch Friends when there's nothing else on TV. And 'The Young Ones' and 'Blackadder' were my favourites in my teens!

What would you do with a Million Pounds? Share it with my family & friends and build the Company of Four a new Workshop & Costume Store (the existing one is leaking sooooo much!!)

But wait dear reader...before you go onto the next item...We have one more treat for you this month...oooo! Yes, we bring you a second Star Spotlight for your immense enjoyment...ooo! I can feel the tension is palpable. This time it swings Stage Left and hits not only our current Chairperson of the Company, but also the title role of our panto...We bring you...**Lily Griffiths**

Name: Lily Jessica Griffiths **Age:** 28

Occupation? Events manager and performing arts teacher

Do you have a Pets? Florence the Pomchorkie

First show with The Company of Four? Sleeping Beauty in 2005

What's your Favourite song? Mack the knife (I've got no idea why)

First album you brought? Chers Greatest Hits

Favourite food? Avocado, I love that stuff

Tea/coffee? Tea; milk and two sugars please

Who's your Hero? Victoria Woods for her comedy and my mum

Your Favourite book? Anything by Enid Blyton, I still love a Famous Five.

Do you have a Nickname? Lil/Lils, anything else and I feel like I'm in trouble.

Favourite film? My Big Fat Greek Wedding or Notting Hill. I can't choose!

What's your Favourite saying? Life is too short to live the same day twice.

Do you Collect anything? Vintage clothing and accessories

What's your Favourite TV show? Call the Midwife

What would you do if you won a Million pounds? I'd buy a micro pig, some Louboutins, tickets to every West End show and a classic car.

THE BACK PAGE

The Committee:

Chair: Lily Griffiths

Vice Chair: Oliver Fosker

Treasurer: Neville Woolnough

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...**

Sunday 5th & Wednesday 8th February - Get In at the Theatre

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

Saturday 4th March - Panto Party

Sunday 5th March - Auditions for Sister Act JR

Sunday 26th March - Garden Clear up at the FRC

Thursday 4th May - Quiz

Saturday 17th June - Sister Act Junior at the Woodbridge Community Hall

October Half Term Week - Little Shop of Horrors

February Half Term Week 2024 - Jack & The Beanstalk



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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instagram.com/thecompanyoffour

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