

The Chorus Line

The Newsletter of The Company of Four
April 2023

Welcome from the Chair:

Hello everyone, 😊 April is here and we have been very busy! Lots has been going on behind the scenes with the committee along with volunteers improving our facilities and working hard to maintain our company assets. All very important on ensuring the Company of Four for future shows and generations! Rehearsals have begun for Sister Act JR and they are going well. The production team were delighted at the standard of auditions and so pleased to see many new faces. We love welcoming new members to the Company of Four, old hands please make them feel at home!

All the best

Lily xx

Welcome from the Editor:

Hello everyone, what a busy month March was. All the details and reviews are below, but it has been fantastic to see so many people getting involved with the running and supporting of the Company, other than just being on stage. Your participation in Panto Party or helping with the clear up of the Fred Reynolds Centre has shown that this Company is bouncing back from Covid and there is still a massive want for the Company to survive and thrive. This is great to see and I was thrilled to hear of the amount of children who came to audition for our next production Sister Act Jr, I have no doubt it will be a fantastic production and wish all those involved good luck with it. Anyway, enough of my ramblings, here is this month's Edition for you to enjoy.

Oliver

Why is Peter Pan always flying? He neverlands.

Sister Act Junior:

Sister Act Junior rehearsals are now underway. We have a wonderful cast of just under 40 who have all made an excellent start. After an initial read through, soloists have learnt their songs and we have set the first big number. It's been such a joy seeing the youngest members of the company really flourish.

The show will be performed at Woodbridge Community Hall on Saturday 17th June at 2:30pm and 7pm. Keep an eye out on our social media pages as tickets will go on sale in the next few weeks. These will be priced at £12.50 for adults, £7.50 for children and £35 for a family of four ticket. They can be purchased from The Riverside.

In the coming months we will be looking for volunteers to help with set and costumes - there's a few nuns costumes to make!

A date for your diaries: We will begin making the nun's habits at Fred Reynolds on Saturday 22nd April from 1:30. It would be lovely for as many of our members and friends to get involved. Even if it's for just some of the day, we would really appreciate it.

Lily, Neil & Sarah

Accommodation:

As you have read in previous issues of the Newsletter, our current premises, 'The Hut', is starting to get very run down and the future of the building has been very uncertain for a number of years. We as a committee have been actively looking for alternative storage, not only for our costumes but also for our workshop scenery area. At the beginning of March, the Committee signed a lease for a new building to hold our extensive costume department. The new premises are in Dallinghoo, with renovation and fitting out already started as this Newsletter goes out to members. We shall be asking for a lot of help over the next few months, when the building is ready to be occupied, to transfer all the costumes to their new home. So if you are able to lend a hand, details shall be posted in future NLs or in additional emails as and when dates and times are sorted nearer the time.



About two years ago, the Company also took on a 40-foot container on a farm, to house our larger scenery items. This has worked incredibly well for us, keeping our stuff safe and dry at a minimum cost. The committee has agreed to take on another container of



the same size to now house our Workshop, to help us leave the Hut and take the Company forward in the future. With wanting two containers side by side, this did mean we had to move all of our scenery over to the new one as soon as possible. This was completed in 3 hours on Sunday 12th March, when a small band of volunteers eagerly loaded a couple of trailers and got the storage moved. Thank you to those

members. Again, once we have the new container sorted, we shall make a start on moving the workshop in its entirety, so we again will be looking for volunteers to lend us a hand.

With our current production going on, it is an ideal time and situation for us to get these moves completed, so if any of the adult members can help, it is always very much appreciated.

Fred Reynolds Centre Clear Up:

To quote Mister Tom... "And then it rained...and rained...and rained!" Sunday 26th March found rain...lots of rain (*My shoes are still drying out ~ Ed*). But non the less, A happy band cracked on and made a huge start at clearing and sorting the Fred Reynolds Centre. Natalie & Sheree attacked the bushes and shrubs with a vengeance and now the car park is looking fantastically clear, whilst Neville, Adam T & Katy cleared out the office and chucked a lot of rubbish away, as well as making better use of the space. A thorough deep clean was also on the list of jobs, with Adam K & Lily setting about the toilets with Catherine blitzing the kitchen area. Whilst these tasks were undertaken, our aching bellies were being filled with a steady stream of sausage and bacon baps, ably cooked by Vicky. There are still a few tasks to do over the year, as well as regular maintenance, which will get done when the weather dries out and time allows. As usual, we are always looking for more people to volunteer with jobs, so if you know someone who has a couple of hours to spare, we'd love to hear from them. Photos from the day below...

When does a joke become a dad joke? When it becomes apparent.

Panto Party:

Our Panto Party was held on Saturday 4th March at Martlesham Community Hall. Panto party have always been a big tradition in the Cof4 calendar, and this was



our first in a long time due to COVID and my goodness did we come back with a bang! Panto party was open to all members and families and it's a celebration of the of everyone's hard work and success of the panto.



For this year's party we hired Fun Play Ltd. who did a fantastic job at providing the music and entertainment. They organised games for the children, played a variety of brilliant disco music, including the party classics which everyone enjoyed dancing too and they even provided snow, bringing a snow machine which was enjoyed by all, especially the adults, providing much fun and giggles. It wouldn't be a panto party without the Mummy game so of course that was played and much fun was had.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event and thank you to those who donated raffle prizes and giving up your time to help set up and tidy away at the end of the night. And of course, a big thank you to Fun Play Ltd. for proving such brilliant music and entertainment.



Vicky and Catherine

Quiz:

The Questions are being compiled....and my brain is already hurting from sorting the rounds out!! But thank you to everyone who has shown interest in the Quiz so far. There is still time to get your name and teams down for this evening of grey matter stimulation. Could you be the ultimate winners or be going home with the wooden spoon - who knows?! Please do come and join us to find out, 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 asap by using the contact details below, so we can keep an eye on numbers for food etc.

Why are elevator jokes so classic? They work on many levels.

Friends of The Company of Four:

We've had lots of communication with our members since Pantomime and many of 'the Friends' are looking forward to seeing 'Sister Act Jnr.'

Would anyone like to join us on a 4-day weekend, half-board, holiday to Warner Sinah Warren Leisure Resort at Hayling Island, Hampshire - 8th to 11th September 2023? Holiday accommodation and a coach for travel have been booked, so please let us know if anyone is interested, as soon as possible and then we can ask the Hotel for additional rooms. This mini break is a FESTIVAL, Drinks Inclusive weekend and is advertised as - 70s Featuring Billy Joel Tribute UK with live band, Boogie Nights band with irresistible and iconic disco hits, Saturday Night Bee Gees and Davinia Vincent - 70s Disco Show, plus a DJ every night and more. For any further information & prices on the holiday or if you or anyone you know is interested in joining the Friends, then please do get in contact with us on 07881 790004.

Vernon & Penny.



Star Spotlight

Drum Roll please... it's Star Spotlight time. Welcome back to the ever-exciting look into private lives of Company of Four members! This month features a Gentleman, who has been a member of the Chorus, as well as having many principal roles on stage, creating some brilliant programmes, a Company magazine in the past and even a script. We swing the Ellipsoidal to centre stage and introduce to you...**Simon Hoyle**

Name Simon Hoyle

Age 53

Occupation/School? Data Analyst (spreadsheets & stuff) at AXA in Ipswich

Do you have any Pets? No, although next door's dogs pretty much adopted us as part of the family and would get very excited when I got home from work *every day*

First Cof4 show you were involved with? Cinderella (1994)

First Music Album you brought? The Best of Blondie in 1981 (and as fine a listen today as it was then)

Favourite Food? Italian or a good Sunday roast dinner

Tea/Coffee (If neither, then what)? Coffee. Milk, no sugar if anyone's offering? Please?

Who's your Hero? I don't really have one.

Favourite Book? The Millennium Trilogy by Stieg Larsson (The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo / The Girl Who Played With Fire / The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest)

Do you have a Nickname? Not that I'm aware of!

Favourite Film? Aliens. I also love JFK but wish it didn't make my brain hurt with all the conspiracy theories. And any time The Great Escape is on, I can join it at any point and usually end up seeing it through to the end...

Your Favourite Saying/Quote? I don't think I really have any but one of my lines in "Sunday In The Park With George" last year was "Work is what you do for others, Art is what you do for yourself"

Do you Collect Anything? Clutter (not intentionally)

Favourite TV Show? Buffy The Vampire Slayer. The best thing I've seen in the last year was The Capture (BBC)

What would you do with a Million Pounds? My favourite answer to this that I've seen, was the person who said they'd buy little apartments in all their favourite cities in the world, so they had somewhere to stay whenever they wanted to visit.

Thank you to Simon for being this month's willing volunteer for the Spotlight page. If any of our readers wish to be part of this page, it's as easy as getting in contact with me with the details at the bottom of the page.

The Treasurer Writes:

Not a lot from me this month, but just wanted to inform our membership that our latest Pantomime made a small profit of just short of £4000. This is of course lower than what we have made in the past, but still helpful in keeping the 'coffers' at a healthy balance.

Neville

The Hut:

It has already been mentioned further up in this NL about our accommodation situation, however, I thought a small Thank You must go to Katy Spall for all of her work at the Hut recently, in making a start on clearing our some of the rubbish and getting ready for the move to new premises, as well as the unenviable task of re-hanging and sorting out the costumes from Panto. Thank You Katy 😊.

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...**

Thursday 4th May - Quiz

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

Sunday 25th June - Little Shop of Horrors Auditions

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 May Newsletter is April 25th.

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EMAIL: cof4secretary@gmail.com

BEYOND THE BACK PAGE

From our busy day at the Fred Reynolds Centre on Sunday 26th March.

