

The Chorus Line

The Newsletter of The Company of Four

August 2024

Welcome from the Chair:

Hi everyone. A lovely summer we are finally having, I hope you're all enjoying the sunshine. There's a lot still going on at Company of Four, so make sure you're getting involved. I look forward to seeing how rehearsals for Railway Children are progressing. All the best

Lily xx

The Railway Children: (Adaptation by Mike Kenny, by arrangement with Nick Hern Books)

With rehearsals under way, the first half is plotted and really starting to take shape. I have been astonished by the quick work of our costume team for this production, Linda & Shirley (who have both come out of retirement for this production! - Thank you both), who has costumed most of the show in two weeks. We will be making a start on the scenery in late August, so if anyone has any spare time, please do get in contact, we'd love to hear from you. This will be to make some picket fences, station canopies, footbridge covers and a full-size locomotive. The cast are all looking forward to our photoshoot at the beginning of September, where we will be heading out to The Mid Suffolk Light Railway to play with some trains. Tickets for this production shall go on sale to the general public on Wednesday 21st August by following this link :



<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/seckfordtheatre/the-railway-children/e-kbjlqv> or by phoning the box office on 0333 666 3366 (Mon - Sat 09:00 - 19:00). Please do not try to book before this date, you won't be able to! Please do spread the word about tickets going on sale, it would be amazing for the whole cast if we had a sell out like we did for *Goodnight Mister Tom*. A couple of people have also asked about the cast, so here is the list:

Bobbie (Roberta) - Sheree Driver, **Peter** - Samuel Earthroll, **Phyllis** - Chloe Mortonson, **Cook/Mrs Perks** - Mary Leech, **Butler/Old Gentleman** - Neville Woolnough, **Maid/Ensemble** - Sam Avieson, **Mother** - Jane Hines, **Father/ Mr Szezcpankey** - Oliver Fosker, **Perks** - Simon Hoyle, **Mrs Viney** - Jacky Slator, **Doctor/Official** - Glenn Hurlock, **District Superintendent/Official** - Geoff Jacobs, **Jim** - Kit Widdup, **The Hare/Ensemble** - Evie Wheatley, **Workers** - Troy Morden & Paul Leech, **The Perks Children/Hounds** - Connor Farrell, Ava Goddard, Rebecca Hawes, Benji Hughes, Kensi Stout, Autumn Townes, Annabelle Ward, Violet Wheatley, **Ensemble** - Judith Bignell-Pepper, Barbara Hurlock

Oliver

Company of Four AGM:

As mentioned last month, this year's AGM shall be held on **Monday 16th 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.

As always, we are also looking for a committee for the next year. If you, or anyone you know would like to be a member of the committee and have a chance to shape the future of the Company, now is your chance to join. If this is something you would like to be part of, it's quite simple to achieve. You will need a current member to nominate you as a candidate, you will then need another current member to second you, and then send your nomination to the Company of Four secretary (cof4secretary@gmail.com) by **Monday 26th August** (inc). This goes for all current committee members also. Being part of this dynamic team will mean making choices for the Company going forward and requires some commitment from yourself in the various roles that will need filling, of which will be decided at the first committee meeting.

The Committee is set up of 4 Executive Members (Also deemed The Trustees of The Company of Four by the Charitable Commission) consisting of: The Chairperson, The Vice Chairperson, The Treasurer & The Secretary and 5 or more members.

The Company accounts for the year 2023/2024 will be available to view to all members hopefully from early September, if you wish for these, please email the Secretary who will pass on your details to the Treasurer.

Please come and support your Company at the AGM and help shape and move the Company forward.

The Committee

The Treasurer Writes:

Many thanks to those members who were willing and able to Gift Aid their membership fee. I have had the claim processed and we received £900 for ticking a box and signing your name. A significant sum which will be very useful to the company.

SpongeBob finished up with a small deficit of £330.

The accounts are now with the examiner and when they are given the OK, will be available to members ready for the due date of issue ready for the AGM.

At this point I would just comment that we had an expensive year with accommodation costs with all the changes and although hopeful that will reduce next year especially as we look to be out of Melton hut, it demonstrates we need as a Company to look at our income streams for the future as overall accommodation costs will be somewhat more than prior years and we need to look at our future income streams (inc. Productions & FRC) for the future to make sure we can fund our activities going forward.

More details at the AGM or by getting in touch with me or Committee

Neville

Pantomime Auditions:

With still a lot to sort out for Pantomime, the script is coming along nicely, and we now need to start thinking about auditions. More details will be available about this next month, however, please save the dates of **Tuesday 24th & Friday 27th September** for script auditions and **Sunday 29th September** for Singing & Dancing group auditions.

Lily

***I wanted to buy a pair of camouflage trousers, but I couldn't find any!**

Company of Four singers:

At our latest committee meeting, we discussed the possibility of starting up a very informal Adult singing group. The idea is based on people just wanting to sing, not to perform on stage or in a big venue, however we may look to perform in smaller venues like care homes or at Christmas events. It's a chance to sing and learn new songs and gain confidence singing with a group using harmony parts. Company of Four and non-members all very welcome. We are still finalising details at this stage, however, if you might be interested, please let Katy know on 07871218233 or katyspall@gmail.com .

Katy

***How can you tell it's a dogwood tree? By the bark!**

Hoodies and Polo Shirts:

After some very positive feedback from the members who have received their clothing items, we are now opening it up again to make another order of the black hoodies and polo shirts with our logo in gold. Polo Shirts will be available at a cost of: Adults £15 & Children £12, with Hoodies priced at: Adults £25 & Children £20. If you would like one of these, please do get in touch by August 31st and we can place an order. Payment will need to be made at the time of order, if you have any queries regarding sizes etc, please do get in contact.

Vicky

***My wife asked me to stop singing "Wonderwall" to her. I said "Maybe..."**

ESNEFT Colour Run:

A few Company members shall be taking part in this exciting event in September: <https://www.colchesteripswichcharity.org.uk/event/colour-run> . If you wish to find out more or join us, sign up with the link above.

Natalie

***Want to know why nurses like red crayons? Sometimes they have to draw blood!**

Tools Amnesty:

Do you have any gardening tools laying around, lost or forgotten in your garage or shed? Have you had a clear out of someone else's shed and found that the items are too good to throw away, but no good to yourself? Well...we might be interested! We are looking for some usable gardening tools for the Fred Reynolds Centre, mainly a petrol mower, petrol strimmer, and hedge cutting power tools. They would need to be in a working order, please no scrap items. If you have anything available, please do drop us an email.

Oliver

***My boss told me to have a good day, so I went home!**

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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, Kayleigh Richardson, 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...**

Monday 16th September - Company of Four AGM

24th, 27th & 29th September - Pantomime Auditions

24th, 25th & 26th October 2024 - The Railway Children

February 2025 - Dick Whittington

23rd & 24th May 2025 - Les Misérables School Edition

February 2026 - Mother Goose



There we are, another Newsletter completed. Please do feel free to send me anything you wish to include in a future Newsletter, we want it to be all about the news from the Company and all of our talented members, so please do get in touch - it really is as easy as emailing me on cof4secretary@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions for the September Newsletter is August 25th.

Follow us on our socials:

www.cof4.co.uk
facebook.com/thecompanyoffour
instagram.com/thecompanyoffour
EMAIL: cof4secretary@gmail.com