

40th Season of Ribchester Amateur Theatrical Society

Newsletter to Members and Friends



August 2011

Committee

Chairperson	-	Jean Skilbeck (Tel. 01254 878 530)
Secretary	-	Michael Flynn
Treasurer	-	Katie Farnworth
Committee Members	-	Claire Davies, Sue Cronshaw, Ann - Marie Counce

Hi Everyone,

This is the first Newsletter of our 40th Season. YES! We are forty in November and have one or two exciting things planned by way of celebrating this special occasion, of which I will tell you later in this Newsletter. But firstly, at a well attended Annual General Meeting a new Committee was voted in by members for the 2011 - 2012 season. Please see above.

STYDD'S LITTLE GEM

A big "Thank You and Well Done!" to Vicki Mason and all in any way involved in the Festival Fringe event 'STYDD'S LITTLE GEM', with special thanks to Roy Skilbeck and Keith Flood for their help with the production. The event was a success and was well attended each evening. But I was not alone in being disappointed by the lack of support from RATS members. Although the play was part of the Festival of Music and Art, it was never the less a RATS production, the first of the season and I for one would have liked to have seen it better supported by members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members subscriptions are now due for this 2011 - 2012 Season and are still only £5.00 Adults and £2.50 Children (under 16). Subscriptions may be paid to the Treasurer or placed in an envelope with your name on and handed to any member of the Committee named above. You must be a paid up member to be involved in a production, have a right to vote on Society matters should such an occasion arise and of course be covered by our insurance should an accident occur.

REVUE FOR RUBY CELEBRATION

In November of this year Ribchester Amateur Theatrical Society will be **40**.

To celebrate this RATS milestone, Sue Cronshaw and Katie Farnworth are to produce a Revue of Songs and Sketches etc. If you would like to be involved in this Celebration Revue contact Sue on 01254 878 677 or Katie on 07813 301 829 or attend the first Revue meeting to be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10 August.

If you fancy joining RATS, now is the time to do it! Don't be shy, come along and join us, everyone is welcome.

The Revue will take place on 10th, 11th and 12 November 2011.

40th Anniversary

Plans are underway for a Dinner Dance to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Society. At this moment in time this is still in the planning stage so no venue or definite date has been set; hopefully the Dinner Dance will take place towards the end of November after the Revue. Members, ex Members and Friends are invited to join this celebration of our 40 years. If you know of any ex members of RATS who may not be on our mailing list, please inform them of this event. Tickets for the Dinner Dance will be priced around £25.00 maximum per person.

Children's performances

We have recently been contacted by Lancashire County Council's Child Entertainment and Employment Officers, who have informed us that if children of school age perform in paid productions on 4 or more occasions within a 6 month period, we are subject to the Children and Young Persons Act 1963.

This involves a number of regulations, including the requirement for all children to be licensed, the use of a chaperone, requirements for rehearsal and changing facilities etc. Whilst clearly intended to be for protection of children in professional productions, it does apply to amateur groups also, and obviously causes us some difficulties, hence no summer Young RATS play.

We have spoken to Nigel Evans MP about this and are approaching other groups to check if there is any way round it. We will also meet with the Council Officer to discuss this further. It does seem a shame if such a valuable opportunity for community based activity for our youngsters is lost: as Nigel Evans said 'If it didn't exist, you would want to invent it!' We will hope to have come to some arrangement before panto season starts (assuming someone comes forward to produce a panto!)

2012 PRODUCTIONS

At the AGM members voted to return the Pantomime to its usual February slot. The Committee is now looking for volunteers to produce a Pantomime or Play in February.

The May Play will be Produced and Directed by Claire Davies and Judy Mallam.

*Jean Skilbeck
Chairperson*