



THE CORN EXCHANGE TIMES

Newsletter of the Sinodun Players
April 2018

MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

It's been a long, cold, dreary winter and I'm sure all of us are looking forward to seeing some sunshine. If you're looking for something else to bring a smile to your face then make sure that you book your tickets for *Lettice & Lovage*. It really is a very amusing play with some wonderful laugh out loud one-liners. This production deserves to be a sell-out success, although – as so often happens – it seems that people have left buying their tickets to the last minute. Please remember that buying tickets for our shows is a very important way in which you can both support the Corn Exchange financially and have an enjoyable evening out. If all our members and volunteers bought just one ticket for every show we would be putting out the “house full” notices on a regular basis. If you've never been to see a play at the Corn Exchange, give yourself a treat ... I think you'll be amazed at how good the Sinodun Players are.



Our entry for the One-Act Play Festivals, *Sisterhood*, is also in rehearsal and going well. It will have its first performance – and adjudication - at the Maidenhead Festival on 10th May. Please do support Natalie Davies and her team. Festival evenings are always interesting ... you get to see two or three plays in an evening and hear the professional adjudication. Cue lots of discussion in the bar afterwards about how much you agree (or not) with what the adjudicator said!

As you know, we are holding a Corn Exchange Open Day on 2nd June. Hopefully it will attract a lot of interest from members of the public who have never had the chance to look back-stage at all the different elements needed to stage any production. One thing we are sorely lacking at the moment is people to do lighting and sound. Do you have a family member, or friend, who might be interested in being trained up to join our technical team? I think it would be especially interesting to anyone who enjoys working with computers, so do please get in touch if you – or anyone you know – might be interested.

And finally – don't forget to put in your submissions if you'd like to Direct a play in 2019 and don't forget to pick up a script from the foyer pigeon hole if you're interested in auditioning for *A Murder is Announced*. Ideas for plays should be submitted asap to any member of the Artistic Committee (contact details at the end of the Newsletter) and there is a notice elsewhere in this edition about changed dates for the *Murder* auditions.

Gloria Wright

Chair, Sinodun Players

April 2018



When I heard that a group were going to be performing a concert including Miss Saigon, I had to dust off my character shoes and audition. I walked in to the audition, weirdly not nervous (when you know no-one and there are no expectations, it is almost easier!)

When Rob emailed me a few days later and offered me the part of Kim, I actually thought he was joking. I think my response was "Yessssssssssssss!!!!!!!"

I felt lucky then and I feel even luckier now. The show developed into something very special. The cast and crew without exception were welcoming, supportive and a delight to spend time with. I performed better and felt better than I have in forever.

Maz and Rob have a great partnership. Harriet had a fantastic creative vision and her attention to detail was seriously impressive. Alice and Emma are total legends. Absolutely everyone I met had such a great energy and love for the show, it couldn't possibly have not been noticed by the audience. I felt like a minor celebrity walking around Wallingford! Thank you to everyone that believed in me and cheered me on. They will never know how much it meant. And I am absolutely delighted that the show will be returning in November.

Daisy Smith

"This was such an amazing show. Far above anything you would expect from a local theatre. I've seen Les Miserables several times and this was just as good.

The singing was incredible, not in the least 'amateur'. The hair on the back of my neck stood up several times!"

Sue R.



Special thanks to Show Designer, Harriet Wheatley, for all photos.

Ed.

"So, I have a repetitive strain injury from clapping and have just booked more tickets for the matinee on Saturday. Showtime was quite simply amazing - so proud just to know some of the amazing talents involved!"

Linda H.

"If anyone local to Wallingford is free this afternoon there are still matinee tickets for 'Showtime' at the Corn Exchange. We went last night and I was blown away by the whole show - the best thing I have seen in a long time. I would be going again if I wasn't going away!"

Sally E.

I thought it was stunning! The quality of the singing was amazing - way beyond what you would expect of an amateur production and I loved the simple staging, set and costumes which allowed the performances themselves to take centre stage. I would have come again if you hadn't been sold out!"

Jo P-B

Showtime – A Producers Tale

Back in late 2016 I was asked whether I would be Producer for the Corn Exchange for a joint production, provisionally entitled 'Les Miz Saigon', which would be performed in March 2018. I said I would be delighted, especially as these are 2 of my favourite musicals.

In February 2017 I attended the auditions and discovered the full wealth of talent we had locally. Rob, our musical director, and Maz, our director, were given some very difficult decisions in casting.

Anyway, rehearsals began in March and within a few weeks the opening sequence, about 20 minutes, for Les Miserables was really coming together well. And then came one of those crunch moments. Due to changes in 'the rules' we found out that we could no longer put on the show as planned. The new rules only allowed a group to perform up to 25 minutes worth of songs from each show, unless you get a 'Grand Rights' licence. These are almost impossible to get if the show is still on in the West End.

Rob and Maz decided to go back to a format they had used at the Corn Exchange in the 80's, and so Showtime was reborn. By adding in songs from Cats, Phantom of the Opera and Evita we had a show again. Auditions were held from within the existing cast for the new numbers and rehearsals continued.

The result, after about thirty 4 hour long rehearsals on Sundays over the course of a year, was seen by about 750 people over 5 performances last month. We achieved 88% sales, realising a significant profit on what was an expensive show to put on, and received some standing ovations, which I hadn't witnessed in the Corn Exchange before.

The cast and crew worked so well together, especially during some very long technical rehearsals, to make Rob and Maz's vision come to life. And being the gluttons for punishment we are, the plan is to reprise the show in November.



Magical Mr Mistoffelees, Keith Ralphs, produces 7 kittens !



Kevin Goodfellow leads the male chorus in the highly charged and moving 'Bui Doi' from Miss Saigon.

Nick Morley



'All I Ask of You'
Phantom of the Opera
Colin Baker and Emma Parr



Corn Exchange Wallingford Open Day: 2 June 10am – 4pm

Hello everyone,
You know that bit where I said we could relax as there were limited jobs for volunteers at the moment ... well ...hmm ...

As a celebration of all that was achieved during the roof/refurbishment project and to show off our wonderful building to Wallingford a big Open Day is being arranged.

This will be on **Saturday 2 June starting at 10am and ending at 4pm.**

The plan is for all parts of the Corn Exchange to be open and for tours to be run through the building during which visitors will be able to talk to people expert in specific areas (wardrobe, technical, bar, cinema, workshop etc.). We are also organising interactive activities and/or displays in various rooms. The aim is to show people what goes on in the areas of the building they don't normally see and to make this a fun day for everyone involved. Hopefully we might inspire some new volunteers /members too!

You can feel the request coming but first ...

Things we want to include if we can: a giant cake stall (that's a big stall with lots of cakes, not a sale of giant cakes); the tours; selfie rooms with costumes; a display about the roof/refurbishment project before, during and after; having a go at controlling a moving-head stage-light from the lighting end of the control room; an SP archives display; an introduction to preparing for and showing a film from the cinema team; opportunities to chat with front of house volunteers; a voice projection interactive experience on stage; a display covering the design process for a stage production; opportunities to sign up as a volunteer or to join the Sinodun Players, or

both; painting/drawing on flats in the workshop – to be displayed somewhere public in the Corn Exchange for a while after the event; a stage manager experience... On top of all this the bar, coffee room and Box Office will be open throughout the day. **SO HERE IT IS:** For all this to happen as it could, and for it to be a great day, a lot of volunteer hours are needed. We honestly believe this could be great fun and that the more people involved the better. You could be a long standing member of the SPs who knows the building inside out or a new volunteer – there will be things for everyone to do. There will also be lots of opportunities to meet each other through the day. **If you can give any time please, please let us know.** This could be an open offer to help whenever and with whatever, or the times you could be available during the day, or your preference for the type of thing you could do on the day. If you are on a regular front-of-house rota you may be contacted directly through 3 Rings to see if you could do a slot on the day. If you'd like to do something different as well this would be absolutely brilliant. You could volunteer with a friend or to make new friends. Whatever, we very much look forward to hearing from you. (email any one of us).

Katie Price: secretary@cornexchange.org.uk

Julie Grimshaw:

Julie.grimshaw@sinodunplayers.org.uk

Rebecca Cleverley:

Rebecca.cleverley@sinodunplayers.org.uk

Oh, yes: please **ALSO let all your friends and family know about the Open Day.** There might even be free pens (but no promises)!

Katie Price

April 2018



Encore Youth Group Report

Encore Youth Update!

After their wonderful performance at the Grand Re-Opening ceremony, Encore's focus is on final rehearsals for *Odyssey*, this week: Polyphemus (the 'giant' cyclops) had a great time rehearsing on Poseidon's (Mark Wilkins) shoulders (right). The Limelights class learned how to move as 'Sirens' (see below) to entice sailors and the Spotlights class tackled becoming Scylla and Charybdis, a quaking mountain and a swirling whirlpool!



The children are especially enjoying working with our very talented and dynamic Gods (Rebecca Cleverley, Joel Webster, Mark Wilkins, Sam Horsfield, Dan Beacham).



During a one day workshop at the CX this Easter, the children worked on props and costume accessories for the show. Oh, and if you're at the St George's day event on 21st April look out for the Elite (16 - 19 years) class as suffragettes - parading and getting militant at 1pm in the town square!

by **Sian McLaughlin** and **Ginny Avery**

Lettice and Lovage

Don't forget to buy your tickets!!!

After a busy few months with official openings, galas and the pantomime, this is the SP's first play since the refurbishment and it needs your support! Do not miss the superb performances of Erica Harley and Jay Aggett. Together they are a tour de force on stage. Strongly supported by Mike Rowbottom, Gloria Wright, Pete Smithson and 'The visitors' to Fustian House. This is not to be missed! Performances are 11th - 14th April.



Secret Heroes of the Corn Exchange

I wanted to write something about a very secret group of people. They're not secretive by nature; it's just that nobody knows much about what they do. They are the **MARKETING TEAM**. They are all working away in the background, providing a window from the outside world into the **CORN EXCHANGE**. And they do it really well as can be seen from the latest ticket sales.

I sit on the Corn Exchange Board with the Marketing portfolio but the success is really down to all these people that form the team. If it wasn't for them then the number of tickets would fall rapidly. But as our venue grows in size and breadth we always need more people to help. Fortunately there have been some new volunteers recently and we hope to get them working with the team very soon.

Let's take a journey from source and introduce you to the team. **John Warburton** is responsible for booking cinema and other received shows which includes music, comedy and dance. He produces the bi-monthly brochure which fills the racks in the foyer and provides posters in the foyer and outside. Those shows are entered into the booking system and website by **Chris English** with **John Pinniger** sourcing the images. Chris has to deal with a variety of ticket types especially when there are returns and blocked off seats. Fortunately she doesn't have to worry about leaks from the roof any more. She also writes the text for the entry. John also produces a rolling screen display which is shown in the auditorium before cinema screenings.

That information has to be cascaded to other sources such as the local magazines so that there is a regular source of information for the town and outlying villages. **Carol Evans** does that although I have been deputising for her during her illness, but she's back now. I also populate the **my.theatre.com** site where you can obtain information and book tickets through this smart phone app. And of course **Martin Wheatley** sends out the regular What'sOn email to his subscriber list. Then **Mike Organ** picks up the information and organises a steady stream of posts on Facebook and **Martin Langley** does the same with Twitter. Mike uses the images and trailers that **John Pinniger** has sourced to increase the exposure on Facebook and ensures that relevant information is also sent to other Facebook pages such as Wallingford Piper, a favourite page in the town. The SPs have their own website which is administered by **Sarah Entiknap**. When punters come to the cinema or even pass by, they will see rolling screen displays describing future shows. **Ralph Shephard** does this and pops in regularly to ensure that the information is current. There used to be an outlet in KP Stationers where we could post some information about SP Shows but that has been lost due to the move of the Post Office facility.

How do we publicise SP shows and other live shows? There is a distribution system that we use called Direct Publicity and they

The logo for 'HEROES' is displayed in a black rectangular box. The word 'HEROES' is written in a white, serif font. The letter 'O' is replaced by a glowing white circle with a dark center, giving it a sun-like or lens flare appearance.

distribute leaflets around the county as required. Of course these leaflets need to be designed and printed and most of this is done by **Oliver Hemming** although the SP design is provided by a number of people, too many to mention here. **Rose Sutton** has taken on the task of distributing leaflets in some outlets around the town and they have special Corn Exchange brochures holders in place; outlets such as the George Hotel. Or we can produce a teaser (or "trailer" in film terminology). Film distributors produce their own and these are replicated on the website and subsidiary links. But the SPs have their own video producer, **Mike Rowbottom**, who has produced some evocative trailers for the last few productions. Also, Carol and Mike as former journalists, have good contacts with local newspapers to ensure that content is fed to them. Of course, we can only hope that the papers publish this information; it's not guaranteed and everything depends on space and other stories. And there's also local radio and TV where they both have sourced some good plugs for these shows.

What's left? There is the more subtle type of marketing which is termed "targeted marketing". It's not at all sneaky as some might now believe with the current scandals at Facebook. It is about ensuring that the right information about shows gets to the right person. So if someone has booked for music gigs previously at the Corn Exchange, we could assume that they will want to come to some more, and we will send them a reminder about a month before to give them an opportunity to book tickets if they haven't done that already. This requires us to collect

information about patrons and from the end of May there is some new legislation called GDPR.

We will have to be very rigorous in ensuring that our patrons are happy for any personal information to be used in this way. **Nicola Webb** is a recent volunteer and, being a marketing professional I'm hoping that she is going to get involved in this area.



The other aspect which is interesting is the subject of Analytics. In simple terms it is looking at the route that punters take when booking a ticket online. Did they type in "cornexchange.org.uk" or did they come through Martin's What'sOn or via "my.theatre.com" or did they get routed from another website completely? Or did they do a search on a specific act and found the Corn Exchange just by chance? **Mike Organ** will be helping in this area and, together, we should be able to start to predict how people book tickets at our venue. With this information, we should be able to see what works and what doesn't. After all, some 70% of our tickets are now booked online and we have a powerful box office system that can help us with this task.

So that's my marketing team. If you would like to help us please email me at **marketing@cornexchange.org.uk** or come and find me at the Corn Exchange. It's great fun but don't expect to be in the limelight. Marketing is a bit like the dark arts. Give it a go if you're inclined!

Please do offer thanks to the marketing team as their efforts are invaluable. We really couldn't do without them. Really!

John Evans

April 2018

SO
charitable
lottery

supporting



WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a SO Charitable Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other good causes in South Oxfordshire!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.SoCharitable.co.uk

And Search For:
Sinodun Players



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

South Oxfordshire Charitable Lottery ...

... now offers tickets in support of the Corn Exchange Development Fund

Our Sinodun Players South Oxfordshire Lottery web page is now available and can be reached here: <https://www.socharitable.co.uk/support/sinodun-players-amateur-dramatic-society>

The next prize draw will take place on 28 April so be sure to get your tickets very soon in the knowledge that whilst contributing to our fund you also have a chance to win cash back.

Nice!

April 2018



A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED – and so are some new audition dates!

Due to lack of space, our Drama Festival etc. we've now settled on these dates/places for auditions.

Sunday 3 June 2 – 4pm in the Studio

Tuesday 5 June 7.30 – 9.30pm in the Studio

Sunday 10 June time tbc in the Curtis Room

Performance dates: Wed 17 – Sat 20 October plus a performance in Brightwell where it all started date tba

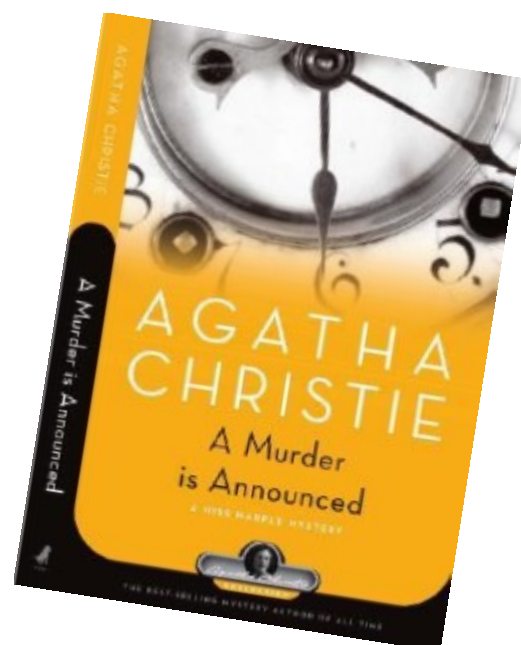
Rehearsals will be 3-4 times per week if called, on

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Sunday afternoons starting Sun 26 August.

Numbered copies of the script are in the Next Production pidge in the CX Foyer. Please sign one out, and return it within a short time.

Audition pieces/pages – no need to know it, just be familiar with it

- Julia Simmons**, 25/26 yrs p.25-26, 44-45, 91-92
- Letitia Blacklock** p.40-42, 54-57, 99-101
"beyond middle age, but very attractive"
- Dora Bunner** p.27-29, 60-63
"slightly older than Miss Blacklock, muddled"
- Patrick Simmons** 27-30 yrs p.77-78, 89-90
- Mitzi** any age p.15-17, 97-99
Mittel European, very excitable
- Miss Marple** p.53-55, 99-101
Of a certain age, inquisitive mind
- Philippa Haymes** 27-30yrs p.69-70, 81-82
- Mrs Swettenham** late 50's p.45, 71-72
- Edmund Swettenham**, 27-30yrs p.71-72, 93-95
- Rudi Scherz** young Swiss p.34-35 then dead! ASM
too please
- Inspector Craddock**, 50 p.38-41, 78-80
- Sg Mellors** any age, M/F p.38-39 then ASM too
please
- Thanks
Debi L-D



April 2018

And here are some we made earlier....!



During a one day workshop earlier this month Encore members knuckled down to prop and costume work in readiness for their summer production, *Odyssey*. Papier maché amphorae were created in the cutting and pasting department whilst elsewhere, wristlets, whirlpool sticks and plaited belts were produced via a most efficient conveyor belt of workers! Enthusiasm was the

order of the day and the results speak for themselves! Well done guys! A great effort! Can't wait to see the show...

Hi folks

I just wanted to say a **HUGE thank you to everyone**, who gave up a whole day of their precious time to help create a truly wonderful and productive Making Workshop.

Special thanks to Julie Li, Jo Sentinella, Kirsty Homann and Chris Arnold and Keith Avery, with Leaders Ian Nicholls and Jean Simmons. It was also lovely to have older Encore members Seb Avery, Alex Payne and Sian McLaughlin, who encouraged and assisted the younger children, with their usual boundless enthusiasm!

The children had the best fun getting mooshy with papier mache, learning to plait and sew, creating some wonderful belts, wrist bands, twirling sticks and some terrific 'pottery' pieces, all for use in *Odyssey*. I don't think we saw one screen brought out all day and everyone learned new skills, made new friends by helping the younger ones, gladly cleaned and cleared up - chatting endlessly. We achieved so much, so quickly, we even had time for some fun and games at the end

A bonus was making rosettes, banners and sashes, for the Elite's ***Suffragette*** performance at 1pm on Saturday **21st April**. So I do hope you will all come and enjoy the St George's Day event **in the town square**.

We look forward to seeing you on 18th April, in the Corn Exchange - at the NEW EXTENDED CLASS TIMES!

M. Orton, Master of the House

Ginny

MIKE LONG – SOME HAPPY MEMORIES

Although I was aware how seriously ill Mike was, when the final curtain fell, his passing carried with it a great sadness.

He made his debut with the Players in 2004 playing C S Lewis's brother Warnie in SHADOWLANDS. A very young Ed Simpson played Lewis so on paper there was a very large age gap between the two actors. Such was Mike's skill, this disparity didn't seem to matter.

A year later, I was having a general chat with Mike in the bar and he asked how the casting was going for my forthcoming production of THE SEAGULL. I told him that I was looking for an actor to play the very small part of Yakov, an estate worker. He immediately volunteered his services. I told him the part consisted of only three lines and all he had to do was to open and shut the curtain on the make-shift stage for Konstantin's avant-garde play in the first scene. 'Just the kind of part I like' he replied. That's what I call luxury casting having a top-class actor playing a walk-on part.

The following year, Mike took the part of Sam the gentle chauffeur brother of the bullying, aggressive Max in Harold Pinter's THE HOMECOMING. They made a great team and played off each other to the manner born.

The last time Mike acted for me was as the bogus Major in the second part of Terence Rattigan's SEPARATE TABLES. Those who saw the production will remember we used the version written by Rattigan for the original Broadway production where the Major was arrested for importuning young men on the seafront rather than 'touching-up' women in the local cinema. I asked him if he was happy to play a closeted gay man. 'Why not.

It's a great part' he replied. His performance, I feel, was the best he gave for the Players. At a late rehearsal, I fondly remember the end of the first scene between the Major and the hotel manager, Miss Cooper, beautifully played by Ginny Avery. The hotel residents, having exposed the Major as a fraud, agree that he should be made to leave the hotel. However Miss Cooper suggests that he should stay at the hotel in spite of what has happened. He hesitates but seems to refuse her offer. He moved to the door, looked out and then came back saying 'the coast's clear'. They looked at each other for a long time. Finally he says 'There's a nine-something train, isn't there?' 'Nine thirty-two' she replied. Another pause as he looked at her in doubt. Then, giving a shamefaced smile, he said 'I expect I'll still catch the seven forty-five.' and went out.

There followed a long silence. 'Are you all right' Ginny asked me. After another long pause I said I was fine but had been really moved by their acting and just couldn't bring myself to say anything for the moment. It was an unforgettable magical moment.

I was always pleased when Mike turned up for an audition. He was the kind of actor a director loves to have in his company. Totally reliable, always on time, made helpful suggestions and was willing to accept advice, not that it was often needed.

He was a very gentle man and in retrospect, the three major parts he played for me, all called for varieties of this virtue. He did, of course, play many other parts for the Players and I know that other directors felt the same as I did about his many skills as an actor. Thanks for everything, Mike.

April 2018

Mike Long

Mike Long sadly passed away on Wednesday 14th March, after battling with cancer for the last year. The funeral will be on Wednesday 11th April at South Oxfordshire Crematorium, Garford, Abingdon at 11am. Dot, his wife, is hoping some of his Sinodun Players family will be there to say goodbye to him. He was in a number of our productions over many years and was always a joy to work with, a consummate professional and a great communicator.

Ric Harley

As this will almost certainly have taken place by the time you read this, the information was also circulated via the Three Rings system. I sincerely hope that those who would have responded were able to do so.

Editor.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR PANTOMIME AND PLAY SCRIPTS FOR 2019 IS DRAWING NEARER!

A reminder to get your pantomime and play scripts submitted before the end of this month. Don't forget there isn't a limit on how many scripts you wish to put in for consideration.

Don't be put off if you haven't directed before and would like to have a go, we can find an experienced director to work with you and help you along.

The submission deadline is the beginning of May 2018.

If you wish to discuss further then please contact any of the Artistic Team and we would be very happy to meet up with you.

Many thanks.

Caroline Wilkes (caroline@chilterntherapy.com)

Natalie Davies (natalie.lester@sinodunplayers.org.cuk)

Peter Smithson (peter.smithson@sinodunplayers.org.uk)

There is a huge amount of activity booked in to the Corn Exchange at the moment.

Please, if you find you no longer need the space you've booked could you let Nick Morley know (roombooker@cornexchange.org.uk) in order to free up the space for someone else. **THANK YOU!**

Board Banter

So far it's been a really good start to the year – two great shows and plenty of excellent cinema; and I'm sure that the forthcoming programme of events will simply extend this excellent start.

When I last wrote in the CX Times, the Mousey Lane vents had just been fitted; shortly after that we suffered a leak from one of them when one of the feed pipes burst, after it had frozen during the cold weather as a result of poorly insulated pipework. Unfortunately, this meant that the complete ventilation grill had to be replaced, requiring the manufacture of a new unit. This was finally fitted last week and all the other vents re-checked and repacked with insulation material. The only good thing about all this is that the water pipe burst during an inspection and not during a show!

Discussions are ongoing about the proposed new residential dwellings in the Lloyds Bank carpark. Our main concern is about possible future complaints from residents of the new properties regarding noise from the theatre disturbing them. SODC's environment officer asked that an acoustic survey is done by the developers and they have gone ahead and appointed an acoustic engineer to do the survey. However, we weren't involved in the selection of the engineer nor in the proposed method of doing the survey. The developers are pressing for the engineer to come as soon as possible and run their survey for 72hrs; however we need to agree on the most suitable dates when this should be done – if they came and did it during Lettice and Loveage for example, I don't think this would cause any concern to anyone. I am trying to arrange a meeting

with all parties concerned to have a discussion around all this so that we all agree on the best way forward and not waste anyone's time.

Apart from these issues that we are dealing with, on a more practical and interesting level we would dearly like to get more people involved in the technical aspects of putting on a show – we really need more people to design and/or run lighting and sound as well as stage managing. There are a number of shows coming up (both SPs and incoming one-day shows) where people can get involved and be shown what needs to be done. Short practical training sessions can also be arranged.. If you are interested to find out more please let me know and I will get in touch to discuss.

Oliver

Chair, Corn Exchange Wallingford



SATURDAY 21st APRIL

7.30pm

Crowmarsh Village Hall

Teams of 6
£12 per person

Two Course Meal • Pay Bar
Raffle Prizes

All proceeds will go to the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange

Book Online: www.cornexchange.org.uk
Tickets from Box Office, Corn Exchange,
Market Place, Wallingford OX10 0EG

T: 01491 825000



News From the Fundraising Team

Our continuing drive to raise more funds is as important as ever, so please don't think "Oh someone else can volunteer to do that, or attend that event..." We are all someone else – and we're all busy. Our theatre is important to us, so please find the time and energy to attend our fundraising events, volunteer to help organise and run them, take a chance with the newly set up **SODC Community Lottery** (which you'll see more about elsewhere), and buy goods on-line using **easyfundraising** (a percentage comes to the Corn Exchange, it costs you nothing). In fact, why not ask your family and friends to benefit the Corn Exchange as well when they're buying stuff on-line? It will cost them nothing. Could you do this TODAY please?? Just send them a quick email with the details of our cause: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cornexchangewallingford/>

Our next few events:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|---|
| Sat 21 April | St George's Day | Encore will be performing outside the CX and plan to set themselves up in stocks so you can throw sponges at them!! |
| Sat 21 April | Quiz | Teams of 6, buy your tickets online at CX, organised by John Jones with food by Julie Utley, teams of 6 – FUN!! |
| Sun 13 May | Vintage Car Rally | Between 11am and 4pm, visit our bigger and better photo booth on the Kincroft and take your own photo!

Thanks Ron Quinton & John Bailey for your great work on the booth!! |
| Sat 9 June | Summer Garden Party | Save the date! More details nearer the time. |

Register with **easyfundraising** – <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Buy tickets from the new **SODC Community Lottery** – see full details elsewhere in CX Times

With many thanks for your continued support.

Debi Lisburne Diacon and Fiona Smith

Some Overdue and Very Grateful Thanks

are due to **Wendy Burton** who is stepping down from running the Book Stall in the Corn Exchange Foyer. Over the years, Wendy has raised a great deal from the re-sale of 2nd hand books and we give a very special vote of thanks for all her efforts. The book stall will continue to be available and, in the short term at least, will be managed by Anne Stammers with help from Jean Simmons.

Not stepping down (we hope) but equally unsung is one **Angela Spokes** who slips into the bar and the Curtis Room unnoticed, steals away all the soiled cloths and towels, launders them and returns them to use. What a job! Our thanks to you Angela.

Letters to the Editor...

Dear Jean Simmons,

I was delighted to see on page 2 of the March newsletter a picture of Dennis and José Wood at the re-opening party.

I was very close friends with Dennis and José, Mark and Simon in the 1960's and 70's but have lost contact with them since I moved abroad in 1982. I love that picture, Dennis and José both look well; it is almost 40 years since I have seen them.



Thank you for your continuing good work with the newsletter, it remains my only continuing connection with the society which I enjoyed so much 40+ years ago. Sadly there are so many new faces which I cannot recognise in the growing society, I am happy to see that you are adding captions to photographs so that I am able to put names to faces and vice versa.

Sincerely,

John Reader

(life member and former chairman)

[Thank you John. The photo also shows Pete Orton, our long serving Bar Manager & 'Master of the House' and Fiona Smith, a great mover and shaker on the fund raising front. Dennis and Jose send their regards to you and share your fond memories of times past.]

*Along with clips featured earlier in this issue and the many verbal congratulations received by Marilyn Johnstone & Rob Alderton for their recent smash success, **Showtime**, comes this note from Jenny Houston.*

Dear Editor

I just wanted to say that watching Showtime was immensely enjoyable. Each and every one was so talented and sang so professionally I don't think I could have enjoyed it more if it was a West End Show!

Copy and date for the March issue...

All entries for inclusion in the next edition of the Corn Exchange Times to newsletter@sinodunplayers.org.uk by **Sunday 8 April 2018** (or preferably, earlier!) please.

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