



MARINE LIFE

THEATREFRIENDS NEWS



Volume 3, Issue 2
Spring 2009

Playing our part in Lyme life



As I write, we're heading full throttle into the Fossil Festival, where the Theatre is playing a full (sorry, Nigel, very full) part. Seven daytime shows a day, plus the Festival launch and two full evening shows. Each show needing a different technical set-up and some-

times seating layout. Plus the bar open all day and the Friends running a coffee bar on the balcony. It's good to be at the heart of what's happening in Lyme, even if we don't sleep as a result!

It's now four months since I arrived here, and I suppose I have a mixed view of what I've found and the challenges ahead. The potential to do some really exciting things in and from the Marine Theatre is obvious. I am confident I can make a contribution to the work everyone involved with the Theatre is doing to make sure we continue to play our part in Lyme life.

The biggest challenge is, as ever, money (*cue offstage*

groan). Our grant from the Town Council this year, while still generous for a town of this size, has been reduced from last year, and we've had to find ways to reduce costs accordingly. We are searching for new ways to raise income, to complement the sterling and invaluable fundraising efforts of the Theatre-Friends.

Thank you, all, for your welcome and your ongoing support. I trust that by the time you read this, we will have survived the Festival.

Ian Stephens
Creative Director



Nigel's notes

☎ 01297 442394

A huge thank-you for funding and promising future money for all sorts of repairs and improvements.

I've been very lucky just lately with boot-sale bargains and taking advantage of deals with suppliers: we've now got lovely new white loo seats quieter hand-driers, a baby changing mat and I've finally got round to cutting the mirror (may go up next week).

Do you have one?

What I'd like to borrow from a TF is one of those electric floor scrubber/polishers with a pair of scrubbing brush discs. One of the small domestic ones is fine because it's only for the foyer so one of the big industrials won't get into the nooks and crannies. Stripping the existing floor is the first step to getting it sealed and polished to bring up the blue.

If you can help, please phone me on the above number. *Nige*

View from the 'High Chair'

John Bartholomew, Chair of LACT (Lyme Arts Community Trust)

Dear Friends

It is very helpful to us to be able to have a slot in this newsletter to update you on what The Trust is currently doing:

Perhaps I should begin by saying who the members of The Trust are, currently: John Bartholomew (Chair); Monika Henshaw (Vice Chair); Polly Benfield; Nick Lawrence; Peter Wiles; Nicola Tee; Richard Doney; Fred Humphrey. We meet, routinely, once a month and otherwise divide specific responsibilities between us.

Under Nicola's leadership, we have recently undertaken some fairly fundamental revisions of financial procedures including a change of bank to The Charities Aid Bank. The reduction in our grant aid has put some pressure on the



finances but we have made a budget for the year, identifying specific risk factors and contingencies and we are beginning the process of looking very closely at all our costs.

At the same time we are working closely with The Friends Committee to find new ways of raising income and, as a Trust, our longer term strategy is to both enhance and diversify our grant aid.

A meeting with The Friends Committee in May confirmed

spending of £10,000, raised by the efforts of The Friends, on a variety of projects to enhance the quality of the experience in the theatre. We have agreed that it would be good to have regular meetings of The Friends Committee and The Trust, together, and the next meeting is arranged for September 25th.

We are now fairly close to our objective of upgrading all the lighting in the theatre to a fully professional standard. The next phase will be completion of lighting bars for 'in the round' productions.

The Friends have generously committed money towards the production of a poster which, for the months of June and July, will replace our traditional brochure.

With many thanks to all our 'Friends'.
John

May Day, May Day!

...again we yelled, and you came ..

All your donations of unwanted items have been recycled into much wanted cash once again.



The bits and bobs that once lurked in dark, forgotten recesses of your garden shed or kitchen cupboard were transformed into £93 worth of funding towards theatre projects.

And to those who found their bargain gems and have cleaned and nurtured them back into use, thanks for coming and buying.



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Marine Theatre

Church Street, Lyme Regis DT7 3QA

Phone: Theatre Office: 01297 442394

Website: www.marinetheatre.com

E-mail: admin@marinetheatre.com

THEATRE TICKETS

Box Office: 01297 442138

Or call in person to:

West Dorset Tourist Information Centre, Guildhall Cottage, Church Street, DT7 3BS



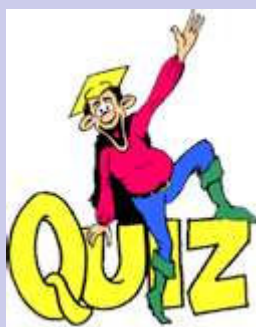
Why I love the Marine

I realise that I am biased. This community theatre plays a special role in my personal life and has done since I was a child visiting my family, long before I moved here just over 10 years ago.

Taking a snap shot in time, admittedly a special one, let's look at this month's Fossil Festival. The theatre played host to such a wide variety of shows that it must have sent Ian and Nigel's heads spinning. From the Festival launch to several different plays and even more performances, from children's entertainment to varied musical programmes, our little theatre played venue to them all. It attracts all sorts of people. I personally saw a Dodo and Charles Darwin leaving as I arrived to see two plays. You just never know who you are going to meet! The same evening I saw a fabulous Queen cover band, Mercury. All in one day.....and I missed most of the festival!

A true community facility, the Marine offers such a variety. For me, that diversity of live entertainment sure beats all those dreadful TV channels! **Jenny**

Want an idea for entertaining the children?



Bring them to the Family Quiz nights. The Lifeboat Week Quiz is on **Monday 20 July** and the Carnival Week quiz is on **Monday 3 August**.

These two family quizzes are especially geared to be fun for all ages so whether you are 5 or 85, there should be something for you, so why not bring Grandma along too!

Please note these special family nights start an hour earlier than usual at 6.30pm

JHT - An outstanding contribution



There have been a few changes since our AGM in March. Jacky Hedley-Tuffs, who has been on the TF committee (in all forms) and chaired the committee for longer than she had intended, finally decided to stand down as our Chair. However, thank goodness, she is remaining on the committee to give us the benefit of her experience.

Jacky has seen many changes in the 10 years she has been involved, not all of which met with her approval, but she has remained loyal and supportive to the theatre throughout. No-one could doubt the dedication and love she has for the Marine Theatre and organising this voluntary TheatreFriends group in order to raise funds on top of her work is proof. The popular Quiz Nights are also her baby; these have raised substantial sums of money over the years and I am glad to say she is continuing with these too. Thank you, Jacky, for leading us for so long and so well, and thanks for sticking with us.

Pat Dench, an ideal and well qualified candidate, has kindly taken on the task of chairing our committee (not an easy task when she has noisy people like me to deal with). She seems to be settling in well in her new role and we wish her luck.

Valerie Stuart has left the committee having stayed on an extra year to hand over the responsibilities of our finances to Richard Doney. Richard has proved that he is more than able to deal with the task so Valerie can also enjoy a well earned rest, well, from us anyway. Once again though, Valerie can still be frequently seen organising the raffle or kitchen.

The vacancy on the committee has been filled by Mary Edwards and we would like to offer her a warm welcome. Mary also spends many hours helping in the Marine Theatre Office as well as being a regular volunteer in the Front of House team in the theatre itself. So, with our new line up and proposals to work more closely with the theatre staff and Trust, we are set for the year ahead.



Have you something to say?

Articles, pictures, letters or just fond memories are all welcome for this Newsletter, it is yours after all! Please contact me: Jenny Waldron, on 01297 444756 or e-mail: jennywaldron@btinternet.com

Current TheatreFriends Committee

Chair & Trust Liaison:	Pat Dench	445932
Membership Secretary:	Gerry Berry	442036
Minutes/Helpers:	Penny Swannell	443003
Newsletter:	Jenny Waldron	444756
Treasurer:	Richard Doney	
Other members:	Mary Edwards	Jacky Hedley-Tuffs
	Jeannie Tee	Maureen Yell
	Peter Ward	

'Every now and then, when you're on stage, you hear the best sound a player can hear. It's a sound you can't get in movies or in television. It is the sound of a wonderful, deep silence that means you've hit them where they live'
Shelley Winters



TheatreFriends Calendar

Wednesday 17 June	TF Quiz Night, Marine Theatre
	£2 adults, £1 U16 7.30 for 8pm teams of up to 6
Monday 20 July	Lifeboat Week Family Quiz
	£2 adults, £1 U16 6.30 for 7pm teams of up to 6
Monday 3 August	Carnival Week Family Quiz
	£2 adults, £1 U16 6.30 for 7pm teams of up to 6