



Summer 2008

Pump House Children and Youth Theatre

NEWSLETTER

www.pumphouse.info

From the Chair

Looking forward to getting to know as many of you as possible

This is not a story about a piece of furniture but my introduction to you from the new chair person of PHCYT.

Like most stories I will start at the beginning and how I came to be following in the esteemed footsteps of Elisabeth Gunter into this role.

My children are both members (Laurence Bisdee and Maria Rodami Lyster) and like most of you I have taken my turn at lunches, steward or chaperone the odd performance and generally try to support the theatre. During this time I made a couple of observations; the PHCYT gives so much pleasure, opportunity, and skills to the children and secondly it always seems to be the same people performing the majority of the tasks. So, I made the decision to try to do a little bit more this year and offered to share some of the committee duties if I was needed-and apparently I was-so here I am.

So, will you see a radical change with the "New Chair"? I think not. The original objectives of the PHYCT remain the same. The usual challenges of running such a busy successful venture with volunteers and minimal funding are the same therefore our objectives remain the same. Securing enough funding, continuing to give the children and youth the unique "Pump House" experience. Ensuring that the venue and equipment can support the artistic team in their delivery of performances and finally providing parents with that warm feeling in their hearts that only volunteering can bring. (seriously-volunteering is mentally and physically good for you!)

I look forward to the coming year and getting to know as many of you as possible. If anyone wants to contact me please e mail at lystere@btopenworld.com or call me on 07843688663.

Elisabeth Lyster

Diary dates

Plenty to watch out for in the months ahead

Warwick Way Productions are going to do another Radio Play and sound effects summer school towards end of August. These are not to be missed so watch this space.

1st – 5th July Seussical

7th –12th July Youth theatre project

12th July Raise the Roof .

5th July End of term for Children (no Saturday morning session on that day)

12th July End of term for Youth theatre

3rd September Youth start term

6th September Children start term

Sat 11th October The Famous **PHCYT AGM**. 7.30 pm. The Colne Room. "It's an AGM but not as you know it!" Do come along, support the PHCYT and have a fun night with your family. Details to be issued soon.

Fri 5th & Sat 6th December

Childrens' Xmas show

Membership Fees

Childrens' fees now due

Sorry, but another reminder about membership fees. The fees cover the basic running costs of the PHYCT. There is no excess or margin built in and we do everything to avoid increases therefore even 1 or 2 non payers' leaves the theatre short.

Please do remember at the start of each term that £60 (for the first

child and £45 for siblings) is required and make sure that it is given to Catherine Farman on the first day of the new season.

Remember that if it helps, you can pay online. Those paying by cheque should make cheques payable to Pump House CYT. We do not have the resource to chase fees

so please help us keep the administration to a minimum.

If anyone has a genuine problem with an inability to pay then please discuss, in strictest confidence, with Catherine Farman, Membership Secretary.

Many thanks
Elizabeth Lyster



Coffee with Cathy

Cathy Scarborough held a very successful coffee morning this term which was well attended. This was an opportunity to meet other parents, discuss the PHYCT and share ideas and suggestions. Due to its success we will repeat this once a term so please do come along to the next one. If you don't know anyone this is your opportunity to change that-and eat cakes!



Calling all potential Front of House Managers

We desperately need more Children and Youth Parents to take on the role of Front of House Manager in the months ahead so please contact Elizabeth Lyster on 07843488663 if you would like to get involved. Of course, full training will be given before we send you out to face the crowds!

RIGHT:
Not quite what we're looking for!



Reviews and Previews

After success of Blitz and Vampire Story, look out for Seussical

The Youth Theatre, with the support of the Children's theatre staged a wonderful 10 night run of **Blitz**. This was a beautiful and moving production with great attention to period detail from everyone involved. The NODA review was exceptionally good.

Also, this year Youth entered the **National Theatre Connections Competition** with

Vampire Story. This was again very well received. The adjudication from the NT was excellent and we await the final decision in the competition.

The big summer production for the Children's Theatre will be **Seussical**. This is the stage version of the recent film "Horton Hears a Who". This is a challenging and stimulating show for all involved with a

large musical and choreography component. It will also be terrifically entertaining and as it has a short run from the 1st-5th July I would advise you to book your tickets soon.

We will also require a lot of parent helpers to stage this production and a rota will be available in the bar link on Saturday mornings for you to fill in your name.

NewsBriefs

Make time for lunch

The lunch rota has now been distributed to all parents.

If you are unable to take your allocated turn please try to arrange a swap with another person on the rota yourself and then inform Cathy of the change. The success of the lunch rota has always been that the Parents self manage it and without your participation we would have to stop this much appreciated PHCYT tradition.

Three hour limit

We have been made aware that Century Park (PC World shopping centre) are getting strict with their car park (camera managed), so we advise that no one parks there for more than three hours

Up on the roof

The Pump House Centre are replacing the Colne River Room roof in the summer. More money needs to be raised to get enough funds to complete the job, so the Youth will be organising some fund raising to contribute. As part of this activity on 12th July we will be holding Raise the Roof - a 12 hour sponsored improvisation fund raiser for the extensive roof repairs. Drop in, be entertained and raise some money for the Pump House. As you know we are self funded and receive no grants.

Volunteers

An important reminder to all parents of Children and Youth

At the PHCYT we like to encourage and engage people to become involved in all aspects of the theatre for the benefit of the children. We do not like to enforce rules or be too prescriptive but occasionally we have to remind parents of the conditions of membership. Regrettably this is such a time.

When your child finally joined, generally having been on the waiting list for some time, it is made clear that in order for the PHCYT to continue as it has done for over 30 years, then every parent is expected to participate. Sadly this participation is not as forthcoming as it should be resulting in shortages of helpers for pre and post production tasks plus assistance during performances.

Everyone in the PHCYT is a volunteer. The majority have full time jobs. Everyone has family commitments. If each parent and guardian contributes as they should in the membership agreement then it becomes a pleasure for all and not a burden to the few.

We would like to add our thanks to all those who do contribute and volunteer and without you the PHCYT could not continue. So come on, get behind the Pump House, support it and your children.

The waiting list is currently at 4 years so there is a massive pool of parents anxiously waiting membership. These are valued places and you agreed to be part of it. You do not have to wait until asked. Pick up the phone, e mail, ask someone and we assure you of a very warm response,

PHCYT Committee

PS We hope to see you ALL at this years' AGM on the 11th of October. It's a fun night for the family and a great way of getting involved