



Newsletter March 2009

This is the new design of the newsletter for our members and we hope that it will help you to follow our calendar and support our events.

The diary of events will be updated each newsletter, however if you are further interested in any of the activities please don't hesitate to contact me on natascha@scott-reidsolutions.co.uk or have a look on our website www.claveringplayers.com.

We hope to produce the newsletter on a regular basis, not only to bring you news of what is happening but also to give members the opportunity to communicate, therefore if you have any funny stories, advertisements or ideas of productions and events you would like to see us doing please don't hesitate to let us know.

Natascha Scott-Reid Chairwoman

Diary of Events

March	23 rd	National Theatre Trip - <i>England People Very Nice</i>
April	21 st	<i>Tissue</i> by Louise Page - Cambridge Drama Festival
May	29 th	<i>Tissue</i> by Louise Page - Clavering Village Hall
May	30 th	<i>Tissue</i> by Louise Page - Clavering Village Hall
June	2 nd – 4 th	<i>Tissue</i> by Louise Page - Welwyn Drama Festival
June	27 th	Rehearsed Reading - Clavering Village Hall
June / July	(tbc)	Revue 'get together' to organise and cast autumn Revue.
July	10th	50 th Anniversary Celebration Clavering
July	11th	Clavering Church Fundraiser Party (with sketches from Players)
September	11th	Quiz
October	29 th	Revue
October	30 th	Revue
October	31 st	Revue

A Tribute and Fond Farewell To an Amazing Actor and Director *Ron Truelove*

Sadly Ron Truelove has passed away after a long illness. Our thoughts go to Pat, Julie and family. The funeral will be on Saturday 21st March at 12 o'clock in St. Mary's Church, Arkesden. Any one who knew Ron will have special memories in how he touched their lives. He was an amazing man and Ron's contribution to the Players over the years has been considerable. Apart from benefitting from his considerable stage experience there were several productions we would never have attempted without him. Sadly many new members will have no idea how important his contribution was during the seventies, eighties and nineties helping the Players to punch well above its weight. He will be greatly missed by all.



were the Clavering Players anyway. And more to the point both Ron and Pat had long been polished actors so when Ron said later " we were quite surprised, they were quite good" it was satisfying indeed. However it was 1982 before the Players started to enjoy and benefit from Ron's considerable theatrical experience. He had been helping behind the scenes but then came his first production " A man for all seasons" .

Ron and Pat first came to the Players not as performers or directors but as paying customers. The occasion was the 1972 production of "The love of four colonels" directed by Diana Zurlinden. As Ron later admitted they thought it might be an amusing night out to watch a bunch of amateurs making the prompt work overtime. An unkind expectation but understandable as it was a village hall, the tickets were two pence and who on earth



It was during this production that we became aware of one of Ron's most effective directorial weapons – the sigh. Of exasperation, of resignation, of impatience- we never knew. That was the beauty of it. Something was wrong but what was it?. It didn't matter, it just made us try harder. It also worked in the following years when he came to a rehearsal of a play he wasn't directing. That sigh-still incomprehensible- went straight to the actor's or actress's electrodes. In 1984 came Ron's next production "Lock up your daughters" revealing the extent of Ron's musical expertise. It opened up a new area for the Players. Would we have attempted it without him-I don't think so. In 1986 Ron produced "The Crucible" .

Without taking breath he took us up several more rungs of the theatrical ladder with "Oliver" in 1988 (and played Fagin) and "Chorus Of Disapproval" in 1989. In 1993 he directed with Pat "The School for Scandal" and of course got back on the stage as well playing Sir Toby Bumper. Although this was sadly the last time Ron performed on stage he was the voice of the Wizard in the Wizard of Oz and Captain Cat in Under Milkwood.

(Written by Ken Kemp)



Agm and New Committee

I am looking forward to my first year as Chairwoman, and working with the newly elected committee who are as follows:-

Chairwoman – Natascha Scott-Reid
Treasurer – John Hosford
Secretary – Jennifer Scott-Reid
Membership Secretary – Emma James
Issy Homan
Chris Fryer

I would also like to thank the past committee, Jennifer Cummings, Ian Miller, Charlotte Foster, Richard Westbrooke and Rebecca Veitch for their commitment and hard work on behalf of the members.

It was agreed at the AGM to adopt a new constitution which has reduced the size of the committee from 8 to 6. It was also agreed that members could receive a reduction in Clavering production ticket price by £2, if they purchased their tickets through Rebecca Veitch on 01799 550726 or rebeccaveitch@hotmail.com.

We have an exciting program ahead of us and I hope to see all of you over the coming year.

50th Anniversary Celebrations

We are hoping to hold a summer party/event to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in July, and if you have any ideas of how you would like to celebrate please don't hesitate to let us know.

Autumn production - Revue

Ken Kemp will be directing the Autumn Revue and he will be holding a 'get together' in hopefully June to discuss material and parts. If you have any material that you would like to do at the Revue, or if you are just interested in taking part please do not hesitate to contact Ken on 01799 540482 or ken@harriskemp.co.uk.

Clavering Church Fundraising Event

We have been invited to perform at the Clavering Church Summer Fundraising Event which will be held on July 11th. If anyone is interested in taking part, and if you have any material for our allocated 20 minute slot please contact me on natascha@scott-reidsolutions.co.uk or 01799500182

Awards for All

Thanks to Gordon Cummings we successfully achieved a Awards for All grant of £2000 last year towards our new staging, and this year we have applied for a Biffaward and an Awards for All grant for refurbishing our inadequate lighting to a modern digital system with permanently fixed lighting bars. Finger's crossed for another success.

Last Production - My Mother Said I Never Should

The process of rehearsing and performing this play has been a journey of discovery for all of us involved. The text evokes memories and emotions which helped with both the exploration of the characters and also our own way of sharing experiences, past and present, and bonding as a group. All plays are essentially about relationships; relationships with people, places, occasions, beliefs, or even objects, and the effect these relationships have on us and those around us. In "My Mother said I never should" Charlotte Keatley is exploring the central relationship between mothers and daughters.

It was not only a wonderful team experience, we made a profit of nearly £500 and received two great reviews. (Emma James)

The players' four-strong cast dealt with the complex and touching story about the relationship between four generations of mothers and daughters - told in rapidly-shifting timeframes - with great skill and dexterity. These four women filled the village hall with a spellbinding mini-saga of family life through the decades which was haunting, funny and affecting in all the right places. (Herts and Essex Observer)



The Clavering Players seemingly love challenges in the plays that they perform. "My Mother Said I Never Should" by Charlotte Keatley was the mother of them all. But one they most admirably conquered at the Clavering Village Hall. Each of the players proved strong in her part. The audience left with a great deal to think about, having watched a fine performance of an extremely good and well-written play. (Ian Miller)

Next Production - Tissue



Tissue

Tissue, by award-winning playwright Louise Page is the story of Sally (Siobhan Brunwin), a young woman in her twenties, who is struggling to come to terms with the discovery, treatment and aftercare of breast cancer. The play travels through various time zones and locations to present various small scenes, with each of them forming a part of the larger picture. The short scenes depict touching moments of Sally's experiences during this time, dealing with family members, mum (Claire Anstead) and brother Simon (Jamey Benson) friends Fleur (Hannah Johnson) and Zoey (Kerri Millership) and lovers (David Smithet), as well as Doctors (Peter Clyne), Nurses (Nettie Hayes) and cool official voices dispensing useful medical knowledge which are interspersed with flashbacks of childhood games.

The play is an intimate, emotional drama which opens up vast areas of feeling beneath the surface of ordinary lives, tugging at the heart-strings and showing the effect on everyone caught up in the crisis. (Jennifer Scott-Reid)