

Christmas readings

Come and join us for a cosy evening of rehearsed Christmas readings at

The Guildhall on the 8th December (Friday) at 7pm for a 7:30pm start.



Backstage Experience

Come and see what goes on behind the scenes at the Theatre Royal in

Bury St. Edmunds with a backstage tour of *Birdsong* on Saturday 3rd February 2018.



last stage

Issue 1 - Autumn 2017

Welcome to Louise!

Welcome to this first edition of our new revamped Newsletter. We hope to keep you connected through this and also our new Website which will be live before the end of the year.

For me it has been a whirlwind few months; a translation of "Stage" is "Internship" - which is the position of a student or trainee who works in an organisation in order to gain work experience or satisfy requirements for a qualification... I think in this role that describes me perfectly.

Thankfully I am surrounded by a very able committee!

Joking aside we have worked really hard as a team to get together a really diverse program of events for 2018.

At our core is the aim to have fun through drama...

Our first event was an open evening, we welcomed both new and current members to *The Guildhall* on Friday 6th October where we shared amusing readings from well-known plays. Everyone participated and many surprised themselves by how enjoyable it was - perhaps this was helped by the delicious table of food and a few glasses of good wine? Fun was had by all and it was lovely to see so many new faces. A good start.



The Guildhall, our new spiritual home



Louise Harrison

Our objective for The Players is to really boost our membership and have an exciting and varied program of events, in and around Lavenham. At our core is the aim to have fun through drama and with this in mind we hope to put on two plays a year. In addition, we intend these to be supported by relevant social events which we would like to see as many of you attend as possible.

We plan to turn out in all weathers to rehearse, build sets, make costumes and props, and to make our productions as polished as possible. We welcome new talent, whether that be on stage or back stage, in the kitchen or frankly just giving moral support. All are welcome... no experience is necessary! Please contact any committee member for more information.

Our 2018 season is already beginning to look exciting and I really hope that it will encourage existing and new members on to the stage. We are always looking for new members.

Our 2018 Season

Some dates for your diary (at The Guildhall unless otherwise stated):

- Thursday November 16th - 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Preparation Evening of auditions/rehearsal for Christmas readings for the Friday 8th December.
- Friday 8th December Rehearsed Christmas Readings 7pm for 7.30pm
- Saturday 13th January Workshop 9.30am venue and info to follow
- Saturday 3rd February Backstage tour of the *Birdsong* set at the Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds.
- Wednesday 17th January AGM 7.30 pm
- Early March auditions for Summer play
- April 17th or 18th (to be advised) 45 minutes of Readings for The Lavenham Society
- April 22nd Rehearsals commence for Summer Play
- May 31st June 1st June 2nd Summer play in The New Britton Theatre at Old Buckenham Hall school.
- September Harvest Supper at The Lavenhams details to follow
- October Ghost Readings at The Guild Hall
- Auditions for Christmas play
- December Christmas Production.

if you know someone who may like to get involved please do ask them to get in touch: Lavenhamplayers2017@gmail.com

Spring play at OBH

We have a treat in store for our Spring play in 2018. Thanks to our new chair, Louise Harrison, the Lavenham Players will be performing their first full production in The New Britton Theatre, which is a part of the school facilities at Old Buckenham Hall (OBH), situated just outside of Lavenham.



The house and gardens at Old Buckenham Hall

This fabulous location boasts full theatre facilities, comfortable seating and stunning grounds and gardens.

It will make a superb venue for our forthcoming Spring play, and will offer a new dynamic. We are all excited about performing at OBH, and we hope that many of you will audition or come and enjoy the show.



Paul Vella

Like the phoenix from the fire Lavenham Players WILL go from strength to strength over the coming months and years.

A sensible re-think of the way that we go forward has already produced new ideas, a plan of action for the future and most of all, the backing of the village. If we can continue to provide great entertainment, something for everyone (which I know is a cliché), then we can encourage more people to get involved and produce bigger and maybe more ambitious productions. Everybody who has contributed to Lavenham Players to date should give themselves a huge pat on the back and can rest assured that the future is bright (not orange) with a strong chair and committed committee (easy for me to say) giving Lavenham what it deserves, a jolly good time!

Carol Keohane

I've lived in Lavenham for the last 17 years and have been a member of Lavenham Players since its inception.

Along with Sue Fisher, I have been responsible for Costumes! I've now taken on the mantle of Secretary of Lavenham Players and I am really happy with the great group of people currently on the committee.

They are very committed and I feel sure they will take Lavenham Players forward in a very positive and exciting way. I look forward to working with them and wish them all the best for the future.



Jacqueline Cooper Clarke

I am enjoying the opportunity of working again as part of Lavenham Players' committee, in a supporting role, as before. It is seven years this Autumn since the inaugural production of *Habeas Corpus*, directed by Richard Way, which the cast and crew, and I like to think, the audiences, found to be great fun. It is pleasing that Lavenham Players has covered so much ground, so successfully, in the intervening years and has such a positive future. I hope there will be something of appeal for everyone in the coming year's programme.

Peter Day



Some time ago, when I was having a quiet moment with a Walnut Whip, I was asked if I had ever been on the stage. Well, at that time of my life, I thought that *the stage* was a mode of transport that conveyed cowboys and the like across the vast expanses of the wild west, to places like Cactus Gulch.

In 2011, I stepped out into the dazzling light and embarked on my first venture on stage as the venerable - I'm sure he was really - Doctor Bradman, and was instantly smitten.

Since then I have been on and off stages with Lavenham Players, having had a huge amount of fun every time.

I also became a committee member and worked alongside some truly inspirational people who are not only talented, but friendly and generous. The Lavenham Players have always had a good family vibe, which I have always loved.

So now I have come back to the committee for the newly invigorated and exciting 2018 season, which promises to be a real humdinger, and of course it will be so much better than sitting at home with a Walnut Whip.

laStage



Committee members

Chairman

Louise Harrison - Louisemeyerrharrison@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jacqueline Cooper Clarke - jacquelinecc.amdram@gmail.com

Secretary

Carol Keohane - carolkeohane2@gmail.com

Specialist Members

Paul Vella - paul@vellafamily.co.uk

Peter Day - peter_day85@hotmail.com