

FESPA NEWS

Friends of East Suffolk Performing Arts

39th issue

Summer 2011

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FRIENDS' FRENZY

Settling in to the now permanent theatre office at the Company's house in Southwold, Rosemary Digby braces herself for the annual March stampede as Friends rush to bag their favourite seats ahead of the public box office opening.

2011 GRAND DRAW EVERY TICKET A WINNER!

With this issue we've sent you three books of draw tickets. All the valuable prizes have been generously donated by local businesses. So every £1 ticket you buy yourself or sell to your friends is a guaranteed winner... for FESPA! With luck, it could also be a winner for you. A win-win situation, you could say!

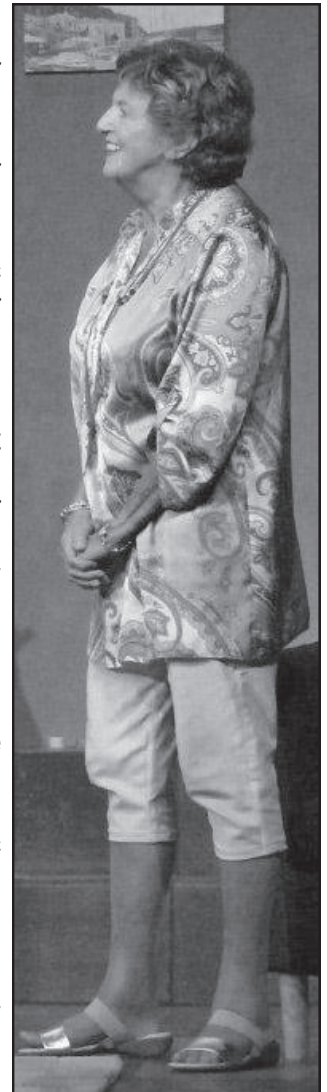
Read all about the prizes on page 3, and all the other excitements on offer at our 2011 Fete, on pages 6 and 7.

Jill writes...

Our 2010 Season was very well liked and we think we may have equalled it this year – certainly the tickets are selling like the proverbial hot cakes. Amongst other goodies, 'A Nightingale Sang' will rekindle memories and songs for many and, once again, Mark Simpson has adapted a famous Classic for us – this time, 'Far From the Madding Crowd' by the great storyteller, Thomas Hardy.

We are very sad that Sutherland House is no longer available for our Lunchtime Season and I know there will be many regulars who feel the same.

Our extra treat, an 'Alan Bennett Double Bill' on **Sunday 24th July**, is there to help make up for it and, of course, we have the ever popular Poetry, Music and Wine Evening on **7th August**. This is always a very special night and the free wine and snacks in the interval are kindly sponsored this year by the wonderful FESPA.



Above: Jill in a scene from last year's hilarious Holiday Snap by Michael Pertwee and John Chapman. This summer she's back in another side-splitting tangle of sex and misunderstanding, Move Over Mrs Markham. John Chapman had an authorial hand in this one too, as did that Summer Theatre favourite, master of farce, Ray Cooney. Read more about this and the season's other great shows and the people in them, in Anthony Falkingham's 2011 'trail' on page 2. (Photo courtesy of James Laws)

WHAT'S IN STORE? WHO'S IN WHAT? ANTHONY FALKINGHAM INVITES US TO

MEET THE 2011 COMPANY

Judging by the early booking, the choice of plays this season is as popular as last year's and I can proudly announce the company which is, as usual, a mix a new and familiar faces.

The season opens with *AND A NIGHTINGALE SANG*, the story of a family winning through in the 1940s. The piano-playing Dad will be played by **Michael Shaw**, who has done several seasons with us. His wife is played by newcomer **Kate Russell-Smith**, and their daughters by **Hayley Doherty**, whom you may remember as the precocious child in *Wait Until Dark*, and **Helen Armes**, who was in Mark Sterling's touring version of *The Lady Vanishes*. **Jeffrey Perry** will play the eccentric granddad, while **Charles Davies**, notable as the husband in *Dangerous Obsession* last year, will be Norman. Making his debut with the company will be **Iain Ridley** as Norman's friend and new son-in-law. The play will be directed by **Phil Clark**.

I will direct the second play *FIDDLERS THREE* and have assembled a company of Southwold favourites.

The office colleagues will be **Richard Blain**, (You'll remember him from many of those Andy Powrie/Bill Cashmore lunchtimes), **Andrew Bone**, whose third season this is, and **Mark Jackson**, whom you will remember from *Cowardy Custard* and *My Cousin Rachel*, last year. **Imogen Slaughter**, the eponymous Rachel, will appear as Richard's wife and **Rosanna Miles** as the office 'squeeze'. Their boss will be **Terry Molloy** and the man from head-office is played by **Paul Hegarty**, now a resident of Southwold, returning to the Summer Theatre stage for the first time since playing Mr Rochester in *Jane Eyre* in 2000. Since then, of course, Paul has achieved great acclaim playing Sweeney Todd in the West End.

In the mid-summer comedy, *MOVE OVER MRS MARKHAM*, **Michael Shaw**, **Hayley Doherty** and **Helen Armes**, will be joined by

Penelope Rawlins playing the title character. Friends will remember Penelope from *The Browning Version*, *Dick Barton* and *The Lady Vanishes*. Joining the company is **Vissey Elliot-Safavi**, cast as Mrs Markham's friend. Southwold regular, **Clive Flint** is Mr. Markham while the part of Walter Pangbome will be played by Suffolk actor, **Richard Bates**, last seen with us ten years ago in the *Winslow Boy*. **Jamie Chapman** takes the all-important part of the interior designer. Jamie was last seen in *Salad Days* and *See How They Run*. Not least, of course, is our own **Jill Freud** as the children's book authoress.

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD has the actors from *Fiddlers Three* in wildly different roles: **Imogen Slaughter** plays the tempestuous Bathsheba Everdene, **Paul Hegarty** is Squire Boldwood, **Andrew Bone** is Gabriel Oak, **Mark Jackson** plays Sergeant Troy and the cast is completed by **Terry Molloy** as Joseph Poorgrass and **Rosanna Miles** as Liddy. The play has been adapted and directed by **Mark Sterling** who brought you *My Cousin Rachel* in the 2010 season.

Finally we are very fortunate to be able to present for you Agatha Christie's *LOVE FROM A STRANGER*. This is a new adaptation by Louise Page and has only been done once before

We are privileged to have been given permission to do it.

The cast includes **Penelope Rawlins** as Alix, **Vissey Elliot-Safavi** as Fran, **Jamie Chapman** as the fiancée, Dick, **Michael Shaw** as the Stranger and **Clive Flint** as George.

This play and *Move Over Mrs. Markham* will be directed by **Richard Frost** who has been directing for us since 1996 and was responsible for *Holiday Snap* and *Abigail's Party* last year.

I hope you will agree we have a talented and varied company joining us for 2011 and I am sure you will enjoy meeting them.

Anthony Falkingham, Co-Artistic Director

The Newcomers



Clockwise from top left: Kate Russell-Smith, Iain Ridley, Helen Armes, Vissey Elliot-Safavi

Last seen in...

2000



Paul Hegarty—
Jayne Eyre and
Mr Cinders

2001



Richard Bates—
The Winslow Boy

2005



Hayley Doherty—
Wait until Dark

2008



Jamie Chapman—
Salad Days and
See How they Run

2010



Imogen Slaughter—
My Cousin Rachel

SOUTHWOLD SUMMER THEATRE NEEDS YOU

General Manager, Peter Adshead, writes

We are currently looking for people who can spare a few hours each week at St Edmund's Hall, helping on:

Coffee Bar / Ice Creams, Bar (Evenings), Front-of-House Management

(Checking tickets / showing people to their seats etc)

If you would like to become involved or would like further information please get in touch.

We are also looking for *Friends* who would be interested in providing accommodation for our actors / stage management during the season. This may be for a couple of nights or more. Please send me details of any accommodation you may be prepared to offer.

And finally... in an effort to ease the burden on our box office telephone, please remember you are now able to email booking enquiries to: bookings@southwoldtheatre.org and bookings@aldeburchtheatre.org Please include details of the tickets you require AND a contact telephone number.

You can contact me by phone on 07930 530948, by email peter@southwoldtheatre.org or write to me at 4 Foster Close, Southwold IP18 6LE.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the theatre over the summer. Don't forget to pick up your yellow and blue cards for distribution in your local area at the **Friends Evening** on 24th June!



Sidi writes...

Spring is particularly delightful to me this year as my Winter was spent recovering from hospitals and doctors—bless ‘em! It all seemed so dreary, especially with the endless bad weather. But I would like to thank you for the flowers and cards which kept me smiling in spite of everything. I was also delighted to have been in the good company of our President, Margaret Chadd, now a fellow member of the ‘Zipper Club’.

Sidi in the role of Joyce Grenfell in ‘Letters from Aldeburgh’, an extended version of which she reprised at the Fisher Theatre in Bungay on 20 April.

My fellow Trustees and I are now very keen to seek your input on future FESPA activities. I floated the idea at the AGM that we might consider an autumn event with a

meal and guest speaker, alternating between Southwold and Aldeburgh, and this seemed to go down well. What other fund-raising and/or fun ideas do you have? It is our social events that help to make FESPA stand out among other theatre societies.

We have already had several Trustee and Fete Planning meetings this year—not to mention the AGM—so it feels as if the new season has already started—and what a cracker it promises to be!.. Something for everybody to enjoy. So, with all the excitement and fun ahead of us, here’s wishing you all happy theatre-going both at Southwold and Aldeburgh.

Sidi Scott, Chairman

To open the Season in style...

Don't miss the *Friends'* Garden Party at Westons

In the delightful, informal garden of Westons, Walberswick, this is always the perfect mood-setter for the Summer Theatre season. A chance to greet old friends, meet the Company, sip a glass of wine and feast on the delicious array of savouries and sweets brought along by *Friends*. Don't forget to bring along a plate of something yourself to share! We usually start at about 6.30 pm. See you there!

FOR YOUR 2011 SUMMER DIARY

Friday 24 June - *Friends'* Evening at Westons. 6.30 pm. Bring a plate of eats. Collect your supply of programme cards for distribution in your area.

Sunday 3 July - FESPA Theatre Fete at Westons. Gates open at 1.00. See Pages 6-7 for details. **Please note date has changed since first announcement.**

Thursday 7 July - Southwold Summer Theatre Season opens

Monday 18 July - Children's shows begin at St Edmund's Hall

Sunday 24 July - Sundays at Seven, an Alan Bennett 'Talking Heads' double bill at St Edmund's Hall

Monday 25 July - Aldeburgh Summer Theatre Season opens

Sunday 7 August - Sundays at Seven. Poetry, Music and Wine at St Edmund's Hall

Saturday 27 August - Summer Theatre Last night in Aldeburgh

Saturday 27 August - Children's shows end

Saturday 10 September - Summer Theatre Last night in Southwold

Award for The Jill Freud Company

The Jill Freud Company was one of seven inaugural recipients of the 'Awards for Excellence' launched this year by the Southwold & Reydon Society to honour people, groups and institutions who have made an exceptional contribution to the life of the community. The Jill Freud Company citation reads "... in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the performing arts and the development of young actors in East Suffolk". The certificate was collected by Jill Freud, Tony Falkingham, Peter Adshead and Mark Sterling at the Society's AGM. Other recipients were the Adnams Distribution Centre, the Barbroom Family, Chris and Helen Iredale, Southwold Museum, the Godell Sports Pavilion and the Electric Picture Palace.

Our sincere congratulations to Jill and the entire company for this much deserved and very welcome local recognition.

NOTE: Some reports of the award ceremony in the local press wrongly conflated the Jill Freud Company's work in giving practical experience to students each season, with the unrelated bursaries awarded by FESPA to local Performing Arts students.

Praise for Julian Bird over Olivier Awards decision



Julian chats with Rosemary Digby at the 2010 Fete

That very good friend of both the Jill Freud Company and FESPA, Julian Bird, last year became the new Chief Executive of the Society of London Theatre (SOLT) and Theatrical Management Association (TMA), having previously been Chief Operating Officer of Tate. *Friends* will remember that Julian entertained us at the 2009 AGM, since when he has attended many of our events including the FESPA fetes. More significantly he has worked hard in the background for our theatre company and was instrumental in setting up the link with the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford where two Jill Freud Company productions have toured following

successful runs at Southwold and Aldeburgh.

This March, Julian took the decision to stage the 35th Laurence Olivier Awards at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. 'The Stage' described the decision to bring the awards back into a London theatre "after years marooned in a hotel in Park Lane" as "a pretty much unmitigated success."

A GREAT RANGE OF PRIZES IN OUR GRAND DRAW

Organisers of the annual FESPA draw, Michael & Joy Venn, have managed once again to assemble a wonderful range of top prizes which will be drawn at our Fete on Sunday 3 June. Prizes, which have all been donated, include:

- Dinner, b & b for two at the exclusive 4-star Swan Hotel at Lavenham
 - Self-catering break for two in Walberswick
 - Voucher for 4 seats at the Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich
 - £60 voucher to spend at the Red Lion in Southwold
 - Adnams Brewery Tour for two—plus £25 Adnams voucher
 - Voucher for 2 seats at the Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich
 - £50 voucher to spend at the famous Amber Shop, Southwold
- The Draw is our biggest single way of raising funds for FESPA so please do your best to dispose of all the tickets we've sent you.

More about the Fete on page 6.

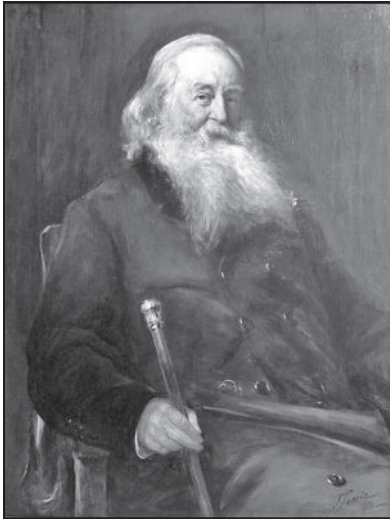
Leslie Reynolds

We are very sad to record the death this April of Leslie Reynolds. For many years Leslie was the distinctive, dapper and always welcoming face of the Southwold front-of-house establishment. Summer Theatregoers will remember him fondly, not just for his 'uniform' of flamboyant waistcoat and bow tie, but for his untiring helpfulness and for the very personal way he greeted every audience member like an old friend—which, of course, many of them over the years had become. Leslie is much missed and we send our deep sympathy to his widow, Rosemary.

The story of Jubilee Hall

The Summer Theatre's home in Aldeburgh

Aldeburgh has good reason to be proud of its historic theatre building. The Jubilee Hall has been a registered Charity since 1970 and the 'other' summer home of the Jill Freud Company since 1995. But, like so many venues of its kind, it presents its Trustees with two constant challenges: to keep it comfortable and up-to-date and to coax it into covering the not inconsiderable costs of doing so.



No surprise, in this part of Suffolk, to find the name 'Garrett' behind this commemoration of Queen Victoria's 1887 Golden Jubilee. Newson Garrett was the grandson of Richard, the founder of the Garrett agricultural machinery works in Leiston (now the Longshop Museum). Newson himself became the maltster and brewer who developed the Snape Maltings. He came to live in Aldeburgh and was very much the town's benefactor, doing much to revive its fortunes and ending up as its Mayor.

His daughters arguably were to achieve even greater fame – two of them as leaders of the campaign for women's rights; one, Millicent Fawcett, becoming the leader of the Suffragist movement, the other becoming the founder of the pioneering New Hospital for Women in London, later named the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. Even in retirement Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was notching up feminist firsts, becoming, like her father, Mayor of Aldeburgh – the first female mayor in the country.

But back to Newson Garrett and the Jubilee Hall... He enlisted the support of Thomas Vernon-Wentworth, the Lord of the Manor, in his cultural enterprise to extend a little reading room in Crabbe Street into a serious performing arts venue. They even had a 'mission statement'... The venue was to be for "concerts and dramatic entertainments provided by well-known artistes, dances for the little people on wet afternoons and for the 'grown ups' in the evenings".

Newson would no doubt have been disconcerted to see how his factory buildings at Snape would, in the end, become an even more eminent performing arts venue than his Aldeburgh theatre! And, in fact, the stories of both centres are intimately intertwined. From 1948 until the 1960s the Jubilee Hall was the birthplace and childhood home of the Aldeburgh Festival; Benjamin Britten staged many of his opera premieres here. That's why the festival still bears the town's name in spite of most of its activities taking place 5½ miles away. That is also why the Jubilee Hall is so splendidly equipped. The Festival organisers remodelled the building in the sixties as a small but 'proper' opera house, with raked stage, dressing rooms and an orchestra pit, all of which are used today.

Today, The Jubilee Hall plays host to a great variety of shows and events, quite apart from those of the Summer Theatre. Some Aldeburgh Festival and Aldeburgh Music Series concerts continue to be performed here; there are lunchtime classical music concerts, operas, visits from touring theatre companies, craft fairs and the highly acclaimed annual Poetry and Literary Festivals.

All this in a theatre which receives no regular grants or financial support and is run entirely by a team of energetic and dedicated volunteers supported by one paid caretaker! It is a tall order and the Charity has too often teetered on the brink of viability. For example, just months ago, urgent repair work to the tiered seating was made possible only by a generous 'emergency' donation from Aldeburgh Town Council.

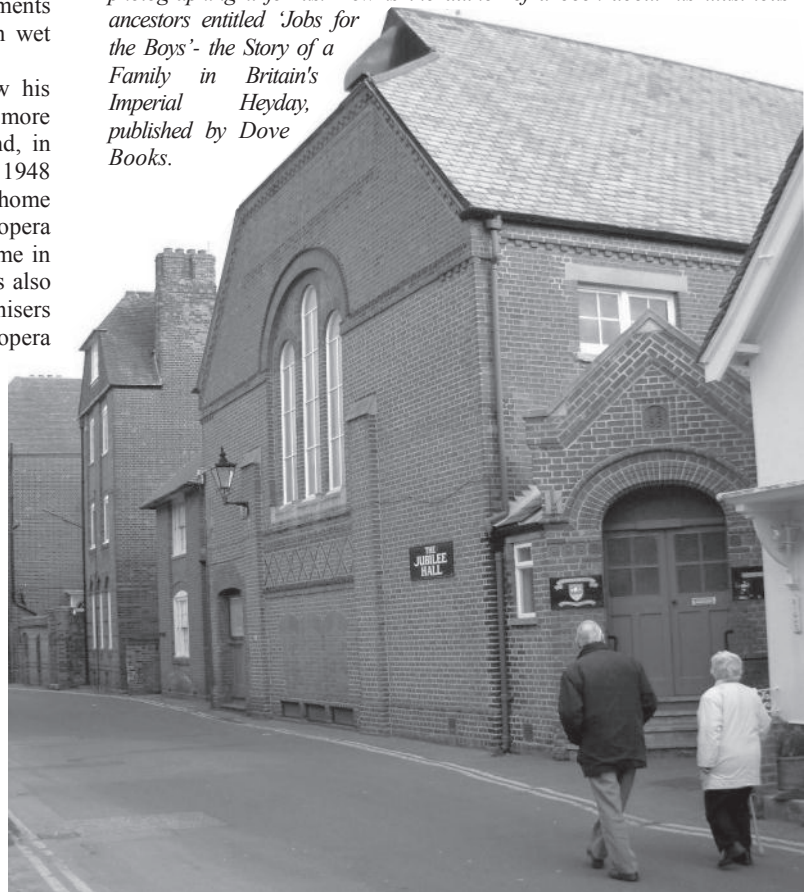
But now the Trustees are determined to put the future of this special venue on a more secure footing. New initiatives are being planned to build productive links with theatre and opera companies and with concert organisers. At the same time, a new



marketing and publicity strategy has been hatched which should generate and retain a larger body of loyal audience members. There is a new website, www.jubileehallaldeburghuk.org and there will shortly be a more streamlined ticket booking system and a newly invigorated Friends scheme which it is confidently hoped will serve both to build a larger and more resilient volunteer force and to ensure a more sustainable fund-raising effort.

The Jubilee Hall is a vital performing arts resource for East Suffolk and one steeped in history. It is unthinkable that it should ever be allowed to fall into a state of neglect.

We are very grateful to Newson Garrett's great-great grandson, Hew Stevenson, for allowing us to reproduce the 1886 portrait of Newson by John Pettie, RA, and for photographing it for us. Hew is the author of a book about his illustrious ancestors entitled 'Jobs for the Boys' - the Story of a Family in Britain's Imperial Heyday, published by Dove Books.



More news from our 2010 Bursary recipients



Alex Rowles emailed us from Northampton University just before returning to Leiston for the Easter break

I have been very busy recently, preparing all of the work for my final performance as well as starting the last two assignments which I have to complete over the Easter break. We have been working very hard, researching and devising our final performances which will be on Friday 8th April and then the 12th May, and at the moment, I am both very nervous and also really excited to show off our ideas and hopefully get a good grade.

So far this year I have been awarded an A and a B for the assignments that I have submitted, which I am obviously thrilled about, considering that I haven't had any previous experience in writing essays for degrees. I was given a C for my only marked practical so far! However, on all of the mocks for my final performances I, and the group I am working with, have been given between B+ and A's. So—fingers crossed, this will all be the same for the real deals!

I come home for Easter for a fortnight. Whilst I will miss everyone and everything here in Northampton, it will be a pleasant break, and lovely to see my parents, pets and friends again—in spite of the assignments I have to get done.

I am still extremely happy with my course and am so pleased with how things are going. Sorry I can't write much more, but can you please thank your panel again for recommending me for a bursary, as it definitely helped me a lot during the first term. Without it, I fear I would have been struggling more this term!

Daniel Walker of Lowestoft who is in his first year of an acting course at East 15 writes...

I am currently beginning my 3rd production of the year, after successfully completing a classical and a devised performance in my first 6 months, both of which received a lot of praise. I also attend classes in voice, movement, acting and audition technique as well as contextual studies once a week. The days are long and strenuous but I am loving every minute. The course has really given me a boost in the right direction, and as a result I have obtained a place on the 3 year BA acting course at East 15, as well as recalls at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Without FESPAs help I would never have been able to afford the cost of the auditions and the travel expenses. I am eternally grateful for their help and support, and hope to keep close ties with them in the future. Thank you so much to all the people who gave me this opportunity.



Daniel, left, in a rehearsal of Pierre Corneille's 'Le Cid' during his second term at East 15.

13 year-old Flo Barker sent us her impressions of life at the Royal Ballet School and of Richmond Park at the end of her second term

I go to the Royal Ballet Lower School - White Lodge - and it is simply beautiful. When we get woken up by our house parent at seven o'clock the first thing I do is look out of our bedroom window at Penn Ponds in Richmond Park, misty in the morning light. Sometimes you can see hundreds of deer grazing before the early morning joggers and dog walkers arrive.

As we blunder across to our laundry lady it is hard not to catch your breath at the grandeur of our royal hunting lodge, glimpsing a peek at the sparkling chandeliers through the Salon windows. Nothing is more atmospheric than wandering through the red brick wall tunnels towards the academics courtyard and a morning full of lessons.

Our classrooms are the old stables, and there are many tiny staircases and winding corridors to reach them. After the one-o'clock-sprint for the lunch queue is a flurry of hair gel and pointe shoe ribbon ready for class. My teacher this year is called Miss Keelan, and every day we have a two hour classical class with her, from two until four. We are also lucky enough to receive accompaniment from one of the pianists every day which makes it all the more special to dance in the



light and airy studios where company members have danced before us.

In the afternoons we have two and a half hours of other classes, my favourites being Repertoire, when we get to learn some of the dances from the classic ballets, and Character, where we learn national dances and styles from all over Europe. After dinner we reluctantly trundle over to the academic rooms for an hour of Prep time, which ends at eight fifteen, after which we can call our parents and flop into bed for some much needed sleep.

We ran an update from Yasmeen Khalaf at RADA in our Spring issue but, as we were going to press we had an important piece of news from her...

I have some exciting news that I was wondering if you could pass on. I will be performing in Ibsen's *Emperor and Galilean* at the National Theatre from June till August... just in the chorus but I'll still be on the Olivier stage!

FESPA Bursaries 2011

Do you know a deserving young person with close connections with East Suffolk who is hoping to pursue a performing arts course at a recognised college this autumn? Are you just such a young person yourself?

Why not apply for a FESPA Bursary. Ask for details and an application form by emailing Trustee David Bunkell at:

fespa@btinternet.com

Every *Friend* has a starring role to play in our great 2011

SUMMER THEATRE FETE

Westons, Walberswick from 1 pm on Sunday 3 July

What part will you play?

- 1. Buy or sell those Grand Draw tickets?**
We've enclosed three books with this issue for you to buy yourself and or sell to friends. If there are any you can't use, just recycle them. If you need more, give Michael or Joy Venn a call on **01502 711707**
- 2. Put up a poster?**
An innovation this year which we hope, with your help, will let us spread the word about the fete much more widely. On the opposite page you'll see a copy of this year's fete poster. If you live in Suffolk, you can cut it out and post it in your window in early June, or photocopy it and distribute it around shops and notice boards locally. There is also a pdf version of the poster on www.fespa.co.uk. If it's easier, just print it out directly from there.
- 3. Look out some saleable stuff?**
Check out the list of stall holders (right) and what they need, and see if you can't bring yourself to part with a few bits and pieces.
- 4. Bake some cakes?**
Our cake stall and refreshments are some of the biggest of our money earners—but we invariably run out of cakes! If you made more cake we'd make more bread!
- 5. Make a jar or two of jam or pickle?**
A new departure this year. If it proves popular, we'll preserve it!
- 6. Lend us a gazebo?**
Even better—lend us a gazebo and come and put it up and take it down for us as well! We already have a few kind offers but several stall-holders and their wares could use a bit of cover from whatever the July sky has in store for us. If you can help, call the Fete organiser, Ben Marriner 01502 722488
- 7. Help on a stall?**
take a turn taking money at the gate. Call Ben Marriner and ask him what's needed **01502 722488** Or
- 8. or, at the very least...Come along on the day?**

Special thanks to...

The Bellaires Handbell Ringers.
Michael & Joy Venn for managing the Grand Draw one last time!
Lenny & Frankie Townsend for running the children's painting competition.
Marie Holmes & Sybil Cave for running the bottle stall so successfully for so many years, and to **Ged & Mike Mclarney** for taking it over this time!
Denise Brentnall for painting faces
Frank & Barbara Devereux and Michael Rowan-Robinson for supervising the games
The Clowns for being there!
Bob & Julie Cronin for once more running the children's dog show, and **All Pets** of Southwold for providing the prizes.
Roger & Elaine Munting for the Bouncy Castle.
Nick Westwood for the sound system.
Rosemary 'The Chelsea Clairvoyant', international psychic, spiritual medium and tarot reader who has agreed to conduct readings for us.

All generous donors of Grand Draw prizes, not to mention the Dozens of *Friends* and company members who run the stalls, man the gates, supervise the car park provide stuff to sell and help in the background.



YOUR DROP-OFF POINTS

If you have stuff to donate, you can phone the appropriate stallholder (below) and arrange mutually agreeable collection or delivery. Or, if it is more convenient, there are two drop-off points.

WALBERSWICK: Val Anderson, has once again made her garage available for storage of donated items. It is at 'Hedgeley', The Green, Walberswick— On the right just as you get to The Green. You can leave your donations in the garage unannounced, or call Val first on **01502 724609**.

SOUTHWOLD: Ben and Anthea Marriner have agreed to accept donations left in their porch at 26 South Green, Southwold. You can contact them on **01502 722488**.

Please do try to get your donation to us before the day of the fete.

STALLS—WHO TO CONTACT, WHAT THEY NEED!

Books—Contact **Merwyn Cunliffe 01394 382199** or leave donations at the Drop-Off Points.

Bottles—In-date, alcoholic and soft drinks. Contact **Ged & Mike Mclarney 01502 726108**. **Ged & Mike thank everyone who brought bottles along to the AGM—29 in all!**

Bric-a-Brac—Contact **Ken & Jill Hanham 01728 453745** or leave at Drop-Off Points

CDs, DVDs Games software etc—Contact **Peter & Wendy Gibbs 01502 723390** or leave at Drop-Off Points

Tombola—Contact **Paul & Wendy Thompson 01473 735344** if you have 'as new' prizes—or leave at Drop-Off points

Cakes—Contact **Mary Rowan-Robinson 01502 725223** to discuss what you can make and when to deliver

Jams and Pickles—contact **Rosemary Digby 01502 722638**

Refreshments—Light bites, quiches and what have you—not to mention more cakes! Contact **Anthea Marriner 01502 722488** to discuss what is most needed.

Toys and Kids' stuff—Contact **Connie Barrett 01502 575756** or leave at Drop-Off Points

Garden stall—Plants, tools, pots, and all garden-related things. Contact **Pip and Malcolm Guest 01502 723595** or leave at Drop-Off Points

Pictures—Framed or mounted prints and originals. Contact **Barry and Viv Tolfree 01502 722582** or leave at Drop-Off Points

Whisky Draw—Contact **Jack Clayton 01986 872425** if you can contribute a bottle

Parking is free for stallholders. You can start setting up from 10.30 am. After off-loading, please park at the FAR END of the field.

Cut out the poster, or photocopy it and display copies in your window, car and local shops



No one misses the fete at WESTONS! It's where summer really starts

(On your way into Walberswick it's on your left, just before you get to the 'TUCK SHOP')

SUNDAY 3rd July 1.00 - 4.30 pm
OFFICIAL OPENING BY LADY FREUD AT 1.30pm

- * 'Bellaires' handbell ringers
- * The clowns, of course!
- * Huge prize draw
- * Pony rides
- * Rosemary—psychic & tarot reader
- * Magic of Rod Passinari
- * Kids' painting competition
- * Wet sponge stocks
- * Jam and pickle stall
- * Big bottle stall
- * Cake stall
- * Book market
- * Bargain picture gallery
- * Tombola
- * Bric-a-brac
- * Sheila Lain handmade furniture
- * Games galore
- * Fabulous refreshments
- * CDs, DVDs
- * Garden store
- * Toy shop
- * Face painting
- * Whisky draw
- * Lucky dip
- * Bouncy castle
- * Ice Cream

Entry on foot 50p
Under fives free
OR
£3 for a car and all its occupants
(Parking available from 12 am)

...and don't forget
the kids'
DOG SHOW!



APPLAUSE FOR MUFFLED CLAPPERS

John Uden, steeple-keeper at St Edmund's Church for the past 17 years, kindly escorted your editor up the steep spiral staircase of the bell tower to admire the church's ring of eight historic bells – and, in particular, their new, state-of-the-art muffles. The muffles have been purchased especially so that the ringers can continue their Friday evening practice without disturbing performances at the Summer Theatre close by.

Up to now bell practice had to be suspended during the theatre season. Although the church did possess a set of traditional leather half-muffles it was a major performance to fit them to the balls of the clappers, involving turning each bell (the heaviest being 551kg) into the 'up' position, followed by a lot of fumbling with straps and buckles.

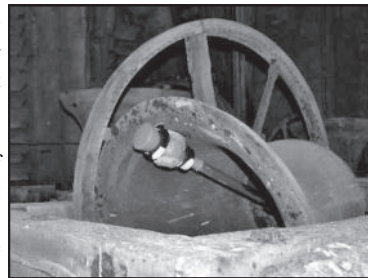
Traditionally muffling is done on Remembrance Sunday and for funerals, and only one side of the clapper is normally muffled, so that, when the bells are rung in the 'full-circle' English manner, the muffled notes alternate with the 'open' notes to produce a sombre echo effect.

To produce an overall silencing effect – on the 'dong' as well as the 'ding' – two muffles are needed, one on either side of each clapper, and this is rather awkward to accomplish with conventional straps.

Enter 'Big Wilf'! Wilfred Grove, whose trading name this is, has developed a unique solution in which sixteen numbered leather muffles, individually tailor-made for each of the eight clappers, are equipped with industrial Velcro straps making it quick, easy and neat to single- or double-muffle the bells. Big-

Wilf muffles are used by many of the country's major cathedrals, including Durham, St Albans and Salisbury.

Ringling Master, Helen Price, is delighted with the Big-Wilf solution. "As well as enabling bell practice to continue year-round," she says, "the double muffles will be a boon in



A double-muffled bell

teaching new learners, enabling them to make mistakes without either embarrassing themselves or annoying the community at large."

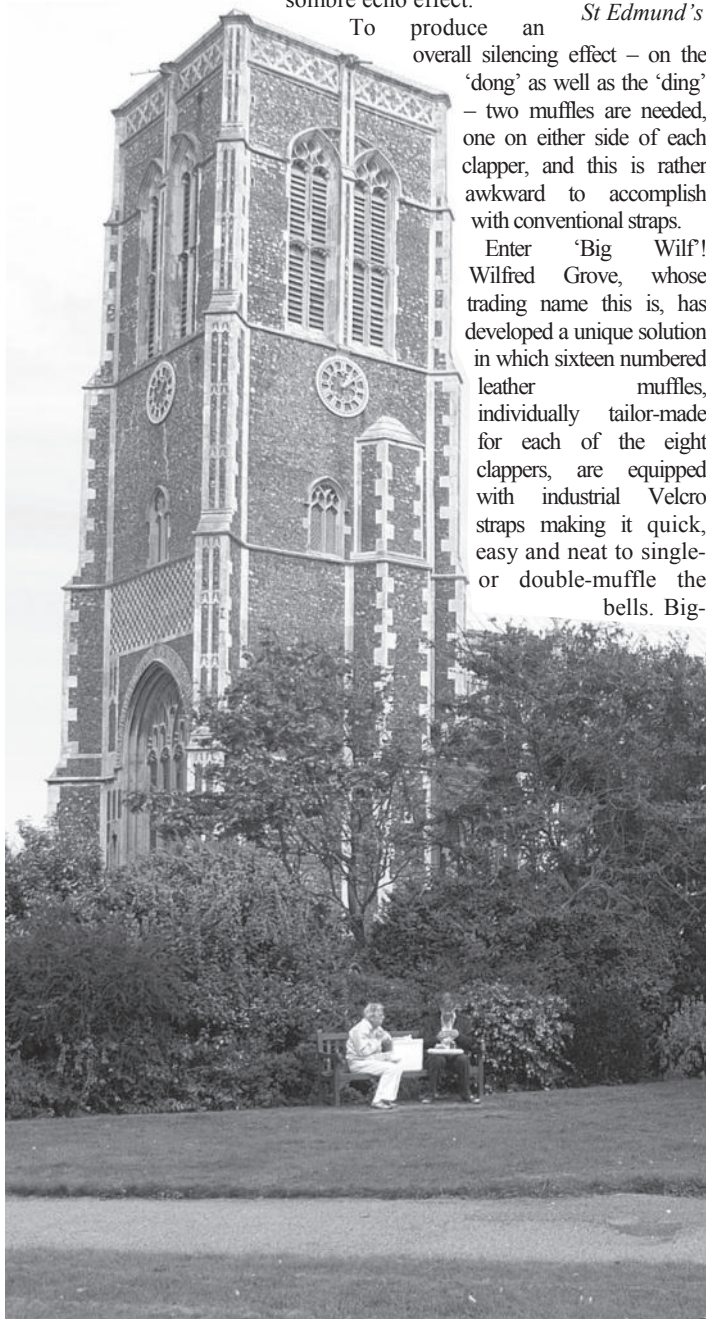
Originally, in 1553, St Edmund's had a ring of five bells. The current ring of eight is hung for change ringing and although none of the originals remain, two of them are certainly medieval. One of these, the 7th, cast by Brasyers of Norwich, probably in the late 15th Century, doubles up as the clock chime. The largest

and heaviest bell is the half-tonne Tenor which was re-cast by William Dobson of Downham Market in 1820. The bells were rehung in 1990 on new fittings but within the original wooden frame.

We are grateful to Wilfred Grove for allowing us to use the picture (top right) from the Big-Wilf website.



A Big-Wilf muffle, tailor made for St Edmund's No 5 bell clapper



FRIENDS CONTRIBUTE £9,850 TO SUMMER THEATRES

Jill expresses her huge gratitude at AGM

Around 80 *Friends* attended the AGM on 15 April—a particularly good turn-out—and were pleased to learn from Hon Treasurer, Peter Gibbs, that FESPA has been able to increase its annual subsidy of the Summer Theatres by £2,850, bringing our total support this year to £9,850. Although sadly, there is to be no Lunchtime Theatre this year—which FESPA has traditionally sponsored—the company's other costs have risen considerably while commercial sponsors are becoming harder to find. Our subsidy for the Children's Theatre season increases to £4,500 and our support of student members of the production team more than doubles to £2,500. In addition, for the first time, we have undertaken to sponsor the printed tickets (£2,500) and the Poetry Music and Wine Evening (£350).

Thanking FESPA for its generosity, Jill Freud singled out the Children's Theatre, saying that, without *Friends'* committed support, this important aspect of the Season might simply not happen.

During 2010, FESPA, had also increased by £2000 the total awarded in bursaries to support local young people embarking on recognised educational courses in the performing arts.

At the AGM, Ben Marriner, our Fete organiser, who had been co-opted to the trustees during the year, was elected as a full trustee. Trustee Don Wilson, had resigned following his permanent move to South Africa, and both Chairman, Sidi Scott, and Hon. Secretary, Jean Kelk, retired by rotation but both were re-elected for a further three-year term.

Our advertised speaker, Paul Leonard, had had to send his apologies owing to a sudden TV commitment, but amazingly his place was filled not by one last-minute stand-in but by four! Locally based actor Paul Hegarty submitted himself to an entertaining Q & A session with Sidi Scott, after which we were joined by none other than Richard Curtis and Emma Freud who gave us a fascinating insight into the birth, development and seemingly unstoppable success of their brain-child, Comic Relief.