



GARRICK NEWSLETTER NO.2
2017/18 SEASON

GARRICK HEADLINE NEWS

Knighthood for the Garrick's New President



As you will have learned from the last Newsletter our local MP Graham Brady has recently kindly agreed to follow in the footsteps of his parliamentary predecessor Sir Fergus Montgomery (and then Lady Joyce Montgomery) in becoming the President of the Garrick.

Now in the New Year's Honours list he has been awarded a Knighthood for services to politics.

Our congratulations go to him and we look forward to welcoming him at the theatre when his busy schedule permits.

We would love to think that accepting the Presidency of the Garrick played a part in Sir Graham's elevation to Knighthood, but can almost certainly take no credit for it!

GARRICK TOUR

Free Theatre Tours of the Garrick



The theatre tours announced in our last newsletter are proving very popular but there are still a few places available on the following dates:

Monday 19th February

Wednesday 28th March

Wednesday 9th May

Tours start at 7.30pm and conclude with light refreshments and the bar will be open (at members' prices).

So if you want a look 'behind the scenes' to see some of the secrets of how a production makes it from page to stage phone the box office as soon as possible on 0161 928 1677 (select Option 1) and leave your name and contact details.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND CHEER



Barry Purves, Mary Woodward, Sally Moore, Anne Moore and Brian Moore

For many members the Garrick's pre-Christmas social evening is part of their lead-up to the festivities. For various reasons there was some doubt in 2017 as to whether it would take place, but at short notice Anne Moore took on the organisation and arranged a most enjoyable evening.

Barry Purves compiled a quiz (which he assured everybody was easier than previous years, though there was still a lot of head-scratching while people racked their brains for the answers and gasps of amazement and frustration when the answers were revealed!).

Mince pies and mulled wine were consumed, there was a raffle, and with great enthusiasm everyone sang carols and other Christmas songs, accompanied by Mary Woodward at the keyboard. We were delighted to see a quite a few new members and hope they will enjoy future social evenings as much as everybody did this one. Thanks to all those who helped organise and contribute in any way.



It was the Pantomime After-Show Party (oh, yes it was) with a little help from our Sponsors. All productions take a lot of effort from cast and crew, but the sheer number of performances mean that pantomime demands an even greater time commitment from all involved.

It was decided this year to thank the whole team with a party at the end of what was a virtual sell-out run of 24 shows. The Greenhouse Vegetarian Restaurant and shop, the sponsors of this season's pantomime, provided the food for the party. The Greenhouse Restaurant is at 43 Oxford Road (0161 928 4399) and they will be delighted to welcome you to sample their extensive menu of freshly cooked home-made food

NEW AT THE GARRICK

Pop-up Card Only Bottle Bar

As many of you will be aware the Garrick has recently hosted several top comedians, who have all performed to capacity audiences.

At the end of last season Russell Kane did two consecutive nights and the bar came under tremendous pressure to cope. Some quick thinking was needed before what we knew would be very busy nights when Rich Hall and Andy Parsons were appearing at the theatre.



The agency staff and Jeannie Honeyman in the bottle bar before the rush.

The solution was to have a pop-up Bottle Bar in the kitchen area.

Two agency staff manned it, with Jeannie Honeyman on duty as minder and to take orders for interval drinks. This worked brilliantly and allowed the main bar to offer a full service without any massive queues or stress.

This is now the blueprint for future such shows. Thanks go to Elaine Saville, our bar manager, for organising the bottle bar and to all volunteers who worked those hectic nights.

KIOSK UPGRADE



The kiosk in the foyer, which provides not only a service to our audiences but also a vital revenue stream, has recently had a make-over in time to cope with ice cream sales during the pantomime. Two large freezers have been installed - the team previously had to scramble about in the area behind the bar to fetch the ice creams from the freezer and then carry them upstairs.

Thanks go to Anne and Brian Moore, Bryn Thomas and Neville Roby for organising this much-needed improvement.

(left) Anne and Brian Moore in the kiosk before the refurbishment. Have a look at the improvements when you are next in the theatre

5* VENUE

The Garrick really is a 5* venue. In 2017, there were fourteen 5* and twelve 4* reviews online or in local papers. In addition, there were 34 nominations for the NODA NW District 1 Awards. This superb effort shows the continued excellence of performance both on the Main Stage and the Studio.

Please help up maintain these high standards by volunteering in the many areas relying on you for help.

Without the active support of volunteers the theatre cannot function and any assistance you could offer would be most greatly appreciated. Just contact Neville Roby, Theatre Manager; Neil Walker, Front of House Manager; Elaine Saville, Bar Manage;, or Phil Gleave and Trevor McKie (Production) if you can spare some time, no matter how much or little.

Remember, the Garrick is YOUR local theatre. We really do need you.

MEMBERSHIP PRICE REDUCTION

We are delighted to announce that the membership prices have now been reduced for the second half of the season.

They are now just £15 (£10 Concession)

This is to encourage even more people to become members so they can enjoy the great membership package we have on offer and does not disadvantage any new acting members who might be cast in shows in the second half of the season. This great offer is available now.

Please encourage anyone you know to take advantage of it simply by phoning the box office or popping into the theatre and speaking to the box office staff.

Thank you.



SUPPORTING THE GARRICK

ALTRINCHAM GARRICK AMBASSADORS

As a member or friend of the Garrick you are invited to become an ambassador for the theatre. You can do this in several easy and non-time consuming ways:-

- Take show posters or leaflets to display in local shops, or places of work
- Take season brochures to give to family, friends or work colleagues
- Encourage family, friends or work colleagues to become members or accompany you to our shows
- Post positive comments on Facebook, Twitter and Trip Advisor about our theatre
- Tell people about our website
- Like and share our posts on social media to your contacts
- Support our sponsors

Raising awareness about the Garrick and our programme of events is a key aim and your help and support would be very much appreciated.

Future Newsletters

If you think there is something that should feature in future newsletters please let Celia Bonner or Stuart Slade know and they will try to include it. This is your vehicle to let members know what is happening 'all things Garrick'. We look forward to hearing from you.

And Finally...

When you are next at the Garrick, do have a look at the members' noticeboard situated in the bar corridor. There you will find a copy of the minutes of the latest Members Management Committee meeting, 200 Club winners, a diagram of the theatre's Management structure and more. It's another way of improving communication. If you want to join the 200 Club (which is a way of raising funds towards essential improvements whilst giving you the opportunity to win cash prizes) please contact the Membership Secretary, John Gibson.



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