

THE BOARDS NEWSLETTER

September 2016

Hello everyone. I hope you have been enjoying our Indian summer. Following the AGM this month and subsequent committee meeting, this issue will update you with all the changes in *All & Sundry* and the ongoing situation.

First of all there have been major changes on the committee, with both our Chairman and Treasurer standing down after many years in their roles and we must thank them both for their hard work and dedication to *All & Sundry*. There have also been other changes and I list below the new committee members.

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Co Chairman | Alison Berisford |
| Co Chairman | Brian Wiggins |
| Co Chairman | Martina Ponsonby |
| Co Chairman | Roger Goddard |
| Treasurer | Janine Parkes |
| Secretary | Zena Schtyk |
| Membership Sec. | Vanessa Morgan |
| Company Sec. | Simon Wicks |

The Chair's role is being shared between 4 of us, which will help with the workload, as well as ensuring one of us is available should you have any issues to discuss. Brian will be responsible for Publicity, Simon for Health and Safety and also the website, and Martina for Child Protection.

As you can see, the committee is still rather low on numbers and we would encourage anyone interested in serving on it to contact one of the committee to discuss.

Of course, we are currently in the middle of our production of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf". Last weekend we played the Artrix and the play was very well received indeed. Congratulations to all involved. The show continues on Thursday at the Palace in Redditch and runs until Saturday. If you've not seen it yet, do go and support it, you'll be in for a treat. See review below.

Review - Tristan Harris - Bromsgrove Standard.

THE ARTRIX studio could not have been a better setting for *All and Sundry's* latest offering – a stage version of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

This intense drama centres around the bitter and frustrated relationship of George and Martha who, after a university faculty party, embroil younger couple Nick and Honey into a night of deadly game playing

It features just four characters and explores middle-age marriage breakdown, psychological relationships, human feelings and more.

The smaller venue chosen provided an unbelievably claustrophobic feeling and, with the actors almost toe-to-toe with the front row during some argumentative confrontations and other explosive moments, it was exactly what was needed. You felt like you had literally sneaked into someone's living room to get a 'fly on the wall' insight into how they lived their lives.

The other important aspect about this play is the casting has to be spot on – and it was. You could see director Vanessa Morgan had chosen four very talented actors and put them in exactly the right roles.

Barbara Treen was excellent as Martha who, full of venom for the most part and full of sadness for others, made you loathe her sometimes and occasionally pity her and her life.

Andrew Corcoran made the role of supposedly brow-beaten husband, but often equally as feisty, George his own and dominated the stage when he needed to.

Ed Butler was wonderful as 'new-boy' Nick who was full of motivation and hope for the job he was due to start and Sarah Feltham brought the 'fragile' Honey's character to life. There were times when you really felt for her and the situation she had unwittingly been caught up in.

This play flits erratically from moments of laughter to deep intensity and shocking aggressive and abusive scenes and likewise, as you watched, your empathy flitted from one character to another. That was a true testament to the high quality of the acting on show.

Overall this performance was intense psychological theatre at its best and is well worth seeing when it moves to the Palace Theatre in Redditch this week.

It was also made all the more poignant with the news that the show's writer Edward Albee, who had a superb story to tell and told it so well, passed away yesterday morning (Saturday) at the age of 88.

The Oscars

Yes, the Oscars will soon be upon us. This year promises to be better than ever at the new venue of the Holiday Inn, with a later finish and more time for dancing! Tickets are £20 for adults and are now available from Victoria. Please e-Mail her on victoriavollans@gmail.com for tickets or information.

Food for thought:- Wouldn't it be interesting if Britney Spears hooked up with and married Bryan Ferry?

And finally, what happens when you fall out with an exorcist? You get re-possessed !

That's all,

Rog