

# FOOTLIGHTS

The Newsletter for Barton Theatre Company

Issue 4: August 2011

## CONTENTS

1. Editorial
2. Bridgewater Canal 250
3. Quiz
4. RSC Open Stages
5. Dates for your Diary
6. The Curtain Falls

---

### 1. EDITORIAL

Welcome to the August issue of Footlights.

Firstly, an apology that there was no newsletter in July.

Regular readers will remember that I have itty bitty habit of putting things off. Yes I procrastinated again. The reasoning was that I try to send out the newsletter on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. However, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July we performed at the Monton Festival so by having a slight delay I could have featured it.

Life, though, has a habit of getting in the way and interfering with your plans. As I

am the entire journalistic staff, that meant July's newsletter never happened.

Following the experiment with sending out the pdf file, as I received no negative comments, I've decided to continue using it. After all, it makes the newsletter look pretty and helps lend a more professional air (And I need all the help I can get)

Andrew Nevill (Editor)  
[anevill@ntlworld.com](mailto:anevill@ntlworld.com)

---

### 2. BRIDGEWATER CANAL 250

Two of our Festival performances in connection with the Bridgewater Canal's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary have now taken place.

The first was at Monton Festival on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and the second at Worsley festival on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Monton was a great success. We all met up early at Elly's house to have a line run then went into Monton for the show. It was a glorious sunny day and the crowds were out in force so things augured well

We were performing the marquee on the village green, which had a staged area set up int. However, it wasn't the largest space in the world so it had been decided to perform a Bridgewater A-Z that we had put on previous at Worsley Court House

It was a slightly tweaked version we were doing as Elaine McCann, writer extraordinaire, had felt that some bits could have worked better. Also the cast had changed slightly which suited me as I'd gone up in the world. Last time I was just a canal worker. Now I was the Duke of Bridgewater!

So we got into costume and spent ten minute before the performance trying to pull in the crowds. It worked rather well as we opened to a pretty full marquee.

Happily the play went well, (we'll pass over someone jumping three letters of the alphabet) and the audience were very appreciative. So were the festival organisers. They asked us to do it again!

So half an hour later, we stepped back on stage for an unscheduled second stab at it. This time it went off without a hitch and again the audience loved it.

The whole afternoon was rounded off with a return to Elly's for post show BBQ

A couple of weeks later on 15 July was the event that has been the focus for this whole thing, the Right Royal Regatta.

This was a recreation of Queen Victoria's famous visit to the Bridgewater Canal. The Queen and her party, portrayed by actors, sailed on the canal from Patricroft to Worsley.

Barton was heavily involved in helping this happen as our very own Bev Greenhalgh and Joan Breen provided the costumes for the Queen and her entourage.

In addition, performers from Barton staged a recreation of the Eccles Wakes portraying various characters, you might have found there such as gypsies temperance marchers, strongmen and purveyors of miracle cures – and of course the denizens of Eccles

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to be there but from all I've heard, it was massively successful. The event was featured in the Salford Advertiser, along with a photo of Iris and Joan in character. The story can be found online at:

[http://menmedia.co.uk/salfordadvertiser/news/s/1441752\\_all-aboard-as-royal-party-celebrates-the-250th-anniversary-of-the-bridgewater-canal](http://menmedia.co.uk/salfordadvertiser/news/s/1441752_all-aboard-as-royal-party-celebrates-the-250th-anniversary-of-the-bridgewater-canal)

The final event will be the Eccles Festival at the Eccles Recreation Ground on 17<sup>th</sup> September



### 3. QUIZ

In keeping with the Victorian theme, the quiz this time challenges you to match the Victorian playwrights with their well known (well, at the time) works. Answers as always at the end.

- |                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Thomas William Robertson        | a) Charley's Aunt   |
| 2. W. S. Gilbert / Arthur Sullivan | b) The Vampire      |
| 3. Oscar Wilde                     | c) Ours             |
| 4. Brandon Thomas                  | d) The Mikado       |
| 5. James Planché                   | e) An Ideal Husband |

---

### 4. RSC OPEN STAGES

We announced last issue that we will be performing Macbeth as part of RSC Open Stages. It is envisaged that this will be our summer production for 2012. Dave Milne will be directing.

In order to introduce people to the play and to the Bard himself, we are currently holding readings of Macbeth. The first of these was last Thursday.

About 10 of us turned up and we read the play around the table, just like you probably did at school – but with added alcohol

But this was nothing like school. At the end of every scene Dave would lead a short discussion to help us understand what we just read. Except they weren't so sort as everyone around the tables was getting so much out of it and we were just bouncing ideas off each other. It was a very entertaining evening

It was also surprising and encouraging. Surprising because Shakespeare is seen as difficult to understand but we seemed to

get our heads round it straightaway. Even when Dave started talking about iambic pentameter, we still got he meant.

Encouraging because if we're getting it this fast the it means that come rehearsal we'll be hopefully be able to spend more time actually rehearsing and less time working out what the darn words mean.

Also taking place have been the workshops run by the RSC. Unfortunately, these have now finished but those who attended found them extremely worthwhile and came away having learnt new things.

These are already being passed on to the rest of the group. Elaine McCann using one of the exercises she learnt at the workshop at one of her own rehearsals.

The next reading of Macbeth is at St Mikes on Monday 1 August at 7:45. We really did have a good time on Thursday. I promise you Shakespeare is not scary, Shakespeare is fun. So do please come and join us.

---

## 5. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BTC Dates:

Annual General Meeting – To be announced

Bridgewater Canal 250:

Eccles Festival – 17 September 2011 – Eccles Recreation Ground.

Other Dates:

Edgefold Players

Bedroom Farce by Alan Ayckbourn

19-22 October 2011 at 7:30pm

Methodist Community Hall, Memorial Road, Walkden

Bookings 0161 7028708

<http://www.edgefoldplayers.co.uk/>

Salford Arts Theatre

Sitting On Offence

Loose Lips Theatre Company

12-13 August 2011 at 7:30pm

Tickets: £6.00(conc), £7.00 (full)

Salford Arts Theatre, Kemsing Walk, Off Liverpool Street, Salford, M5 4BS.

Bookings 0161 925 0111

[www.salfordartstheatre.co.uk](http://www.salfordartstheatre.co.uk)

---

## 6. THE FINAL CURTAIN

I hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter.

One problem that has been highlighted this time is that it's only me doing this. I don't mind that but it does mean that if I'm busy for some reason, this doesn't get done. Or if something happens and I wasn't there it's hard for me to report on it.

If anyone out there has any stories or news that I could use in the newsletter. It could be anything, a review of a show been to, a report on a performance you were in or on the lighter side anecdotes or jokes. Hey how about seeing if you can come up with a quiz that as fiendish as mine

Until next month (probably).

Contact Information:

Email: [anevill@ntlworld.com](mailto:anevill@ntlworld.com)

Barton Theatre Company Committee

Chair: Brian Cogswill, Treasurer: Elaine

Hayton, Secretary: Janet Johnston,

Officers: Joan Breen, Beverley

Greenhalgh, David Milne, Andrew Nevill

Quiz Answers:

1c

2d

3e

4a

5b

All views of those of the author and not

necessarily those of Barton Theatre

Company, its associates and affiliates

Copyright Andrew Nevill 2011. All Rights

Reserved. All Wrongs Revenged.