

A happy new year to all Studio's friends and supporters. Here, at Studio, we are starting the New Year on a tidal wave of optimism after an action-packed year both on stage and behind the scenes.

Despite reducing the size of our mailing list back in May because of new EU privacy laws, you've actually grown in number over the year and it's wonderful to see so many of you coming back through our doors for show after show. Long may it continue. So far this season, we've had a cracking old farce in **Charley's Aunt**, where Kris Hamilton's Lord Fancourt Babberley donned wig and frock and still got the girl, and a sell-out production of Ayckbourn's Christmas classic **Season's Greetings** when a musical penguin put the cat among the pigeons under the festive tree. But there's more to come.

TOPPING OUT

No one dreamed at the start of this year that we would have made so much progress on our new extension. Despite a shortfall in our funding, it was decided to take the plunge in March and make a start, fund-raising as we went along and hoping that visible progress would encourage further donations and grant-givers to see that we were serious. So serious that we were able to hold a topping out ceremony in December, attended by Salisbury Mayor Mike Osment, supporters and members, who were shown around the extension while our plans for interior fitting and fixtures were explained. With around £210,000 of the estimated £250,000 cost now spent, we need to find another £40,000 to enable us complete and fit out our new dressing rooms, rehearsal space and storage facilities as well as restore our wardrobe to its proper place. As an exciting new season starts in January with our fabulous Youth Theatre members swash-buckling their way to **Treasure Island**, we hope that a little of the gold they dig up en route will turn into the real thing and make us the envy of the amdram world this year.



With the cost of putting on productions rising and a new extension to kit out, it was decided at the AGM in October to increase our ticket price to £12. Under 16s rate is unchanged at £8. We hope you still feel Studio represents value for money.

TICKET PRICE RISE

While many faces on the committee stayed the same, the AGM yielded a new Director of Productions in Rachel Fletcher - well, newish. She's done it before on several occasions and is busy conjuring up a new season (2019-2020) to start in Autumn next year when she will take over from current DoP Rowena Greenaway.

NEW-ish DoP

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OUR CUP OF GRATITUDE OVERFLOWETH....

Sterling efforts by our fund-raisers have kept our building coffers topped up (although our builders have emptied them again with remarkable speed!). Generous contributions in the last six months have included £10,000 from an anonymous donor, £100 from a small charitable trust, also anonymous, a £5000 grant from Salisbury City Grants fund, £5000 from the Worshipful Company of Grocers, £1000 from the Wilton Area Board and a £1000 grant from the St James Place Foundation. We are grateful to them all.



WAITROSE PARKING WARNING

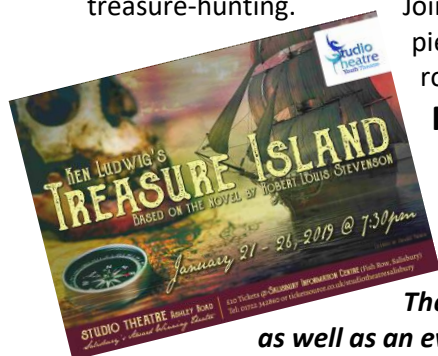
One of the downsides of our new extension is the loss of a few parking spaces. We have an arrangement with Waitrose to allow a limited number of cast and crew to use their car park, but thought we should warn audience members who have used Waitrose in the past that it could now cost them dearly to do so. Waitrose has introduced camera-operated parking, which means that if you park and stay for more than three hours, even in the evening, you will be fined. With many shows, you would be cutting it very fine to park, walk to the theatre, see the show and walk back without overstaying. Please be aware of this.

ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET

You may recall in the last issue of VftW reports of Studio members turned film extras when former members and good friends of Studio, Barney Norris and Alice Hamilton, shot a short film on Martin Down last summer. The finished product, *Needletail*, will be shown in an evening of short films as part of Theatre FestWest at Salisbury Arts Centre on February 20 at 8pm. We wait with baited breath to find out if we made it onto the silver screen or ended up on the cutting room floor.

With so much going on, we mustn't overlook the temptations that await within our own auditorium over the coming months. Pay attention: there have been some changes of dates and revised programming.

January 21-26: Treasure Island. After storming the barricades last year, Studio Youth Theatre go treasure-hunting.



Join Long John Silver, Jim Hawkins, Billy Bones and blind Pew in the search for pieces of eight in this adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's much-loved rollicking adventure.

March 7-16 (not Sunday or Monday): Dad's Army. Don't panic - time for Captain Mainwaring, Sgt Wilson, Lance Corporal Jones, Sgt Fraser and young Pike to fall in and defend the good citizens of Walmington-on-Sea from the Nazi hordes. No need to tell you to get your ticket orders in early for this one. **Tickets on sale from Friday, January 11.**

There will be a matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday March 16, as well as an evening performance.

April 10-13: A Trip Down Memory Lane. Dee Mansfield is master-minding a cabaret style evening of supper and song from 60s pop to the millennium. **NB Tickets will be £17.50 to include supper.**

May 20-25: Northanger Abbey. This is Tim Luscombe's version, first seen at Salisbury Playhouse in 2009, of Jane Austen's early work, whisking heroine Catherine Morland from her Wiltshire village to the sophisticated streets of Regency Bath. With a taste for Gothic romance novels, Catherine's vivid imagination goes into overdrive when she meets the Tilney family and visits their home at imposing Northanger Abbey,.

July 10-13: Best of the Bard. That's the working title for a evening of sonnets, scenes, songs, music, and dance celebrating and showcasing all things Bard-ish. More details as they emerge.....



PLUS

One-act play festivals: Last minute plans are afoot to enter the Woolstore Festival and the Totton Festival of Drama in March where we have several titles to defend. We hope to bring the one-act play we enter to Studio in June if all goes well and will keep you posted on dates.

Collabro concert: On April 11 at Salisbury City Hall, Studio Youth Theatre will be joining Britain's Got Talent winners Collabro on stage

Future fund-raisers: Please help us raise the funds required for the last phase of our exciting extension.

Friday, 26th. April, 7.30pm - Poems and Pints Evening in the foyer at Studio. Share your favourite odes and drink in the atmosphere, as well as all that the bar has to offer (well maybe not all).

Sunday, 14th. July, 2pm - Garden Party at the Court House, Lower Woodford. A return visit to the amazing garden of our wonderful supporters, the Studholmes.

Full details of the above will be available on our website (www.studiotheatre.org.uk), but put the dates in your diary now! Details also available from Peter Mitchell on 01722-501399 or 07986-133776 or at peter.mitchell203@ntlworld.com.

All performances take place at Studio Theatre in Ashley Road, Salisbury, unless otherwise stated. Our box office is now Salisbury Information Centre in Fish Row. Seats can be booked on 01722 342860 or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/studiotheatresalisbury