



## Newsletter No. 14

July 2008

*Working for a regional theatre in Farnham*

### **AGM – Please note the date**

**Saturday September 27, 2.30pm** is the date for this year's AGM to be held at the United Reformed Church rooms in South Street, Farnham. Running for about 2 hours there's entertainment as well! This has been such a significant year of activity for FTA that all are urged to attend and support. The present 4 Directors are up for re-election; more Directors are to be added to strengthen the organisation with the objective to bring numbers up to 7. At least 4 weeks before the AGM another newsletter will be sent giving you more detail on procedure.

### **Rising tide of Objections to WBC/CNS plans**

Objections to the demolition of the Redgrave have now reached over **3,000**, and to the whole plan 5,827 as at 14 July. Thank you, thank you, thank you everyone for this outstanding result – especially to our tireless campaigners on the streets!

### **Councillors Briefing Session**

At Waverley's Council offices in Godalming, on 28th May, Statutory Consultees and fifteen members of the Farnham public, in front of Waverley Councillors and the developers, presented an array of serious objections to Crest Nicholson's planning applications for East Street.

### **Developers' dilemma**

In view of serious objections from the Environment Agency, the developers are now having to redraw their plans and hope to submit them again in late August. **THIS MAY MEAN A NEW PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER** and possibly more objections! The new date for a decision meeting is 1<sup>st</sup> October. We will keep you posted through these newsletters and of course the website: [www.farnhamtheatre.co.uk](http://www.farnhamtheatre.co.uk)

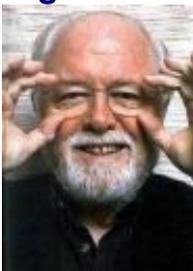
### **Staunch support from the Theatres Trust**

FTA were delighted that the Chairman of the Theatres Trust, Rupert Rhymes OBE, had travelled from Bristol to attend the meeting. He told Councillors that Waverley had not demonstrated that the Redgrave was surplus to requirements and that the plans were in conflict with Government policies for town centres.

### **Is it a panacea? The Alternative East Street plan**

Local Architect Max Lyons has been asked by the owners of the Woolmead, F and C, to draw up an alternative small scheme which would avoid all serious objections. The aim is to present it as a planning application before decisions are made on the CNS plans. We are pleased to see that the published sketch outline does contain 'a theatre and a cinema as separate entities.' Perhaps our 3,000 objections may yet bear fruit! It remains to be seen whether this theatre /cinema combination will suit the approach to create sustainable, viable theatre as set out in Michael Holden's report. We are investigating. There is a further issue in that the Theatres Trust would only ratify the demolition of the Redgrave if this new building was deemed an adequate replacement.

### **Big-name support for the campaign.**



Lord Richard Attenborough, Dame Judi Dench, Maureen Lipman and Jemma Redgrave have all recently signed letters objecting to the demolition of the Redgrave. Huge thanks to Abigail McKern for achieving this boost to the campaign – and for capturing many new objections from the cast at Chichester Theatre.

## **We need your support to help us campaign!**

You can see that campaigning does not stop – it is a continuous and for the time-being, never-ending process! Whenever we see a potential breakthrough it is hedged with possible other concerns. The FTA cannot afford to rest on its laurels and to that end it constantly needs your support in two main ways:

### **■ Financial support**

Help our fighting fund. Can you offer any time to help us with fundraising? We need to be active and campaigning costs money - we do need further funds to fight the cause. It's very encouraging to see Max Lyons' plan but we are a long way from it being accepted by WBC. The full details of this new scheme have yet to be seen in detail by FTA and judged on their own merit. The campaign is not over yet. All help is really appreciated so please send your donations to: FTA Treasurer, address at the foot.

### **■ Practical help**

Please consider offering some time to help with practical tasks – it might be with fundraising, or with help at local shows and fetes where we have a stall to generate interest in our cause and also to build funds – for example through selling the popular Theatre or Film Quiz tickets, see Quiz Time below.

You may have offered your help in the past but we need to update these lists of able and willing supporters. It's not onerous and not arduous! It may only take an hour or two of your time. Tell us what you are able to do/the time you are able to give/your skills. Contact please through the website or email.

## **Quiz time**

Have you tried our very popular Theatre and Film Quizzes? Selling at £1 per quiz with a £50 prize for the winners of each category, we have already raised over £400 during the summer. 30th September closing dates for returned quiz entries. CAN YOU HELP US SELL MORE? Enquiries to the Chairman (address below) and cheques made to FTA Ltd. or postage stamps to the value of your order to receive your quiz forms.

## **Bring back Shakespeare to our schools!**

Started by the Royal Shakespeare Company, a campaign is gaining momentum to bring back the teaching and exploration of our great playwright's works once more for schoolchildren. You can join the RSC's campaign now! Add your name in support; it costs you absolutely nothing but demonstrates your commitment and reinforcement for what the RSC aim to achieve. Add your name to the RSC campaign by signing up at [www.rsc.org.uk/standupforshakespeare](http://www.rsc.org.uk/standupforshakespeare).

## **email not snail mail please!**

If you are on email or have access to it we really do need to send you the information that way. It gives you much more than by post, it's faster, and most importantly, it **saves FTA money**. Your help with this simple step will be much valued, so please email the Editor to provide your email address.

## **Support local players in a Double Bill!**

Don't miss **The Bear** and **Afterplay**, by Brian Friel this August, performed by a professional cast through a new company, A Cry of Players. For details contact Box Office 01252 745444.

## **AGM Reminder**

Don't forget that Saturday September 27 at 2.30pm is the date for this year's AGM to be held at the United Reformed Church rooms in South Street, Farnham. Don't miss it! All our supporters are urged to hear what has happened in this significant year for FTA and how we intend to tackle the future. It's also an opportunity to meet the team.

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