

Interim Newsletter — FTA AGM

As we feel sure you will all understand, our usual AGM cannot be held this year because of Coronavirus. *But, we have a plan...*

Not to have our usual AGM is a disappointment to us all as we feel it to be a valuable meeting place to air our thoughts, to share ideas with you, to hear of your concerns and of course, to conduct the formal business of appointing new Directors and voting on the minutes and financial accounts.

However we do fully intend to share all this formal information and will be conducting proceedings remotely. As not all of FTA's committee and supporters are able to access Zoom meetings we are conducting the business of the AGM by email and post.

All FTA members will receive the full set of documents and a letter setting out the intentions of the Directors for your

approval, including the election of Peter Hunter to the FTA Board of Directors. If you are not a paid-up member of FTA, but would like to see the documents, they will be available on the FTA website: www.farnhamtheatre.org.uk or can be requested by post from the Chairman.

Your committee has been busy this past year and there is a great deal of interesting news to cover, including:

- ▶ The success of our Book sales – *A Tale of Two Theatres*
- ▶ Our plan to print the Church House theatre history as a separate booklet – in time for Christmas!
- ▶ An opportunity to purchase individual Guy Vaesen prints
- ▶ Theatre archive news and the intended move to a new location
- ▶ Congratulations to our Director, Abigail McKern on the launch and success of her film project.



Covid snaps shut *The Mousetrap*!

Our commiserations to Brenda Longman of Farnham Rep who was so delighted earlier this year to hear that she had been given a part in *The Mousetrap* and that this show was to reopen in the West End.

All seemed fine even within covid regulations but then the health picture worsened necessitating a postpone-

ment. So she and the rest of the cast are waiting to hear of a new date for this play to reopen.

In fact there were to be TWO separate EQUAL casts and a full understudy cast to comply with regulations. If someone has to self-isolate in a cast then the alternative cast has to go on for the following 10 days.

Rehearsals began on October 5th with both casts in costume and a VIP from the Government tossing a coin outside St Martin's Theatre to decide which cast plays on the opening night (which was to be 23rd October). Big publicity stunt!

From then on the casts were planned to alternate weekly 9 shows a week!! Playing two on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays! Frustrating for them all and for their prospective audiences.



Brenda Longman

Sad news

We are very sorry to hear of the serious illnesses of Celia Sandars, John Price and Frances Kirby. Our thoughts are with their families.

And we are sad to report the death of Barbara Lake, a truly stalwart character who achieved so much with her fundraising, particularly for Farnham Rep, but will be known to many people.

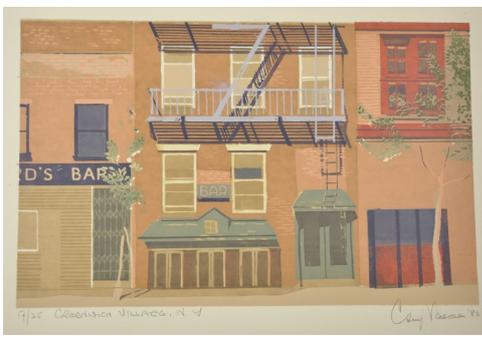
Brenda Longman said "Barbara had been unwell and virtually immobile for some months leading up to her death and had spent regular spells in hospital with home carers

coming in when not hospitalised.

The things she loved most....shopping, driving, her open fires and of course Farnham Rep and fund raising for her pet causes had been taken from her and in some ways her end was gentle and a blessing.

Farnham Rep, Blackmoor Village Hall and Aldershot F.C. owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her tireless and at times, somewhat eccentric methods of fundraising.

She was a lovable terrier with an indomitable spirit and a brave unselfish heart which decided to go to sleep.



GUY VAESEN PRINTS

Auction Valuation

San Marco (2 copies of 1 design)
– £60-80,

Greek Islands (5 designs), £250-350.

USA (3 designs), £250-350.

Thailand (5 designs), £250-350.

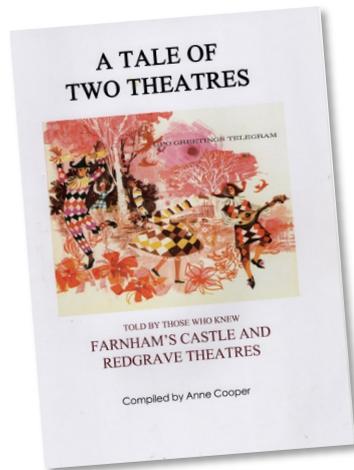
Although Parkers Fine Art Auctioneers did their very best for us, we still have many attractive prints unsold and we would like to sell these prints individually and will consider **offers of over £20 per print**, with proceeds going towards funding the maintenance of the archives.

The auction values were placed on the signed and numbered prints originally donated to the Save The Redgrave funds by the artist and which were grouped according to the different countries featured in the designs. This meant that

buyers were required to buy lots which included several designs and copies, rather than single prints.

We want to offer members and friends of FTA the chance buy single prints of their choice at very reasonable prices.

Viewing at 4 Nutshell Lane by arrangement: phone 01252 716394 or sales@farnhamtheatre.co.uk



A Tale of Two Theatres - Have you got your copy yet?

► **Live in Farnham?** You can get your copy at £15.99 from Waterstone's, Pullingers or Farnham Museum.

► **Direct from us.** Simply email sales@farnhamtheatre.co.uk give us your address and either send a cheque, payable to Farnham Theatre Association, to Anne (address at the foot below) to cover the book plus post and packing ie. £15.99 plus £2.00 = £17.99. Alternatively, please send that sum by BACS to the FTA account indicating your name as a reference.

Sort code: 60-08-15
Account No. 59103205

► **Live further away? Order from Amazon** For the hard copy, the price is £15.99 plus their own p&p charge. For an e-book eg for a Kindle or other e-reader, the book is just £8.99. When ordering here please use the full name: **A Tale of Two Theatres told by those who knew compiled by Anne Cooper** - that will avoid other similar titles being offered.

Membership overdue?

Please ensure you have helped your FTA to continue in whatever ways it can to boost and encourage theatre, both professional and amateur in Farnham.

These fees became due at the end of March so if you haven't yet paid, your action now would be so much appreciated.

Membership charges remain unchanged:

Single person £10

Family £20

Group £20

Corporate by negotiation

Please send cheques, payable to Farnham Theatre Association, to:
Joe Michel, Temporary Treasurer, c/o 4 Nutshell Lane, Upper Hale, Farnham, Surrey GU9 0HG.

Or transfer via BACS to:

Sort Code 60-08-15

Account Number 59103205.

Please provide a clear reference to your name so that we can identify payments.

Thank you.

Editor: Mike Silver 01252 725263 mike.s@farnhamtheatre.co.uk



FTA Chairman: Anne Cooper; anne.cooper@farnhamtheatre.co.uk 4 Nutshell Lane, Upper Hale, Farnham, GU9 0HG
Temporary Treasurer: Joe Michel; joe@farnhamtheatre.co.uk c/o address as above

The Farnham Theatre Association Limited is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England No. 6250927

www.farnhamtheatre.co.uk

