



# Volunteer update

Spring 2021

## **Hello.....Remember us ?????**

It's been a while..... We hope you are all keeping as well as possible and that you have gotten through the last 12 months with as little heartache as possible.

We are very much focussing on the future now and wanted to let you know a little about what we have planned going forward, as well as updating you on some of the changes around the building.

## **Volunteer Meeting**

We don't want to do a volunteer meeting until we can do one properly with everyone mixing and enjoying the company. So, we have planned one for after the June 21<sup>st</sup> date when hopefully restrictions will have eased.

Our first volunteer meeting of 2021 is planned for....

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 7.30pm**

This is a great opportunity to catch up with other volunteers and find out what's been happening.

Moving forward we will need volunteers more than ever to be successful in the coming months – so please consider joining us.

## **Re – opening plans**

As you may have seen from social media – we are hoping to be able to re-open for our community projects from 12<sup>th</sup> April. All being well this will mean that things like our dementia activities and Youth Theatre will start back after that date.

Its likely that most of our lettings would qualify to also open after 12<sup>th</sup> April as well.

It will be 17<sup>th</sup> May before we can open again for shows though (as long as the dates don't slip)

Initially those shows will still be socially distanced and its not likely that there will be very many in this period. However we will be busy again with our Schools work as that is coming back this year (Hooray !)

From June 21<sup>st</sup> it currently looks like all the restrictions may lift – so full size shows will again be possible. However, the numbers of these will be relatively low for the first few weeks as the position becomes clearer. From September though we hope to be back to a normal(ish) programme.

That's not to say we will not be busy over the summer, we certainly will, as we have several new community projects up and running in that period.

See the section below on new projects.....

### **The Building**

We have taken advantage of the closed time to do a lot of renovation work around the building. Some will be obvious and other bits are more subtle – but it will all enhance the building.

Studio 2 was the last of the studio's to have the revamp – and this is just completing. It has had a new paint job throughout and is getting new curtains and a new floor ! It has also had new lighting and ballet barres and some mirrors added. The old sink and pipe work has been removed as well to make a little more space and the alcove has been converted for more storage shelves.

Studio 1 has had the old gas heaters removed and some old cupboards renovated as additional shelving.

The green room has been completely renovated with all the old units replaced with new as well as a new sink and refreshed furniture.

All of the chairs in studio 3 and those now in the Green room have been wonderfully revived by the talents of Angela and Janet who have worked remotely on this during the lockdown.

All of the Theatre tech has been cleaned, PAT tested and inventoried. The Tech store has been rearranged and a lot of new digital lighting equipment has been installed.

The tech box has had the old door sealed over to cut down the draft and has a new computer to operate the new digital lighting.

The dressing rooms have new screens and new clearer camera has been installed to give a better view of the stage.

The workshop and rear sheds have been tidied and several large skips full of junk has been removed.

The boiler has been serviced and a new controller has been fitted so we no longer have to go down into the basement !!

Throughout the building a new ethernet network has been installed to improve connectivity for the new digital technology we have installed. The roof to the rear of the building has had scaffolding erected and two sets of repairs commissioned and underway. We hope this will fix some of the studio 1 leaks.

## **New Projects**

### **Origins Youth Music Project**

Using some funding from the Youth Music Foundation we have organised a range of youth music activities which will run between now and the end of the year.

You may already have seen adverts for various online workshops which started in March. These will gradually be replaced with real life workshops as the summer progresses.

Alongside the workshops we have a youth choir starting in March which similarly will be online first and then real later in the year.

### **Puppet Workshops**

Some time ago we got funding for a series of Puppet workshops – these will now be running over the summer months. There are two groups one for 5 – 9 year olds and one for 10 – 14 year olds. More information is on the seagull website.

### **Singing for Lung Health**

Since there are now many people suffering the after effects of illnesses which affected their lungs, we are running a series of courses through the year to support people living with breathing issues. Singing for Lung Health is a course designed by the British Lung Foundation and we will be running our first 6 week course in July.

### **Parkinsons Singing Group**

Starting in May we will also have a new singing support group for people living with Parkinsons disease. This is a new partnership project with Swell Music CIC which will deliver singing and breathing exercises which aim to alleviate some of the symptoms of this debilitating condition.

## **Existing Projects**

### **Dementia Projects**

We have a range of different activities running for Families Living with Dementia. These include:

- Memories Café which runs fortnightly

- Sunday Classics Film Club – a monthly classic film with sing along.
- Music Appreciation group – an activity for families with dementia to listen to music and maybe join in.
- Carers Wellbeing group – a professional led supportive group for carers

We have also now added

- Chair fitness – fortnightly gentle exercise
- Mindfulness and Relaxation for Carers – a monthly session to give carers the chance to learn new relaxation techniques

### **Schools Work**

In June and July, we will be running our usual Year 6 project working with local primary schools. This year there will be four schools taking part. Later in the Autumn we hope to get a similar Early Years project off the ground after it was delayed from last year.

### **Volunteers**

We are truly blessed to have such a great team of volunteers, many of whom we have not seen for a while now.

We do not intend to start encouraging most volunteers back into the building until later in the year when the restrictions have fully lifted. We are keen to keep everyone safe, and are also conscious that while we do not have a full programme running there is less for people to actually do. However, from June onwards we will be launching a new push for volunteers and setting up a new round of training.

### **How to get in touch**

There are lots of ways to get in touch – you could ....

- 1) Message us on Facebook – this is often the quickest way to get a response
- 2) Email us at [info@theseagull.co.uk](mailto:info@theseagull.co.uk) - we check these messages once or twice a week at the moment– bso you might have to wait a bit for a response
- 3) Phone and leave a message – 01502 589726 – again we will get back to you as soon as we can – but it may take a few days
- 4) Send us a letter – No one ever does this – but its possible.

**Lastly.....**

# **THANK YOU**

**We can never say a big enough thank you for all the time and effort which is put into the Theatre by all the fantastic volunteers.**

**Without you there would be no Seagull !!**

**Sammy the Seagull**