

# Centre Stage

Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane, Egglecliffe, TS16 0EH  
(Registered Charity No 520777)

May, 2017

**Welcome** to this edition of Centre Stage's Newsletter.

Once again we are busy preparing for our next show which will be 'Rock of Ages', based in the 80s. It is full of amazing rock music and has a cast of around 20 adults. The show will run from 4 July till 8 July and we hope you will come along and enjoy a performance of high energy, comedy, singing and music.

Michelle Dawson has stepped down as Producer now and the group is now being overseen by a Production Team who are sharing the workload and responsibility of getting each show onto the stage.

Ryan O'Gorman, is now touring the country playing one of the leads, Tom Collins, in 'Rent', following his performance in 'Les Miserables' in the West End. Ryan was a member of Centre Stage and came back last year to play the Voice of Audrey II in 'Little Shop of Horrors' for one performance and the cast thoroughly enjoyed having him back, even if it was only for a short time. We wish Ryan well with the tour.



## Colin Rogers

It is with a sad heart we pass on the news that Colin Rogers, one of our well loved actors, has passed away.

Colin loved music from the moment he took part in a Boy Scouts Gang show and caught the performing bug. He was a quiet person but put him on stage in a musical and he came alive.

Over the years Colin worked in customer services for Redcar and Cleveland Council and performed with lots of stage and musical groups as well as with Centre Stage.

Over the years he played various roles in both musicals and pantomimes. He liked to stay fit and loved five-a-side football and was remembered for turning up to rehearsals on a Friday night straight from five-a-side still wearing his Manchester United top.

He was well thought of and a kind and considerate man and our thoughts are with his wife, Sandra, and their family. We will all miss this very special man.

## Youth Group

The Youth Group has started again on a Sunday morning, led by Katherine Abbey.

The children are learning songs, dances and acting as well as playing games and overall having a good time. The Youth Group aims to raise the children's confidence and skills for when they join the main group. They are working on a one off show for parents and friends and Katherine said that they are all working hard and looking forward to the show which will be on 18 June at 2pm.



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Cynthia Cowley, Ticket Sales—07583465295

We thought it would be nice for you to get to know some of our cast and crew members a little better. In this edition we focus on Charlie Johns and Mike Wood.

### Charlie Johns

Charlie has lived in Middlesbrough all his life and started playing the drums aged 8. His very tolerant parents bought him his first kit for Christmas in 1979 and he took lessons from local drum teacher Pete Appleby while at Hustler School in Acklam.

On leaving school Charlie played in a number of local bands, mainly playing heavy metal and rock music as he had developed a taste for bands like Black Sabbath and Iron Maiden. Asylum, Therapy and Midnight Sun were three of the longer lasting bands he held the drumming seat for, before giving up playing for a while to run a local junior football team. He soon got the itch to play again and joined a 60's cover band called Daytripper and an 80's style metal band in Gateshead called Thunder Alley. He currently plays with another Newcastle based band, Backwater, Teesside band Ignore the Score (which arose out of the Centre Stage band) and he often deputises for award winning function band The Fallen.

Charlie joined Centre Stage in January 2010, answering an emergency call for a drummer at 5 days notice and fulfilling a lifelong ambition to accompany a pantomime – 'Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates'. He has played drums and percussion in every show since and 'Rock of Ages' will be his 16th production with the company.

Charlie says he loves the group's family atmosphere, the variety of songs to play and the opportunity to work with such talented people. Playing the drums also relieves the tension of working as a Deputy Head Teacher at a primary school in Middlesbrough.



### Mike Wood

I played my first role at the age of 6 at school. I played 'The Rain!'. Since then I have been interested in appearing on stage and even used to volunteer to give the Bible readings at morning assembly, just to be on stage.



I joined the Northumberland Junior Drama League at the age of 14 and the Wallsend Drama Group when I left school at the age of 18. After appearing in a pantomime and a play I did not appear again on stage again for 33 years due to University and family commitments. That appearance was for the Yarm Border Players and was a play called 'Dead Man's Hand'. Since that play I have worked with several local groups and have featured in musical theatre as well as drama.

My first appearance for Centre Stage was in 2002 in the musical 'South Pacific', which remains my favourite musical and have also been involved in many pantomimes over the years and still enjoy them. I have tried Gilbert and Sullivan featuring in 'Mikado' and the 'Gondoliers', with the Rosedale Society. Many of the plays which I have appeared in have been with Cliffe Theatre. My first play for them was 'Whose Life is it Anyway', in 2001, my favourite plays include 'Pygmalion' and 'The Pitmen Painters'.

Outside of drama I enjoy music, gardening, chess, football and playing bridge.

### **2018 Pantomime**

Our next show will take place in January and details will be announced very soon. Please ring Cynthia Cowley on 07583465295 for tickets or visit our website to buy tickets on-line.

Centre Stage is run completely by volunteers and ticket and patron money goes towards licence fees, levys, costumes, sets and everything that is needed to put on a show with any profits going towards the up keep of our Community Centre. We are very grateful for your continued support and hope you enjoy coming to share in the shows that we produce. It takes a lot of people to come together to get a show on the stage and it is filled with challenges but it means a lot to everyone involved being part of our family that is Centre Stage.

### **Keep in Touch with Centre Stage**

For all the latest news and events from Centre Stage check out our new website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, these are great ways of staying informed about Centre Stage.

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