

Centre Stage

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

November, 2017

Welcome to this edition of Centre Stage's Newsletter.

As soon as September arrived we began auditions and rehearsals ready for this year's pantomime, Dick Whittington. Lauren Smith will be producing the pantomime with the help from the Committee and it is already starting to look like a fun show with lots of laughs. Everyone is working hard to bring back a feel of a traditional pantomime this time, Oh no they aren't! Oh yes they are!, as Dick and his cat tell the story of how he made his fortune and became Lord Mayor of London. We hope you will come along to share in the story and enjoy a good old fashioned pantomime. The show starts on Tuesday 30 January and will run until Saturday 3 February. Tickets are available by ringing Cynthia on the telephone number at the bottom of the page or alternatively you can order them on-line.

Grace's Vietnam/Cambodia Trip

You may remember that in the summer one of our young actress', Grace Murray, travelled to Vietnam and Cambodia to work with a team helping build an orphanage and helping the community after a year of fundraising by selling cakes and arranging a vintage day at the centre. Grace is now back from her trip and has written the following thank you to everyone.

"Hi Everyone. I'd just like to say a massive thank you to you all for supporting me on my recent expedition to Vietnam and Cambodia. It was a life changing experience opening my eyes to how others live and how something small to us can make a great difference to them. By helping and supporting me and the team you enabled us to build a canteen, teach the villagers English and donate \$3000 to the Hope, Faith, Love School. I'll never forget this life changing experience and I can't thank you all enough for helping me get there.

Grace xx"



Youth Group

The Youth Group put on a summer show for friends and family called 'Movies and Musical Medley' which was great fun and enjoyed by everyone who attended. The children sang some of their favourite songs as well as acting out some iconic scenes from movies and musicals.

Katherine, who leads the group, said they had all worked hard and how proud of them all she was. 'The children are such a pleasure to work with', she said, 'they are all enthusiastic and supportive of each other and all have such wonderful personalities that shine when they get on the stage'.



The group started again in September on a Sunday morning, and will be singing Christmas Carols at the Community Centre's Father Christmas morning on Saturday 9 December. If you would like to come along to listen to the children you will be most welcome, there will also be stalls, refreshments and Father Christmas will be visiting too. Entry is £1.

Contact Numbers:

Sue Abbey, Secretary—07946669279

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 Ray Paris and Jonathan Allen.

Ray Paris

Ray has been involved with the Community Centre for 30 years, beginning by helping with setting the lighting for the first ever show for Centre Stage. He then moved on to be one of our dedicated backstage team who create a new set for each show, each better than the last and always something that the audience remembers. Without this team Centre Stage and Cliffe Theatre would not be able to put on their productions.



Although Ray feels happier behind the scenes he has tread the boards on one occasion, as an extra, but has no plans to repeat this, so thankfully we get to keep his expertise backstage. Ray's favourite show was Grease, he said he enjoyed this show more due to the set being different and it made the electrics, lighting and pyros more interesting and more of a challenge.

Ray is a devoted husband and family man whose family also get involved with the running of the Centre. Ray is retired but was a qualified electrician for 50 years, running his own business for 6 of those years. Although retired from paid work he is busier than ever with his commitments to the Community Centre from the smallest task of painting a brick wall to presiding as Chairman of the Committee and everything in between. However, if he gets any spare time he enjoys caravanning and using his 3D printer.

I am sure that everyone involved with the Community Centre would agree that without Ray the Centre would not be what it is today and for that he is very much appreciated.

Jonathan Allen

Jonathan is 19 years old and has been in four productions with Centre Stage, usually taking on a role that emphasises his comedy abilities. He is not afraid to go all out for a role, even dying his hair pink for his role as Starky in Peter Pan.

He took GCSE drama as an option at secondary school and has enjoyed performing ever since. He is currently in his third year of an apprenticeship in maintenance engineering at ElringKlinger, where he recently finished a BTEC level 3 in mechanical engineering and a NVQ level 3 which he passed with flying colours.

He has many hobbies including running and football, currently playing for Billingham Synthonia football team as Captain for the under 19's.

For this production Jonathan is looking forward to playing Idle Jack and would possibly like to direct his own show at Centre Stage in the future. Jonathan is also involved with helping with our very full costume cupboard.

He recently filmed a pilot for a short film called Agony, where he played a TV presenter and enjoyed having the experience of being in front of the cameras. His favourite theatre production is Blood Brothers and he would love to play the role of Edward one day.



2018 Summer Show

Our next show will take place in June 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, levy's, 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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