



## LOG ON TO OUR NEW WEBSITE ...

[www.friendsofstag.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstag.org.uk)

to:

- see discounted shows for FoS members (also in What's On)
- join the Friends or renew your membership
- send us an email.

We hope our new website will facilitate communication

### FoS membership benefits include

- SOCIAL EVENTS FREE OR AT LOW COST THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
  - 3 FREE CINEMA VOUCHERS PER YEAR FOR A SINGLE MEMBERSHIP, 6 FOR JOINT MEMBERSHIP AND 9 FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (SEE OVERLEAF FOR NEW RULES)
  - DISCOUNTED TICKETS WHERE YOU SEE THE FOS LOGO
  - 20 PER CENT DISCOUNT AT STRADA RESTAURANT, SEVENOAKS. CHECK OFFER STILL AVAILABLE BEFORE YOU BOOK
- Membership cards must be shown to obtain benefits**

**Journey to the Throne**  
Presented by Sevenoaks Community Theatre to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee  
8 to 11 February 2012

**WATCH OUT FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.**

# THANK YOU

'Thank you for inviting me to your AGM and I first want to thank the Friends for all of their support over the last year – not just financial but in active support for the aims of the whole arts centre. The kind and generous provision of the new sound system allows great flexibility in using all the spaces in the Stag and means the Youth Council 'Soundwaves' band nights can now continue to build on its success into the future.

It was only two short years ago that we started on this successful road to where we are today. It has not been easy but it has been steady and our aim continues today as it was when we started – provide and develop artistic facilities for the people of Sevenoaks and beyond. We hear of so many theatres, places where grants are being cut. We are, I think, unique in providing a breadth of entertainment in an arts complex to so many people with public grant funding for the operation of just £77,000 per year. In such difficult financial times we will continue to expand when we can and continue to provide value for money at all times.

The success of our contribution to the 'big society' is recognized and lauded by town and district councils nationally including national media. However, that wider view of our success is much less important than what happens inside the Stag day in and day out.

Figures can be boring, but they serve to make the point of the success of the support we enjoy from the people of Sevenoaks. More than 16,000 young people actively do something artistic with links to schools throughout Sevenoaks. Nearly 250,000 tickets sold across 6,000 film showings and more than 800 events and perhaps most tellingly more than 12,000

**Chairman of the Stag Community Arts Centre Trustees Andrew Eyre speaks at the FoS Annual Meeting**

**At the same meeting FoS Chairman Chris Walker unveils a membership drive to revive the dwindling number of FoS members to help the Centre face the challenges that lie ahead**

hours of volunteer time and enthusiastic effort. The Stag now brings in around a quarter of a million people a year into the town providing vibrancy throughout the day for shops and to the night-time economy for pubs and restaurants.'

## CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

**YOU ARE THE NEXT GENERATION WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM HAVING THE VIBRANT STAG ARTS VENUE IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

**SHOW YOU CARE. COME ALONG TO OUR FOS:**

### **Youth Quiz Night**

30 March 2012 (provisional date)  
Plaza Suite, SCAC

Whether you want to come in a group or alone and make new friends, come and exercise your mind.

**Look on the website for more information and to send us an email to register your interest.**

## FoS HELP SO FAR ...

### 2009

- Apex radio system - **technical staff can communicate by radio-telephone**
- Urns for Plaza Suite and foyer coffee bar - **These, seemingly insignificant items, improve the catering service**
- Picture hanging system for the bar - **this enabled another art form to be represented by allowing local artists to display works.**

### 2010

- Projection screen for the Plaza Suite - **purchase of this was made possible by a bequest from the estate of a late Friend**
- CCTV system for theatre - **enables visual communication backstage**
- Automatic dimmer switches for the cinemas - **allow technicians to adjust lighting levels in the cinemas without having to go to the auditorium doors**
- Digital projector with wireless communication for the Plaza Suite - **purchased to complement the screen, reducing the need for hirers to bring in their own equipment.**
- Servicing of Bleacher seating - **This seating had been out of use for a considerable time and needed significant maintenance and refurbishment to restore it.**

### 2011

- Sponsor of a seat in the auditorium (in the name of Friends of Stag) - **This contributes to the ongoing public appeal for sponsorship to enable replacement of seating in the main auditorium**
- Sound system - **improves the quality of sound reproduction in the Plaza Suite beyond that which young musicians can themselves provide**
- Technical items - **we donated £2,000 for the purchase of technical items (mainly microphones and parcans) on the wish-list of the newly appointed technical manager**
- Glass washer for the bar - **a second-hand but much-needed machine for speedy and hygienic washing of glasses in the bar**
- Motorised tabs - **recently installed and will significantly enhance the operation of the tabs.**

## NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

### CHAIRMAN CHRIS WALKER REPORTS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

'It is fair to report that the heady days following the re-launch of the Friends of Stag (FoS) are now a distant memory.

'Whilst the Stag itself has gone from strength to strength your FoS committee has found it hard to maintain the same pace.

'In common with most voluntary organizations we have struggled to find new members to join the committee or to replace the current team. Furthermore we seem to have failed to catch the imagination of members of the public with our choice of fund-raising events leading to last minute cancellations.' Chris went on to describe the struggle with membership renewals. Many people who signed up enthusiastically last year have not renewed this.

However the main fund raising event the quiz night in October 2010 netted more than £340 for the funds and the gala evening in February 2010 was another success raising £430.

If you are somebody who believes that the Stag is a vital part of our community, then you may like to consider joining Friends of Stag.

### Healthy balance

The first annual report of the Stag Community Arts Centre Trustees showed that in the 12 months to 31 March 2011 there was a positive balance of around £10,000.



**WATCH OUT FOR THIS LOGO AS IT DENOTES A SPECIAL OFFER FOR FOS MEMBERS**

### Friends of Stag

If you would like to join us, please complete the on-line application form at [www.friendsofstag.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstag.org.uk) (If you wish to renew, just send an email to the Membership Secretary)

**Single membership £10:** an individual over the age of 18 years (adult)

**Joint membership £17:** two adults living at the same address

**Household membership £25:** two adults and up to two juniors (under 18) living at the same address, or one adult and up to three juniors living at the same address, or one/two adults and up to two seniors (over 65) living at the same address

**Student membership £5:** a young person under the age of 25 and in full time education.

### NEW RULES

To encourage prompt renewal of membership the FoS committee has decided that those who renew within one month of the due date will receive 2 free cinema entries per membership card plus a 'bonus' making 3 in total. The rule will be applied pro rata.

Late renewers will only receive 2 free entries (pro rata).

This has been introduced to save the time and cost of chasing up late renewals.

**The Committee would be grateful if membership fees could be paid by Standing Order.**