

# Friends of Stag

Newsletter

Spring 2014



## Supporting Stag Community Arts Centre



Kent based professional band **Nightrain** is performing to help raise monies for the Evelina London Children's Hospital on Friday 9 May at the Plaza Suite, Stag. FoS members receive a discount.

## Brass band concert

### SUNDAY 13 APRIL DOORS OPEN 10am Entry 50p

Traditionally March and April were the months for spring cleaning but in today's busy times most people don't have the spare hours to give their homes a seasonal makeover. Having said that, a bit of clearing out can be a step in the right direction. There's the unwelcome figurine given one Christmas that has been gathering dust. Not your taste but it could be on someone else's wish list. Your teenage children might be persuaded to de-clutter their rooms, even if the transformation be short lived.

And how about their younger siblings being made to realise that it really is time to re-stable their beloved My Little Ponies or transport to another planet their favourite Star Wars figures? Not to mention the killer heels that you just had to have for that 'once-in-a-lifetime' night out which have only graced your feet the once..

### You can book a table at our Friends of Stag Boot Fair, to be held in the Plaza Suite on Sunday 13 April. As a FOS member it will cost £8 (£10 for non-members)

and you could be on your way to having that new pair of *comfortable* shoes, treating your family to extra pocket money to compensate the loss of their playmates, raising funds for a special charity or your church, whilst at the same time playing your part in keeping Stag alive. Last September's Boot Fair was a success, let's make this one even better! If you're interested in having a table please call 01959 524585.

Another plus, when you think of all the rain this winter, is that this inside event will be DRY.



### Jane Austen in Sevenoaks!

### Saturday 5 July & Sunday 6 July

We are holding a 24-hour Readathon during which a series of teams will read continuously through 'Pride and Prejudice', first published 200 years ago last year. Each team will read for a 2-hour slot and then after 12 hours a second slot (one a.m. and one p.m.). Members of each team will be expected to seek sponsorship from among their friends or family so we can raise a good sum for the Stag. We shall welcome members of the public into the Plaza Suite to listen and, hopefully, add their donations. We do hope that some of our members will get together teams to enter, in which case please contact Roger Walshe (01732 454769 [rogerwalshe@supanet.com](mailto:rogerwalshe@supanet.com)). If you are unable to do this, please support us by coming along to listen!

### SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER AFTERNOON CONCERT

The Kent Police Band concert on 14 December will be the final Friends' fundraiser for 2014.

Details have yet to be finalised but the band, consisting of 35 musicians from all over Kent and Sussex, has a vast repertoire ranging from marches and overtures to classical arrangements and selections from popular shows, films and even swing pop and rock numbers. So book this date in your diary now to be sure to get your Christmas festivities off to a swinging start.



## Be a Friend and enjoy discounts

Make 2014 the year you decide (or persuade others) to support a charity on your very own doorstep – the Stag Community Arts Centre.

If you are not already a member, why not join Friends of Stag and help to raise money for the complex? Member already? Then please spread the word to your friends and neighbours.

Annual membership costs from just £5 (student), £10 (single), £17 (joint) and £25 (household). All members receive free cinema vouchers and discounted tickets for some events. See our website [www.friendsofstag.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstag.org.uk) for full details and to join online, or pick up an application form at the Stag.

Discounts currently available are

- 15 per cent off at the Stag's Lodge Café; just show your membership card
- 10 per cent off Sevenoaks Candle Shop products ([www.sevenoakscandleco.co.uk](http://www.sevenoakscandleco.co.uk)); provide membership number and "FOS10" discount code online, or membership card in person
- 15 per cent off food at Raj Bari Indian restaurant – eat in or takeaway ([www.rajbari.co.uk](http://www.rajbari.co.uk)); just show your membership card
- 10 percent off a variety of products sourced from Kent suppliers with Kentish Stores; email [nigel@kentishstores.co.uk](mailto:nigel@kentishstores.co.uk) after visiting their website ([www.kentishstores.co.uk](http://www.kentishstores.co.uk))

Discounts are still available for FoS members for the following events at the Stag in March:-

- Superstar Wrestling, 21<sup>st</sup> March
- The Close Up Show, 25<sup>th</sup> March
- The New Waves Experience, 28<sup>th</sup> March

## 30<sup>th</sup> celebrations

Actors, singers et al from Stag Theatre Company, Sevenoaks Entertainers, Swanley Light Opera Group, Sevenoaks Players and Bullfrog Productions led a nostalgic look back at the good times – and the bad – to celebrate 30 years of the Stag in the Plaza Suite on 24 November.

Songs from musicals performed in the theatre since the doors opened on 18 December 1983 were heard again; Stag Theatre Company performed an especially written short play and Special Guest, professional actor Tony Haygarth, read poems from his recent book.

Special guests enjoying the show were founder of the Stag, Margaret Durdant-Hollamby, current manager Andrew Eyre and Linda Larter who as the Town Council's first manager led the campaign to bring the complex back to the community after its demise for the second time in 2008.

Directed by Keith Neville and organised by Friends of Stag, the event raised £881 for our funds.

A special commemorative programme was filled with memories from Margaret Durdant-Hollamby, Ray Russell, Pam Walshe, Terry Shaw, Tony Moore, Patrick Pascall, Francis Price and Mike Hume.

Friends of Stag would like to thank Ray Russell and Audrey Franks for sponsoring the programme, and all of the performers who took part.

## Keep up to date

The discounts and offers available to Friends of Stag members are constantly changing. To make sure that you know about the latest offers, check our website ([www.friendsofstag.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstag.org.uk)), follow us on Twitter



or



Like us on Facebook!

## Can you help?

If you are involved in putting on a production at the Stag, using Stag Box office services, or running a local business, why not consider offering discounts or deals to Friends of Stag members? We will let our members know of the discounts and deals available, which in turn will hopefully boost your sales.

Or perhaps you would just like to support the Stag by donating to our funds, which in turn go to buy that 'extra something' for the Stag.

If you feel you can help, please contact the Chairman; [chairman@friendsofstag.org.uk](mailto:chairman@friendsofstag.org.uk)



## Draw winners



Last May we launched two ways that FoS members could win cash prizes. The first was our **Prize Draw**, where simply by attending specific events at the Stag and popping your used ticket into our Prize Draw box, you could win £100. The first lucky winner was Vanessa Witchell, and the second John Lurcook. At the time of publication, the third and final draw is about to take place so you have just days left to enter! If you went to any of the events below, and have your ticket, just write your name and membership number onto it and pop it into our Prize Draw box at the Stag (upper foyer).

**but be quick, entries close 23<sup>rd</sup> March!**

- **Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sevenoaks Entertainers, Dick Whittington & his cat**
- **Wednesday January 29<sup>th</sup> - Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra, Another Taste of Classics**
- **Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra Latin-American Fiesta**
- **Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> - Bullfrog Productions' Camp Rock matinee**

The second opportunity is our **5050 Club**. This is gaining in popularity so do consider joining if you haven't done so already. For just £12 you will be entered into the draw for 12 consecutive months. Each month one lucky winner is drawn and they win half of the entry money for that month, the other half going to FoS funds. Winners to date are: June – Sybil Gadd won £9, July – Jason & Ruth King won £10.50, August – Sybil Gadd won again, this time £11.50. September was the turn of Claire Bates winning £11.50, October Jeanne & Paul Barsby won £11.50, November saw Jason & Ruth King winning again - £11.50. The final draw of 2013 was won by Charles & Judy Hebert, winning £12.50 and 2014 started off well for Sue Cockett also winning £12.50. February's winner was Anthea Parkin winning £13 and the March draw was won by Iain Wishart winning £14. Of course, you have to be in it to win it!

## From the heart

2014 finds the volunteer office very much at the heart of the Stag, and shortly moving to a much more visible area - the Plaza reception.

As well as the 'regular' Front of House roles we have volunteers helping in specific areas of expertise and when we interview new volunteers we try to match their skills to areas where we need extra input.

We have volunteers working in the offices and have just had the 'tabs' repaired by a clever sewing volunteer.

During refurbishment last summer we had a team of youngsters working to clear the old seats and carpets in a very short period of time, refreshed with a donation from FoS!

The Box Office staff are now involved in helping us organise and supervise more than 16 regular 2- hour Duke of Edinburgh Award slots (box office kiosk). Training is being given more regularly, with the training manuals being updated to accommodate new initiatives and now Sue Isted has settled in to her role we are beginning to plan ahead rather than deal with the most immediate issues.

So, with the help of our fantastic regular volunteers and the ever changing flow of new faces, we are keeping the 'Magic' and enjoyment alive at the Stag..... but can anyone tell us, where do all the ice buckets go????