



# FRIENDS OF THE ALEXANDRA PALACE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

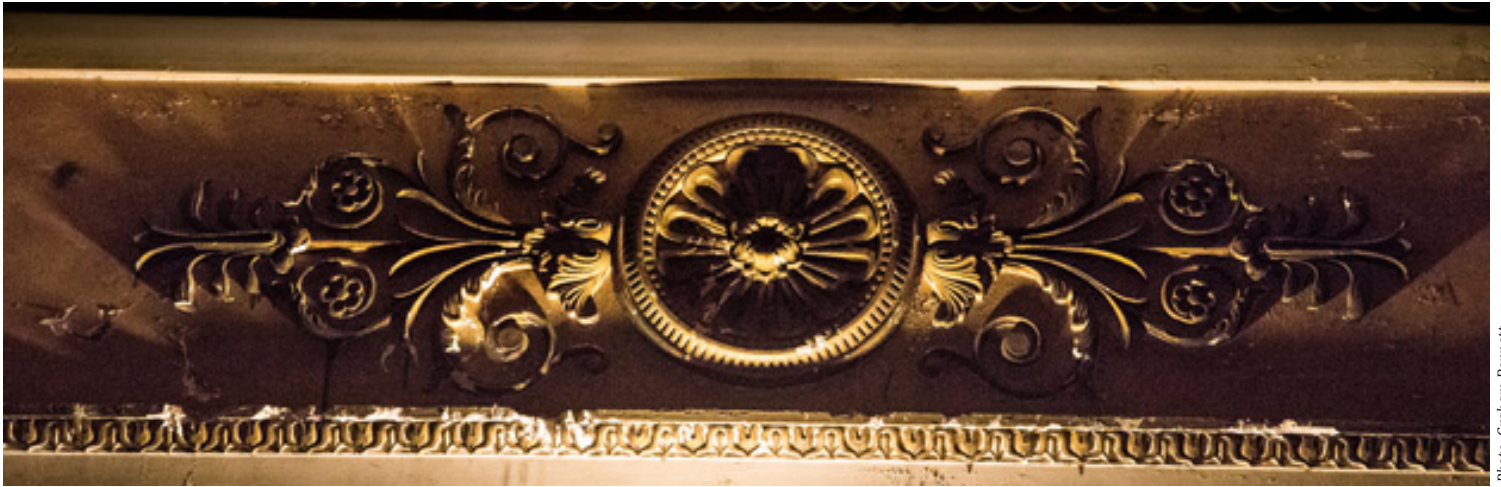


Photo: Graham Bennett

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

**Wednesday May 18th**

This is the date set for our AGM and this year we have a special guest speaker, the new Chief Executive Officer of Alexandra Palace, Louise Stewart.

The most challenging task in Louise's in-tray when she was appointed last October was the regeneration of the Theatre, East Wing and TV studios.

Do come along to hear her tell us about how the regeneration is progressing and her vision for the future of the Theatre and Palace.



The AGM will be held in the splendid Londesborough Room at Alexandra Palace, just off the Palm Court in the West wing. Come along at 7pm for registration and light refreshments and the meeting will start at 7.30pm.

## UPDATING OUR CONSTITUTION.

We have been taking a long hard look at our Constitution, dating from many years ago and now find that with the opening of the Theatre becoming a reality, and our membership expanding, it needs some tweaking to reflect what we will need in the future.

This year we are proposing adding a new post to our committee of a membership secretary and also tidying up some anomalies about how we hold our accounts and report them. Originally the funds we raised were supposed to be held by the AP Trust, but as we expanded, the Friends found it easier to use a separate account. Monies raised remain for the benefit of the Theatre.

We will be sending out the proposed changes to you before the meeting and you will be able to vote on their adoption at the AGM. These changes will then need to go to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

## THE REGENERATION OF THE THEATRE

Work on the regeneration of the Theatre is under way. Contractor Willmott Dixon began work on January 25 on a package of enabling works to prepare for the main project work to start in the summer. Some internal walls under the balcony and in the north-east tower have been removed, along with the modern ceiling in the foyer, revealing the vaulted roof above. As well as preparing the site, surveys are being carried out on various parts of the structure, including the plasterwork, to help complete the detailed design specifications. We will be getting a full update on progress from Louise Stewart at the AGM.



*The north-east tower*

## JOINING OUR COMMITTEE?

A committee of volunteers, meeting about once a month, runs the Friends. Many have worked tirelessly over the years to save the extraordinary Victorian Theatre at the Palace.

We would welcome some new members onto the Committee, particularly if you have experience

in theatre and the arts or looking after and communicating with a large group of members, or database management.

If you are interested, please email Nigel Willmott on [nwillmott@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:nwillmott@blueyonder.co.uk), or come up and introduce yourself before the start of the AGM on May 18th.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES REMINDER

A reminder that our Annual membership fee is £5, with a concessionary rate of £2.

You can renew your membership on May 18th before the AGM. Only paid-up members can vote at the AGM.

## ENTER SHIKARI FILMED PERFORMANCE IN THE THEATRE

The popular four-piece St Albans rock band recorded an acoustic set recently in the theatre before the contractors moved in.

There are some atmospheric shots of the theatre in this youtube video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdD4s3g45t8>

## DRAMA AT THE PALACE

The perfect gift for those interested in the history of the Alexandra Palace Theatre, and written by our very own Nigel and Pat. It will be on sale at the AGM and also available at all good bookstores in Muswell Hill.



## FAPT AT HARINGEY LOCAL HISTORY FAIR

For the fourth year, the Friends of the Theatre had a stall in the Haringey Local History Fair at Bruce Castle Museum, Archives and Park on Lordship Lane in Tottenham on Saturday 20th February, where we chatted to visitors about the theatre, signed up new members and fundraised by selling books and postcards.

Bruce Castle is a 16th century Grade 1 listed building, now a museum and the storehouse for Haringey's heritage. Former owners include Sir William Compton, master of Henry VIII's bed-chamber and Sir Rowland Hill, who invented the penny post, which would explain the abundance of vintage red letter boxes in the grounds!

Visitors were able to visit the Search Room and talk to Archives staff, enjoy talks and browse stalls where local organisations showcased the Borough's heritage and drink a tea or coffee and enjoy a cake in the Old Kitchen. [www.friendsofbrucecastle.org.uk](http://www.friendsofbrucecastle.org.uk)



## FRIENDS

The Friends continue to grow, with many new members signing up at events during the year. We now have over 800 Friends, and we are sure our numbers will increase rapidly as the Theatre regeneration progresses. Do spread the word!