



## NEWSLETTER ~ SPECIAL EDITION ~ JULY 2016

### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

You may recall that, at our AGM in May and in my article for the newsletter last month, I expressed my concerns about the trend in the level of membership and our consequent ability to continue to offer a quality service at a reasonable price. Since then the numbers in membership have risen – but only to 303 at the last count. The committee has therefore begun the process of reviewing our current operation, incorporating, among other things: costs and revenues; officers and their responsibilities; journeys, venues and pick-ups; and promotion of what the Club offers.

We will need your help in this process, both in putting forward opinions and ideas, and in promoting the Club and encouraging others to join. As a first step, we would be grateful if you could complete the short questionnaire (separate item) and return it as soon as possible. This is a follow-up to the more extensive survey of members' views we carried out three years ago and concentrates on the crucial elements of price, distance, venues and variety of shows. Hopefully, the results will give the committee a clearer indication of where we should go and what we should concentrate on, with the aim of increasing the popularity of the trips we organise in the future. We have already decided to cut out venues involving longer distances, such as Plymouth and Brighton, following comments from members, and to drop the additional charge for members' guests.

Also included in the questionnaire is an addendum seeking your opinion on a pre-Christmas show at Sonning, in order to gauge the likely level of interest before we decide whether or not to go ahead with a booking.

Finally, my recent requests for people to come forward to take over from Glenda Llewellyn as Minutes Secretary and myself as Chairman have so far not generated any expressions of interest. I don't think it's any exaggeration to say that, without members willing to participate, the lack of successors is as much a threat to the continuation of the Dorset Theatre-Goers' Club as the current low level of membership.

So please, don't leave it to someone else to nominate themselves, because it may not happen. The future of the Club may depend on you! **CLIVE WILLETTTS - CHAIRMAN**

**FROM THE OFFICE:** Re- the autumn shows – 'Save the Last Dance for Me' at the Victoria Theatre Woking on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Sept and 'When we are Married' at the Rose Theatre Kingston on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.

As it stands at present we have more than enough bookings for one coach each, but not enough to fill two coaches. Payment dates for both shows are coming up soon and a decision on numbers will have to be made. I'm afraid it could mean many members may be disappointed!

**KATY MURRELL – BOOKING SECRETARY**