BALCOMBE SOCIAL CLUB
EVENTS coming up......

Christmas Raffle on sale from 18th December.

Disco
By Screamers
31st December

Steve Crane night
Michelin Star food...
early 2012

Tribute to...
THE BEE GEES

31st March 2012

Ticket information:
Ask the bar staff or Richard or......
Telephone: 01444 811 226
Email: info@balcombesocialclub.co.uk
Website: www.balcombesocialclub.co.uk

TH E VICTORY PLAYERS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH BALCOMBE SOCIAL CLUB
PRESENTS

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
BY ROBERT BOLT

30 NOV - 3 DEC 2011
THE VICTORY HALL • BALCOMBE

PROGRAMME £1 • LUCKY NUMBER:

THE WINNING PROGRAMME Nº WILL BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE INTERVAL
CAST

(in the order of their appearance)

THE COMMON MAN  Rodney Saunders
SIR THOMAS MORE  Jim Knight
MASTER RICHARD RICH  Jon Hunt
THE DUKE OF NORFOLK  Douglas Wragg
Earl Marshal of England
LADY ALICE MORE  Colette Randall
Sir Thomas’ wife
LADY MARGARET MORE  Lucy Beevor
Sir Thomas’ daughter
CARDINAL WOLSEY  Charles Metcalfe
THOMAS CROMWELL  Ronnie Whitehead
SIGNOR CHAPUYS  Greg Field
The Spanish Ambassador
CHAPUYS’ PAGE  Jack Holland
WILLIAM ROPER  Edward Johnson
KING HENRY VIII  Max Preston Bell
A WOMAN  Nicola Preston Bell
THOMAS CRANMER  Chris Walker
The Archbishop of Canterbury

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1  Sir Thomas More’s house at Chelsea
Scene 2  Wolsey’s apartment at Richmond
Scene 3  The riverside at Richmond
Scene 4  Sir Thomas More’s house
Scene 5  Hampton Court Palace
Scene 6  The garden of Sir Thomas More’s house
Scene 7  An Inn

ACT II

Scene 1  Sir Thomas More’s house
Scene 2  Cromwell’s apartment at Hampton Court
Scene 3  Sir Thomas More’s house
Scene 4  Cromwell’s apartment at Hampton Court
Scene 5  The riverside at Hampton Court
Scene 6  The Tower of London
Scene 7  The same
Scene 8  The Hall of Westminster
Scene 9  Tower Hill

Time – The Sixteenth Century
Anyone who follows programmes such as Downton Abbey will realize how much has changed in a hundred years. However, this evening we are going back nearly five hundred years, to a time when the structure of society in England was vastly different from that which we experience in modern day life.

Royal marriages were usually politically led, being used to cement relationships between previously opposed forces; the Wars of the Roses being an example from that period. They were also tools for diplomacy between nations such as the ill-fated marriage between Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon as you will hear today. His actions resulted in the Spanish Armada, many years after his divorce from the Spanish princess, due to the protestant Elizabeth acceding to the throne on the death of her half-sister, Mary. Just as in modern times – whether in Ireland, Palestine, Ethiopia or wherever – hostilities are excused in the name of religion or even differences of opinion within the same one. This play reflects not only the world events of the late 1950’s and early 60’s when it was written, but also transcends time throughout history, right up to the present day.

So what should we think of Thomas More? Was he bigoted, narrow-minded and intransigent? Certainly he had a stubborn streak but also he had a very astute thinking brain, which led him to be one of the most eminent lawyers of his time. He was a fair-minded man and passionately believed in the biblical teaching concerning the sanctity of marriage. So intense was his belief, that God’s laws overruled anything else, including his political standing and worldly values. His actions would even affect his family, but his resolution never wavered. It wasn’t a case of him being unfeeling, for he loved his family. He had to walk a very fine line between his beliefs and loyalty to his sovereign, by using the due process of law to protect himself. However, you will witness how events during the years covered by this play slowly removed all his defences. Tonight we explore how politics and religious belief in the first half of the sixteenth century come head to head in affairs of state. It would seem that nothing changes.

I have taken great pleasure from our preparation for this show, not least from the tremendous hard work and support of the cast, backstage team and friends of the players. I trust that you will derive as much pleasure from our performance this evening.

Keith Major
PAUL SCOFIELD, CH, CBE

1922 – 2008

It would be inconceivable to perform A Man for All Seasons in Balcombe without making reference to the man whose name will forever be associated with this play.

The list of stage, screen and television roles for which Paul Scofield was acclaimed includes the title role in King Lear, Karenin in Anna Karenina, Judge Thomas Danforth in The Crucible and Old Martin Chuzzlewit in Martin Chuzzlewit.

But it is for his portrayal of Sir Thomas Moore in A Man for All Seasons, both on stage and in the subsequent 1966 film for which he received an Academy Award and a BAFTA, that he is chiefly remembered and it is in that role that he is pictured above.

When Paul was a few weeks old his family moved to Sussex, and he lived for almost all of his working life in Balcombe, where he was admired as an actor and liked as a man. Shunning the celebrity limelight he said that acting was his job, but that his life was here in Balcombe with his wife, Joy, their children, Martin and Sarah, and their dogs.

In 2004, for the production of Oh What a Lovely War which led to the formation of The Victory Players, he agreed to make the recordings of the poems by Rupert Brooke and Wilfred Owen that were played to open and close the show.

He kindly agreed to be the first Honorary President of The Victory Players, a position that he occupied until his death, and he and Joy regularly attended the company’s productions. The Victory Players were delighted when Joy agreed to become our second and current Honorary President.

While it would be presumptuous to suggest that tonight’s performance should be seen in any way as a tribute to Paul, we hope that he would have approved of our efforts. Being the gentleman that he was, he would certainly have said that he did.

Rodney Saunders
Producer

If you have enjoyed this evening’s performance of A Man For All Seasons you might like to consider becoming a Member of The Victory Players – we are always delighted to welcome new faces.

The company is committed to promoting drama in Balcombe. Since it was formed seven years ago it has performed the following shows in its home venue, Balcombe’s Victory Hall: Oh What a Lovely War (musical, 2004); Thermal Underwear (play) & Trial By Jury (operetta, 2005); Joseph and the Big Secret (pantomime, 2005); Old Time Music Hall (variety, 2006); After Magritte & The Real Inspector Hound (plays, 2007); The Virtuous Burglar (play) & The Zoo (operetta, 2008); Dock Brief & The Waiting Room (plays, 2008); My Fair Lady (musical, 2009); The Importance of Being Ernest (play, 2010); and Aladdin (pantomime, 2010). Reviews and photographs can be seen on our website.

Our next production, in May 2012, will be two one act plays: A Small Affair and Half An Idea by Bob Larby, directed by Ronnie Whitehead and Douglas Wragg. In November 2012 the company will be staging another pantomime.

While we are delighted to hear from anyone, with or without previous experience, who is interested in performing on stage, we are always looking for people whose interests are in the backstage roles that are vital to our productions. These include directing, producing, stage management, set design & construction, stage lighting & sound, graphic design, costumes and props.

Membership, which costs just £10 per year, is open to anyone who lives in the parish of Balcombe, and anyone else who is sponsored by an existing member who is a Balcombe resident.

Friends, who enjoy preferential booking for productions, are those who wish to support our activities without being actively involved in productions. Being a friend of The Victory Players costs just £7.50 per year.

Application forms for membership/friendship may be obtained from Threads (01444 811372), from our website, or from our membership officer Robin Williamson (01444 811519) who will also be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.

www.victoryplayers.co.uk