

EDC Newsletter

July/Aug 2026

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EDC DATES

September

Thurs/Fri/Sat
24th/25th/26th

The Importance of
Being Earnest

Longdown 7.30

Monday 28th
General Meeting

Elmside 7.30

This newsletter was discussed at the last EDC meeting. The EDC Facebook has fantastic photos, videos and updates on productions - the emails are informative and keep everyone in the loop with new information. It was thought that, alongside these, a newsletter could provide an informal overview, or snapshot, with contributions from different members and a list of EDC dates for our diaries. It was generally thought a good idea so here it is!

If you have anything to put in - or any ideas or questions you want me to pass on - please contact me
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SOCIAL UPDATE: Tara & Jacqui are planning a calendar of events including something for the summer – they will send out the details soon.



The wonderful EDC Facebook



REFLECTIONS OF THE MANY GHOSTS OF BISHOP PHILLPOTTS

Krish Madray – Director/ Producer

This play was 3 years in the making, and came about for 2 reasons

- 1- I wanted to explore Devon's connection to slavery
- 2- I wanted to make a play based on the subject.

Developed through research at archives across the country, including Exeter Cathedral archives, The Many Ghosts of Bishop Phillpotts is a ghost story, that ripples through history, asking uncomfortable questions about the British Establishment and serves as a timely reminder, about the nature of leadership; power and control.

The script, produced by Ashmeed Sohoeye was fantastic, and after being let down at the last minute by Northcott /Barnfield Theatre, Cygnet Theatre came to our rescue and worked with us to adjust their schedule to fit us in as close to the original planned performance dates as possible.

The main issue with Cygnet was that we could not build a set that would require nailing into the stage or surrounds. This meant the Set team would have to build a 'portable' set at Longdown, and then transport a few days before performances were due to begin.

I was blessed with a fantastic cast and crew who all contributed ideas, skills, problem solving to ensure the play went on.

The set was great, creating an atmosphere and décor to reflect the period. The props were excellently chosen, and the sound and lighting completed the picture with great timing for the switches in lighting and sound.

I was very pleased with the positive response from the audience and discussions with those involved in the legacies of Slavery in Devon and local historians are in conversation with us, looking at the subjects raised and re-evaluating their research.

My first project as a Producer/Director went very well and whilst there will be areas I feel I can improve, I was very happy with the support from Doug and Robin at EDC, and the Cast, Crew and friends who ensured this play went ahead and placed EDC in a much more prominent position in the local theatre scene.

Some descriptions from Sarah Thorn on the play & her character, Deborah Phillpotts

"Thought provoking"

"Collaborative"

"Privileged"

"Burdened"

"Condemned"

"Challenging"

Lynda Anning (aka The Witch) has recently stopped organising the wardrobe for EDC. I asked her how she came to join and she has kindly sent me this recollection.

There's an amazing list of past plays (with photos) on the EDC website

Exeter Drama Company Community Theatre

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It was back in August /September 1989 I think?! I was working as a hairdresser on Topsham road at the time and in the middle of doing my clients hair I overheard a conversation about EDC as it was a small salon and we all knew each other and interacted together. I interrupted!!!! She was saying that they were looking for someone to play the principal boy as the person who was going to play the role was now pregnant 😊 and it somehow didn't work having a pregnant woman as the principal boy 😊 in their pantomime. I said oh that's something I would like to know about I've been looking for a drama company to join.

She organised for us to meet up at Stepcombe Hill theatre 🏠 which was the home of Exeter Drama Company; it was based there for many years - we celebrated our 50 years anniversary there. It was a beautiful theatre complete with stage, dressing room, (very small), and lots of space storing costumes up some rickety stairs. Also for rehearsals, set building and performing it was our home for many years. (Paul and I were married, 30 years next year, and had our reception on the stage set of A Tomb with a View at Stepcombe but that's another story).

I auditioned and I ended up getting the part of the good fairy 😊😊😊 I don't think any of you think of me as a good fairy 😊. And that's when I made my very first costume for myself as part of Exeter Drama Company. I actually cut up my very first wedding dress, (for those that don't know I've been married 3 times now and that's another story), and it ended up being a very skimpy dress I think I was still annoyed about that first husband Grrrr. ??? I eventually had to put net skirting underneath it as it was rather revealing. !!! 😊

So that was how I joined Exeter Drama Company and how I started making the costumes firstly for myself and then gradually I did them underground and under the cover of darkness for others as they asked me for help with the costumes they had been supplied with by the then wardrobe ladies!!!???

They were not happy but that's another story....

A few plays elsewhere...

Exmouth Players 'The Unfriend' 3 – 8 August

Salterton Drama Club 'The Whale' 7 – 12 September

Little Theatre Torquay (TOADS) 'The Mirror Cracked' 14 - 19 Sept