



Lympstone Entertainments

DRUMBEAT

essential reading for those who don't want to miss the best of What's On in Lympstone

They're back

THE CLARION CLARINET QUARTET

John Walthew
Tim Whiter
Richard de la Rue
John Welton (seated)

It is several years since Lympstone enjoyed a full concert programme from its own Clarion Clarinet Quartet, which will be performing in Lympstone Parish Church at 3pm on Sunday 1st November. Their programme will feature four members of the clarinet family – the most common B flat instrument, the piccolo E Flat clarinet, the E flat alto clarinet and as always, underpinned by the large bass clarinet.



The programme will cater for a wide range of tastes from classical to swing, including works written specially for clarinet quartet and some very skilfully adapted and arranged from other formats. Composers featured will include Mozart, Corelli, Crusell, Debussy, Jacob, Joplin, Sondheim, Mancini and Gershwin.

in Lympstone Parish Church at 4pm on Sunday 1st November.

Adult tickets £8, under 16s £1 - to include tea/coffee and cake –
can be obtained from the LympEnts Box Office c/o Demelza Henderson
2 Brookfield Cottages, The Strand. Telephone: 01395 272243 or 07516 322853
or you can pay at the door on the day



Saturday November 28th

Ian Keable, magician with an entertaining comic twist, returns in

MIRTH, MARVELS AND THE MYSTERIOUS

The Secret World of Charles Dickens

“Lovely magic beautifully presented. If you like magic or Charles Dickens then don't miss it; engages and baffles all ages.”

Charles Dickens was not only one of the world's greatest writers, but also a talented magician and fascinated by spiritualism and ghosts.

7.30pm in the Village Hall Doors and bar open at 7pm

Tickets £8, U16s £4. from the LympEnts Box Office c/o Demelza Henderson
2 Brookfield Cottages, The Strand. Telephone: 01395 272243 or 07516 322853



with the support of Villages in Action

HARLAND WALSHAW MUSES WHAT'S TO COME, with an eye on what's been before

This season's programme summons up remembrance of things past (as Shakespeare put it, when I was chatting to him the other day). One of our very first events from Villages in Action was a conjuror. He was astonishing. People left the hall amazed at what he'd done to upright Lympstone citizens – particularly to a doctor and a dentist he invited up onto the stage. He was called Ian Keable, and he returns with a new show based upon the magic of Dickens. Prepare to be spell-bound.

But he is not the only performer we have seen before. In fact the whole of next season is one big encore, a reprise of some of our greatest hits. The Clarion Clarinet Quartet - half home-grown – were among the earliest groups to bring classical music to our programmes. And it was John Welton who solved our lack of concerts, by involving Devon musicians who are now embedded in our calendar of events: Hilary Boxer once again assembled a group to perform for us last month; Ruth Molins and Sally Jenkins, on flute and harp, can be heard again in May.

We have always included shows for children, mostly puppets, a wonderfully imaginative and traditional way of telling stories. Devon is lucky in its number of puppet troupes, and this season we have Puppetcraft, performing a story by Michael Rosen, no less.

Our two theatre groups are also making return visits – Gonzo Moose who delighted us with the French Revolution are now turning their anarchic gaze on Captain Scott, and Cygnet will give us another classic play in Robin Telfer's garden. Let's hope the sunshine too makes a reappearance.

And in a slightly belated celebration of the 150th anniversary of Edith Piaf's birth, Affinitée (Piaffinitée under their new guise) will again help us to turn the village hall into a Parisian café – it will be just like sitting in *Les Deux Magots* in the 1950s, in the company of Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone Signoret. Like Marcel Proust, we shall nibble our madeleines and go à la recherché du temps perdu.

Those of us involved in Lympstone Entertainments tend to think, in our arrogance, that we are providing something new for the village, that before our arrival Lympstone was a cultural desert. It is part of the condescension of the urbanite, the belief that those of us from the big wide world (usually London) come bearing civilisation with us, trailing (as Wordsworth put it) clouds of glory behind us.

But if you read Rosemary Smith's *The Houses of Lympstone* (recently republished in its 2nd edition) you will find that the villagers of Lympstone were here long before us. It quotes from the diaries of Annie Thomas, who tells us of Clara Parsons, who ran a china shop in Honeysuckle Cottage at the end of the 19th century. Clara was a first cousin of Thomas Hardy, and "in her features the strong lines of the Family Face were clearly marked. Her son Harry was scarcely five feet tall, but he had a fine head crowned with dark curly hair and through his temperament, his perseverance and the obvious sparks of genius within him he could certainly have been said to bear some resemblance to his famous relative."

Harry was a postman, who owned a bicycle on which he made his rounds of outlying farms and villages, delivering post and newspapers, which in the days before radio and television were eagerly awaited. "When *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* was serialised in the Graphic, people would hurry out to their doors and ask, 'They'll never hang that girl will they Harry?'"

Harry was also a musician, the church organist and a member of the village band. He gave music lessons, and his trio supplied the music for weekly dances in the town and for those village halls around. "Harry is now but a memory of the village life of a bygone age," writes Annie Thomas, "but when the older generations talk of past events and pleasures he must inevitably come to mind: the Saturday Night Penny Concerts, when he organised and accompanied the varied programme every week, the Maypole dances and the Morris dance music for the Harvest Festival, the choral performances in the church, and the Drill Hall concerts of World War One when he persuaded all manner of celebrities to come and take part. 'Harry will be there,' people would say. 'It's going to be grand: we can leave it all to Harry.'

A one-man Lympstone Entertainments.