

Southport Dramatic Club

Good Things

by Liz Lochhead

A Romantic Comedy

Directed by
Jan Hale

25th January -
2nd February 2013
7.45pm

*funny, touching &
emotionally true*

LITTLE THEATRE
Home of the
Southport Dramatic Club

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Director's notes

Welcome to the SDC's very own Charity Shop. How many 'Good things' are displayed in Charity Shops? One person's 'tat' re-cycled becomes another's treasure. We are reverting to the old days when all unwanted items were sent to jumble sales or the 'Rag and Bone' Man. Susan does whistle a little of Steptoe and Son during the performance! We see a glimpse into people's lives told by what they donate and what they buy. The characters that frequent our charity shop may remind you of friends, family members or acquaintances. So sit back and enjoy the ride as we



Jan Hale
Director

take you from Christmas to Valentine's Day and on to the following Christmas.

Like any good shop our production only happens because of the work behind the scenes (in the

back of the shop) from Box Office, programme sellers, front of house staff, coffee makers, bar staff, to name but a few. Our productions only happen because of all the hard work and dedication of many.

We hope you enjoy the story of Susan Love - who is looking very hard to find love - and enjoy as much fun and belly laughter as the story unfolds, as we have during our rehearsals. Come into our shop out of the January cold and warm your hearts.

Jan Hale
Director





THE LIONS SHOP

Good Things? Grrrrrrreat Things!

There are many Charity Shops in t'North selling Good Things.
But there is only one Lions Shop filled with Grrrrrrreat Things!
We stock all kinds of glass & ceramics, modern & retro clothing,
furniture, ornaments & books.

You are very welcome to come and browse in our shop,
and donations of goods are very welcome too!

The Lions Shop is owned and operated by Southport Lions Club
and all the profits from the shop go to fund our charitable work -
about 90% of this is in our local area.

THE LIONS SHOP

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Liz Lochhead

Scottish poet and dramatist, Liz Lochhead, was born in Motherwell in 1947. From 1965 to 1970 she attended the Glasgow School of Art and then taught Fine Art. The dramatist was part of a group of distinguished writers brought together by Philip Hobsbaum in the 1970's. They included: Alasdair Gray, Tom Leonard and James Kelman.

In 1972 Lochhead published her first collection of poems called *Memo for Spring* which won a Scottish Arts Council Book Award. Her first play was a revue called *Sugar and Spite* and was performed in 1978 with Marcella Evaristi. She stopped teaching and began to write for a living when she was given the Scottish/Canadian Writers Exchange Fellowship, also in 1978.

The 1980's saw her produce a lot of poetry and work for the theatre. She made her name as a Scottish playwright at this time. Amongst her successes were her adaptations of: *Moliere's Tartuffe* (1986) and *Mary*



Liz Lochhead
Author

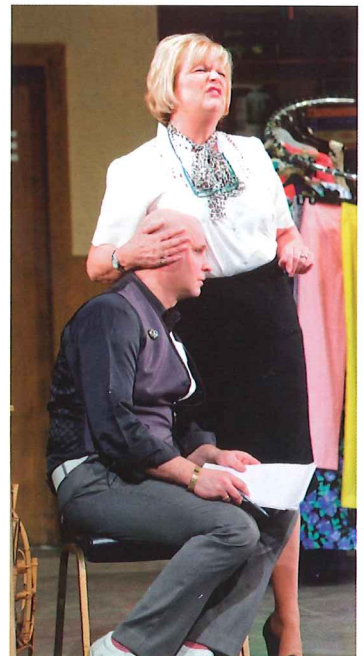
Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off (1987) and *Dracula* (1989). Her poetry work in the 1980's included *New Clichés*.

Most of her work prior to the 1990's had looked at feminist issues but during the 1990's she explored wider concerns. In 1994 she wrote *Latin for a Dark Room* which was screened at the Edinburgh Film Festival as part of the BBC Tartan Shorts season.

Lochhead, who lives in Glasgow, was presented with an honorary literary degree from the city's university in the year 2000. That same year she adapted *Euripedes' Medea* which was named the Saltire Society Scottish Book of the Year

(Scotland's most prestigious book prize). The dramatist adapted *Moliere's The Misanthrope* into a play called *Misery Guts* in 2002 and a year later brought out a collection of poems called: *The Colour of Black & White*. Her play *Good Things* was written in 2004.

She became a national poet of Scotland in 2011, or Scots Makar. Her last book - *A Choosing: The Selected Poetry of Liz Lochhead* was released two years ago. *The Edinburgh Companion to Liz Lochhead* is due to be published in July of this year.





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Good Things

Good Things, was first performed on Thursday September 16th by the Borderline Theatre Company at the Tron Theatre, Glasgow. The original production was reviewed by The Guardian and Mark Fisher wrote: *"From the sentimental setting to the jokes about teenage daughters, it plays on the experience of a generation of women with empathy, understanding and more than a little anger."*

The play takes place in a little charity shop over

three different days in the same year. It could be in a town, village, big city, suburb, or indeed anywhere, we only know it is north of Watford Gap. This romantic comedy is about forty-eight year old Susan Love. Susan an attractive, warm, likeable and youthful looking woman, is worried about the prospect of turning fifty and desperately trying to find 'love'. She is considering scrapping her married name 'Love' and reverting to her maiden name because her

husband has left her, but remarks that she is probably stuck with 'Love' for life! On the advice of her friend Mel she has seen a Counsellor and after six free sessions says "he helped" but does not want to carry on seeing him long-term.

It is Twelfth Night when the play opens and most of the Christmas decorations are down. Susan reminds her colleague, Frazer, of their New Year resolution to try something new. So what will the New Year hold for Susan?



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Synopsis of Scenes

The action of the play takes place in a little local Charity Shop somewhere north of the Watford Gap

Act 1

Takes place on 6th January the first day of opening after the Christmas and New Year break

Act 2

It is Valentine's Day the same year

Act 3

Christmas Eve the same year as the shop closes for the Christmas and New Year break

The action is split up into 3 acts so there will be a 5 minute 'comfort break' between Acts 1 & 2.

There will also be a 15 minute interval between Acts 2 and 3.

We recommend that you beat the rush and pre-order your drinks in the bar prior to the performance.



Good



Susan Love
Trudi Hirsch



Frazer
Giles Davidson



David
Barry Johnson



Scotch Doris
Pat Simpkin



Marjorie
Dyan Enseñat



**Archie &
Scruffy Old Man**
Ed Robinson

Things

st



Natalie
Helen Pritchard



Tony Love
Robert Jones



Well Dressed Woman
Ann Richards



**Policeman &
Flower Delivery Man**
Simon Hawkins



**Policewoman &
Helena**
Sabrina Regazzoni



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We are delighted to announce a new arrangement with the N.C.P. car park in London Street (only a few minutes away – opposite the Albert Hotel)

The N.C.P. car park usually charges at an hourly rate. However, if you present your 'car parking' ticket at the Little Theatre Box Office, Bar or Foyer Servery you will be given a 'follow-on' ticket. When you return to the N.C.P. car park to pay before driving away you then insert firstly the 'car parking' ticket followed by your 'follow-on' ticket and the charge will be reduced to **£1.00**.

We hope you will find the new service useful, but please remember to collect your 'follow-on' ticket from the Theatre before leaving to obtain this valuable reduction.

This service is operated by N.C.P. for our patrons and not by the S.D.C.



Staging

Stage Manager	Adrian Roberts
Assistant Stage Manager (Prompt)	Sherel Coley
Properties	Ann Richards & Sherel Coley
Wardrobe	The Cast & The SDC Wardrobe Team
Lighting	Roy Carr
Sound	Dr. Brian Hodge
Set Construction & Design	SDC Productions Team
Scenic Artist	Bob Jessamine
Photographs	Fletcherhill Photography
Programme Editor	Jacque Bolshaw
Programme Sub Editor	Barry King
Programme Content & Research	Henry James
Programme Layout and Design	Mitchell & Wright (Printers) Ltd

Music in this production

You Wear it Well - Rod Stewart

Love for Sale - Cole Porter

My Funny Valentine - Frank Sinatra

Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas - Ella Fitzgerald

Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank:

Barbara Beardsell of The Formby Garden Centre for making the Valentine Bouquet.

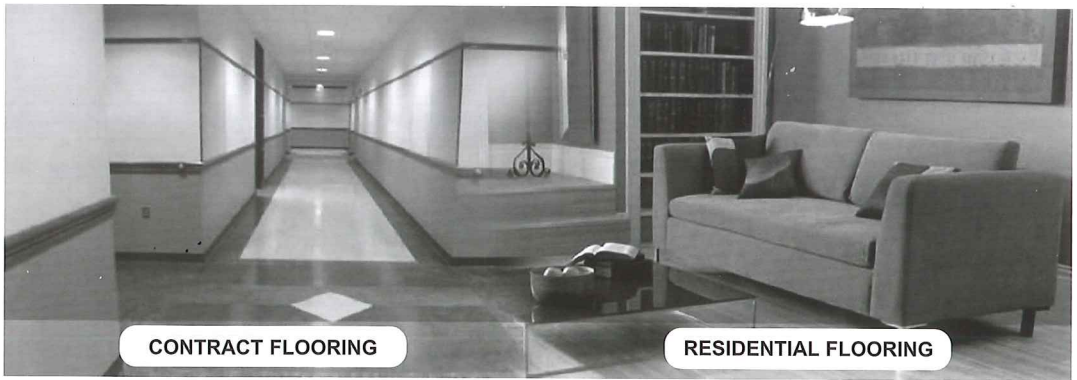
The Salvation Army for all of their contributions to the SDC Charity Shop.

The Little Theatre - Home of the Southport Dramatic Club.

The SDC wishes to ensure that all our patrons enjoy a comfortable, enjoyable and safe visit to our theatre. We should be grateful for your co-operation in helping us to achieve this. Please note the following:

- Should you arrive after the performance has started, you will be guided to your seats when a suitable opportunity occurs.
- At the end of the performance, exits will be open at both the front and back of the auditorium.
- First Aid assistance is regularly provided by volunteers from the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Should you require help, please advise our stewards on duty in the Foyer.
- Patrons with hearing impairments should note that the auditorium has an Induction Loop System for your assistance. Hearing wands are also available from our stewards.

Designated Premises Supervisor,
Alan Newport



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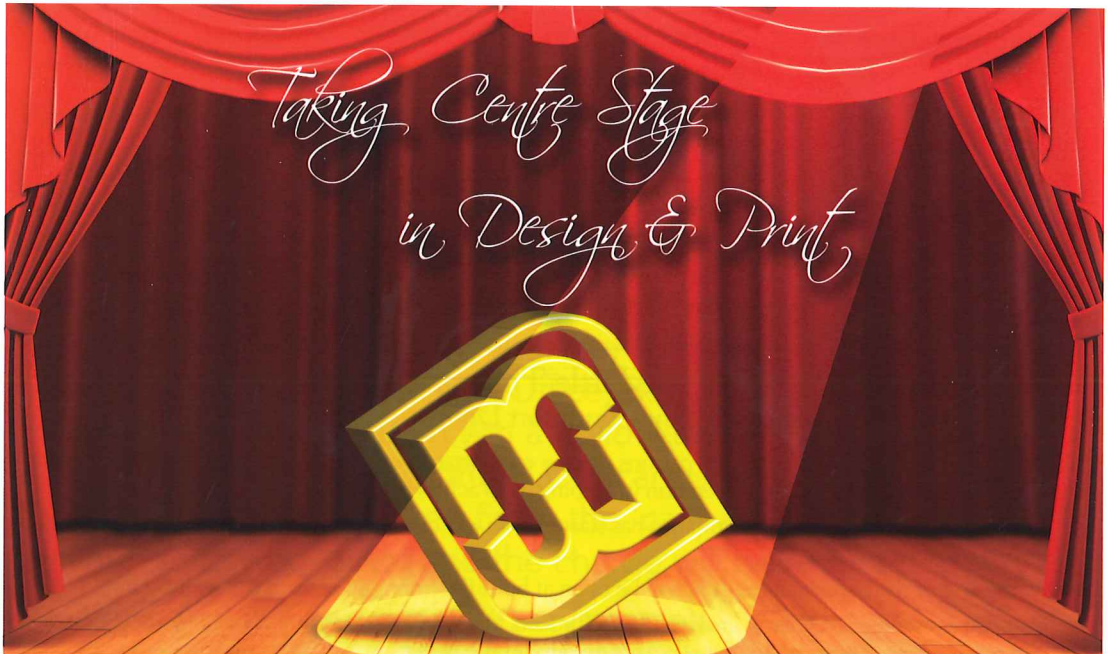


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Charity Shops

The purpose of a charity shop is to raise funds for a given charity. These shops can be found on high street in towns and villages throughout Britain.

They first appeared as a result of the poverty inherited from two World Wars. The Salvation Army was the first organisation to donate clothes for the poor which were then sold on at knock-down prices. The first OXFAM shop opened in Oxford in 1948 to generate funds to help post-war Greece.

Nowadays many charities benefit from the incomes made by the shops i.e. Save the Children, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research, RNLI, to mention just a few. All the shops are mainly manned by volunteers.

Charity shops are a way of recycling. Earlier recycling was done via a Pawnbroker and the 'Rag

Trade' evolved in London in the mid 1800's when second-hand clothes were sold in the East End. Second-hand industries even existed in Renaissance Venice, a city of great wealth but also of extreme poverty.

Fashion dictates a fast-changing wardrobe for those able to afford to replace their outfits frequently. Charity shops act as receptacles for those outdated outfits giving the less well off a chance to buy a designer label cheaply.

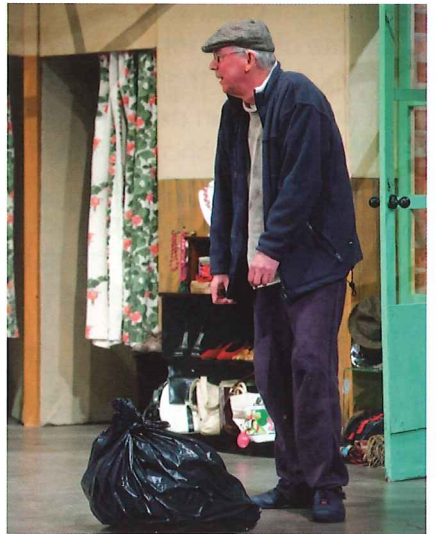
All kinds of goods are donated from bric-a-brac, books and clothes to furniture. Unsaleable goods are put into landfill or sold to the rag companies. Browsing in these shops is a pastime for many. Undoubtedly one man's junk is another's treasure and everyone loves a bargain! Stories are related of

people coming upon valuable items of jewellery or china that they have purchased for pennies, only to find out later that they have an item worth a small fortune. Oh yes, this really does happen!

The recession has hit towns and villages hard. Where retail outlets are closing daily the charity shop is holding its own. For many the recession has affected their spending power dramatically and the shops help by giving people the chance to buy the goods they need, whilst at the same time assisting a charity. Everyone is a winner! Originally the shops were seen as a way of the rich donating to the poor, now all manner of people frequent them, those feeling the pinch and the bargain hunters. Certainly it's chic to shop vintage!

***“Charity begins at home,
but should not end there”***

(Thomas Fuller Gnomologia)



The SDC Charity Shop

In the late 1990's the SDC ran its own charity shop in Bold Street, Southport. It was opened to raise funds towards the purchase of the Little Theatre. The following is an extract from the book 'The History of the Southport Dramatic Club and its Little Theatre' written by the late Benny Darrah:

"Pat Ball, assisted by Lucille Jackson and others, rented a shop in Bold Street, and appealed to Members and Subscribers for their cast off clothing and other saleable articles. Soon the SDC Charity Shop

was in business, and up to the present time (October 1997) has contributed over £13,000 to the Fund, a remarkable achievement, and this also continues to bring in money".

The shop was owned by Marcel Zachariah (a then member of the SDC) who charged us a very reasonable rent. Great pride was taken in the dressing of the windows which gave the impression that the shop was professionally run and many passers by thought it was a chain store. Pat Ball recalls that

everyone who worked at the shop had lots of fun. It was not unusual for helpers to be there at midnight, still working hard to ensure everything in the shop looked superb! One of Pat's funniest memories is of the time when she turned up to a meal out in a glamorous outfit, which unbeknown to her had been donated by Les Winsland (another SDC member). Les managed to keep it a secret for a short while until Pat realised it was a frock that Les had donated when Pat wasn't around!!





David Davies
Director

NOW IN REHEARSAL **My Boy Jack**

Written by David Haig

Directed by David Davies

22nd February - 2nd March 2013

We perform a wide selection of plays in our busy seasons. Some audiences like mysteries and 'who-dunnits'; some farces and comedies (like tonight's). Many love our annual pantomime and, some, riveting strong drama and 'the classics'. Actors and directors have their favourites, too. As an actor, there is nothing more satisfying than a full house rocking with laughter; but, as a director, I like 'drama'. Laughter is healthy and cleansing; but, then, so is drama

which can raise serious questions. In 'My Boy Jack', set during the first world war, we see a great public figure, Rudyard Kipling, struggling with his certainties that duty to country must come before love for his myopic son, (whom even the authorities have found unfit for the army). What is a father to do when in his public speeches he says: "...every young man who remains at home[should be] shunned by his community."? And how do we, today, react to such a statement? We have gathered an excellent cast and production team who are working hard to do justice to this fine drama. I hope you will come and enjoy their efforts in a few weeks' time.

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Home of the Southport Dramatic Club

SDC
Production



Box Office Opens:
15th February 2013
at 11.00am

22nd February - 2nd March 2013

My Boy Jack

A Wartime Drama
By David Haig

Directed by David Davies

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All My Sons

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**SDC Youth
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Production**



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11th March 2013
at 11.00am

19th - 23rd March 2013

Skellig

By David Almond

Directed by Marilyn Fletcher-Hill

SDC
Production



Box Office Opens:
5th April 2013
at 11.00am

12th - 20th April 2013

Entertaining Angels

A Sharp Edged Comedy
By Richard Everett

Directed by Celia Timmington

SDC
Production



Box Office Opens:
3rd May 2013
at 11.00am

10th - 18th May 2013

Fawlty Towers

A Comedy by John Cleese & Connie Booth

Directed by Les Gomersall

Southport Dramatic Club

My Boy Jack

By David Haig

A Wartime Drama

Directed by David Davies

22nd February - 2nd March 2013

7.45pm



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