

# Southport Dramatic Club

A Tony Award Winning Play

# The Chalk Garden

A Stimulating Piece of Theatre

By Enid Bagnold

Directed by Margaret Mann

24th October -  
1st November 2014

7.45pm

Produced by  
special arrangement  
with Samuel French Inc.



**LITTLE THEATRE**  
Home of the  
Southport Dramatic Club

Box Office Tel: (01704) 530521/530460

[www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk](http://www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk)

Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA



Like us on  
facebook

# Pre Theatre Dinner

# 10% off your total bill

when dining in the restaurant  
when theatre ticket is shown

Bar menu served

Tues - Sun 11.00am - 4.00pm

Restaurant serving lunchtime menu  
from £8.95

Tues - Sat 12.00pm - 2.30pm

£10 Tuesdays, 2 courses  
every Tuesday from  
5.30pm - 9.00pm

TDH & A La carte also available

Tues - Thur TDH £13.95

Fri - Sat £15.95

A La Carte Also available

## Sunday @ the office

with live music from 2.00pm

Bar menu 12.00pm - 4.00pm

Restaurant 12.00pm - 7.00pm

with menus from £8.95

10% discount cannot be used  
when dining on the £10 menu

for bookings telephone: 01704 543354

9b Houghton Street, Southport PR9 0TE

the  
**office**  
BAR & RESTAURANT



# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Looking back to the fifties in order to research this play has been a nostalgic trip for the older members of the team and a piece of history for the younger ones! We have had to realise that class barriers were, then, very much in place and the upper classes spoke 'Queen's English', a term no longer used. Even in the late fifties, people like Mrs. St. Maugham and the Judge were, already, regretting the passing of their prescribed way of life and the fun they had enjoyed. What would they think now?



**Margaret Mann**  
Director

We hope you will be entertained this evening by the various characters in the play and enjoy seeing how they react as their secrets are revealed and their futures resolved.

It has been a very happy and productive experience working with a keen team of actors, crew members and prompt. They have been extremely dedicated and enthusiastic and deserve our thanks. In addition, we thank everyone in the many other departments of the Southport Dramatic Club for their assistance in presenting this play.

Finally, we thank you, our patrons, for your loyal support without which this theatre could not continue to flourish.



Maghull Musical Theatre Company presents



# Follies

at the Little Theatre, Southport  
**5th - 8th November 2014**

**Evenings 7.30pm Saturday Matinee 2.15pm**  
**Tickets £12 to £14**

**Advanced Bookings to Betty & Graham on 01695 632 372 until  
Tuesday 28th October then from Wednesday 29th October  
from the Little Theatre Box Office, Houghton Street,  
Southport PR9 0PA (11.00am to 5.00pm)  
Telephone: 01704 530 521**

Book by JAMES GOODMAN  
Music and lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM  
Produced originally on Broadway by Harold Prince  
By special arrangement with Cameron Mackintosh  
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with  
JOSEF WEINBERGER LIMITED on behalf of  
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of NEW YORK

*"Losing My Mind"*  
*"Broadway Baby"*

Artistic Director:  
**Neil Townsend**

Musical Director:  
**Malcolm Fallows**

Choreographer:  
**Betty Hall**

**[www.maghullmtc.co.uk](http://www.maghullmtc.co.uk)**



# AUTHOR'S NOTES

The best-selling novelist, playwright and society hostess, Enid Bagnold CBE, was born in Rochester, Kent, on October 27th 1889. Her parents were Colonel Arthur Henry Bagnold and Ethel. During her childhood she lived in Jamaica and was educated at a private school in Godalming, which was run by the mother of Aldous Huxley. The author also went to schools in Paris and Lausanne. When she was twenty she attended art school in Chelsea, London, and sat for the French Sculptor Henri Gaudier-Brzeska.

Bagnold was a nurse during the First World War and wrote negatively of the hospital administration and as a result of this lost her job. The book she wrote about her time as a nurse is called 'A Diary Without Dates'. For the rest of World War 1 Bagnold was stationed in France as a



**Enid Bagnold**  
Author

driver; she wrote about this time in 'The Happy Foreigner'.

After she married Sir Roderick Jones (the Chairman of Reuters) in 1920, Enid still used her maiden name when writing. She received world-fame with her book 'National Velvet' first published in 1935. The book is about a girl who wins a horse and then rides it to first place in The Grand National Steeplechase, whilst dressed as a boy. It has never been out of print and was made into a film

in 1944. A twelve year old Elizabeth Taylor became a star after appearing in the film.

'The Chalk Garden', the author's most famous play, was written in 1955 and it is said that Bagnold took the inspiration for it from her own garden.

After her husband died, Bagnold wrote the 1964 play 'The Chinese Prime Minister'. When it was shown in London Edith Evans starred in the production. Her later work 'Call Me Jacky' had Dame Sybil Thorndike and Edward Fox in the cast. 'A Matter of Gravity' was Bagnold's last play and starred Katharine Hepburn.

Enid Bagnold was presented with her CBE from the Queen in 1976. Bagnold, who had four children, died in March 1981. Samantha Cameron, the wife of David Cameron, the Prime Minister, is her great-granddaughter.

*Enid Bagnold quote: In marriage there are no manners to keep up, and beneath the wildest accusations no real criticism. Each is familiar with that ancient child in the other who may erupt again. We are not ridiculous to ourselves. We are ageless. That is the luxury of the wedding ring.*

**We've got just  
the thing  
to make you  
feel better.**



Why not look after  
someone's dog  
while they're away.

Become a host with  
**Barking Mad**

It's great fun, all of the benefits of dog  
ownership without the emotional or  
financial commitment. We carefully  
match dogs to your home.



The alternative to kennels

Nicola Sheard  
01772 434708

[nicola.sheard@barkingmad.uk.com](mailto:nicola.sheard@barkingmad.uk.com)  
[BarkingMad.uk.com](http://BarkingMad.uk.com)

**Most of the Gardens  
in Southport are Sandy!**



**THE LIONS SHOP**

But whether you have a Chalk Garden or one with finer grains we can help!  
We have a range of books, one of which might be the gardening book you really  
need. Or perhaps you are looking for something different for a wet autumn day?  
Our shop contains a treasure-trove of furniture, clothing, ornaments, bric-a-brac,  
as well as books. Come and visit us, and dig up some bargains!

All the profits from our shop go to support the charitable work of  
Southport Lions Club, which has been helping local people since 1962

**THE LIONS SHOP**

**664 LIVERPOOL ROAD, AINSDALE, SOUTHPORT, PR8 3LT**

 **01704 577446**  **WWW.THELIONSSHOP.INFO**

# THE CHALK GARDEN

'The Chalk Garden' was Enid Bagnold's fourth play and was first presented on Broadway, New York, at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1955. Bagnold was inspired when setting the play by her own garden at North End House in Rottingdean, Sussex. Her home had been previously owned by the British Artist, Sir Edward Burne-Jones.

The original Broadway production included Gladys Cooper as Mrs. St. Maugham, Siobhan McKenna as Miss Madrigal, Betsy von Furstenberg as Laurel, and Fritz Weaver as Maitland. The producer was Irene M. Selznick and Cecil

Beaton was the designer. The play became a hit and Bagnold was given the Silver Medal for Drama from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. 'The Chalk Garden' was also nominated in several categories at the Tony Awards. It opened in London in 1956 at The Theatre Royal, Haymarket, and starred Peggy Ashcroft and Edith Evans and was directed by John Gielgud. The theatre critic, Kenneth Tynan, wrote after the play opened: "*the finest artificial comedy to have flowed from an English (as opposed to an Irish) pen since the death of Congreve*".

The work was made into a film in 1964 and starred Deborah Kerr, Hayley Mills, John Mills and Edith Evans and was directed by Ronald Neame. At the 1964 Academy Awards, Edith Evans was nominated for Best Actress in a Supporting Role, but the award went to Lila Kedrova.

Downton Abbey star, Penelope Wilton, appeared in a revival of the production, directed by Michael Grandage, at London's Donmar Warehouse in 2008. Angela Lansbury has also hinted that she would like to appear in a production of 'The Chalk Garden'.



# SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action takes place at the home of Mrs St. Maugham, a Manor House in Sussex

Time: The late 1950s

## Act One

Scene 1 June – daytime

Scene 2 July – mid morning

## Act Two

Scene 1 July – later that day

Scene 2 After luncheon

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between the two acts

The logo for North West Cancer Research (nwcr) features the lowercase letters 'nwcr' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the text are three stylized blue butterflies of varying sizes, arranged in a cluster.

NORTH WEST CANCER RESEARCH

Incorporating Clatterbridge Cancer Research

**Help us to  
understand Cancer...**

**Funding cancer research for over 60 years.**

**NWCR 22 Oxford Street, Liverpool L7 7BL | T: 0151 709 2919 | F: 0151 708 7997**

**Donate today at: [www.nwcr.org](http://www.nwcr.org)**



# GROWING IN CHALKY SOIL

Mention the word 'chalk' and for many it conjures up a vision of the white cliffs of Dover, an iconic part of the English landscape that symbolises our nation and welcomes travellers home. It is also the corner of our island nearest to France; ironically what we think of as quintessentially English – that chalk soil – is something we share with Europe as it runs from Kent under the Channel and into northern France near Reims.

Chalky and sandy soils can be challenging for many plants as they drain well. Don't expect great results with thirsty plants like roses and rhubarb on well-drained soils unless they're improved. Chalk soils differ from sandy ones in

their acidity (pH). Southport's sandy soil is acidic, chalk soils are the opposite they're alkaline. Chalk soils were formed from the shells of ancient sea creatures so they are packed with calcium. Plants need calcium too, if you've ever bitten into an apple and noticed the flesh is not white but speckled with small pale brown patches that's a classic symptom of calcium deficiency.

Some plants will cope with different conditions alkalinity/acidity, others are fussier. Plants that require acidic soils are called Ericaceous. These include Rhododendrons, Camellias and Azaleas.

The Royal Horticultural Society's top five plants for

chalky soil are: Agapanthus, Campanula, Clematis, Delphinium and Lavender. Hydrangeas will grow either producing blue flowers in acidic soil or pink in chalky soil – as long as you water them with rainwater! Grow them in acid soil but water them with alkaline tap water and you'll get pink flowers.

Chalk soils are perfect for grapes – providing the weather is warm. Recent warm summers have led to an increase in the number of vineyards in southern England. If global warming causes this to continue we may soon be toasting English successes in English Champagne!

*Michèle Martin*



Agapanthus



Campanula



Clematis



Delphinium



Lavender

# The Ch Gar Ca



**Helen Bennett**  
Miss Madrigal  
- the first applicant



**Eric Chadwick**  
Maitland  
- the manservant



**Hilary Thomson**  
The Little Lady  
- the second applicant



**Samantha Roberts**  
The Sophisticated Lady  
- the third applicant

*Enid Bagnold quote: As for death, one gets used to it, even if it's only other peoples' deaths you get used to.*

# he alk den st



**Beth Milligan**  
Laurel  
- the granddaughter



**Jacquie Wade**  
Mrs. St. Maugham  
- Laurel's grandmother



**Tracey Batchelor**  
Olivia  
- Laurel's mother



**John Sharp**  
The Judge  
- the grandmother's old friend

*Enid Bagnold quote: The pleasure of one's effect on other people still exists in age - what's called making a hit. But the hit is much rarer and made of different stuff!*

# YOUR LOCAL FRIENDLY SOLICITORS

**Maxwell  
Hodge**  
SOLICITORS

Provide a fast and efficient service for

- Wills
- Probate
- Court of Protection
- Conveyancing
- Powers of Attorney



michaelyates@maxweb.co.uk  
01704 872156

Appointments at our local office and home visits can be arranged please call Michael Yates.

[www.maxwellhodge.co.uk](http://www.maxwellhodge.co.uk)

**Aintree**  
0151 526 9321

**Formby**  
01704 872 156

**Heswall**  
0151 342 6447

**Huyton**  
0151 489 6161

**Kirkby**  
0151 548 7370

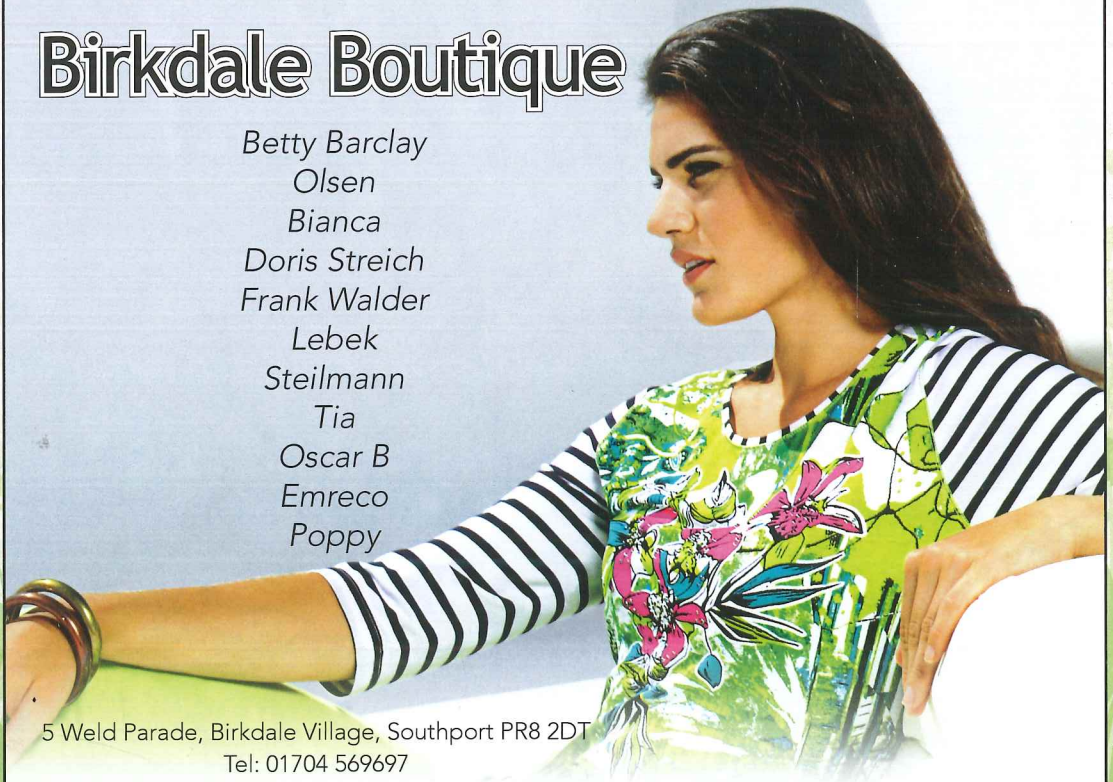
**Maghull**  
0151 526 7131

**West Kirby**  
0151 625 9154

**Liverpool (city)**  
0151 227 4545

## Birkdale Boutique

Betty Barclay  
Olsen  
Bianca  
Doris Streich  
Frank Walder  
Lebek  
Steilmann  
Tia  
Oscar B  
Emreco  
Poppy



5 Weld Parade, Birkdale Village, Southport PR8 2DT  
Tel: 01704 569697

# STAGING

Stage Manager .....	Roderick Beardsell
Assistant Stage Manager (Prompt) .....	Jean Watkinson
Properties .....	Barbara Galvin, Hilary Thomson, Samantha Roberts
Wardrobe .....	Sherel Coley
Lighting .....	Syd Coley
Sound .....	Brian Hodge
Scenic Artist & Set Design .....	Bob Jessamine
Set Construction .....	The SDC Construction Team
Photographs .....	Fletcherhill Photography
Programme Editor .....	Jacquie Bolshaw
Programme Content & Research .....	Henry James
Press Promotion .....	Ron Ellis & Ellen Campbell
Programme Layout and Design .....	Mitchell & Wright (Printers) Ltd

## MUSIC IN THE PRODUCTION

In this evening's performance the music consists of extracts from *Country Gardens*, by Percy Grainger, performed by: The London Festival Orchestra with the Band of the Coldstream Guards; The New World ensemble; The City of Birmingham Orchestra (playing an arrangement by Leopold Stokowski).

*Enid Bagnold quote: Judges don't age; time decorates them*

### 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.
- Please ensure that all mobile phones and electronic devices are switched off during the performance.
- Photography and video recording are not allowed during the performance.

Designated Premises Supervisor, Alan Newport





# HOW THE SDC WORKS - FRONT OF HOUSE

In previous programmes we have described the workings of various parts of the Southport Dramatic Club, including Play Selection, Production, Sound and Lighting. This month we look at the Front of House activity. This essentially covers all the arrangements to ensure that all audience members have a safe and enjoyable theatre experience.

Around 3,000 people attend each SDC play spread over eight performances. Then there are the productions organised by other organisations that hire the theatre. The Front of House stewarding, servery and sweets teams cover all performances on a rota basis. For each performance we provide a Duty House Manager plus up to four stewards, a servery team of up to five plus one person selling sweets. There are around sixty members participating in stewarding, including eight trained Duty House Managers, a further fifty on Servery and twelve on sweets; some people help on more than one team but all are members of the Club and provide their services on a voluntary unpaid basis. In general for stewarding, no one person deals with more than one performance per production. We would like to apply the same principle to the Servery but need yet more volunteers to achieve this. We

do have the benefit of one paid person to make the coffee and tea for each performance.

As you may have observed, those on duty wear badges denoting their role: Duty House Manager, SDC Steward or SDC Member Volunteer. The overall responsibility for Front of House activity lies with the Duty House Manager appointed for each performance. We promote a smart dress-code for all involved, with the Duty House Manager, if a man, normally wearing a dinner jacket.

The stewarding activities that are normally visible comprise helping audience members and taking tickets. Special attention is given to assisting people with disabilities. There are seat spaces for two wheelchairs on the back row and special arrangements for other people with mobility problems. Not so visible are the procedures to be followed in the unlikely event of an emergency requiring evacuation of the theatre. The Duty House Manager has overall responsibility and each steward has allotted duties. Training for this takes place annually supplemented by memorandum cards carried by the Duty House Manager and each steward during a performance. Suffice it to say the theatre has an

efficient fire detection and alarm system enabling the area of problem to be identified, so that evacuation can proceed in the right direction. There have been very few situations over the years requiring the evacuation of an audience. When there was a serious fire in 1987 the theatre was in fact empty.

The servery activity comprises selling programmes and serving coffees, teas, soft drinks, ice creams and sweets. The stewarding activities are organised by the Front of House Manager. The Servery activity forms part of the Social Committee responsibility, and another SDC member organises the sweets. We encourage new members in particular to become involved in any of these Front of House activities as they provide an excellent way of meeting other members and seeing what goes on. Some of our long term members have helped in many capacities over the years.

The above is another example of the considerable support activity that is required to enable the actors to perform on stage. Enjoy the show!

*Roger Fieldhouse*

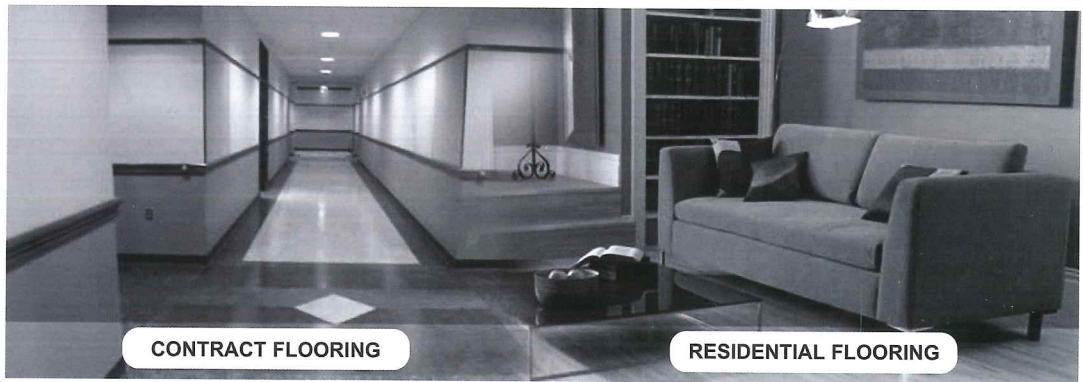
SDC - FRONT OF HOUSE  
MANAGER

# PRINT QUALITY THAT STANDS OUT



## **mitchell&wright** **printers ltd**

Tel: 01704 535529 - Email: [sales@mitchellwright.co.uk](mailto:sales@mitchellwright.co.uk)



CONTRACT FLOORING

RESIDENTIAL FLOORING

### Specialists in all Business Applications

- Carpet for Offices
- Vinyl and Linoleum
- WCs and Kitchens
- Wet areas
- Safety Flooring
- Sports Surfaces
- Entrance Systems
- Hardwood Flooring

*Amisco*

 **Tarkett**



## **West Lancashire Flooring Limited**

74 Ormskirk Business Park, New Court Way,  
Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 2YT  
T: 01695 578369 F: 01695 570623  
[admin@wlflooring.co.uk](mailto:admin@wlflooring.co.uk)  
[www.wlflooring.co.uk](http://www.wlflooring.co.uk)



# WORD SEARCH

Can you find the plants listed below that grow in chalky soil?

R P A S T E R S C M S C  
Z E A G T C M A U E U O  
M D T S Y A M I J N H R  
T U F S S P N U C O T N  
S Q I D A I T U O M N F  
G E N N H E F P W E A L  
K Y U P A I N L V N P O  
E L L U K R U O O A A W  
A E Z U F B E B T R G E  
D D Y X X M L G A O A R  
H E L L E B O R U S C W  
A L U D N E V A L X E N

AGAPANTHUS  
CAMPANULA  
DELPHINIUM  
LAVENDULA

ANEMONE  
COTONEASTER  
GERANIUM  
PASSIFLORA

ASTER  
CORNFLOWER  
HELLEBORUS

*Enid Bagnold quote: The theatre is a gross art, built in sweeps and over-emphasis.  
Compromise is its second name.*



**Adrian Roberts**  
Director

**NOW IN REHEARSAL**

# Body Language

By Alan Ayckbourn

I'm delighted to be directing again for the SDC. This is my second time – so I must have been alright the first time around. I enjoyed the process so much, that I said “yes” straight away when asked. This time I was given the task of directing Alan Ayckbourn’s ‘Body Language’.

I loved this play from the first reading of it, and I find something new to laugh at every time I read it. The story is about our human desire for the perfect body – but with a spin! Alan Ayckbourn’s writing lets us see the relationship between two, very different, ladies; one an athletic and thin page three model, the other an overweight and sad radio journalist and how they get to know each other and their bodies, in a very funny and unique way.

Please come and join us in this Georgian country home converted into the Othman Clinic, where the rich and famous come to have their discreet cosmetic surgery in beautiful surroundings.



**COMING**  
to the Little Theatre  
Home of the Southport Dramatic Club

**Maghull Musical  
Theatre Company**

**5th - 8th November 2014**

**Follies**

Box Office Opens:  
29th October at 11.00am

Advance Bookings:  
01695 632 372

This amateur production is presented  
by arrangement with Josef Weinberger  
on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York

**SDC  
Production**



Box Office Opens:  
14th November at 11.00am

**21st - 29th November 2014**  
**Body Language**

An Hilarious Farce  
by Alan Ayckbourn  
Directed by Adrian Roberts

**SDC  
Production**



Panto Box Office Open:  
**NOW**

Party Bookings **NOW**  
on 01704 504800

**18th December 2014 - 4th January 2015**  
**Dick Whittington and His Cat**

SDC's Traditional Family Pantomime  
by Stephen Hughes-Alty  
Directed by James Hughes-Alty

**SDC  
Production**



Box Office Opens:  
16th January 2015 at 11.00am

**23rd - 31st January 2015**

**The Constant Wife**

A sparkling social comedy  
by W. Somerset Maugham  
Directed by David Davies

**SDC  
Production**



Box Office Opens:  
13th February 2015 at 11.00am

**20th - 28th February 2015**

**Disposing of the Body**

A gripping mystery thriller  
by Hugh Whitmore  
Directed by Celia Timmington



Box Office Tel: (01704) 530521/530460  
[www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk](http://www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk)  
Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA

No booking charges  
or card fees



like us on  
facebook

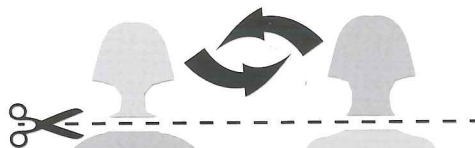
# Southport Dramatic Club

# Body Language

## By Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Adrian Roberts

Presented by special arrangement  
with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.



# 21st - 29th November 2014

## 7.45pm



# LITTLE THEATRE

Home of the  
Southport Dramatic Club

**NO BOOKING CHARGES  
OR CARD FEES**

**Box Office Opens: 14th November 2014 at 11.00am**

**Box Office Tel: (01704) 530521/530460**

**[www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk](http://www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk) Houghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA**



Like us on  
facebook