



Lympstone Entertainments **DRUMBEAT**

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

**At 2.30pm on Sunday 4th December
Angel Heart & Rattlebox Theatre will bring us**

Freya ~ A Viking Saga

Let's all go 'a-roving' together through the Viking world, with this hour-long family show for everyone over 4 years of age, full of wonderful puppets, magical shadows, masks and the music of the fjords.

Freya, a Viking girl and friend of the gods, is in a bit of a pickle. She is about to become a giant's dinner! Freya must use all her wits to escape old Gorm's cooking pot and prove that friendship is "stronger than the strength of a giant and more powerful than the magic of a god." The rivalry between the Norse gods and the Frost Giants is brought humorously to life in this colourful re-telling of two famous Viking myths and Freya's own saga.



in association with Villages in Action



**Tickets (£8 adults and £4 children) now available from
LympEnts Box Office, c/o Demelza Henderson, 2, Brookfield Cottages, The Strand
Telephone/Answer phone 01395 272243 or by emailing lympentsboxoffice@gmail.com**

THE MAGIC OF PUPPETS by Harland Walshaw

As a child, my favourite Christmas present was a troupe of three marionettes. Not that they had much of a performing life – it didn't take long for their strings to become inextricably tangled. But I have never lost my love of puppets. So I'm glad that Lympstone Entertainments has presented a puppet show most years. I remember particularly the evocative puppet version of Jean Giono's allegorical tale, *The Man Who Planted Trees*, with its enchanting dog and its beguiling story.

Animals seem to work particularly well in this medium. Perhaps the best-known puppet of recent years has been the full-size War Horse of Michael Morpurgo's World War I story (which begins in Iddesleigh in North Devon), dramatised by the National Theatre. It has revived the use of puppets in grown-up theatre. On a rather more modest scale, I used puppets for the Apparitions in my production of *Macbeth* three years ago. They were wonderful creations by Deb Mitchell, articulated figures each operated and spoken by two children. Eerie and compelling. They are currently on loan to the Teignmouth Players for their forthcoming production of the same play.

Perhaps the first time I saw puppets was a Punch & Judy Show on Scarborough beach. An Anglicisation of the Italian *Commedia dell'arte*, Punch and Judy was first performed in Covent Garden in the 17th century, and recorded by Samuel Pepys in his Diary. Lympstone Entertainments was able to bring a puppeteer who for many years had the pitch on Weymouth sands to give a workshop in the village hall.

We showed him the Punch & Judy puppets that Keith Exelby had made at our instigation, and he was thrilled by the amount of character in Keith's superb papier maché heads.

All theatre is magic. Actors transform themselves into other people, from another age, in another place, in front of our willing eyes. With puppets, the transformation is even more extreme. A piece of wood, a length of cloth, a papier maché shape, a moving shadow, takes on a personality, comes to life, makes us laugh, or cry, or even think profoundly, or just be entertained. That is real magic. Angel Heart Theatre will create such magic in the village hall on Sunday, 4th December. They will transport us into the world of Viking sagas, and make us care about a warrior maiden called Freya in danger of being eaten by the boggle-eyed Giant, Gorm. I shall be there to watch her, on the edge of my seat.

SOME MORE DATES TO PUT IN YOUR DIARIES RIGHT NOW

Friday 23rd December: Our friends the *LYMPSTONE MUMMERS* will be performing the village's traditional play around the pubs on that evening. Posters will go up in December with timings.

Saturday 25th February 2017: *THE VILLAGE CONCERT*, when we showcase the abundance of local talent, several of whom will most likely have been seen in the aforementioned seasonal entertainment.

Friday 17th March 2017: *FB POCKET ORCHESTRA* play blues, ragtime, hot jazz, songs and dances from long ago in a nostalgic evening full of style and glamour; highly recommended by Villages in Action, and not to be missed.

And then on Saturday 25th March 2017 in Lympstone Parish Church

COME AND HEAR STEVE KNIGHTLEY **supported by The Exmouth Shanty Men**

the songwriting force behind Show of Hands needs little introduction and will already be known to many of you. He has previously won the Best Original Song category in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and, as part of Show of Hands, the categories of Best Live Act and Best Duo.

Tickets went on sale on 1st November and already they're in great demand. Why not book early to secure your seats? This could even be a novel idea for a Christmas present! Priced at £18 for adults, £10 for under 16s, tickets are available as usual from Demelza at 2 Brookfield Cottages, The Strand. Ring 01395 272243 (answer phone) or email lympentsboxoffice@gmail.com giving full details of your requirements.

BUILD-UP TO BEETHOVEN IN LYMPSTONE

Regular readers will know that early next summer, over two weekends, the acclaimed Dante Quartet will be performing all of Beethoven's string quartets in our Parish Church. Last week they were in Bromsgrove, in the Midlands, where their playing of Beethoven prompted this response from the critic of the Birmingham Post:

Cheers, stamping of feet and a standing ovation greeted the Dante Quartet at the end ... these monumental works have spoken to generations of listeners and continue to intrigue today. The Dante Quartet were the perfect choice for this series...they displayed all the necessary energy and momentum, musical even at exceptionally fast tempos... they were able to articulate the long lines of Beethoven's melodic development - particularly where these were lyrical and wistful.

There are indeed exciting times ahead of us!