



Southend Sorcerers Society
Tel: 01702 297983

SOUTHEND SORCERERS SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

2019 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

6th Oct Lecture – Paul Voodini
19th Oct Annual Awards Dinner

3rd Nov Props Auction
1st Dec Xmas Fun Night

2019/2020 CLUB SHOWS

There are no club shows scheduled at the moment – there are a couple in the pipeline but we don't have confirmed dates just yet. Watch this space!

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IMPORTANT NOTE – CLUB TROPHY ENGRAVING

It's come to that time of year when all the club trophies have to be engraved, so if you currently hold one can you please make sure you bring it back to the meeting on Sunday 6th and hand it to Adrian for engraving. The current holders are as follows:

Alfie Hawes - Junior close up
Chris Campos – Senior close up
Trevor Cline – Senior stage
Finlay Southgate – Junior stage

Carol Simpson – Non magical supporter
Finlay Southgate – Most promising newcomer
Don Simpson – Clubman of the year

LAST MEETING – 1st SEPTEMBER – CLOSE UP COMPETITION



Our last meeting was the 2019 close up competition which saw a total of 7 members (5 seniors and 2 juniors) competing for the Wilf Dent memorial cup for the juniors and the Robert Ferro trophy for the senior competition, along with the honour of becoming junior and senior close up champions for 2019/20.

As usual, each contestant performed their routines at three tables, each with a judge in the audience to score their work. With a total of 100 possible marks and scoring based on entertainment value, magical content and presentation, the aim was to award the trophies to the highest scorers at the end of the

contest.

A huge well done goes to everyone that took part – it's never easy performing magic for other magicians and all our contestants approached their performances with enthusiasm and confidence. In the senior contest, Robbie Wood, Chris Campos, Matty Turner (in his first competition as a senior), Del Martin and Andrew Miranda fought it out; and for the juniors Finlay Southgate and last year's winner Alfie Hawes stepped up to take part.



At the end of the competition all the scores were added and validated, and the winners were announced as Chris Campos for the seniors and Alfie Hawes for the juniors in a closely fought two man race. Huge congratulations go to our winners of course, but well done and thanks to everyone that took part for a really enjoyable evening. If you didn't win this year, please don't be too downhearted - take it

as encouragement to work on your act and come up with some new amazing miracles for next year's competition.

Of course we must also say many thanks to our three judges who undoubtedly found it tricky to separate the various performers, and to our audiences who hopefully had a super evening.



Chris Campos not only won the competition, he also filmed it so that those entering can look back on their performances! Thanks Chris – that's brilliant!

If you'd like to have a look at the competition again, it's online now - this is the link you'll need:
<https://youtu.be/8Upm7-UrrSg>



NEXT MEETING – 6th OCTOBER – LECTURE BY PAUL VOODINI

We have something special for you at our October meeting – a lecture by world renowned mentalist Paul Voodini.

Paul Voodini (real name Paul Bell) is a full-time mentalist from Sheffield. He grew up as a very firm believer in all things ‘esoteric’ and mystical, and it was only when he discovered the ‘trickery’ employed by magicians, mind-readers, and fraudulent mediums that he decided to take all of the knowledge that he had learned and use it for the purposes of entertaining and enthralling audiences.



Because of his unusual background, Paul has a novel and unusual approach to mentalism and mind-magic. His work is almost entirely gimmick free and relies more on ‘sleights of the mind’ than ‘sleights of hand’. Paul has been lucky enough to lecture all over Europe and the USA, as well as across England, and he is delighted to bring his engaging and very entertaining lecture to Southend.

This will be a very different lecture and a fascinating insight into an unusually fresh take on mentalism and things like cold reading, of which Paul is a master.

One not to be missed! The lecture will start at 8.00 sharp so make sure you arrive early to grab the best seats. Look forward to seeing you there. As always, visiting magicians are welcome at our lectures and tickets for non members are priced at £10, payable on the door.

NEXT MENTORING SESSION – OCTOBER - TORN AND RESTORED



Our next mentoring session at the October meeting will be about a couple of torn and restored effects. Adrian will go through his favourite T&R card routine again (a version by JC Wagner), along with a look at the ‘No Tear’ newspaper restoration and how it works.

If there's time we'll also have a look at Roy Walton's Cardwarp, a classic of magic that's not seen all that often these days, but isn't too difficult to master and is really baffling for the spectator. Bring a few cards with you that you don't mind tearing up so that you can follow along!

As always, the session will start at 7.00 so we hope to see you there.



CLUB SHOWS



If you'd like to perform at any of our future shows, either with close-up magic or as a stage act, then please contact Richard Graham on 01268 783202. Rick will also provide details of venue addresses, times and directions as required.

As you'll have noticed, we currently have no more club shows in the diary, a rarity for us. There are a couple of enquiries being pursued and we'll let you have details as soon as we have firm dates for them. But in the meantime, if you know of any organisations that would enjoy a night of magic and an opportunity to raise funds, please put them in touch with Richard Graham. We charge just £200 to put on a whole evening of both close up and stage magic for charities.

DIXON STUDIO SHOWS 2019

It's impossible to say too much about the fabulous week we had at the Dixon Studio this year! It was simply the best week of shows we've ever staged and, although I probably say that every year, I honestly believe that the standard we produce gets better and better as the years go by. It's hard to believe that we've been presenting 'As If By Magic' for nine years now, and when I think back to when it all started, I couldn't have imagined that we'd still be as successful as we are all these years later.

There are so many highlights to mention: Finlay Southgate taking on his first stage performance and absolutely smashing it! Well done Finlay, I was really proud of you that night and I know your family were too.

Then there was the return of Bert Postlethwaite and Solitaire aka Richard Graham and Joanne. For those that don't know, this act was originally presented by them back in the 70s and it was amazing to see it brought back to life after all these years. Well done and thanks Rick, I can only imagine how much time it must have taken to prepare for this act to tread the boards again.

Stewart Cope was back with his camera and projection to bring some of the close up items to life for the stage – thanks again Stewart, I really appreciate all your work on this and it makes such a huge difference to what we can accomplish. Chris Campos also filmed everything for us and has now edited the performances for review. If you'd like to take a look back at any of the shows, they're all online now and you can view them as follows:

Wednesday Night: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoUL3zoAL98>

Thursday Night: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlyTVrljNOW>

Friday Night: https://youtu.be/RiGHDcyM_I

Saturday Night: <https://youtu.be/zY1QeCAnZwI>

I can't thank Chris enough for this work – I know exactly how much work and effort this takes, and we're all really grateful for your time and expertise Chris.

The Dream Team did amazingly well this year with over £500 in programme and merchandise sales! That's a brilliant record! Our close uppers in the foyer did an amazing job too, setting things up for the stage show and wowning our audiences! And every show was completely sold out much earlier than usual too. Once all the figures have been added up, the club should have made a really good income to help us pay for lectures and so on.

So I just wanted to send a huge thank you again to everyone that was involved in any way with the shows at the Dixon Studio this year. It was one of the most memorable weeks and we couldn't have staged it at all without your commitment and talent – I still believe we're one of the only (if not THE only) local magic club that even tries to run something like this, and we should all be proud of what we've managed to achieve. I know I am!

Next year is our tenth anniversary and the theatre is already booked for **w/c 10th August**. Keep it free if you can – it's going to be a very special birthday celebration for the show next year!



PREVIEW TIME! NEXT YEAR'S LECTURES...

As we're approaching the end of the year I thought it might be useful to let you know what we have lined up for you so far in terms of lectures for next year. We've put together a really interesting programme which we hope you'll find amazing! Here are the highlights so far (but there's more to come)...

5th January – John Carey

2nd February – Morgan and West (wow, they're brilliant!)

7th June – Paul Gordon

ANNUAL DINNER 2019

Our 2019 annual dinner and awards evening is nearly here on 19th October at the Thorpe Hall Golf Club as per last year. It's not too late to buy tickets so do please try to join us on the night if you can.



Here's the fabulous menu:

DINNER MENU

Cream of pumpkin soup, pesto oil & rustic croutons
Cornets of smoked salmon & prawns with marie rose sauce, pickled cucumber & brown bread
Melon & Serrano ham salad, mixed leaves & balsamic glaze

Black pepper & herb crusted beef with Yorkshire puddings & red wine jus, roast potatoes
Lemon & thyme marinated chicken supreme with a port & leek sauce, roast potatoes
Grilled seabass fillet with a white wine & chive cream sauce, new potatoes
Spinach, sun dried tomato & boursin roulade, Provencal sauce, roast potatoes
Main courses accompanied by seasonal vegetable selection

Baileys & dark chocolate torte with crushed amaretti
Caramelised bread & butter pudding with custard
Selection of continental cheese & biscuits with grapes & celery

Filter coffee & mint chocolates

The ticket price has been kept to £30 per head as per last year and with such a fabulous meal, a cabaret and raffle etc, we hope you'll agree that it represents amazing value for money. Of course it's also a lovely opportunity for all of us to simply get together for a social night out with family and friends; and it's the evening where all our competition and other award winners are formally recognised and congratulated. Some awards aren't actually announced until the evening itself, so you never know, you might be one of the winners!



Cabaret this year is being provided by the brilliant Danny Lee Grew – you can find out more about him here: <https://dannyleegrew.com/> Suffice to say that Danny has performed all over the world and has been awarded AIMC with silver star for performance by the Magic Circle. He was also the first entertainer to perform at the Olympic Stadium in 2012. It should be a brilliant act to watch!

So do join us if you can. Let Tracy know how many seats you'd like and let her have full payment along with your menu choices as soon as you can please.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Who Inspires You in Magic?

This is the second in an occasional series where our members are asked to talk about their inspirations in magic.

Adrian Fox is next in line, and if you'd like to contribute your thoughts about others who have inspired you to do better, then please let us know and we'll include your story in a future newsletter.

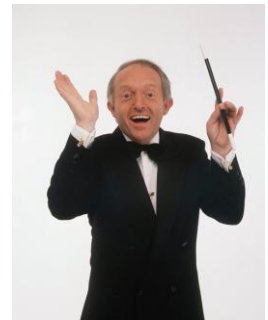


Adrian Fox – Who inspires you to perform magic?



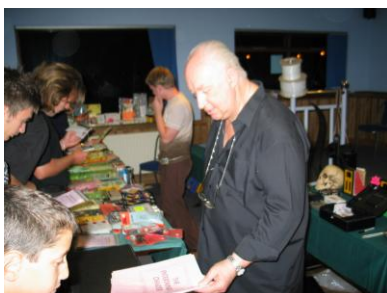
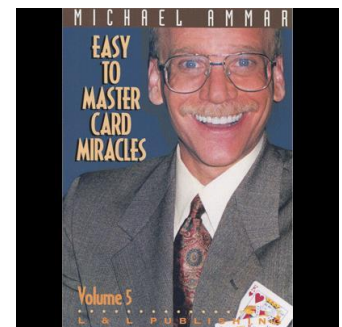
I started out in magic quite a long time ago (!) and I guess my first brush with it was when my parents bought me a David Nixon magic set one Christmas (that shows how old I am!) I proceeded to bore the pants off all my aunts and uncles at every opportunity!

But I started taking it seriously when I met Paul Daniels one Saturday – I was presenting a radio show at Essex Radio and he popped in for a chat about his Wizbit books. He was the one who took the time to tell me all about the magic scene and he encouraged me to have another look at it, and I've been hooked ever since. So Paul was my first real inspiration – he got a lot of flack in the press, but every time I met him I found him to be genuine, helpful and generous with his time. And anyone who can hold down a prime time TV magic show for so many years and get the huge audiences he did deserves enormous respect.



When I started learning in earnest, there were two magicians who really inspired me - I bought all their teaching VHS tapes and studied them over and over again. One was Simon Lovell. His 'Basic Card Techniques' and 'Basic Close Up Techniques' tapes were brilliant and I learned so much from them. And the other was Michael Ammar – he had such a relaxed teaching style and I learned such a lot from his materials. A lot of it I still use today. When I finally got to meet

him at a lecture I was a bit starstruck to be honest, but he was another genuine guy who took the time to encourage newcomers like me. In those days there was no internet. Magicians were like an extended family and everyone in magic was friendly and helpful to each other – it was a real brotherhood. It's a shame that it's not so much like that these days with everyone criticising each other online the way they do.



Morley Budden, who ran the Kaymar magic shop in Upminster was another inspiration. Sadly no longer with us, he was the first person ever to actually call me a 'magician' when I was in the shop one day and he was talking about me to another customer. I'll never forget the way that made me feel – it was a brilliant moment. It doesn't sound like much I know, but for me at the time, it was a wonderful feeling.

And then, the first (and only!) time I saw Lance Burton on stage at Las Vegas was an incredible eye opener. Here was a man who was half way through a 13 year contract to perform two shows a day, six days a week. Imagine what that must be like – yet he came out on stage as fresh as if it was his first time and completely won the audience over in seconds. So professional, such great communication skills and charisma, and flawless magical performance. I was completely bowled over.



There have been so many other moments – like the time when David Copperfield made it snow at Earls Court and completely filled the huge auditorium with falling snow! I was mesmerised.

But the thing that inspires me now is watching some of the newcomers to our art and seeing their enthusiasm and sheer determination to get better and learn more and more. It's wonderful to see, and our club is a fabulous place for that sort of thing which I'm so proud to be a part of. With the right guidance, the future of magic is undoubtedly in good hands and that in itself is a huge inspiration to carry on doing what I love to do.

I count myself really lucky to have met and made friends with so many people because of magic, and I get inspired in some way by every performance I watch, even nowadays. There's always something new to learn.

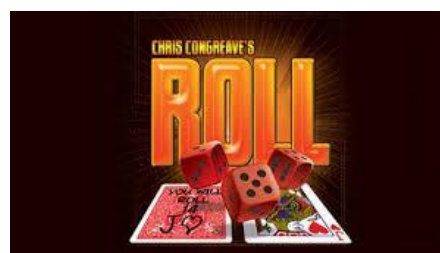
FINALLY, AS USUAL, SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

Mentalism/Cards

ROLL by Chris Congreave

Roll by Chris Congreave is the perfect mental card effect.

You show a deck of blue-backed cards to have one red-backed card sitting in it, stating it is a prediction of things to come. You out jog the red back card a little to show the words, "You Will Roll". The red-back card is pushed back into the deck and the deck is cut.



You hand your spectator three normal dice and ask them to roll the dice a few times until they are happy with the outcome (please note they may also roll imaginary dice in their mind). Whatever number they land on, you count down from the top of the deck, placing each card face up on the table as you go. The card at their chosen number is placed face down.

You now locate your prediction card in the deck and slowly reveal that not only have you predicted what number they would roll but also the card they landed on!

Roll is super easy to do and comes with a special deck and full video instructions.

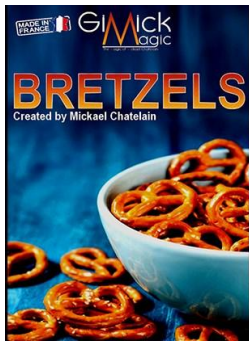
Works in any language, there are no duplicate cards, no long and short, no rough and smooth, no forces. Different numbers may be chosen, different cards will be chosen, instant reset, no memory work, and it can be performed on 1-3 spectators. It's totally self-working!

You can see Roll at Alakazam where the price is £24.99

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/roll-by-chris-congreave.html>

Linking/Unlinking Magic

BRETZELS by Mickael Chatelain



Everyone loves pretzels. They're salty. They're crunchy. And now you can link them together thanks to Mickael Chatelain. This is a sensational close-up trick for a party, the bar or restaurant, or any place that you'd naturally find pretzels.

The name of the trick, "*Bretzels*," means "*pretzels*" in French. That's where each gimmick is handmade. We can't tell you how it works, but it's very clever and visually undetectable. Watch the video and see it for yourself.

And there are so many possibilities. In the 30-minute instructional video, you'll learn how to link and penetrate a pretzel to another pretzel, a rubber band, a cord, a finger ring and more. Our favourite is the routine where you create an impossible object—a rubber band linked to the pretzel—which becomes a magical souvenir for your spectator.

Spectators go crazy because the trick looks even better in person than it does on video. The sleight of hand you need to learn is minimal because the gimmick does most of the work for you. You can even eat the pretzel after the magic is done!

If this is your kind of thing, you can watch the trailer at Saturn Magic where the price is £32.56 <https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/bretzel--gimmick-and-online-instructions--by-mickael-chatelain--trick.html>

Mentalism

LOST FOR WORDS by Steve Wood

'Lost for Words' is a super-clean word prediction that uses a utility principle that is being released to the mentalism and magic community for the first time. Included is a bonus application to Banachek's Brain Game.

This is a physical product that includes everything that you need to perform it, and it comes with custom gimmicks and a 32 page printed book that explains everything in detail.

A prediction set of cards (housed within a simple black sleeve so that the top and bottom of the cards remain in view throughout) is placed on the table for everyone to see.

A stack of over 50 business cards with different words written on each one is shown. The participant cuts to a random starting point and 16 cards are counted out from that point. Each card is clearly shown to verify that every word is different. The spectator can even swap in some of their own words! The cards are fully examinable.

The performer doesn't touch them again. The participant holds them in their hands and freely thinks of a number from 1 to 16 (no force). He counts down to that number to arrive at a word. He checks that the other words are all different.

The prediction set of cards (which has been on the table from the start) is removed from the sleeve and dealt out in a row. Printed on each one is a letter. Together they spell the chosen word. They are also numbered in order to prove that the order couldn't be changed. There are no suspicious (or otherwise!) mathematical procedures. They name a number, they count to the card and the word matches every time! The words are different and there are no anagrams involved at all.

Instantly resets! A worker's dream!



Lost for Words is available from your favourite dealer, but it's on sale at Alakazam for £29.99

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/lost-for-words-by-steve-wood.html>

Cards

DOUBLE TAKE by Paul Gordon



As we have Paul Gordon lecturing for us next year, it only seems fair to include one of his effects in the newsletter this month!

Double Take was inspired by Walt Maddison's 'Boomerang' and Paul Harris's 'Reset'.

Supply your own cards. No fakes. What you see is what you get – it's an amazing transposition of two sets of four cards. Start and end clean!

This is a simple video download which you can use to learn the effect. It's available at Saturn Magic and costs £7.91. There's also a demonstration of the trick you can watch to see if this is the right sort of thing for you – have your Elmsley count ready to go!

<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/double-take-by-paul-gordon-video-download.html>