



Southend Sorcerers Society

Tel: 01702 297983

SOUTHEND SORCERERS MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

2018 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

3rd Jun	Club night	7th Oct	Lecture – Steve Dela
10th Jun	EXTRA Lecture – Jamy Ian-Swiss	27th Oct	Annual Presentation Dinner
1st Jul	Dixon Shows Prep Night	4th Nov	Props Auction
5th Aug	Club Night	2nd Dec	Xmas Fun Night
2nd Sep	Close Up Competition		

2018 CLUB SHOWS

w/c 11th September	‘As If By Magic’, Dixon Studio
13th October	Chancellor Park, Chelmsford (Provisional)
15th December	Canvey Island Show

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LAST MEETING – 6th MAY – ANNUAL STAGE COMPETITION



Our May meeting was the annual stage competition and this year we had just five entries, all in the senior member category. As a result, the junior competition did not run at all, which was a great shame this year.

Keith Norman kicked the evening off with a series of mainly mentalist effects. Richard Graham came next, presenting torch to rose and a dice based mind reading routine amongst other things. Stuart Burrell took to the stage to show us his performance based on the life of Jack Shepherd, a 17th century thief renowned for his daring escapes from various prisons.

Thomas Edwin followed with a series of effects culminating in a three chair prediction routine. Our final contestant was Simon Stott who presented a number of tricks, ending up with the Kurotsuke routine (better known as the ‘five balls in a bag’ lie detector test)

Thanks go to our three independent judges who marked each act for entertainment value, magical content and presentation. In the end, with all scores checked and verified, the winner was judged to be Richard Graham with a total score of 89 points out of 100. Congratulations go to Rick who retains the trophy for the next year.



Well done and thanks to all our members who took part in the competition – it’s never easy performing in front of other magicians!

Also at the meeting three new prospective members took and passed their auditions after visiting us a number of times. Congratulations and welcome to David Hall, Suzanne Barr and Margaret Wilson. It’s great to have you with us and I’m sure that our established members will join with me in making you feel welcomed to the club.

NEXT MEETING – 3rd JUNE – OPEN CLUB NIGHT



Our first June meeting is one of our ever popular open club nights, where there’ll be an opportunity to simply mix and mingle with other members and share your favourite routines and effects. If anyone has anything they need help with, this is the perfect chance for you to have a chat with people who may be able to point you in the right direction.

It’s also an opportunity to discuss the Dixon shows and start to plan the rosters for each of the performances. If you’d like to be involved and want to have a slot at the Dixon shows, please come and talk to Adrian at the meeting so that we can start to build the cast for each show.

EXTRA MEETING – 10th JUNE – JAMY IAN SWISS LECTURE

We’re delighted to be able to bring you another star lecture in June, in the shape of a fantastic evening led by the brilliant Jamy Ian Swiss. If you’re not familiar with Jamy’s work, you’re in for a real treat!

His new lecture will cover the gamut of close-up sleight-of-hand magic. This lecture is absolutely full of amazing card magic, from original card-in-impossible location plots; to apparent displays of extraordinary skill that don’t demand as much as they appear; and a simple but mystifying and commercial memorised deck routine.



Not everything is cards though you'll be pleased to hear. Jamy will also teach practical mentalism routines, coins, and one of the things for which he is rightly considered a master - the cups & balls.

Internationally renowned for his skills as a close-up magician, Jamy has also performed his stage show of mind-reading and mentalism, "Heavy Mental," for audiences of thousands across the United States. As a speaker, he has addressed subjects including creativity, risk management, information design, user experience and other aspects of corporate and creative concern. His knowledge is vast and his theories are things not to be missed.

Penn and Teller call him the 'James Bond of magic with a deck for a pistol!'

It'll be a great night so we look forward to seeing you there. The evening will start at 7.30 promptly, and guest magicians are welcome to attend at a ticket price of £10.

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.

Our shows are not just one of the ways in which we keep the club running successfully from a financial perspective; they also offer our members a unique opportunity to perform for non-magical audiences, and to practice their routines while improving their skills. If you've never been involved in one of our shows before, please think about offering some help – there's nothing to lose and everything to gain from practicing with 'real' people.

FUTURE 2018 SHOWS

w/c 11 th September	As If By Magic, Dixon Studio
13 th October	Chancellor Park School, Chelmsford – Provisional
15 th December	Canvey Island WI show

As you'll see we could do with a few more bookings, so if anyone has any ideas for people or charities we could approach, please let Rick know and we'll drop them a line.

2018 ANNUAL PRESENTATION DINNER, 27th OCTOBER

Just another little reminder about our 2018 annual dinner and awards evening. Last year's event was really superb and well supported, so if you enjoyed it, do come and spend an evening with friends and family at this special evening. The date is October 27th, and we've decided to head back to the Thorpe Hall Golf Club as it was such a superb meal last year.



The ticket price is £30 per head, but with such a fabulous meal, a cabaret and raffle etc, it's still amazing value for money.

Do join us if you can. Let Tracy know how many seats you'd like and let her have a £10 per head deposit as soon as you can please.

GDPR – GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

There's been a lot of talk about some new data protection rules that have been set up in law, and you've no doubt had a lot of emails recently from various people asking if it's OK for them to keep you on their mailing list.

Unfortunately we're no different, and in order to keep you on our mailing list for things like newsletters etc, we need your approval to have your details on record. We'll shortly be sending you an email asking for permission to hold your address etc on file, and it's really important that you simply send a reply confirming your agreement. If we don't hear from you we won't be able to continue sending you newsletters etc, so please keep an eye out for the email and reply to it straight away. We have to do this to comply with the new law, but apologies for the inconvenience.

DIXON STUDIO SHOWS – SEPTEMBER 2018



The Dixon shows are all booked to run during w/c 11th September and we have to start deciding on the content and performers for each show. I haven't heard from many members about taking part however, so I really need to know if you want a slot in the show at all. Can you please simply drop me a line to let me know ASAP?

Ideally you'll need two acts of around ten minutes, but if you're not sure of what to do or how the shows work, please get in touch with Adrian and he'll give you all the information you need.

The Dixon shows are one of the most challenging things we do, but if you get involved you'll find it to be one of the most rewarding and exhilarating experiences. It's a great opportunity for our members to perform for lay audiences in a professional environment. We'll need close uppers, stage acts and backstage support, so if you feel you can help in any way, please do let me know.

PAYING SUBSCRIPTIONS - BACS

A number of members still haven't renewed their subscriptions for 2018/19 and it's well overdue now, so to continue enjoying the benefits of being a member, please do let us have your payment as soon as possible.



Ways to pay

BACS is probably the easiest way to pay, and if you want to pay via this method, the club's bank details are as follows:

Sort Code: 30-65-22

Account no: 79204460

Please make sure that you include a reference consisting of your name and 'Subs18' when you make the payment. That way we'll know that you've paid. Subscriptions for 2018/19 are £20 for individual membership and £25 for junior (ie family) membership. You can also make payments for the annual dinner this way, using a reference made up of your name and 'Dinner18'.

Of course, cash and cheques are still very welcome payment methods too.

MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES



The committee have recently been discussing ways of helping our members to work on their magic performances and improve their presentations. After all, that's part of what a magic club should be about.

So it's been agreed to offer mentoring opportunities to any members who would like help with their magic, be it close up or stage based. The idea is to offer one to one support to members who genuinely want to improve, and to help them to look at their magic and see what they can do to make their performances more magical and entertaining. A number of committee members have agreed to offer help to those who would like it, and I'm sure there are others in the club who would be willing to help as well.

If this is something that would be of interest, then please contact Adrian to let him know so that we can find out if there's an appetite for this sort of thing.

DOOMSDAY IX REVIEW – TRACY WISE

Doomsday is the world's premier annual gathering to celebrate the mysterious world of Bizarre Magick. This year was a very special gathering at Sneaton Castle as it marked our last year at this atmospheric venue; and also the passing of its founder, Roni Shachnaey.

Despite the sad undertones the event was, as ever, a whirlwind of performances, lectures, strangeness and fun. Dr Diablo kicked off events on the Friday night with his Carnival Macabre; sword swallowing, fire eating, walking on glass and blades...the things people do for fun and entertainment! The magic continued, literally and figuratively, afterwards in the bar which was descended upon by bizarre magicians from around the globe including Sweden, U.S.A, Australia, Belgium, Sheffield and Shoeburyness. Hidden away in corners conversations turned to the dark arts of storytelling, spooky magic and all things strange and mysterious.



The following morning, still full of energy despite the late night, the full festival of events got underway. The opening presentation was by the stunning and entrancing Paul Voodini and Sylvia Sceptre, the latter of which was joined by the spirit of her beloved, but sadly dead, cat; Geoffrey. It was a unique presentation of a traditional psychic routine. Following lectures/performances included two workshops on the art and importance of storytelling, including an engaging presentation by Marc Elsdon (creator of 'Peculiar Tales') and Paul Prater from Arkansas who talked about how a little research into an area, topic or location can add real depth and punch to any routine.

The standout lecture for me was by Tony McMyler who gave a straight talk about the facts of Custer's Last Stand. There was no magical element, performance wise, but there was certainly magic in the content. Any good bizarre magician could use the information Tony shared to create a stunning performance piece.

The afternoon workshops included a talk about magic and espionage, a performance workshop by last year's Hex Factor Winner Richard Dahlström aka Gaston, and my favourite, the debut of 'First Aid for Wizards' by the ever playful and talented Ashton Carter and Luke Robson. Inspired by their experiences over the years on various training courses including those run by St John Ambulance, this inspired performance had comedy and drama; and having spent many, many years as a first aid trainer I could certainly appreciate the clever scripting. Happy to be entertained I was a little more worried to be asked to assist with a class in the defence against certain magical creatures for those who are magically challenged!

I was slightly happier though when I ended up working alongside Reece Shearsmith of 'Inside No.9' and 'League of Gentleman' fame! Reece was a speaker and judge on the Hex Factor last year and had come along again this year as a participant himself. So, wand in hand, I bravely stepped on stage to assist with a twist on the traditional spirit cabinet routine and haven't laughed so much in a long time, I have to say! Although a work in progress, which showed in places, the concept and foundation of this performance was excellent and certainly different. Good luck to Ashton and Luke in Edinburgh later this year.

The main events of the day came to an end with a touching 'breaking of the wand' ceremony for Roni.

After dinner it was time for the third Hex Factor. With two competitors unable to attend, a junior guest bravely stepped up to the mark at short notice and another regular also took the plunge ensuring that the competition had the full 8 participants. Judges this year were Marc Elsdon and Paul Prater joined by Nik Taylor, subject leader in Drama, Theatre and Dance at Huddersfield University and coordinator of the magical research group.

With a maximum of 10 minutes each the performances were short but packed with punch. The theme for many was based around traditional bizarre routines and stories including a good dose of mind reading and prediction but there were also more unusual slants such as conspiracy theories and the Freemasons. But the winner this year, as voted for by the audience, was a standout performance by a mysterious new comer – Stefano Cavanna from Italy.

From the moment he walked on to the stage, dressed simply but with a scene setting black leather coat and a flute, we were all mesmerised. Quite apt when one considers his tale was about the Pied Piper of Hamelin and how one should never cross the piper. It was, as some have described my own performances, fun but with just the right amount of malice. The 'trick' was a simple multiple out but the presentation was first class, and at Doomsday, and in bizarre magic in general, this is the most important element.



In addition to the workshops there was a large dealer's hall featuring offerings from around the world. My favourite purchase was Ashton Carter's Baffling Blocks and his debut book – which is worth its weight in gold, not only for the suggestions of how to use the blocks, but for his essays and insights into re-framing and audience engagement.



The workshops over, the night continued in the bar once again, but this time with one eye on the clock, for at midnight, a séance was held to see if Roni had joined us again this year from beyond the grave. In life, Roni considered such ideas as hokum but in death...who knows. So at midnight we gathered in the hall as close to Roni's favourite corner as we could – quite difficult with a large group of around 30 people! There were no tricks, no gimmicks, just open minds. Dan Baines led the session which resulted in.....nothing. Well, not quite, as the one thing it did prove was the power of suggestion – but I'll tell you about that another time.

So Roni has left us and Sneaton Castle is no more, but Doomsday X will be back bigger and better next year at the Derby Conference Centre from 10th-11th May. Tickets are available now from www.lebanoncircle.co.uk.

MAGIC SHOWS & LECTURES

Steve Short Lecture – MEMS, 5th June



On 5th June, Steve Short is presenting a lecture at Mid Essex Magical Society. It's special evening where Steve will talk about the magic of Johnny Hart. Johnny won the very first Magic Circle Young Magician of the Year back in 1961 and his career really took off as a result. Best known for his act with budgies, he was a hugely successful entertainer, in demand to play in variety shows and summer seasons. He carved a name for himself all over the world including Las Vegas where he held down seasons at both the Dunes and the MGM Grand.



Having now written a book about Johnny's magic, Steve's lecture should be a fascinating look into the life, times and magic of a true magical legend. If you'd like to attend as a guest, just ask Don Simpson for the details and I'm sure he'll be able to help.

Magic at the Barn 15 Years of Magic – Oliver Tabor, 7th & 8th July



Magic at the Barn this year is a unique show featuring of some of the best magic, illusions and impossibilities from the past 15 years of magic at the barn. Witness the best incredible illusions and award-winning magic plus death defying escapology & hilarious comedy.

Guaranteed entertainment for all the family! Featuring multi-award winning magician & member of the magic circle Oliver Tabor and set within the enchanting atmosphere of a 17th century barn theatre. Expect floating tables, a drawn picture coming to life, impossible mind-reading, hundreds of butterflies taking flight, a dancing girl transforming into a live dove plus much more.

Tickets are available now and cost £15 plus booking fee. This will be a popular show so book early! You can order them here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/magic-at-the-barn-15-years-of-magic-tickets-45802982955>

FINALLY SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

Here as usual are some of the new items that have come to my attention recently.....

Utilities

SVEN AGAIN by Sven Lee



Svengali pads and books allow you to force words, drawings, names, etc., in a most convincing manner.

Now, Sven Lee has developed the world's first Svengali pad with IET (Ink Erasing Technology). This new technology allows you to erase PERMANENT ink from your Svengali pad. That's right -- use your favourite permanent ink pen (Sharpie marker, etc.)

and be able to remove the permanent Ink from the page completely!

Another benefit of using this specially manufactured paper is the extremely low bleed rate. You won't have to worry about over-bleeding compared to many pads currently on the market.

The Reusable Svengali Set comes in two styles; book style and pad style. Each book measures 4" X 6" and they're built to last.

You'll receive 2 high quality pads for a price of £26.50 and you can see them here at Alakazam Magic:

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/product-SvenAgain-Reusable-Svengali-Pad-Set-2-by-Sven-Lee--.html>

Mentalism

AMAZEBOX KRAFT by Mark Shortland

Vanishing Inc. and theory11 are proud to present their first collaboration - The AmazeBox Kraft by Mark Shortland.

The AmazeBox and AmazeBox Black remain Vanishing Inc.'s bestseller of all time. Now this critically-praised, best-selling trick just got three notches better. The AmazeBox was already regarded as the finest stage switching device ever devised, but now it has gotten even better!



Made of thick, brown Kraft card, the AmazeBox Kraft now looks like regular cardboard box - it doesn't look like a prop at all! Your spectators can drop in their thoughts, ideas or questions and you can switch them ALL out in less than a second. Better still, the box is designed to allow a spectator to open it!

The AmazeBox Kraft allows you to switch up to 200 small, folded pieces of paper for your own pre-written papers... without ever touching the box. For example, during your intermission you can invite everyone at your show to think of their favourite film, write it down, and drop it into the "simple" cardboard box onstage. You never go near it. When you return to the stage, you can invite any spectator onstage to open the box, reach inside, and pull out any paper at random. Voila! You've just executed the cleanest, most direct force we've ever encountered.

There are THREE notable design improvements to get excited about:

1. It packs smaller than previous models, and still packs totally flat. It comes in a gorgeous carrying envelope that was printed on an old-style press.
2. The magnetic locking system and metal reinforcements come already installed which means it will only take you four seconds to assemble when you arrive at your gig!
3. Stronger materials. This cardboard is long-lasting and durable. Unlike corrugated card (of which previous models were made), the AmazeBox Kraft will not buckle or damage, making it perfect for travelling!

In a brand new instructional video, you will learn how to use the box and also some amazing routines that are perfect for this box. Then the fun begins - you get to come up with your own routines for this incredible utility device! You can see Amazebox Kraft here at Saturn magic, where it costs £53.

<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/amazebox-kraft--gimmick-and-online-instructions--by-mark-shortland-and-vanishing-inc--theory11--trick.html>

MALINI
EGG BAG
+ DVD PERFORMED
BY IÑAKI ZABALETTA

Make your own
BLOW EGG
dependencies scores

DVD
VIDEO

English/Capellol

BAZAR DE MAGIA

A trick that has successfully been sold for years is back and has now been reloaded. The classic Malini Egg Bag is a routine used over and over again with confidence by professional magicians today and in years past all over the world!

When the audience sees the reactions of the participating spectators, the audience is amazed even more!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5SkITH3LCY>

<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/malini-egg-bag-pro-red--bag-and-dvd---trick.html>

BOX OFFICE by Jeremy Marouani[illegible]

The game is your misdirection -- it allows you to make mentalism attractive and fun!!

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