



*Southend Sorcerers Society*

Tel: 01702 297983

## SOUTHEND SORCERERS MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

### 2021 MEETINGS – SOME TBC

<b>11<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	Dealer Dem – Neo Magic
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	Mid month 'stay in touch' meeting
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	Lecture – Mark Shortland
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Jun</b>	Lecture TBC
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Jul</b>	Lecture - Paul Gordon TBC
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Aug</b>	Club Night
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sep</b>	Close Up Competition
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Oct</b>	Lecture – Vinny Sagoo
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Props Auction
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Xmas Fun Night

### 2022 CLUB SHOWS

<b>Feb 22</b>	Wentworth School, Maldon
<b>Aug 22</b>	As If By Magic – Dixon Studio (TBC)

### CLUB WEBSITE

[www.southendsorcerers.com](http://www.southendsorcerers.com)  
Members' area password - jimmy

### CONTACTS

President - Adrian Fox  
01702 297983 / 07711 982890  
[adrianfox@compuserve.com](mailto:adrianfox@compuserve.com)

Club Shows Secretary – Richard Graham  
07951 441333  
[richard@richardgraham-magic.co.uk](mailto:richard@richardgraham-magic.co.uk)

Treasurer – Tracy Wise  
01702 597002  
[tracywise@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tracywise@hotmail.co.uk)

Secretary, Membership & Librarian – Ryan Young  
07854 634592  
[ryangyoung@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ryangyoung@hotmail.co.uk)

## LAST MEETING – 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH – CLUB NIGHT – SPEED DATING



Our last meeting was a very informal get together where everyone had a nice evening simply having a chat and sharing their ideas and effects. As Adrian was slightly incapacitated with an eye problem, Richard hosted the meeting this time.

Adrian kicked the evening off with an explanation of a routine he has performed many times, called ‘cards in chaos’ (or something similar). He’s been searching high and low to try and find out who came up with the idea originally but without much luck, but he remembered seeing Ben Hanlin perform it on TV and then deconstructing the routine to work out a method. Basically the spectators each have 4 playing cards, or celebrity photos, and tear them in half. Then follows a seemingly random mixing and discarding of the half-cards, until the spectator is left with one piece hidden away and another piece in their hand. The two pieces impossibly match perfectly. It’s a super piece of theatre which acts as a brilliant ice breaker and can involve as many spectators as you like, and it has been performed by the likes of Penn and Teller and many others. The full instructions are included in this newsletter, but if anyone would like to go through it in more detail, feel free to give Adrian a call. You can see the Ben Hanlin performance here, and if you watch it you’ll get an idea of the brilliant effect the routine can have on an audience! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK55cB2HkL0>

Rick then took us through an overview of the system he’s using for possible online shows. Called OBS (Open Broadcast Software), the platform allows you to mix and match several video inputs from cameras or graphics and put them together in an integrated and professional way. The best news is that OBS is completely free of charge and runs on PC or Mac. Rick has two cameras connected, one of which is aimed from an overhead position at his close up table. He admitted that he’s still getting to grips with the system but was able to show some of the software’s capabilities, and it integrates perfectly with things like Zoom. If anyone is thinking about starting Zoom shows, OBS is certainly a way forward without having to spend a lot of money.

Clive was up next, sharing a routine that he’d seen on YouTube. He’d written down all the instructions as the effect is pretty much self working. It’s a ‘do as I do’ type of trick using 20 playing cards including the four aces. The aces are randomly inserted into the packet face up, and then the cards are seemingly mixed and shuffled and cut, with some of them being turned face up during the process. Impossibly, at the end of the procedures, the only cards left face up are the aces. A nice little routine and again the instructions that Clive worked out are included later in the newsletter for you to try out.

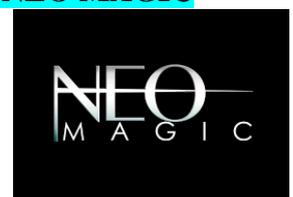
After that we spent some time having a chat about magic in general, sharing some ideas and thoughts, and although the attendance wasn’t enormous, it turned out to be a super and enjoyable evening.

If you weren’t able to join us on the night, the meeting was recorded and is now available in the members’ section of the club website at <https://www.southendsorcerers.com/zoom-recordings>

## NEXT MEETING – 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL – DEALER DEM – VINNY SAGOO & NEO MAGIC

As the first Sunday in April is the Easter bank holiday weekend, we thought it would be best to hold our next meeting a week later on the 11th April.

The meeting is a dealer dem by Vinny Sagoo at Neo Magic. Vinny formed his company in 2018 and since then is always at the Blackpool conventions. He creates some really nice magical effects which are on sale at very reasonable prices - he has some brilliant ideas and both Rick and I have bought and used his routines before now.



They're all real world materials that play extremely well with audiences and I know that Vinny will be hugely entertaining and great fun to watch. We've also booked him for his brand new lecture which will be coming our way in October – you never know, we might even be able to meet in person by then! It should be a super evening and we look forward to seeing you there on 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

Here are the Zoom dial in details as usual:

Topic: Sorcerers Neo Magic  
Time: Apr 11, 2021 07:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8254968023?pwd=MFRZVVZZclozNVBnUFNlNmmtaHphdz09>

Meeting ID: 825 496 8023  
Passcode: sorcerers

### EXTRA MID MONTH 'STAY IN TOUCH' MEETING – 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL



One of the things we've been discussing at committee is the option of holding additional mid monthly meetings, where members can dial in for a simple get together – all very informal and light hearted. We could think about making each of these theme based – for example a night about rope magic, another about silks and so on; and the aim would be for people to show off their favourite routines or effects for the theme in question.

As a tester, we're holding the first of these informal sessions at 7.30 pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April and we hope that as many of you as possible will dial in for a chat – we can discuss the idea more fully and see what you think while getting your ideas on how this could work best for everyone.

As usual, the dial in details are:

Topic: Sorcerers mid month get together  
Time: Apr 25, 2021 07:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8254968023?pwd=MFRZVVZZclozNVBnUFNlNmmtaHphdz09>

Meeting ID: 825 496 8023  
Passcode: sorcerers

### 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.**



### CURRENT SHOW BOOKINGS

As you know, we have no new shows in the diary at present due to the Covid situation. We did however have a show booked for May at the Wentworth School in Maldon. Due to the ongoing restrictions, this date has now been moved and the new provisional date is set for early next year:

## February 2022, Wentworth School in Maldon

Final date to be confirmed! Please keep this one in mind and let's all hope that we can get our performing shoes on and get out to show them some of our best magic!

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

#### AGM

A lot of organisations like magic societies have decided to postpone their AGMs and committee re-elections until such time as things can get back to some sort of normality – the British Ring of IBM is one example of this approach. As a result, the committee have decided to recommend to the membership that we follow suit for the coming year and to simply continue with our current committee until normal activity can resume. All of the committee members are happy to stay in post for now and this will effectively give the club some continuity going forward. We plan to prepare financial accounts for the past year, but committee reports other than that would seem to be fairly redundant given the situation we've been in for the last 12 months.

Although this is the committee's recommendation, of course this is a constitutional matter so we now need to ask the membership for a vote on the recommendation.

**Would you therefore please now vote (if you haven't already) by replying to the email that Adrian has sent to all members – a simple 'for' or 'against' is all that's required as a reply.**

Thanks for your input.

### MAGIC NEWS

#### Mid Essex Magical Society – Danny Goldsmith Lecture



On 27<sup>th</sup> April, Mid Essex Magical Society are hosting a lecture by renowned coin magician Danny Goldsmith. Danny is a much respected performer who has worked for the last 17 years as a successful close-up, parlour and street magician. He specialises in coin magic and is well known for his work on sleights and effects using coins.

If any member would like to join the lecture, you'd be most welcome. The ticket price is £10 and you can get in touch by contacting James Cooper: [jimcooperaimc@virginmedia.com](mailto:jimcooperaimc@virginmedia.com)

#### Blackpool Magic – FREE 2021 Virtual Convention – online - 18th April

Although the main Blackpool convention can't take place this year, on 18<sup>th</sup> April the organisers are running a virtual convention packed full of lectures and performances from a locked down Winter Gardens in Blackpool. It starts at 6.00pm on Facebook live and is **totally free** to attend.



Performers appearing include John Archer, Ben Hart, Ali Cook, Marc Oberon, as well as a host of other well known names and guests. This will only be available on Facebook Live – just look for 'Blackpool Magic Convention' on Facebook and you'll find it.

#### Free Magazines

One of our ex members, Wayne Fidgeon has been in touch recently, and he's been having a clear out of his collection of magic props and books etc. He has a selection of magic magazines which he'd rather not simply throw away, and he feels that they would be useful reading for many people as they contain all sorts of interesting and informative articles and routines.

If anyone would like to take up his kind offer of some free magazines, please do drop him a line at: [wayne.m.fidgeon@gmail.com](mailto:wayne.m.fidgeon@gmail.com)

## Tracy Wise – Crime Scene Illusion – Royal Hotel - 12<sup>th</sup> June



Assuming all goes according to plan with the lockdown easing, Tracy is back at the Royal Hotel with her Crime Scene Illusion show on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June and tickets are available now. It's a fascinating show which combines the science of forensic investigation with magic and storytelling.

For more details, contact Tracy on 07544 150208.

## A COUPLE OF ROUTINES FOR YOU TO TRY

### 4 Aces Routine (from Clive Vaus)

Use any random 16 cards & 4 Aces (20 in total)

- Fan the 16 cards face down and place the 4 Aces face up in random positions in the fan
- Count down 2 piles of 10 cards (10 in first pile then 10 in second pile)
- Turn one pile over
- Combine the two piles together, one card at a time (one from left, then one from right and so on)
- Cut the pile in half and complete the cut
- Deal out 4 hands of cards until all the cards are used 1,2,3,4 – 1,2,3,4 – 1,2,3,4 and so on
- Choose the odd or even piles e.g. pile 1 & 3
- Place 1 on top of 3
- Then place 2 on top of 4
- Turn one of the two piles over
- Riffle shuffle the piles together
- Spread (or better still put in card box and shake)
- Remove cards from box then spread – the aces are still the only cards face up!

### FOUR CARD TEAR (CARDS IN CHAOS)

#### Effect:

A number of spectators are given four different playing cards and asked to follow the magician's instructions. First they're asked to hold the cards as a packet in landscape orientation face down. They're asked to fold them in half and then tear them into two packets of four pieces. Then they have the choice of which packet to place on top of the other - either way, they now have a single packet of eight pieces.

Then, one piece at a time, the magician instructs them to either throw away a piece, or to move it into the middle of the packet. They swap one piece with another spectator. One piece is placed somewhere safe by the spectator for later reference. At one point the magician asks a spectator for a number between one and ten - and this random number is used to count and move one piece at a time from the top to the bottom of the packet. This process of mixing and discarding pieces continues until the spectators are left holding a single piece - and when this is compared with the piece held back earlier, a perfect match is found.

#### Instructions:

This very effective piece of magic has a lot of benefits. You can use multiple spectators at the same time - in fact the routine works best when the entire audience are taking part individually. You also don't have to use playing cards - A5 photos of celebrities work really well too. I've performed it both ways with the same amazed reaction from those taking part.

The effect works because it appears that the packet of cards is entirely randomly mixed up and discarded one piece at a time, so the chances of finding a match at the end seem impossible.

Of course, the whole thing isn't random at all. It works because of a very simple situation that flies by the audience unnoticed. When a packet of four cards is torn in half, the two resulting packets (one in each hand) are of course in the exact same order from top to bottom. So, either way round, placing one stack on top of the other means that the bottom pieces from each stack (now in positions four and eight) are a match. (One and five are also matches of course, as are two and six, and three and seven in the stack, but for the purposes of this effect, we're only worried about those pieces in positions four and eight).

So the aim is to have the spectator retain the piece in position four; and to make sure that the single piece they end up with at the end of the routine is the bottom piece in the stack - that in position eight. What happens to the other pieces really isn't important - you can have the spectators do what you like with them as long as the bottom piece stays on the bottom.

Remember that you need to carry out the routine yourself, along with your spectators, so that you can clearly demonstrate exactly what you want them to do as things progress. If you don't show them what you need them to do, things can quickly go wrong!

So, once the cards have been torn and placed together, my list of instructions usually goes something along these lines:

*'Take the top piece (no 1) and throw it away!'*

*'Take the next piece (no 2) and swap it with someone else's next piece. Now throw that away too!'*

*'Take the next piece (no 3) and place it somewhere in the middle of the packet'.* (This brings no 4 to the top of the packet)

*'Take the next piece and place it somewhere safe - in your pocket, or sit on it'.* (Check: we now have five pieces left - and the spectator has hidden away the piece that matches the one on the bottom of the stack)

*'Take the next piece and throw it away'.* (Now there are four pieces left with the piece we want to end up with still on the bottom).

*'Take the next piece and swap it with someone else's next piece. When you receive their piece, place it anywhere you like in the middle of your packet'.* (We now still have four pieces with the target piece still on the bottom)

We're now going to upset the order of the pieces (!) by asking a spectator to call a number between one and ten - whatever number they call, you instruct the spectators to *'count one at a time, moving a single piece from the top of the packet to the bottom on each count'.*

Of course, this means that you have to be careful to keep track of where the bottom piece ends up in the stack. You could of course skip this step altogether if it's easier, but it does add to the impossibility of the outcome.

The way I keep track of the bottom piece is to count in my head '3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 4'; one number for each move of a piece from top to bottom. So, if the spectator calls out six for example, as I move the pieces I silently count six steps of my sequence numbers - in this case it would be '3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2' - so I know the target piece is now in position 2.

But much easier to remember is that, if they call four or eight, the target piece will end up back on the bottom. And if they call three or seven, it'll end up on the top.

Once you've worked out where your target piece is in the new stack, it's simply a matter of discarding all the other pieces so that they end up with the single piece you want them to. For example, if it ends up in position two, I'll simply tell them to place the next top piece somewhere in the middle of the stack, and then to discard the bottom three pieces. And so on.

You end up with the spectators holding the final target piece, at which point you ask them to retrieve the piece they stored away safely earlier; and then sell the amazement of the fact that they somehow have managed to match their pieces.

Make a big thing about recapping on the impossibility of the process (ie *'we've thrown pieces away, mixed them up, swapped pieces with other people, used random numbers to mix them up still further, and yet we've all still somehow managed to find a perfect match'*)

Some people will have followed your instructions wrongly of course and won't find a match, especially if you have a large audience taking part. But the majority will have got it right, and the fact that some haven't, actually makes the impossibility of it even more astounding.

You should have a think about how to frame the effect in terms of patter and try to make it your own. For example, Penn and Teller perform this routine based around a love match dating theme, with people trying to 'find their ideal mate'. But the possibilities are limited only by your own imagination, so do spend some time trying to come up with your own unique take on the effect.

## CLUB CLOTHING

Remember that we have a range of club clothing available for you to wear with pride! You can choose from black polo shirts, printed T-shirts and embroidered sweatshirts. We've also got a small number of close-up prop bags as pictured below.

Prices for all these great club products are as follows:

T-Shirts £6; Close up bags £10; Polo Shirts £12; and the Sweatshirts are £15.



## FINALLY, AS USUAL, SOME NEW MAGIC TO CHECK OUT

### Comedy Magic



### THE WHOLE THING by Daryl

The (W)hole Thing is Daryl at his best! It's the perfect effect to perform anytime in your show or as a stand-alone piece. The clever scripting makes this hilarious whole, hole routine make sense. No extra gimmicks needed, everything can be examined and the entire routine is instantly reset.

Effect: Two HOLE cards and two WHOLE cards magically transform into... A SPOT card....and then a card with a WHOLE bunch of SPOTS! And a card with a SPOT that covers the WHOLE card! And a SPOT card with a HOLE!

For a SURPRISING finish, the final card is turned around to reveal the word "HOLE" written across the WHOLE card!

You receive four specially printed and die cut cards, Online Instructions including the complete script, and a performance and explanation. Every detail is covered! That's right you get THE (W)HOLE THING!

This is an hilarious performance in the right hands and a classic of magic, back for a new generation to discover!

The Whole Thing can be seen at Alakazam and costs around £22

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/the-whole-thing-parlor-with-online-instruction-by-daryl.html>

### **Mentalism**

### **EXECUTIVE SUITE by David Minton**

Executive Suite by David Minton is a pack small, play big mentalism effect with a great theme.



A prediction is placed out in full view before your spectator is shown 6 or 7 coloured envelopes. Each of the envelopes contains a room key card to a hotel, each from a different country. Your spectator is given a free choice of any envelope (there is no force or equivoque of any kind used)

The key card from their Envelope is removed, shown and placed to one side (there is only one card in each envelope). All the other envelopes are now emptied to show each one contains a key from a different hotel and all key cards colour match their own envelope. Your spectator now opens your prediction and it's a perfect match!

Executive Suite is a powerful stand alone routine but can easily be incorporated in to a larger routine. There is no sleight of hand needed and nothing is added or taken away.

This really is super clean allowing you to concentrate on your presentation.

Executive Suite comes complete with custom designed high quality hotel key cards, two bonus (humorous) key cards, two sets of coloured envelopes, a custom design reveal postcard and a full tutorial video.

The price at Alakazam is £35

<https://www.alakazam.co.uk/executive-suite-by-david-minton-and-alakazam-magic.html>

### **Mentalism**

### **THE BIRTHDAY DECK by Liam Montier**



A self-working miracle that allows you to predict a spectator's birthday! "The Birthday Deck" is a special gimmicked deck of Bicycle Playing Cards that allows you to conduct a mind-blowing birthday revelation.

The idea of fortune telling and mind reading is something that fascinates all audiences. Imagine meeting someone for the first time and using the number and month of their birthday to generate two cards that will tell their fortune. Then, as a killer surprise, you show that, not only were those two cards the only two red cards in a blue deck, but the spectator's

ACTUAL birthday is written across the back.

"The Birthday Deck" is super easy and can be performed in-person or over Zoom. The cards will be different each time.

NO sleight of hand

NO forces

NO preshow

NO rough and smooth

NO sticky stuff

NOTE: The main deck is Blue while the prediction cards are Red

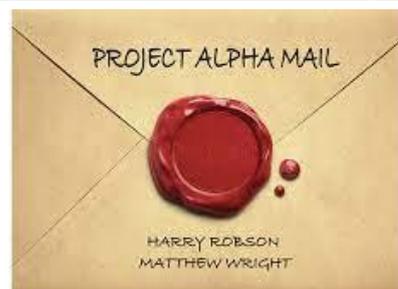
The Birthday Deck is available from Vanishing Inc where the price is £22

<https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/card-magic/the-birthday-deck/>

### **Tuition - Envelopes** PROJECT ALPHA MAIL by Harry Robson & Matthew Wright

Here's a great DVD for both Magicians and Mentalists!

Project Alpha Mail is a fascinating, in-depth look at the use of envelopes when performing magic. This covers everything from micro-magic to full-scale stage effects. There is something to learn for everyone -- from magician to mentalist.



Harry Robson and Matthew Wright teach you everything you need to know, from construction to performance.

No more need to buy expensive refills. No more need for complicated templates. No more need to spend hours preparing special gaffs. This DVD is packed with useful tips and tricks gathered over decades of real world performance, as well as many new and unique routines and ideas. These include:

The Ambitious Envelope  
Multiple Selection to Multiple Envelopes  
Ring to Stapled Packet  
Stage Nest of Envelopes  
The Which Hand Prediction...  
...and many more!

With almost 2 hours of instruction and live performance footage, Project Alpha Mail is a must for anyone with any interest in impossible location, predictions or peeks. It's a learning resource suitable for all skill levels.

Project Alpha Mail can be seen at Saturn Magic – the price is just £11.50

### **Classics**

### **MELERO RINGS by Ernesto Melero**



This is a revolutionary new take on a classic of magic from Vanishing Inc. and underground Venezuelan magic legend Ernesto Melero.

To truly offer a new approach to a classic of magic, you often need to re-write the rules. And that's exactly what has been done with the incredible "Melero Rings."

This premium quality set of close-up linking rings is the result of a life spent studying these iconic props.

It uses a never-before-seen gimmick that allows you to achieve previously impossible links and unlinks. This includes the ability to link all four rings while holding ONLY the top ring. The "Melero Rings" enable you to perform all your favourite linking rings routines and SO MUCH MORE!

Crafted from a gorgeous, scratch-resistant iron with seamless chrome plating, these rings were built with workers in mind. They are perfect for both close-up workers and parlour magicians, and are easily transported with the included ballistic foam carrying case.

Each set of the "Melero Rings" comes with nearly an hour of online video instruction geared toward all skill levels from beginner magicians to seasoned professionals. While you will learn a full routine (which can be seen in the trailer), each component is modular, meaning you can choose which parts and moves work best for you.

These elegant and modern rings are a giant leap forward for the linking rings and are a set you'll be proud to own.

Product specifications: Each ring is 5" in diameter and is chrome plated.

You'll find the Melero Rings at Saturn Magic – the price is £41

<https://www.saturnmagic.co.uk/saturn-magic-shop/melero-rings--gimmicks-and-online-instructions--by-ernesto-melero--trick.html>

**That's about it for this month everyone – stay safe and send any articles for next month's newsletter to Adrian for publishing.**