

CROAK

SEPTEMBER 2021

NEWS

Editor: Bea Hutchings marketing@toadstheatre.co.uk



Welcome... Blackberry Wine. As well as being the title of a novel by Joanne Harris, 'tis the season for blackberry picking. So this month, I've stained the Croak pages with seasonal blackberry juice and a few ripe pickings. Especially those from John Miles, (who is always ripe and risqué), and a gentle, blackberry, sloe, sloe, quick, quick and speedy reminder that the AGM is nearly upon us! Action - urgently required, TOADS. Get ready for a jam packed October evening - with toasts!

Bea Hutchings.

FROM OUR WOODY WOODPECKERING MANLEY CHAIRMAN

September already!! ... the evenings are getting dark earlier!

We've had a performance at the Little Theatre! The New Jersey Boys returned and, although ticket sales were slow initially, there were over 100 in attendance on the night. Next up is Unleashed Theatre's film premier on Sunday 19th September, followed by our first season production Ladies' Day in October.

The New Jersey Boys' performance evening was a great way to ascertain how patrons and members would react so soon after the covid rules were relaxed – the bar was busy and, yet again, the theatre had a "buzz" about it.

We now have upright sanitiser stands at both the main entrances to the theatre. These are sensor driven, thus eliminating the need to physically touch them.

QUICK NAG: Nomination forms and AGM notices re October's AGM are included with this month's Croak - if any member wishes to stand for committee and/or the post of Chairperson, please submit your nomination as soon as possible. There will be at least three committee vacancies, including the post of chairperson. To emphasise again – ANY MEMBER can stand.

I think that's all for now – as always, keep safe and well.

Jon Manley (one wooden leg short of a Chair-man)

TOADS CHARITY PERFORMANCES

To retain our charity status we have to be more active in the community other than only producing plays for payment

On application the committee allocate the final Saturday dress rehearsal to a charity to sell tickets for their benefit.

To date this season we are supporting - Lions Club, Mencap, HCPT, Disabled Sailing, St Matthias, Torbay Rotary.

We have no charity for "Bedroom Farce" or "Funny Money"

Has anyone a charity they can suggest that might be interested and with the contact detail! I can send full details of the requirements.

Alan Tanner - Hon. Treasurer

ATTENTION : IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL TOAD FOLKS

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any vacant committee positions are open to ALL full TOADS members. Please don't think, for example, you have to be on committee in order to stand for Chairperson – any full or life member has the right, subject to two nominations, to stand for the post.

WEDNESDAY CLUB

PLUS

+

Back to Normal, then?

We've already staged a show... 'The New Jersey Boys'.... last week. It was quite exciting to get back into the auditorium with a bone fide audience. After the show I felt I had the qualifications to be one of their guitarists, even though I'm not a musician. I didn't know the chords but I knew all the words!

We have a full programme of Wednesday Club events; on 22nd September, Jon Manley's run down (and I'm not surprised, the life he leads..) No, Jon Manley's run-down of next season's productions. It's rather 'deja vue'.....

On 29th September we welcome Audrey and Mike back for another in their series of poetry readings.

Next there's a book launch for Stephanie Austin's latest thriller, 'The Dartmoor Murders'. Ashburton is becoming almost as dangerous as 'Midsommer'! These readings are always popular amongst Stephanie's many fans at Wednesday Club. Signed copies will be on sale.

Jim Redman's slick presentation on 'How many Camels?' was a fascinating insight into the sculptor who makes tiny (and I mean tiny!) models. This started as a hobby, but he's now so much in demand that his work is sold at auction... I'm talking Sotheby's! The answer to Jim's question was 'seven'.... and he had the photos to prove it. We were so impressed we crowned Jim 'The Camel Laird'

The new season Wedders meetings differ in one significant way from last time. We now charge two pounds for each meeting, with the extra pound going towards our 'Memory Café artists. The money is for attending our meeting, not specifically for the tea.

Attendance has been good so far, and perhaps will improve as the season starts again. Anyone is eligible to attend, you don't even have to be a Toads member, so bring along those visiting relatives, your boring neighbours, your glamorous sisters.....

And lastly, a big shout out for Reg, who has just had an operation in Exeter. By the time you read this, he'll be home with his jigsaws... and no pieces missing, we hope.

Cheers, Reg!

John Miles.

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

8-11th and 16-18th September. 7.30pm.

12th Sept. Matinee 3.00pm.

'Frank's Final Redemption?' Frank Sinatra. A new and original play by

Director Steve Wreford and Musical Director Gordon Mellor.

Teignmouth Players. The Ice Factory Studio Theatre.

Tickets. 01626 778991. www.ticketsource.co.uk

19th September. 2.30pm and 7.30pm

'Unleashed Theatre Film Premiere'. Unleashed Theatre Company.

The Little Theatre, Torquay. 01803

299330. www.toadstheatre.co.uk

19th September. 7.30pm. One night only.

'West End Showtime' TOPS with 'The Other Guys' at the Princess Theatre, Torquay.

A semi-professional performance. Tickets [https://](https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/west-end-showtime/princess-theatre-torquay/)

www.atgtickets.com/shows/west-end-showtime/princess-theatre-torquay/

23-25th September. 7.00pm. for 7.30pm. start.

'An End of Lockdown Cabaret'. SADS' variety evening.

Info from John Rea 07967 514401 or Richard A 07454 353317

The 'Living History' Project at Brixham Museum.

Since the beginning of June, several Toads members have been surprising the tourists at Brixham Museum.

We were involved initially in 'Brixham Books and Bards', a three-day festival of history, music and poetry. We positioned ourselves in various rooms and corners of the building, in costume, and enacted various characters from the history of the town; Sherry Dudley and Julia Bale were fishwives and 'Pricilla Shrives', a Victorian poet who lived on Berry Head; Andy Killen was a smuggler, trying to sell contraband. Liam Herlihy was incarcerated in the prison cell and I filled in wherever I could, but usually ended up as one of the more disreputable cast members....

We have continued each week with this ad hoc adventure, turning up when it was convenient, staying away when it wasn't. There's no timetable, and if nobody comes, that's also fine. We intend to continue 'til the end of the season and The Museum wants us to come back next year... we have earned some considerable praise for Toads!

If you fancy being part of this enjoyable project, then just let me know. Chose a character, don the costume and turn up when you feel like it. I'll give you some basic training, but the dialogue is usually controlled by the visitors...all you need to do is to stay in character and react to their questions.

We are trying to make the Museum more enjoyable and educational for our young visitors; and we have had some generous feedback from our cheeky youngsters and their startled parents.

johnmilesandmiles@gmail.com

TOADS PRODUCTIONS!

Ladies' Day Oct 4th -9th (matinee on 9th)

Members of The Ladies' Day Team are well into rehearsals, technical plans and set build to bring the FIRST TOADS' PRODUCTION since the easing of lockdown to The Little Theatre! We're all aware of this huge responsibility and are determined to make this an uplifting, rewarding piece of theatre!

Tracey Burton had to withdraw for personal reasons, just before we began, but Bea Hutchings stepped in and completes our talented cast perfectly.

So!!!! WELCOME TO ASCOT, everyone!!!

Expect lots of laughs, some surprises and maybe a few tears when you come to celebrate the re-opening of our lovely theatre. Ascot hats and outfits are not compulsory, but this, surely, is the perfect excuse to 'dress up' - although we would ask patrons to remove their hats during the performance.

Inspired by the relocation of Royal Ascot to York in 2005, Amanda Whittington's play takes four women from their dreary repetitive jobs in a fish factory to the glamour and excitement of Royal Ascot though an affectionately humorous journey which highlights their dreams and disappointments.

Please spread the word!

TOADS THEATRE COMPANY 2021/22 SEASON

THE LITTLE THEATRE

ST MARK'S ROAD MEADFOOT TORQUAY DEVON TQ1 2EL

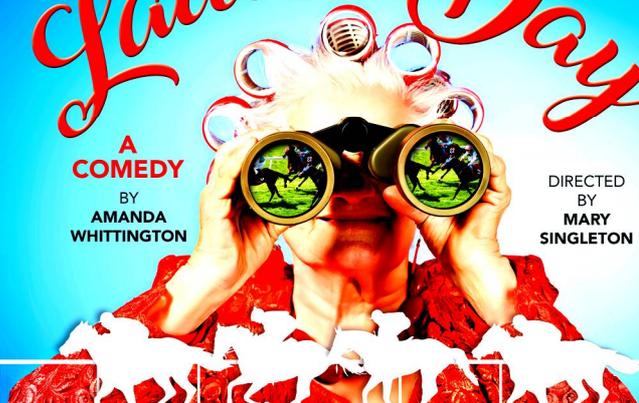
OCTOBER
MON 4TH TO SAT 9TH
7.30pm MATINEE Sat 9th only 2.30pm



Ladies' Day

A COMEDY
BY
AMANDA WHITTINGTON

DIRECTED
BY
MARY SINGLETON



BOX OFFICE :
01803 299 330 **£14.00** tickets

CONCESSIONS 60 & over £13
Under 16 £9 | Party / Groups 10+ £9
Students (First Monday with ID) £5

BOOK ONLINE @ WWW.TOADSTHEATRE.CO.UK

Box Office Open: Monday - Friday (10.30am - 1pm)

Toads Theatre Company is an all amateur company and is a registered charity. Charity No. 286490

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK > [FACEBOOK.COM/TOADSLT](https://www.facebook.com/toadslt)

This amateur production of Ladies Day is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books www.nickhernbooks.co.uk