

# CROAK

## Toads Theatre Newsletter June 2023

### A Message From Our Chairman



Hello dear Members

First I'd like to congratulate Heidi Pyburn and her cast and team for the incredible production of Hedda Gabler. Whilst some people may have decided not to attend because it was going to be 'too heavy', those that came were delighted and impressed. Well done to Paul Lewis and his talented team for the set. Our stage looked enormous!

We're almost at the end of the season. Where has that year gone? Nonsense rounds off our season and promises to be an excellent production. We're lucky to have Chris Matanle and Allan Fouracre at the helm. Please come and support them. A reminder that this isn't strictly speaking one of our season plays so no freebies.

The new season guides are scattered around the theatre so unless you've been living in a cave (Kents Cavern?) you'll know what an exciting mix of productions are on offer.

Plenty of one nighters too:

The Everlys and Michael Ball tributes coming up in June and July followed by a Genesis tribute and a return of Conn Artists Theatre Company with The Haunting in October.

If all goes to plan we will welcome The Black Riders Session Players on Sunday 24th September. They are local and have a large following so book your tickets as soon as they're available.

*Black Riders Session Players is a classic line up of vocals, guitars, bass, drums and keys augmented by many other instruments. Ben Towill, Isabelle Nutton, Louisa Morgan and Nigel Pike contribute original songs, with a strong emphasis on great lyrical content and great hooks. Stylistically Black Riders Session Players admire and adhere to the ethos of the great 60s and 70s session crews - they work hard at their craft and serve the song. This original material draws upon influences from genres such as Soul, Funk, Country, Blues, Folk, Rock, Pop etc. and the work of the great songwriters in the era of recorded music.*

[Click here to link to some of their music](#)

A quick housekeeping reminder. Please keep an eye on the new plastic 'glasses' that are allowed into the auditorium. They can be used again so NOT disposable. Jon Manley tells me that we're losing lots each production and they weren't cheap. Stewards, a quick look in the bins after a show wouldn't take a minute too. Many thanks. We don't want the wrath of Mr M raining down on us!

That's all for now.

Enjoy the sunshine.

Anna Reynolds



Monday 5th to Saturday 10th June 2023



Thursday 15 June 2023



Tuesday 4th to Saturday 8th July



Saturday 15 July 2023

# News Desk

## CineMundi



### The Wednesday Club, June, 2023

It looks as though Summer has arrived at Wedders. Attendance is up and people are starting to wear their floral print dresses again, including the men!

Lots has happened since last month; safe to say that Toads has sprung into life, putting behind us the 'Doldrums of Covid'. Lynda Ewing has donated a bagful of theatre scrapbooks from Toads earlier days at Babbacombe Theatre. Cora is going through the photos and putting names to faces.... we will use these memories at a future meeting before passing the bag to Andrew Kenyon.

Anna gave us an entertaining run-down of next season's programme, and issued the brochures. 'The Stuffers' have already sent out the mailshots.

Next we had a session entitled 'Oh, I am Cross!' designed to allow members to let off steam about all those silly things which aggravate them. And boy, didn't they rise to the occasion! Most niggles were to do with grammar and speech.... those people who start every sentence with 'So...', people who say 'can I get a cup of tea' and the universal 'like!' Blood pressures rose and so did the takings.

Jim then gave us another of his talks, this time on 'The Tivoli Gardens' in Copenhagen. A beautiful, compact place in the city centre, with a prominent marching band!

The magnificent 'Hedda Gabler' was next reviewed, with a good turn-out of cast and crew. Heidi brought along the filming crew and is making a video of the whole exercise. Perhaps we can show it sometime ant Wednesday Club, Heidi?

Alec will next tell us about Toads' purchase and converting of the old St Mark's Church into The Little Theatre which we all know so well. Next we have Nick Hewlitt, a now well-established actor at Toads, with his talk 'Please follow Me' which give an insight into the troubles and triumphs of being an official cathedral guide.

Then we have Stan's son to give us a progress report on 'The Devon Air Ambulance', and as we have in the past, the proceeds will be donated.

Our home-grown musical production of 'Nunsense' will next be reviewed with the cast..... this hilarious show (we saw it years ago, performed by 'Teignmouth Players') is a new venture for Toads..... please support it.

Finally, we have our 'Midsummer madness' POETSFriday meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June, come along and read one of your poems, or just listen to the local talent on display.

So, I'm off now, for all the, like, reasons. I think I'll sort of get a cup of coffee.... not a problem? Awesome. Enjoy!  
John Miles.



Click logo to learn more about John's and Alex's birthday bash on 29 July

To know what is happening in Amateur Dramatics in South Devon, Click on the Thespis logo below



Films for June at The Little Theatre Cafe Cinemundi

([titccinemundi@gmail.com](mailto:titccinemundi@gmail.com))

June 5th @ 10.00 am for 10.30

A Double Nun bill to celebrate the TOADS production of *Nunsense*: A very dark view of Wordsworth's favourites and the First of the Goldberg family variations  
Bring your own sandwiches and communion wine!

June 12th @ 10.00 am for 10.30

Busting out all over in this Liliom fairground classic musical.  
Coming up

July 10th @ 10.00 am for 10.30

Miller's Tale of Demise of a Retailer with a Graduate and a Being!

August 14th @ 10.00 am for 10.30 Holiday Double Bill - bring some sand-wiches!

One in Italy with Greg and Audrey

One on a bus with rocky outcrop.

(Proposed wonderful war showing postponed as local famous actress who helped make the film, is on her holidays!)

September 11th @ 10.00 am for 10.30 tbc

September 30th @ 13.00 pm for 14.00 SATURDAY Special! A triple bill of Pearl's mate who died in his Spyder on this day in 1955, running from afternoon through evening. Be there for all three at a reduced price! Maybe bar on, tbc. Cake as always but bring additional sustenance!

Afternoon 2.00 pm Just past Adam& Eve's gaff.

Twilight - 5.00 pm Big Man

Evening - 7.00 pm Pointless Revolt

And as winter draws on more to come.....Alistair

### Membership Corner

I was sad to hear a few weeks ago of the death of Rob Walker, just before his 80th birthday. He had been a reliable member of Toads in recent years who didn't appear on stage but joined to volunteer. I had the privilege of working with him as a steward on Front of House, besides seeing him at Wednesday Club or in the Coffee Shop. He was quiet and unassuming but conscientious in his approach and we shall miss him. Our condolences to his wife, Anne, at this sad time.

As memberships are due to be renewed next month, please consider if you have signed up for your fair share of volunteer duties recently. There's still time to help in the current season, with *Nunsense* being staged early in June. A recent check revealed some full members who have yet to fulfil any volunteer roles. In future, if you are unable to contribute to the running of our theatre, then choosing associate membership would be more appropriate. In doing so, you would forfeit the entitlement to complimentary tickets for Toads' season plays.

Next backstage tour:- Tuesday, 27th June. 10.30 a.m.

Sherry Dudley



# Toads Productions



Sherlock Holmes: Hugh Fossick  
 Dr Watson : Ben Tisdall  
 Actor One : Bevis Taylor  
 Actor Two : Martin Southard  
 Actress One: Carrie McRae  
 Production Team  
 Director: Sarah O'Connor  
 Assistant Director: Lydia Sweet  
 Production Technical Designer: David Warren  
 Rehearsal Prompt: David Ward/Richard Bearne  
 Props: Lisa Gidman, Kaz Gidman, Lydia Sweet  
 Stage manager: Paul Duffield and Katy Tyler



Click on the photo to reveal 11 more.



Dad's Army is still casting. We need Mr Yeatman (The Verger) and three men to join the ensemble. If you would like to join in the fun please contact Julie Hancocks on 07901 119576.

### Dad's Army Cast

Captain Mainwaring - Chris Mitchell  
 Sergeant Wilson - Nick Hewlitt (also Musical Director)  
 Lance Corporal Jones - Clive Nyquist (new)  
 Private Pike - Charlie Wilkins  
 Private Frazer - Alan Hargreaves  
 Private Godfrey - Tony Money (new)  
 Private Walker - Gary Hobbs  
 Colonel / Mr Gordon (Town Clerk) / Railway Porter – Roy Winbow  
 U Boat Captain / The Vicar – David Jackson (new)  
 Verger – to be cast  
 Hodges – ARP Warden - Andy Tinkler  
 Private #1 - John Franklin  
 Private Day - Steve Gill (Concertina and Morris Dance Adviser)  
 Private #3 - to be cast  
 Private #4 - to be cast  
 Private #5 - to be cast  
 Mrs Fox – Wendy Lockyer Waters  
 Ivy Samways / Waitress – Kelly Walsh  
 Edith Parish – Sarah Kate Ford  
 Fiona Grey – Alison Lee  
 Miss Ironside – Joy Book  
 Mrs Pike – Jo Matthews  
 Mrs Prosser – Sherry Dudley

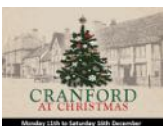
Mrs Day – Glynis Tame



for full cast list click logo



Casting will be Sunday 17th or Sunday 24th June. Please keep an eye out for emails giving details of script availability, Andrew Kenyon. Click on logo for full cast details.



### **Advance Warning!! Cranford at Christmas**

I hope to hold auditions at the beginning of July for Cranford, once those for Who Killed Santa Claus have been held and the scripts have arrived. There are parts (large and small) for 9 women, 6 men, a small dog(!) and none speaking involvement, (though it can be done with 5 women and 4 men if sufficient people don't come forward). Carol singing is a must! Please keep an eye out for emails giving details of script availability, audition date and characters. Jill Pettigrew



### The Thoughts of Pliny

Ibson wrote, " I must know the character," "I do not let go until fate is fulfilled." "To live is war with Trolls in heart and soul, to write is to sit in judgment of oneself."

One commenter noted that "Hedda Gabler is Ibson in skirts."

This production, directed by Heidi Pyburn, owes a lot I believe, to her early interest in Ibson. I suspect it has been simmering on the back burner, culminating in the bringing together a team to rival any locally and beyond.

There is in fact, so much good that I could say, that I am going to say little.

The cast and crew embraced Hedda Gabler, "heart and soul." If you missed it you missed great performances, original music, and, wonderful theatre.



Our readers and potential actors and crew would appreciate directors notifying the editor of the casting dates and information, subsequently the cast and crew details so that the details can be included in the Croak Newsletter

The editor's contact email address is [newsletter@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@toadstheatre.co.uk)

# Essential Contacts and Information

BOX OFFICE 01803 299330 [boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk) @ToadsTheatre

Committee members \*

**Anna Reynolds\*** 07788 994398  
[chairman@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:chairman@toadstheatre.co.uk)

**Alistair Conquer\*** 07972 112174  
[fernbank24@gmail.com](mailto:fernbank24@gmail.com)

**Sherry Dudley\***  
[ashcombe1968@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ashcombe1968@hotmail.co.uk)

**Julie Hancocks\***  
[julie.hancocks@virgin.net](mailto:julie.hancocks@virgin.net)

**Andrew Kenyon\*** 07479 008066  
[andrewlewiskenyon@gmail.com](mailto:andrewlewiskenyon@gmail.com)

**Nicola Margetts Treasurer\***  
07766 134937.  
[njmargetts@gmail.com](mailto:njmargetts@gmail.com)

**John Miles\*** 01803 858394  
[johnmilesandmiles@gmail.com](mailto:johnmilesandmiles@gmail.com)  
for Wednesday Club

**Jill Pettigrew\*** 01803 525071  
[secretary@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:secretary@toadstheatre.co.uk)

**Heidi Pyburn\***  
[heidinoelpyburn@gmail.com](mailto:heidinoelpyburn@gmail.com)  
Devon Young People's Theatre

**Joy Book** 07704 584953  
[Joybook9597@gmail.com](mailto:Joybook9597@gmail.com)  
If you'd like to help In the coffee shop

**Maggie Campbell**  
[peterwmaggiec@talktalk.net](mailto:peterwmaggiec@talktalk.net)  
if you'd like to join the wardrobe team

**Nigel Colledge**  
[newsletter@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@toadstheatre.co.uk)  
Editor Croak Newsletter.

**Bea Hutchings**  
[marketing@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:marketing@toadstheatre.co.uk)  
For press/magazine publicity

**Anne Jordan** 01626 330866  
[annepoppy@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:annepoppy@blueyonder.co.uk)  
if you'd like to join the props team

**Paul Lewis** 07555 396654  
[paul1970lewis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul1970lewis@yahoo.co.uk)  
set building/painting, etc.

**Jon Manley & Jackie Tarney**  
07815 323982  
[boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk)  
If you'd like to help behind the bar

**Jon Manley & Bea Hutchings**  
[openmic@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:openmic@toadstheatre.co.uk)  
For Members Nights, Open Mic

**Jake Wilkins**  
[technical@toadstheatre.co.uk](mailto:technical@toadstheatre.co.uk)  
for technical issues



1. In the zodiac, which animal is linked with Capricorn?
  2. How many years are involved in a silver anniversary?
  3. Which country originated the term "plonk" for Wine?
  4. What is the singer Adele's surname?
  5. What was the final battle that Napoleon fought in?
  6. On which day are British elections held?
  7. What was the name of the land where Gulliver met the Little People?
  8. Which animal's name comes first in the dictionary?
  9. How many sides has a 20-pence piece?
  10. Which children's author wrote "Gangsta Granny"?
- Where am i?

The first beginnings of this town can be found on the lands of present-day Parc Howard. An Iron Age hill fort once stood which was called Bryn-Caerau (hill of the forts). Evidence suggests that there were many as 5 hill forts from Old Road to the Dimpath. During the dark ages a saint named Elli or Ellyw who in legend is the son or daughter (gender not known) of King Brychan set up a church on the banks of the Afon Lliedi. It was around this time that the people of Bryn-Caerau began to come down the hill either to the Felinfoel area or to near Saint Ellyw's church. This was the start of the building of the town and its church. Originally the church would've been a wooden or partly stone thatched chapel. It wasn't until the 1200s that they built the stone tower and a stone church. However, the church (excluding the tower) was rebuilt at the beginning of the 20th century. The reason the church still looks old is for it was rebuilt with the same stones with the same plan. Historically this mining town, grew significantly in the 18th century and 19th century with the mining of coal and later the tinplate industry and steelworks. Many of these industries were served by the Llanelly and Mynydd Mawr Railway which opened in 1803.

This town became such a significant regional producer of tin that it was referred to as "Tinopolis" by the latter half of the 19th century. The closure of coal mines and competition from overseas steel plants meant that like many other towns in southern Wales, the town saw significant and sustained economic decline from the late 1970s.

People from this town are sometimes nicknamed "Turks". The origin of this name is uncertain. One theory is that many Turkish sailors once called at the port during their voyages.

[Click here for answers](#)



# Casting

## **Spider's Web by Agatha Christie**

Performance dates: 11th to 16th September 2023

Director: Jon Manley

<u>Role</u>	<u>To be played by</u>
Sir Rowland Delahaye .....	Andy Killen
Hugo Birch .....	David Streeter
Jeremy Warrender.....	<i>NOT YET CAST</i>
Clarissa Hailsham-Brown .....	Sarah Mallett
Pippa (Clarissa's step-daughter).....	Nellie Mallett
Mildred Peak.....	Jo Neagle
Elgin .....	Paul Davenport
Oliver Costello.....	David Hants
Henry Hailsham-Brown .....	<i>NOT YET CAST</i>
Inspector Lord .....	Adam Clark
Constable Jones .....	Liz Day

### The Crew

Director's Assistant.....	Nicola Margetts
Stage Manager .....	Paul Duffield
Assistant to Stage Manager .....	Liz Day
Wardrobe.....	Jo Neagle + Wardrobe Team
Prompt.....	Louise Bourton
Props.....	Hilary O'Reilly
Set design/build .....	Paul Lewis
Tech Manager .....	Jake Wilkins

Any suggestions as to who might be able/willing to play either Jeremy Warrender (age 35 to 50 ish) or Henry Hailsham-Brown (age 45 to 60 ish) – please contact the director.

Any queries or if you require further information,  
please contact the director Jon Manley on 07815 323982

# Charity Race Night @ The Little Theatre

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Doors open 7pm – first race 7.45pm



Funds raised will support The Little Theatre & Rowcroft Hospice.

All of the races are of the highest quality and from major racecourses.

Races are chosen at random so nobody knows beforehand which horse will win.

(Expect lots of shouting and cheering as the horses reach the finish line!)

Bets are a minimum of £1, based on a tote system,  
and people can bet more and on more than one horse.

## !!Cash Prizes!!

The winners collect their prize money which will be 50% of the total bets taken with the other 50% split between The Little Theatre and Rowcroft Hospice

## NO Entry Fee