

CROAK

Toads Theatre Newsletter July 2023

A Message
From Our Chairman



Our new season is almost upon us with G&S' production of HMS Pinafore.

I hope you'll all support every production. We're aiming to recoup some of the funds lost during the Covid shut down.

The Michael Ball Tribute 'Love Changes Everything' comes to us on 15th July.

Michael Ball is timeless and the tour has been very successful. I'm sure this will be an excellent evening.

The Everlys and Friends was a fantastic evening. Not many shows have a standing ovation at the end. Very well deserved. It proved very popular with over 175 tickets sold.

Sorry, but I'm nagging again...please remember to sign in and out. Many people are still forgetting. This is vital for the safety and security of the theatre.

The sign in book is on a stand outside the Green Room.
Thank you!

On 9th July we're very lucky to welcome for one night only Teignmouth Players with a One Act play called 'Two' directed by our own Al Dunn. Many Toadies went over to the Ice Factory to watch them perform this funny poignant and moving play. We were so impressed by it that we asked whether they would come over to The Little Theatre to perform. They were very excited and agreed.

There will be no tickets sold only a bucket collection at the end with proceeds to be shared with Teignmouth Players.

The first two rows will be reserved for people with mobility issues otherwise it's first come first served.

Do come along...you won't be disappointed.

Anna Reynolds
Chairman



News Desk



The Wednesday Club. July, 2023.

We've reached that time of year when we all start hoping for rain instead of endless sun... perhaps just rain in the night, but at least we do need it.

Another thing you need is a trip to Wednesday Club. We have had some new members join recently, and some of them have even stayed! We are now preparing for the summer break, but what happened last month?

Alec Stokes gave us a detailed talk on the conversion of St Mark's Church into The Little Theatre; it was Alec who drew the plans for usand didn't they turn out well!

Next we had Nick Hewlitt, giving us an interesting talk on his time as a cathedral guide... we didn't realise it was so detailed... he had to pass an exam!

Then we had Stan's son to tell us of his experiences as a pilot for 'The Devon Air Ambulance'. This was a fascinating talk and we have asked him back. We raised £120 for the ambulance charity.

Our home-grown musical production of 'Nunsense' was next reviewed. This was very well received by the members, a truly professional show. The only question was what will they do next year?

POETSFriday came for their 'Midsummer Madness' meeting, with some lively offerings from the team. Steve Gill won the contest; is there nothing that man can't exceed in?!

Next we had another 'Show and Tell' session with a record number of attendees... and some very interesting tales and artefacts.

Coming up there's a discussion meeting on 'Water Resources' led by me, followed the next week by a Mystery Meeting and then a talk by Austin Hawkins entitled 'Am dram got me into Medical Research' ...I wonder what that's all about?!

Our final meeting for the season is on 19th July with the usual review of the year and a party to follow.

Speaking of parties, you are all (yes, all) invited to a Grand Birthday Bash to be held in The Theatre on Saturday, 29th July to mark the eightieth birthdays of Alec Stokes and John Miles (that's me) Come and join the fun, do a turn on stage, meet our families and generally tell us what good chaps we are. The bar will be open... Jon Manley will not be singing..... so what's stopping you; please come!

John Miles.

John Miles.



What's on in July.

7th June until 28th July. Each week, Tuesday /Wed /Thursday 7.30pm.

'The Hollow', by Agatha Christie, directed by Jill Farrant, 'Bijou' Theatre. 01803 665800.

4-8th July. 7.30pm. Sat mat 2.30pm.

'HMS Pinafore', Torbay Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Directed by Nigel Hickman, MD Bob Carter, Choreography, Elaine Gard. The Little Theatre, Torquay. 01803 299330. toadslittletheatre.co.uk

9th July. 7.30pm. ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

'Two' by Jim Cartwright, directed by Al Dunn. Teignmouth Players at The Little Theatre, Torquay. A joint presentation. Free entrance, bucket collection.

5-8th and 12-15th July. 7.30pm.

'84, Charing Cross Road' by Hanff and Jane Roose-Evans, directed by Jeremy Holloway. Teignmouth Players at the Ice Factory.

5-8th July. 7.30pm.

'Jane Eyre', by Charlotte Bronte and Polly Teale, directed by Danielle McIvern. Dartington Playgoers, Studio 31. www.playgoers.co.uk

18-22nd July. 7.30pm.

'The Merchant of Venice' by William Shakespeare. The Inn Theatre Company at Dartmouth Castle. An open-air production. Tickets. www.theinntheatrecompany.co.uk

29th July 7.30pm. Alec and John's Big Birthday Bash. The Little Theatre.

Membership Corner

One of the interesting aspects of being Membership Secretary is showing members around the theatre. This is especially true of people who've never visited our theatre before. Recently, one such person told me she loved the quirkiness of the place and the way many original features of the church had been retained. It reminds me of how I felt when first visiting the theatre in 2004, before I moved down here. From that day, I vowed that, if ever I lived in Torquay, I would join this company.

Now that I am a member, I enjoy being part of Toads, whether on stage, backstage or Front of House. To all members, whether new or longstanding, I would urge you to become involved, when possible, by regularly volunteering in whatever capacity suits you. It can be rewarding and lead to relationships with Toads from various backgrounds, all of whom help to enrich the life of our theatre, which will only keep going with your support.

Next backstage tour:- Tuesday, 25th July at 10.30 a.m.
Sherry Dudley

Toads Productions



CRANFORD AT CHRISTMAS AUDITIONS

The Cranford at Christmas auditions will be held at the Little Theatre on Sunday 9th July at 10.30 am.

Scripts will be available in the box office from Wednesday 14th June. Please read and return as soon as you can, to let others have the opportunity.

If you are not available on the 9th, but are interested in a particular part, please let me know either by email to jillpettigrew@hotmail.com or by text to 07889 919504

In addition to the cast below I will be looking for a couple of ladies and 2 or 3 men to be carol singers. You do not need to come to these auditions, but please let me know if you are interested; also if you have a little well behaved dog that you think may be suitable!

The characters are listed below, and for information I have indicated who played some of the roles in the TV series, plus a little bit of background, which I hope will be helpful. Miss Matty, Mary Smith and Miss Pole have the main roles:

Matty Jenkyns – (Judi Dench) – Tea Shop owner (in 16 out of 21 scenes!)

Peter Jenkyns – (Martin Shaw) - Matty's brother who ran away to India to live

Miss Pole – (Imelda Staunton) - Town Gossip (in 18 out of 21 scenes!)

Mrs Jamieson – (Barbara Flynn) - Cranford's social arbiter – always appears with her little dog!

Miss Mary Smith – Miss Matty's younger visitor - daughter of a friend (in 15 out of 21 scenes)

Major Adams - friend of Peter Jenkyns – enamoured of Mary

Martha - Maid (young enough to be pregnant in the story)

Jem Hearn - carpenter & Martha's husband

Lady Glenmire – (Celia Imrie) - Mrs Jamieson's widowed Scottish sister-in-law (who does not share her social prejudices)

Dr Hoggins - Cranford surgeon of uncertain social status – (proposes to Lady Glenmire)

Betty - a servant – (enjoys a frolic with Mr Mulliner on the floor!)

Mr Mulliner - Mrs Jamieson's butler – (see above)

Mrs Forrester – (Julia McKenzie) - widow of a major & daughter of an officer. (socially accepted)

Thomas - a younger country chap of lower social status!

(As Betty and Mrs Forrester make very brief appearances, they will also be carol singers.)

Volunteers for props and prompt would also be very welcome.

Rehearsals are likely to start mid October and be either on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday evening, with some Sundays (late afternoon/early evening).

Hope to see you on July 9th.

Jill Pettigrew



Click on the photo to reveal 14 more.

EXTRAS

OPEN DAY FOR TECHIES

Sunday 16th July we are inviting anyone over 14 interested in Lighting, Sound and Stage Management to an Open Day when our practitioners will encourage interest in these areas and widen awareness of our available resources and expertise.

If any members are interested to find out more, or know a young person who may be interested, then please contact and register with Alistair on fernbank24@gmail.com Lunch for participants will be free!, but you have to book before July 9th.

GARDENING PARTY

Calling all members! We are having another garden tidy up session on Sunday August 27th. No particular skills required, but any tools useful and some gloves essential.

We plan to clear the self-sown sycamores, brambles and elder on the members car park side and trim anything overgrowing the pavement at the front of the theatre.

If possible, we'd also like to clear a little more car park space at the far end and open up some more flat ground space behind backstage.

All are welcome, bring a packed lunch but free tea and coffee will be available.

Alistair and Steve

CineMundi

The film club in The Little Theatre Cafe continues to grow and welcomes anyone interested in films, coffee, cake and company - the last three cost. TOADS members and their friends are particularly welcome.

Dramas in July, Holidays in August and.....

Look out for our anniversary special on Sat. September 30th afternoon, twilight and evening triple bill celebrating the one who died in a Porsche Spyder 68 years ago.

Our license allows us to show and stream anything legal, but we are not allowed to advertise the films, or personnel involved with the films, publicly.

So for regular meeting dates and times and the films that will be shown, please get yourself on the mailing list by contacting Alistair and Nicola on titccinemundi@gmail.com

Essential Contacts and Information

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