

CROAK

Toads Theatre Newsletter July 2023

A Message
From Our Chairman



'Dad's Army will be advancing on the theatre in a matter of days. The theatre will be prepared and the auditorium made into a bomb shelter.

We have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We shall fight on the stage, in the bar, in the coffee shop, in the auditorium; we shall never surrender.

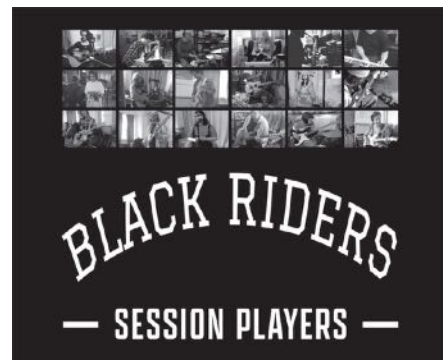
Those brave enough to volunteer in these areas will receive medals of bravery.

Speaking of which, more volunteers required in each of these areas please...I know how brave you all are and the medals are being made as we speak.

Julie Hancocks, her cast and crew and the sterling job done by Maggie Campbell and her wardrobe team deserve every success with this production.

We need you...Toads needs you.
Rule Britannia and Rule Toads!

Anna Reynolds
Chairman



News Desk



The Wednesday Club. August, 2023.

The Wednesday Club has now closed down until 13th September, when we will start the new season with a general discussion of what we did in the holidays. We will also review 'Dad's Army' with the cast.

Well, what happened last month, then? By way of filling in a gap, I gave a talk about water resources, considering how prominent this subject has been recently in the media. My ex-colleague from 'Welsh Water' days, Derek Parsons, gave us an insight into the engineering side of water supply, too. I think the members went home in a more enlightened frame of mind!

The 'Mystery' Meeting, by Steve Gill, turned out to be a veritable cornucopia of Devonshire stories, anecdotes and song, much enjoyed by everyone.

Austin Hawkins, in a change to the programme, showed his excellent short film 'Moving On', which had been shot primarily at the Little Theatre, featuring our Chairman, Anna Reynolds. An excellent trip down Memory Lane for many of us. This was followed by our review of the year and the End-of-Term party. The Wednesday Club had contributed £1,200 to Toads over the year, a very useful amount in these financially trying times. Thanks to all who regularly stump up two pounds each week....it soon mounts up!

Alec Stokes and I will be celebrating our joint eightieth birthday at The Little Theatre on the evening of 29th July. As if you hadn't noticed!

You are all invited to attend, the bar and coffee shop will be open and there will be some sort of entertainment on the stage. Please don't bring any presents, but if you wish, you can make a contribution to Toads.

The proceedings will start about 7.00pm so please do come, even if it's just to pop in and say hello to The Two Old Codgers. There will be a limited number of sandwiches available, but please eat before you come... and let me know if you want to do a turn on stage.

Be warned that my relations will be there en masse, from West Wales and Newcastle, so why not come along and compare tales of woe with my outrageous daughters, my cousin and my sister and their ever-increasing, rumbustious families?

Welsh speakers, Liverpoolians and Geordies will be made to feel nostalgic.....

John Miles.



What's On



Click on logo

Wednesdays in August. 2nd ; 9th; 16th; 23rd. plus Bank Holiday Monday 28th. All at 7.00pm.

'Zebediah Hook, the Smuggler of Shaldon.' written and directed by Leon Winston. A 30 minute open air production in a brand new episode. Shaldon Green. Free show with bucket collection.

7-19th August. 7.30pm. Sat mat 2.30pm. No Sunday performance.

'Dad's Army' by Croft and Perry. Directed by Julie Hancocks.

Toads Theatre Company. 01803 299330.
toadslittletheatre.co.uk

31st August - 2nd September. 7.30pm

'Two' by Jim Cartwright, directed by Al Dunn.
Teignmouth Players at the Ice Factory. Back by popular demand.

Membership Corner

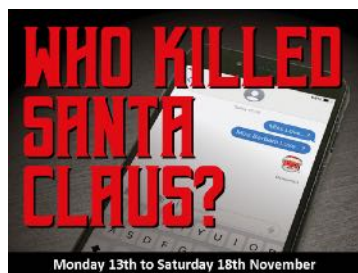
Recently, one committee member has been collating the number of volunteer duties undertaken by members in the last season. Many members feature regularly, thus achieving a good total but some who were full members did none. The highest number of duties recorded by one person was 38! This subject will be discussed at the next committee meeting with consideration being given to the next step.

If you have renewed your membership for the current season as a full member, please ensure you volunteer as regularly as possible. It's rewarding and enables you to feel part of the success of our productions whilst meeting other members.

Belated thanks to Jon Manley for organising a Race Night for members in June. The select few who attended had a great time whilst raising money for Rowcroft. It is hoped to run another in the Autumn when Members' Nights will be resumed.

Sherry Dudley

Toads Productions



Who Killed Santa Claus cast?

Christopher Moore

DAVE GRANT

Jack Campbell-Barnes

NICK HEWLITT

Don Lewis

STEWART MOLYNEUX

Paul Reston

ADAM CLARKE

Ray Lacey

PAUL DAVENPORT

Connie Bell

ALISON LEE

PARTS STILL TO CAST:

Dave Ogden

Barbara Love

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, Holidays, Laughter the choice is endless!

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 tlccinemundi@gmail.com



Cranford at Christmas Cast:

Miss Matty - Adele Reynolds

Miss Pole - Rona Perry

Mrs Jamieson - Fi Humphries

Mrs Glenmire - Jo Neagle

Mrs Forrester - Mary Qiriaqi

Mary - Alison Brooks

Betty - Fi White

Martha – Sophie Scott

Peter – TBC

Major - Jon Manley

Jem - Jolyon Tuck

Mr Mulliner – Andy Killen

Dr Hoggins - Steve Wreford

Thomas – Martin Sharp

Mistletoe Seller – Alan Hargreaves

Singer – Amanda Booth

Peppo – Katie (courtesy of Julie & David Hancocks)

Musician:

Chris Robson

Carol Singers:

Janet Downer

Wendy Lockyer Walters

Sherry Dudley

Glynis Tame

Nick Hewlett

Director – Jill Pettigrew

Stage Manager – Gill Poore

ASM - De White

Prompt – Cora Gant

Volunteers for props needed please.

If you are able to help, please email:

jillpettigrew@hotmail.com

or call: 01803 525071 or 07889 9119504

Toads Productions



Auditions for 'Cold Comfort Farm', by Sally Hedges,
directed by John Miles. Performing dates 15-20th January, 2024.

There will be a read-through on Wednesday 2nd Aug at 7.30pm. followed by auditions on Saturday 5th August, 2.30pm. and Wednesday, 9th August, 7.30pm.

Contact John Miles on johnmilesandmiles@gmail.com if you are interested but can't attend any of these dates. Scripts are available on loan from the box office.

This is high melodramatic comedy, based on Stella Gibbons' novel, featuring the following absurdly eccentric characters.... 1920s London and rural Sussex.

Flora Poste	'Bright young thing', vivacious, manipulative. Main part.
Aunt Ada Doom	Elderly, 'saw something narsty' and won't let anybody forget it.
Amos Starkadder	Her son, head of the family, but does very little on the farm. Hell-fire preacher.
Judith Starkadder	His wife, middle aged, oppressed by the past, obsessed by her son, Seth. Melodramatic.
Seth Starkadder	Young. 'God's Gift to Women' Scandalous. Cinema obsessed.
Ruben Starkadder	Seth's younger brother. Begrudgingly does all the work on the farm.
Elfine	Teenage. Ethereal, keen on poetry, long walks, Richard Hawk-Monitor.
Adam	Old family retainer. Simple, prefers cows to humans
Mary Smiling	London gentry. Middle aged. Flora's guiding light.
Sneller	Her butler.... male or female.
Mrs Beetle	Bustling, 'mumsy'. Domestic duties in the kitchen.
Meriam	Her daughter. 'No better than she ought to be'
Urk	Unclean, simple-minded cousin. Designs on Elfine. Likes water-voles.
Earl Neck	American film director. Could be male or female.
Richard	Twenty one. Elfine's young man. Son of the lord of the manor.
Katrina del Mundi	Austrian psychoanalyst. Could be Spanish. Male or female
Rennet	Unkempt, giggling, small part.

With a weird, composite set and etherial sound effects, this will be a tongue-in-cheek homage to the original novel, with a pantomime bull, sukebind and low-flying planes.....

Essential Contacts and Information

BOX OFFICE 01803 299330 boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk @ToadsTheatre

Committee members *

Anna Reynolds* 07788 994398
chairman@toadstheatre.co.uk

Alistair Conquer* 07972 112174
ferbank24@gmail.com

Sherry Dudley*
ashcombe1968@hotmail.co.uk

Julie Hancocks*
julie.hancocks@virgin.net

Andrew Kenyon* 07479 008066
andrewlewiskenyon@gmail.com

Nicola Margetts Treasurer*
07766 134937.
njmargetts@gmail.com

John Miles* 01803 858394
johnmilesandmiles@gmail.com
for Wednesday Club

Jill Pettigrew* 01803 525071
secretary@toadstheatre.co.uk

Heidi Pyburn*
heidinoelpyburn@gmail.com
Devon Young People's Theatre

Joy Book 07704 584953
Joybook9597@gmail.com

If you'd like to help In the coffee shop

Maggie Campbell
peterwmaggiec@talktalk.net
if you'd like to join the wardrobe team

Nigel Colledge
newsletter@toadstheatre.co.uk
Editor Croak Newsletter.

Bea Hutchings
marketing@toadstheatre.co.uk
For press/magazine publicity

Anne Jordan 01626 330866
annepoppy@blueyonder.co.uk
if you'd like to join the props team

Paul Lewis 07555 396654
paul1970lewis@yahoo.co.uk
set building/painting, etc.

Jon Manley & Jackie Tarney
07815 323982
boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk
If you'd like to help behind the bar

Technical Team

David Warren

djwjr64@gmail.com

Ollie Taylor

otaylor001@protonmail.com



Gardening Party 2023 August 27th starts 10.30 am, bring tools and lunch and we're tidying up the bank along the members car park, especially the self-sown tree shoots.

As we have to replace a tree, this year's Gardening Party will include a tree-planting ceremony at 1.00 pm to celebrate our over '80s. We'll get as many as we can in a Press photo, count up the years of membership commitment. Make a day of it, even if it's raining! See you there.

Alistair

QUIZ

1. What is the plural of the word sheep?
2. Where in a horse is the coffin joint?
3. Which substance is most used for pencil lead?
4. To ten years either way, in which year did Charles Dickens die?
5. What name can be a lettuce or a mass of floating frozen water?
6. Which vegetable did Sir Walter Raleigh bring to England?
7. In the strip cartoon, what is the name of Snoopy's brother?
8. Soyuz was the name of a Russian spacecraft, but what does the name mean?
9. Which lady became George W. Bush's Secretary of State in his second term of office?
10. In Shakespeare's "Othello", who is the female lead?

Where am I? The old spelling of the town is now obsolete, but is retained by an American county and town. The name is first recorded in the 10th century and is believed to derive from the Old English bearde, meaning "battle-axe", and stapol, meaning "pillar", referring to a post or pillar set up to mark a religious or administrative meeting place. The belief that the name derives from staple meaning "market", indicating that there was a market here from the foundation of the settlement, is incorrect, because the use of staple in that sense is not recorded in England before 1423

This town in Latin documents such as the episcopal registers of the Diocese of Exeter Barum was mentioned by Shakespeare, and the name was revived and popularised in Victorian times, when it was featured in several contemporary novels. The name Barum is retained in the names of a football team, brewery, several local businesses, and the numerous old milestones locally. The former Brannam Pottery works which was sited in Litchdon Street was known for its trademark "Barum" etched on the base of its products.

In the 1340s the merchants of the town claimed that the rights of a free borough had been granted to them by King Athelstan in a lost charter. Although this was challenged from time to time by subsequent lords of the manor, it still allowed the merchants an unusual degree of self-government. The town's wealth in the Middle Ages was founded on its being a staple port licensed to export wool. It had an early merchant guild, known as the Guild of St. Nicholas. In the early 14th century it was the third richest town in Devon, behind Exeter and Plymouth, and it was the largest textile centre outside Exeter until about 1600

Answers