

CROAK

Toads Theatre Newsletter September 2023

A Message
From Our Chairman



Greetings dear Members

Dad's Army went down a storm with audience numbers well above 150 on many nights. We made lots of money in the bar and coffee shop too, so everyone involved including all volunteers can give themselves a well deserved pat on the back.

Let's hope the Agatha coming up next is as well received.

Hopefully you will all have read my email telling you about the 40 year celebration of the birth of The Little Theatre, to be held in the theatre on Saturday 23rd September from 7.30pm. We have many of the original members coming along to talk about the early days and how the old church was transformed into the beautiful theatre we now call home. I hope that all you newbies will come along to learn just how it all started as well as those of us who have been here some time (cough).

The food is going to be on a bring and share basis and the bar will be open.

All are welcome.

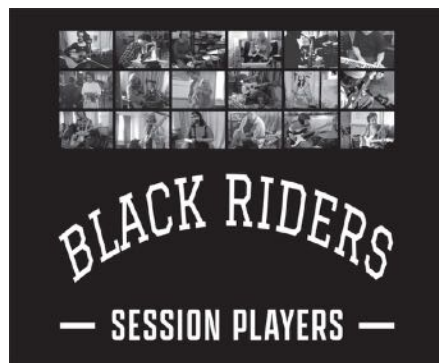
The committee has started planning the 24/25 season so please think about plays you think would go down well and put a copy in box office if you have one, or email me with suggestions...of plays! And if you're a Director or would like to be considered PLEASE COME FORWARD.

There will be at least 3 vacancies on the committee as Sherry Dudley and John Miles will be stepping down. Also Jill Pettigrew as her 3 year tenure as Secretary will end. Please start thinking about nominations. Look out for the announcement of the AGM where you will find instructions on how to nominate candidates. The AGM will be on Monday 30th October.'

That's it for now.



Anna Reynolds
Chairman



Sunday 24 September



Sunday 1st October



News Desk



The Wednesday Club, September, 2023.

Yes, still here, but Wednesday Club is taking a break this month.

We will be starting again on 20th September, with a review of 'Dad's Army' and a catch-up of 'What we did in the Holidays'. The first meeting was scheduled for 13th September, but so many of our members were going to see 'The Mousetrap' matinée then that I've put it back by a week.

I have nothing planned for the subsequent weeks, but we have several talks in the pipeline, with Austin Hawkins and no doubt Jim in there!

I'm looking forward to the tree planting on 27th August, and Alec and I will be proud to take our places with the other Octogenarians.

Thank you everybody, from Alec and myself for the jolly party we held at Toads to celebrate our joint birthdays, the cards and the donations to Toads..... with special thanks to The Committee for the use of the premises. Can we reserve the stage for five years time, please?! Tentatively.....

John Miles.

What's On in September.

11-16th September. 7.30pm Sat mat 2.30pm.

'Spider's Web' by Agatha Christie. directed by Jon Manley.
Toads Theatre Company. 01803 299330.
toadslittletheatre.co.uk

13-16th September 7.30pm. Sat mat 2.30pm

'Agatha Christie, Her Life in Words and Music', compiled and directed by Martin Harris. Unleashed Theatre, Royal Lyceum, Torquay. <https://www.unleashedtheatrecompany.com>

21-23rd September. 7.30pm.

'Our Cabaret'. SADS. St John's Church Hall, Shipway.TQ2 7HP.

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



CineMundi

Monday September 11th 10.00 for 10.30 Barney Horne introduces a comedy drama from 2000 loosely based on Homer's Odyssey

Saturday Special 30th September 3 films with the actor who died at the age of 24 on this day 68 years. Showing at 2.00, 5.00 and 7.00

For full details, please email tlccinemundi@gmail.com

Membership Corner

Welcome to our new members, many of whom have joined in order to be part of plays that form the opening few months of our new season. I do hope that all cast and crew of those plays will enrol as members as soon as possible. That way, they can begin to enjoy the benefits of membership immediately, besides offering much needed (and appreciated) services as a volunteer, where appropriate. Please may I appeal to directors to ensure that everyone involved with your play has complied with the requirement to join Toads? Otherwise names will be added to "ze list and ven ve vin ze var".....!

Increasingly, directors, casts and crew form such a bond over the rehearsal and performance period that some actually choose to arrange to meet socially afterwards, which perhaps reflects on the way established members make our newcomers feel welcome. Some come with preconceived ideas of Toads not being friendly and then are pleasantly surprised to discover how 'normal' we are! (mostly!)

Good luck to those returning to studies as the new term begins and to those Toads who've achieved exam success this time and are leaping off to pastures new!

Next backstage tour: Tuesday, 26th September, at 10.30 a.m.

Sherry Dudley

Toads Productions

Dear Members

The time has come for those brave enough to audition for **Cash on Delivery** to step forward. It will run from Monday 11th to Saturday 16th March 2024 and will be directed by Anna Reynolds. This is a fast and furious farce so not one for the faint hearted.

Characters:

This fast paced British farce concerns a con artist who has duped the welfare authorities for years by claiming every type of benefit for the innumerable number of people he claims live at his address. He's sent into a panic when welfare investigators show up and he's forced to prove all of his boarders are in fact real.

Eric Swan – (30s – 50s). Unemployed businessman. Feels trapped by a situation of his own making and doesn't know how to get out. Smooth talking. He is afraid of disappointing his wife.

Linda Swan – (30s – 50s) Eric's wife, loving and sweet, at first. Very concerned about her husband and on an emotional edge. Her emotions do get the better of her at times.

Norman McDonald – (mid 20s – 50s) Eric's upstairs lodger. Honest and loyal. Willing to do almost anything to help a friend. Thinks very fast on his feet. High energy character.

Mr. Jenkins – (30 plus) Department of Social Services (DSS) inspector. Dull paper pusher who thinks he is a lot brighter than he really is. He is afraid of Ms. Cowper.

Uncle George – (50 plus). Eric's uncle and partner in crime. A physically demanding role even though George spends much of the play unconscious on the couch. Must be light enough to be picked up by two men attempting to put him head first in a plastic bag.

Sally – (20 – 40). Crisis social worker. Caring and professional. Just wants to help.

Mr/Ms. Forbright – (40 plus). Funeral Director without a sense of humour. He/she is aghast at some of the things he/she sees

Dr. Chapman M/F– (any age) First day on the job as a marriage counsellor. Overwhelmed in his/her position and easily bullied by the rest of the cast.

Ms. Cowper – (50 plus) Head of the DSS inspectors office. She is accustomed to being very much in charge.

Brenda – (20 plus) Norman's fiancé. Brenda shows up very late in the second act. Becomes distraught when she is told that Norman is already married and then that Norman is dead. Neither is true but she doesn't find that out till later.

Scripts and audition pieces are in the box office. Please sign scripts in and out.

Auditions are Sunday 8th October and Sunday 15th October both 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Any questions please contact Anna Reynolds on annareynolds1403@gmail.com or 07788994398

Looking forward to it!

Anna Reynolds



Click of photo to reveal all fifteen



The Thoughts of Pliny

Dad's Army

Jim Perry and David Croft's compilation of sketches need no introduction to the vast audiences that still watch the looped re-runs of their shows and films.

This production was directed by Julie Hancocks, stage managed by her husband David and a large band of back stage crew.

Julie had the unenviable task of casting enough thespians to fill all the roles, meaning that doubling up was inevitable with Pike being played by a first time on stage (Mrs) Charlie Wilkins.

The show was popular with members and visitors alike, the numbers of bums on seats attesting to that.

I cannot and will not pick out any of the outstanding performances and characterisations except to say that the last scene of the combined voices of cast of Wilmington-on-sea, sent the audiences home with a song in their hearts and smiles on their faces.

This is what theatre can do best.

Toads Productions



'Cold Comfort Farm'
Audition results.

Flora Poste	Laura Cameron Long
Aunt Ada Doom	Brenda Loosemore
Amos Starkadder	Chris Robson
Judith Starkadder	Amy Burton Smith
Adam	Colin Baker
Elfine	Jemma Carlin-Wells
Mary Smiling	Julie Robson
Sneller	Alec Stokes
Mrs Beetle	Suzy Miles
Meriam	Carrie McRae
Urk	Jason Davey
Earl Neck	David Hants
Katrina del Mundi	Collette Velarde

Stage Manager	Julie Hancocks
Prompt	Suzy Miles and Julie Robson
Props	Margaret Kirk

Still to cast..... Seth Starkadder, Ruben Starkadder; Richard Hawk-Monitor.

Essential Contacts and Information

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

Committee members *

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Bea Hutchings
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For press/magazine publicity

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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
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boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk
If you'd like to help behind the bar

Technical Team - David Warren & Olie Taylor
technical@toadstheatre.co.uk



40 year celebration of the birth of The Little Theatre, to be held in the theatre on Saturday 23rd September from 7.30pm



Gardening Party 27th Aug.

Fiona and her grandson Tom, John Miles and I, cut the grass, trimmed the bushes on the pavement, cleared some of the back wall and at 1.00 pm, planted the Hornbeam tree.

Thanks to them.

Alistair



Quiz round 8

1. Brights' disease affects which organs of the body?
2. What name is given to a garden with geometrically arranged beds and small hedges?
3. Who sang with the Dakotas?
4. In Which century was 1658?
5. Which Actress said, "I want to be alone"?
6. How many kings of England have been called Philip?
7. How many stomachs does a cow have?
8. With which swimming stroke do races begin in the water?
9. How is the Roman city of Verulamium known today?
10. Which city in the world has the largest population?

Where am I?

After the Norman invasion of 1066, a stone church was built. Walden Castle, dating from about 1140, may have been built on pre-existing fortifications. A priory, Walden Abbey, was founded under the patronage of Geoffrey de Mandeville, 1st Earl of Essex about 1136, on the site of what is now Audley End village. The abbey was separated from Walden by Holywell Field. After the dissolution of the monasteries, Sir Thomas Audley converted its cloisters into a dwelling. Later this became the site of Audley End House.

The market square in July 1212, with the half-timbered Guildhall. The market was moved from nearby Newport to Walden during de Mandeville's tenure, increasing the town's influence. This Tuesday market was held from 1295. The town's first charter was granted in about 1300, to what was known then as Chepyng (i. e. Market) Walden. The town at that time was largely confined to the castle's outer bailey, but in the 13th century the Battle or Repel Ditches were built or extended to enclose a larger area to the south. The focus of the town moved southwards to Market Square.

The main trading item in medieval times was wool. A guildhall was built by the wool-staplers in the market place, but demolished in 1847 to make way for a corn exchange. In the 16th and 17th centuries the crocus (*Crocus sativus*) was widely grown, thanks to the town's favourable soil and climate. The stigmas of the flower were used in medicines, as a condiment, in perfume, as an aphrodisiac, and as an expensive yellow dye. The industry gave the town its present name.

Round 8 Answers