FROM THE CHAIR

August is upon us! July made June look decidedly cold – 10 pounds shed via good old sweat … mmm, sexy! (For the younger members “pound” is not a unit of currency.)

So, what of the last month’s shenanigans?

Tadpoles will be starting a second group from September – Becky’s hard work and enthusiasm are obviously paying off. I understand the main (older) group is already filled with a waiting list of youngsters eager to join.

Vicious rumours have got back to the Chairman’s radar-like ears that some FOH volunteers are not wearing official ID. Please, please, ladies and gentlemen, this really is not optional but a legal responsibility – FOH Managers, it is your responsibility to ensure all FOH volunteers (including café and bar) wear ID whilst on duty. Personally, I think it’s just a habit we aren’t used to and, in the not too distant future, wearing ID will become much more “second nature”.

A number of various local drama society members got together, at The Little Theatre, on Sunday 15th July, to talk about cross support and marketing. It was well attended and there was much to talk about. Will we solve anything? Who knows, but we should at least try.

At the August committee meeting, I shall be raising the issue of a membership drive. I don’t feel we have, at least in the last 11 years I’ve been a member, made a really concerted effort to gain more volunteers in all areas. To all our present members I say “do you know anyone who might be interested in volunteering?” If so, why not “buddy” them and introduce them to us and the theatre.

Did you see The New Jersey Boys on Friday 27th July? If not, you missed a treat and, hopefully, they will be returning next summer (ssh, the rest of the committee don’t know yet so say nothing). Apologies to all on the night who had to put up with me – I was very grumpy/stressed (lots of reasons why, but not terribly interesting). Thanks to Jackie Tarney, especially, for soothing my furrowed brow.

Wishing all involved with The Olde Tyme Music Hall great success, I sign off for now…

Jon Manley (armchair man)

Welcome… and here we are in August, already! Hope you’ve all enjoyed last month’s amazing weather. So, as always, lots happening this month, including Toads Pizza & half-price bar event! If you haven’t heard about it, there’s more details in ‘Production and other News.’ On the Spot this month, are two TOADS stalwarts—Julia & Reg Bale, and in the English Riviera Magazine ‘Spotlight’ Toads Chair…(drum roll please) ….keep going… Jon Mangy, I mean Manley! Talking about his experiences since he joined Toads in 1701, and his love of theatre.

Have a great month. Boo Hutchings editor
We’ve all welcomed the downpour, but that storm was a bit of a drawback... I’ve had a complaint from Adam and Eve...it seems that since our fig tree blew down they’ve had nothing to cover their confusion. My special birthday trip to Wales has resulted in a fresh batch of homemade jam for Meg to try!

The showing of a Victor Borge performance went down well, thanks to Jim and Thea. This was followed by a slide show from Meg, aided by Steven, of her recent trip to China with Jean Strong. The holiday had been a memorable one, not least because of the culinary delights of the regional specialities on offer. Meg maintained that this had not been advertised as a slimming holiday......

The July ‘Memory Cafe’ was not well attended, so I will be speaking with Marianne when I next see her. Thanks to Nigel for organising the Cafe. Our last meeting this season was a summing up of the full season, listing all the meetings we have had since September 2017. I’m pleased to say that our total for the season was £549.05, which is a new record for The Wednesday Club. Although we have never increased our one pound charge since we began in 2000, this increase can be explained by our expansion into occasional Friday afternoons for ‘POETS Friday’ and ‘Acumen’, which have brought in a useful additional amount. Speaking of the last ‘Acumen’ meeting, I’m pleased to announce that Brenda Hutchings won the slam, just beating Suzy. I was nowhere in the running.

Our only meeting in August will be on the third, when there will be another ‘Memory Cafe’. Now we must get cracking on the splendid ‘Music Hall’..... you might recognise some of the participants!

The Wednesday Club will start our nineteenth season on 12th September, when we will be reviewing ‘What we did in the Holidays’.

John Miles

Plays for next season 2019/20 are being considered NOW! If there’s a play you’d like to see performed at Toads please send/drop in a copy of the play, or email your suggestion, to the box office. (Details on back page.) Past productions and further details can be found on the web page at: www.toadstheatre.co.uk

TOADS @ The Little Theatre
Invites you to a PIZZA and half-price bar event
Venue: The Little Theatre, St Marks Road, Torquay TQ1 2EL
Time: Saturday 25th August, 2.30pm til later
Price: £10 per person
For RSVP & tickets, please telephone TOADS box office:
01803 299 330
(this event is open to all local drama society members and guests.) IMPORTANT: Please RSVP by Monday 11th August

Toads’ Cryptic Castlist.
Brought to you by John ‘loads’a Miles.
1) A man with impeccable social graces
   David Gent
2) Remove the hard centre from a french glove
   Core a Gant
3) Useful sonic alarm
   Handy Bell
4) Vladimir Putin
   ‘The(a) Red Man’
5) Measure out a quarter pint of beer
   Gill Pour
6) Much admired by the ladies
   Jon Manley
7) EU court case slogan in favour of the universal acceptance of kilometres
   ‘Sue Ze Miles!’
8) She’s usually found on the other side of the stage from the prompt (Traditional theatre)
   Nichola ‘O.P’.
9) “Transport my crustaceans!”
   “Carry me Cray.....fish!”
10) Useful urination advice in an Easterly wind
    Pee to West
11) Death wish for steam-engine firemen
    Die, Stokes!
12) The Bible
    Joy Book

Theatre Quotes & Questions
A question often asked is : why do we say ‘break a leg’ before a performance? There are a few possible answers, but this one sounds plausible: ‘Superstition against wishing an actor Good Luck! has led to the adoption of this phrase in its place. Popular etymology derives the phrase from the 1865 assassination of Abraham Lincoln. John Wilkes Booth, the actor turned assassin, leapt to the stage of Ford’s Theatre after the murder - breaking his leg in the process.’

Dates For Your Diary
AUGUST 2018
August 6th—11th
Olde Tyme Music Hall

August 25th
TOADS PIZZA
(Social event)
* Tadpoles Youth Theatre
Tuesdays 6.30 pm
Term Time
*Wednesday Club
New season 12th Sept
Production & Other News

A Comedy Whodunnit
By Alan Ayckbourn
Directed by Jill Farrant
Sept 3rd—15th

A Comedy Thriller
By Michael Sutton and Anthony Fingleton
Directed by Anna Reynolds
October 8th—13th

A Musical
Presented by TOADS Stage Musical Company
October 20th—27th

A comedy
By Gerald Sibleyras
Translated into English by Tom Stoppard
Directed by Bevis Taylor
November 19th—24th

Handbags & Gladrags
For WI Talk

On Tuesday, 10th July, some of the Wardrobe team and I were made welcome at a WI Meeting at Central Church in Torquay.

Jill Pettigrew delivered a Power Point talk, outlining the history of Toads and describing the work of the Wardrobe Dept. The members were most interested and interjected with questions and reminiscences as a result of the costumes being modelled by Julia Bale, Fi Humphreys, Jill, Jackie Tarney and me. Fi demonstrated the ease with which a dress could be changed to reflect a particular period by the clever addition of accessories and minor alterations.

The new season of plays was promoted with copies of our year’s programme being available and fliers for the Olde Tyme Music Hall. Afterwards, we enjoyed refreshments.

On behalf of members, I’d like to proffer our grateful thanks to the ladies of the Wardrobe team for their invaluable work throughout the year. (I was invited along for the day: happy to model, but I’m not a needlewoman!) The support of Delia Duncan and Al Dunn, whose respective skills as seamstress and technician were much appreciated on the day, should also be acknowledged.

Sherry Dudley

Heroes
A retirement home in 1950’s France is the setting for this light hearted comedy with Gustave, Henri and Phillipe, 3 First world War veterans whiling away their days, pondering their lot…

Role: To be played by
Gustave……………………………David Streeter
Henri…………………………………Steve Perks
Philippe……………………………Mike Brookes
November 19th—24th

*TROADS Theatre Company*

PROPS.
Christine Hannuth will be running the props team for the next couple of months, on behalf of Anne Jordan. Her contact number is: 01803 431875

WANTED: Old canvas style hosepipe to borrow as a prop for Heroes please. If anyone can help please contact Bevis : 0774 894 8839

T-SHIRTS.
ACE Customised Clothing & Printing Co, have offered discounts for bulk orders re ‘TOADS’ T-shirts. If you are interested in purchasing a T-shirt with TOADS logo printed on it, please contact the box office. Children’s and adult sizes available. Various prices (depending on demand.) Box Office :01803 299 330 boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk

6-11th August. 7.30pm. Sat mat. 2.30pm.
‘Old Tyme Music Hall’
Directed by Martin Waddington.
Toads Theatre Company. 01803 299 330
www.toadstheatre.co.uk

20-22nd August. 7.30pm
“The Unexpected Guest” by Agatha Christie. Directed by Sandra Dudley.
Ivybridge Theatre Company at The Watermark in Ivybridge.

22-25th August. 7.30pm. Sat Matinee 2.30pm
‘Blackadder goes Forth’, Curtis / Elton.
Dir. Amy Burton-Smith Teignmouth Players. At the Pavilions
www.teignmouthplayers.com,
Reg and Julia are both West Country folk, Reg from Bristol and Julia from Taunton (although brought up in Hampshire). They have both loved music and dance throughout their lives. Julia sang in school choirs and belonged to drama groups from about ten years old. One of Reg’s hobbies as a boy was tap dancing and although often mocked by his school friends, they had to watch out because he was also a West of England Junior Boxing Champ! In fact when he was 18, he passed auditions to become an acrobatic and tap dancer for Bristol Hippodrome but just before he was due to start he got his “Call up” papers for National Service, so that was a short lived dance career. After National Service in both Malaysia and Korea most of his career was up in the air, firstly as a tv aerial rigger and then scaffolding!

Julia spent most of her career as a secretary and served 28 years with NatWest Bank.

They met at a dance in Weston-Super-Mare after they were both divorced and Reg went to watch her in Happy as a Sandbag in Bridgwater. When he was told the next production was “Guys and Dolls” he leapt at the chance of joining and took up his tap shoes again! They both then joined Sedgemoor Theatre Company in Bridgwater and romantically got engaged at Dunster Castle in 1685 costume during the interval of one of their plays. They married in 1985.

After moving to Paignton 30 years ago, they joined Paignton Operatic Society and always enjoyed the shows they put on at The Festival Theatre. Reg’s favourite was the award winning 42nd Street of course with all the tap dancing yet Julia just loved all the parts she played (especially being chased by Andy Killen with a riding crop in Me and My Girl!! – another story!!) Reg was Chairman for many years and Julia did publicity.

Having also been in many Potpourri shows and appeared in G & S they joined TOADS 12 years ago and have appeared in many shows together including, The Foreigner, Dark of the Moon, Fawlty Towers, Hi de Hi, a couple of pantomimes and Tale of Two Cities. Julia has also been in many others, including Black Widow, Present Laughter, The Crucible and been several “dotty” ladies in various Agatha Christie plays. (Appropriate as she is a volunteer at Greenway). They keep busy off stage as well. Reg was on Committee for six years and only recently gave up being Licensee. He was made a Life Member for all his behind the scenes work and is still on the Maintenance Committee. His favourite job now is Front of House Manager. Julia used to work in Box Office but time in Spain took its toll and she now does Front of House and wardrobe duties.

Their other great love was all the charity work they did for eleven years fundraising and travelling to and from Romania helping an Orphanage in Cernavoda. They still keep contact with them by helping Aurora Christian Association based near Brasov.

More time is spent these days with their growing family which includes eleven great grandchildren and they would love to see them grow up to appreciate live theatre which has always been such a wonderful part of life and hope it will be for many years to come.

Reg & Julia in 1685 Costume
Julia, a Fortune teller, Reg, a Royalist Soldier.
This photo was taken when they got engaged in 1985

Thank you both

ON THE SPOT

Reg & Julia Bale

Toads Contacts

Listed here are some essential contact details:

Box Office 01803 299330
boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk

Jon Manley*
chairman@toadstheatre.co.uk

Jackie Torney 07815 323982
boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk

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

Anne Jordan 01626 330866
annepoppy@blueyonder.co.uk

Joy Book 07704 584953
Joybook9597@gmail.com

Brenda Hutchings* 07800 644508
marketing@toadstheatre.co.uk

John Miles 01803 858394
johnmilesandmiles@gmail.com

Andrew Stidston 07976 364412
orby100@yahoo.com

Al Dunn 07880 734880
al.dunn@icloud.com

Lisa Fletcher
01395 493066
lisa2013@btinternet.com

Peter Burcher 07715 019762
petergburcher@gmail.com

Lisa Fletcher
01395 493066
lisa2013@btinternet.com

Joanna Grainger
07917 761230
j GRAINGER@BTINTERNET.COM

Brenda Hutchings*
07800 644508
marketing@toadstheatre.co.uk

Al Dunn 07880 734880
al.dunn@icloud.com

If you want to act, or get involved backstage in any production, or as props or prompt, contact the director in each case, whose number will always be listed in The Croak with the audition information. If you’re still not sure who to call, any member of the committee will always help to point you to the right person. As well as those names marked with an asterisk above, the committee members are:

Peter Burcher 07715 019762
petergburcher@gmail.com

Alan Tanner 01803 613701
treasurer@toadstheatre.co.uk

Lisa Fletcher 01395 493066
membership@toadstheatre.co.uk

Anna Reynolds 01803 553803
annareynolds23@hotmail.com

Martin Waddington 01803 290038
waddingtonmartin@hotmail.com