

## **Happy New Year!**

I sincerely hope you all have had a wonderful Christmas and lively New Year's Eve?

TOADS are now gearing themselves for what will be an extremely exciting and challenging year ahead with two productions. Firstly, in June we will be presenting a traditional family favourite 'Oliver' at the Princess Theatre, and secondly, in October at the Little Theatre, we will be performing the worldwide renowned rock opera 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. We were very fortunate to get special permission to perform JCS prior to its 50th anniversary in 2021.

Both shows are extremely well known with wonderful music & songs and lots of fantastic parts. We will very shortly be welcoming new members and possible stars of the future at the forthcoming auditions. So if you know anyone interested or suitable for either show please see the details listed within this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee and our President Mary Q in advance of the mammoth amount of work to come over the next 12 months!

Thank you also to all of our members and vice presidents for your continued support and I very much look forward to seeing some of you at the John Burton-Race Restaurant with Rooms (Grosvenor Hotel) on 13 January.



*Amanda Jenkins*

Chairman

## **A Thank You to Phil Laugee**

Sadly, Phil decided to stand down from his position as treasurer, and from the committee, at the end of December. Phil took up post as treasurer in 2015 and immediately took to the role. He has kept tight control of our finances and provided the committee with clear budgets and financial oversight. We wish to thank Phil for his hard work as treasurer, and wish him well with whatever he chooses to fill his time with now the demands of the role have gone!

Obviously, losing Phil means we have a vacant treasurer position on the committee. As an interim arrangement, Iain Douglas has stepped away from the secretary role and taken up the role of treasurer, with assistance from Sunny Tagg-van Der Pas. Dan Thorogood will be covering the secretary role. Our AGM will be in April, so we will be ensuring a permanent arrangement is in place from then.



## Important Dates

Here's some key dates for Oliver! for your diaries:

**25th January - 7.30pm** - launch night for anyone interested in finding out more about the show, including meeting the production team - please note, children are not required to this event - see 25th

February (parents of interested children are more than welcome)

**4th February - 6.00pm** - new members' auditions (16 years and over)

**8th and 15th February - 7.30pm** - pre-audition music rehearsals

**18th February - 10.00am** - principals' and adult chorus (dancers and ensemble) auditions.

**25th February - (times to be confirmed)** - children's auditions.

All the above events will be held at St Luke's Church Hall, Shedden Hill, Torquay

## In it to win it!

Many of you are already signed up to the TOADS lottery, but for those who aren't - why not make it a New Year resolution?

For just £2 a month you can 'purchase' a numbered ball (or why not increase your chances with more than one ball!) which will be entered into the monthly draw for a cash prize. What could be a better way to support your society than a monthly lottery where you can even win some cash back! If that doesn't tempt you, maybe the Christmas bumper prize will! Last month's was won by Iain Douglas, who took away an amazing prize of **£240.50**.



Get in touch with Sunny for more information - [sunny.tagg.vdp@gmail.com](mailto:sunny.tagg.vdp@gmail.com)

## Save the date to grab a bargain

Clothes Sale... 10 March 2018,

Following on from the success of the clothes sale on 18 October, hosted by Sue Ward, we are planning another (bigger) event at St Martin's Church Hall.

More details will follow over the next few weeks but start looking out all your unloved clothes (male & female), handbags & shoes. All items need to be new or in a good clean condition.

## From our President.....

Now the festivities of the Christmas period are behind us, we at TOADS Stage Musical Company are regrouping to address the planning for the two shows we are producing this year. Apart from the production team who will be hard at work with direction, musical direction, and choreography, we have the publicity team whose role is extremely important and deserve our grateful thanks. The whole committee work hard to achieve a successful outcome for us and it is a pleasure to work with them on what is not only a hobby but a way of life for many of us.



I am therefore mindful of my current role which is to raise awareness of our work – mainly through our wonderful Vice-Presidents and of course for me to help raise funds which enables us to put on the standard and quality of shows for which we are reputed. With this in mind I would be thrilled to receive the VP annual renewal subs of £30! Thank you to the many who have already given me their cheques or bacs payments...I would also like to say how much I appreciate your support for the events and monthly lunches that restart on 7th February when Carol King, retired hotelier and businesswoman, will be the Speaker and giving us her thoughts and experiences during her travels along the east coast of America. Even sooner than that though, we are holding a dinner/dance on Saturday 13th January at the old Grosvenor Hotel, now known as The John Burton-Race Restaurant with Rooms. We have kept the ticket price at a very competitive £20 a head for a two-course meal including Tea/coffee and also a complimentary prosecco cocktail on arrival. Dancing is to Megan Taper. (Just to be clear, however, the hotel does not have any parking space for anyone apart from residents but there is a public carpark on the left as you turn into Belgrave Road from the seafront.)

One of the great pleasures for me during my tenure as President is to witness the many friendships that have formed over the years amongst those of you who attend our events. I have certainly met some very special people and I am sure I'll be meeting many more through the course of the year to come.

2018 has blown in on a wave not only of high winds and storms but also with optimism, expectations and hope for 2018. Here's wishing you all that's good and for the fulfilment of your dreams.

*Thank for your continued support!*

*Mary Qiriaqi*

Mary can be contacted on 01803 431584/07594 442751 or [maryqiriaqi@outlook.com](mailto:maryqiriaqi@outlook.com)

# Pig Racing Social Event TOADS & TOPS

## SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2018

One of our members has a seriously ill child in Bristol Children's Hospital waiting for a bed at Great Ormond Street Hospital. The child was suddenly taken ill last July and as you can imagine it has had a huge impact on the lives of the family and mum has had to give up work for the time being. At a joint committee meeting of TOPS & TOADS we felt that we wanted to do something to help them. We are therefore holding Pig Racing Event for Saturday 17th February 2018. This is such a fun event and is a great way to raise money.

There are three ways that you can help to raise funds at this event:

- Sponsoring a race for £25
- Buying pigs at £3 each
- Attending on the night to bet on the races

**TOPS AND TOADS PRESENT  
AN OINKINGLY HILARIOUS FREE EVENT**



## **PIG RACING NIGHT**

By BYNG'S PIG RACING

**SATURDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2018**

**BLAGDON INN FUNCTION ROOM**

**SPONSOR RACES AND PIGS TO WIN CASH PRIZES**

- Tote opens 7.00pm
- First race 7.30pm
- Cash prizes

Contact **Jane Summerfield** to  
secure your place for this fun-filled night  
Email: [janesummerfield1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janesummerfield1@hotmail.co.uk)

Funds raised at this event are going to a family in our amateur theatre community who has a seriously ill child in hospital. If you are not able to attend but would like to show your support please speak to a member of TOPS or TOADS committee to sponsor races or pigs.  
(no real pigs are used in this event)

If you would like to help, members of both committees will be selling the pigs over the next few weeks so please contact any one of them to buy a pig or sponsor a race. If you would like to sponsor a race or know someone who would, please contact Gary Abraham  
(email: [gary.abraham64@gmail.com](mailto:gary.abraham64@gmail.com))

The Pig Racing will take place in the Blagdon Inn Function Room on Saturday 17th February 2018. Tote opens at 7.00pm. First race at 7.30pm.

**There are a limited number of places available at the event and although it is free and you do need tickets so please could you contact: Jane Summerfield to let us know if you want to be added to the list of attendees.**

**Email: [janesummerfield1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janesummerfield1@hotmail.co.uk)**





## What's on the pad?

our calendar of social events and the forthcoming production dates for your diary!

### *January*

Saturday 13th - TOADS Dinner & Dance - The John Burton-Race Restaurant With Rooms, Torquay - £20 - Dress Code: Jacket & Tie.

Thursday 25th - Oliver! Launch night for people interested in being part of the show. (See article above for other initial production preparation dates).

### *February*

Wednesday 7th - Monthly luncheon with speaker, Carol King - 12:00 For 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £16 - Reserve your space via Mary.

Saturday 17th - Pig Racing Night (see advert and information on page 4)

### *March*

Wednesday 7th - Monthly luncheon with speaker, Mick Bettsworth - 12:00 For 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £16 - Reserve your space via Mary.

Saturday 10th March - Clothes Sales - St Martin's, Barton Hill Rd, Torquay. (more details to follow).

### *April*

Wednesday 4th - Monthly luncheon with speaker, Jane Brunt - 12:00 For 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £16 - Reserve your space via Mary.

### *May*

Wednesday 2nd - Monthly luncheon - 12:00 For 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £15 - Reserve your space via Mary.

### *June*

Wednesday 6th - Monthly luncheon - 12:00 For 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £15 - Reserve your space via Mary.

Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd - Oliver! - Princess Theatre, Torquay.

### *July*

Wednesday 4th - Monthly luncheon - 12:00 For 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £15 - Reserve your space via Mary.

### *October*

Saturday 20th to Saturday 27th - Jesus Christ Superstar - The Little Theatre, Torquay - more details to follow.

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Don't forget to get in contact with us for any articles or items you would like to see in future editions - [smalltalk@toads.org.uk](mailto:smalltalk@toads.org.uk)

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