



SMALL TALK



The Overture

Christmas is almost upon us, which means this is the last newsletter of 2015. The year has been very busy indeed with lots of fund-raising activities for members and vice-presidents. The high spot was of course our magnificent production of *Legally Blonde* at the Princess Theatre. In the new year we will commence rehearsals for our June 2016 production of *Grease* and the key dates are, once again, detailed later in this newsletter.

A brief overview of 2015 shows just how much has been happening to raise funds to enable us to continue staging our productions. There have of course been the monthly lunches arranged by Mary Qiriaqi (of which there were ten throughout the year) and the monthly coffee mornings arranged by Cheryl Merrikin (of which there will have been 8). Mary held a number of other events to raise funds, including the VP renewal night at Preston Conservative Club in January, Call My Bluff night at Lincombe Manor in July and a Vice Presidents' afternoon tea courtesy of Lisa Adams, also in July. A cabaret night was held in November (with grateful thanks to our hostess, Kay Cooper-Rogers), and this month sees the Christmas Concert at Lincombe Manor.

To supplement Mary's events, which have raised the bulk of our non-show income during the year, the social committee have arranged other events which included a Meerkat Raffle in March, the Salon evening in June, a Pier Point after show meal in July, the stall at the Pedal Kart Grand Prix, also in July, a quiz at a pub in Starcross, and topped off by the fitness day in October. Thanks also to Bijou Theatre Productions who arranged a special performance of their summer play where we received a donation from any ticket purchased by us.

Members assisted with publicising the main show and handed out leaflets around the harbour and at Paignton Zoo and earlier in the year, at the end of February, some of the committee and production team attended the NODA South West awards at the Bristol City Centre Marriot where we were awarded the 'District Achievement Award' for *Sister Act* and were nominated for 'Best Musical'.



A very big thank you to anyone who has contributed to the continued success of TOADS Stage Musical Company throughout 2015. We look forward to more of the same in 2016.

From our President.....

I hadn't thought that we could improve on last year's Cabaret but truly 65 of us had such a fun evening on 21st November it might just be on the calendar for November 2016! (Ummm – Kay??) There was something for everyone including beautiful voices and strippers (yes!) and much more... At the end of the evening I was able to announce that we had made a profit of about £540 which I thought was a resounding success but then I was approached by friends of Wendy & Ivan Cloherty to say they had been so impressed by the whole evening they wished to make the profit up to £1,000. So with grateful thanks to Wendy's and Ivan's house guests, we were £1016 better off at 11pm. Such generosity is amazing.



Last week I attended a rehearsal for the Concert & Carol evening on 12th December at Lincombe Manor and I think those of you who have reserved their seats will be blown away by the quality of the performances. Although we are currently fully booked, please put your name on the waiting list with me as we often have last minute cancellations.

The next lunch at The Headland Hotel is on 6th January when our Speaker will be Ali Marshall, Head Gardner at Torre Abbey. I'm very much looking forward to her talk. On 16th January we will be having another Dinner & Disco at the Preston Conservative Club. For £14 you can enjoy a two-course meal and disco dancing! I will soon be sending out menus for these two events so watch this space but please don't wait to reserve your space.

Coming up in February and March we are holding respectively a video showing of the Cabaret evening at Sue & Bob Ward's home and a coffee morning at the home of another VP, Sheila Mackay. Dates to be advised. We are indeed fortunate to have such lovely friends who don't mind sharing their homes with us!

I would like to wish all our supporters a very joyous Christmas and New Year. Let us all hope for a peaceful 2016 and on a more frivolous note, a fabulous week of Grease in June!

Thank for your continued support!

Mary Qiriadi

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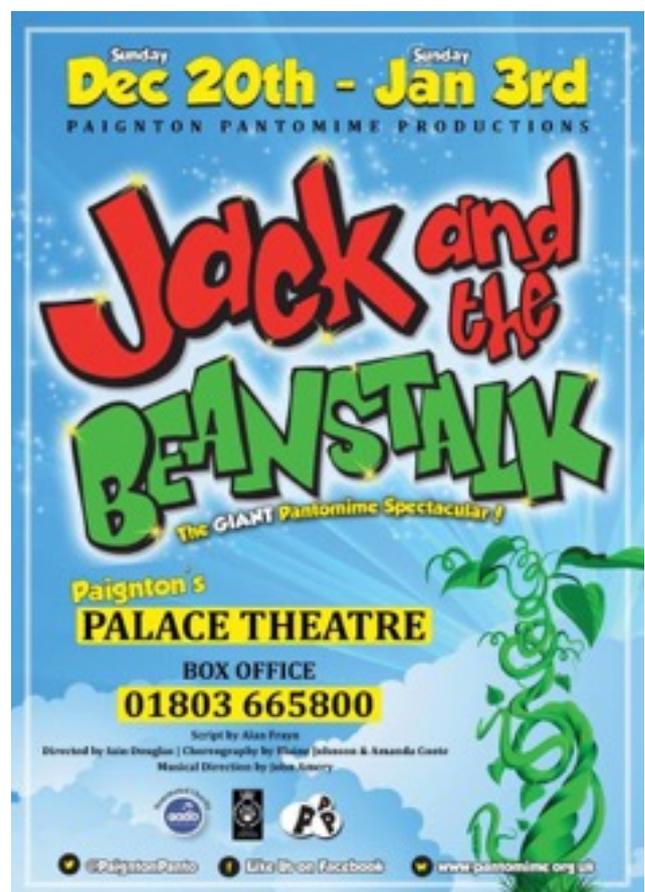
Revellers enjoying the Cabaret Evening



It's Panto time.....oh yes it is!

A number of our members are now heavily involved in pantomime and we pass our good wishes on to Paignton Pantomime Productions with the production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, which opens at the Palace Theatre on December 20th and runs until January 3rd. Quite a few of our members are on stage and the production is directed by Iain Douglas, choreographed by Elaine Johnson and Musically Directed by John Amery. Pantomime always does good business and bookings are once again up on previous years so it is recommended that you book before

Christmas to be certain of good seats. John Amery is obviously a glutton for panto punishment because he will be MD for another panto at Newton Abbot (*Robin Hood*) between January 11th and 17th.



Christmas Time - Mistletoe and coffee.....

Cheryl is back this month with her pre-Christmas coffee morning. Come along on December 19th to St Martin's Hall in Barton between 11.15 and 1.15 for a good gossip and catch-up!



Can you provide more support to your society?



Despite two requests in previous newsletters we are still to receive any offers for consideration to fill the vacancy. Ideally this should be someone to act as assistant to Iain Douglas with his secretarial duties. There must be someone out there who wants to give it a go - we promise it won't take over your life!

The Rocky Horror Show

Jo Plant is organising a trip to see the truly spectacular Rocky Horror Show at the Princess Theatre in March 2016. In order to avoid rehearsal clashes and other commitments, the date will be Wednesday 9th March - and fancy dress surely has to be compulsory! We will be aiming to get the mid-priced tickets, at about £24.

Tickets are guaranteed to sell-out quickly, so if you are interested please get in touch with Jo ASAP! Jo can be contacted by email at joanna.plant@gmail.com



Our 'Christmas' Get Together

We know how popular this is, but we also know how busy you all are at this time of year! There is going to be an after Christmas meal at Pier Point, Torquay- date to follow in the New Year! The intension is for it to be held early February.

Elaine Johnson is organising and if you're interested you can let her know on 07850 023621



What's on the pad?

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



December

Saturday 12th - Concert, Carols, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies - Lincombe Manor. Reserve your place via Mary

Saturday 19th - TOADS coffee morning - 11:15 to 1:15 - St Martins, Barton Hill Rd, Torquay

2016

January

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

Saturday 16th - Dinner and Disco VP Night at Preston Con Club. A get together for good food and dancing and the opportunity for any VP who hasn't yet renewed for 2016 to pay their sub in person. Potential VP's come and meet us before deciding to join. Contact Mary.

Thursday 28th - Grease launch night - more details to follow.

February

Wednesday 3rd - Monthly Luncheon - 12:00 for 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £15 - Reserve your space via Mary.

Sunday 7th - New members auditions

Thursday 11th - First Grease music rehearsal - more details to follow.

Sunday 21st - Grease principal auditions - more details to follow.

Date TBA - Tipples and Titters. A showing of the Cabaret video and the odd jar or two. Courtesy of Susan and Bob Ward.

Date TBA - post Christmas get together - see above article for details.

March

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

Wednesday 9th - The Rocky Horror Show - see article above for details.

Date TBA - Weekday Coffee Morning. Courtesy of Sheila Mackay.

April

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

May

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

Friday 6th - Red Carpet Banquet and Ball - contact Amanda Jenkins for more details.

June

Wednesday 1st - Monthly Luncheon - 12:00 for 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £15 - Reserve your space via Mary.

Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th June - our BIG 2016 production - GREASE - nightly at 7:30, plus Saturday matinee at 2:30.

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
