



# SMALL TALK

## The Overture

As this is the first newsletter of 2016 I would like to offer belated good wishes to everyone for a fantastic and exciting year ahead.

Life within TOADS SMC is about to step up a gear, as we enter the busiest part of our calendar. Preparations are fully underway for our main show, and "Grease" is certainly the word with great excitement already building from the recent launch night & very successful new members' auditions welcoming some very talented new TOADS!

Pre-audition rehearsals have now begun and we have had a very enthusiastic and encouraging start with our production team (Ruth, Elaine & John) preparing themselves for the challenges ahead, and although it will be hard work it is going to be fun, fun, fun!

I wish the very best of luck to everyone auditioning on both 21 & 28 February - "You are the ones that we want!"

Often members do not understand or know how much work goes on behind the scenes to get a production, of the quality expected these days, on stage - it seems to magically happen! However, there is a group of people who have been working towards this for many months - the committee. I would like to personally thank them in advance for the enormous amount of work they will be undertaking over the next 4 months - thank you for your reassuring support.

In addition to the committee I would also like to thank our President, Mary Q. Mary is constantly and loyally promoting TOADS in an effort to raise our profile. Her continually expanding Vice Presidents have now reached record numbers and their generosity at their regular events has brought in much needed funds, which are vital and enable us to maintain the standard of production our audience expects. Apart from that they have a jolly old time and certainly know how to let their hair down! Thank you all!

Another big forthcoming event, and another essential fund raiser, is the "Red Carpet Ball" on Friday May 6 at the Palace Hotel, Torquay.

For those who have not been to a TOADS ball before we can guarantee you a wonderful, glamorous evening and a chance to dress to impress.

The fun starts from 6.45 with a photo opportunity and the 5 course Gala Dinner will be announced at 7.30. Tickets are £45 per person.

We have dancing to AJ's Big Band - one of the South West's finest 17-piece big sound bands. Even if you are not into dancing, just listening to them is pure joy.

All ages are welcome and if you fancy staying over the hotel is offering a deal for B&B - £45 per person, per night (please ring them to book on Tel: 01803 200200)

During the evening there will be the usual raffle and an entertaining auction with our very own David Dickinson - Iain Douglas (without the tan)!

Now for a plea....If anyone has anything that they could kindly donate for either the raffle or the auction can they please contact me via email: [amandajenkins14@hotmail.com](mailto:amandajenkins14@hotmail.com)

It promises to be a memorable evening and I do hope to see you all there!

Kindest regards

*Amanda Jenkins - hopelessly devoted to you!!*

Chairman





## A few photos from our Grease launch night



Photos Courtesy of Thoroughly Good Photography

## Reminder - 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](mailto:joanna.plant@gmail.com)



## From our President.....

This new year has once again shown us the consistency and faithfulness of our amazing Vice-Presidents who have, almost unanimously, renewed their membership of TOADS Stage Musical Company. Without you we would be struggling to put on our next show, Grease, and as rehearsals are due to start I am very aware of the importance you all play in our existence! Thank you.



The lunches have continued to be a success at The Headland and we have more interesting speakers booked through the coming year. The March 2nd lunch menu has already been communicated to you via email and telephone and I look forward to receiving your bookings. Let's have another good turnout (76 people booked last month) so we will be able to offer our speaker, Felicity Harper, who is Archivist of Powderham Castle, a real TOADS welcome!

As all VPs are entitled to a complimentary ticket to see our main show, I am inviting you all to reserve your seat to attend the Civic Night reception and viewing of Grease on Thursday 23rd June. If you have not already done so, please contact me. You are welcome to bring one guest at a reduced seat price of £16 on this occasion. I look forward to hearing from you.

If any of your friends are interested in seeing this award winning blockbuster(!) then remind them that group bookings of 10 people or more give you one free ticket, and that all group bookings are charged at £16 per seat instead of the usual £19. Quite a saving. If you are interested in organising such a group booking then telephone the Princess Theatre on their group booking line 01803 206365.

The next important date for the Committee is the auditioning of the principal roles on Sunday 21st February. All the best to all of you who will be auditioning. I am very much looking forward to seeing so much talent and I know it will be a difficult job to choose the cast. Good luck!

*Thank for your continued support! Mary Qiriadji*

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

### **TOADS Lottery - do you have a number?**

You have to be in it to win it, and at less than 50p per week why wouldn't you be? You have much better odds of winning with the TOADS Lottery than on the National Lottery and the more participants the bigger the prizes! It costs just £2 per month per ball (payable by standing order) and you can even select your own number(s) from those still available.

Only members and VPs may participate. For full details contact Hazel Laugée, TOADS Lottery Administrator on 01803 475923 or speak to her at any rehearsal or monthly VP luncheon.



## What's on the pad?

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

### *February*

Saturday 20th - TOADS coffee morning - 11:15 to 1:15 - St Martins, Barton Hill Rd, Torquay.

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

Friday 26th - Evening "get together" girls' night social at Sue Ward's home. Welcome drink and food - £12 - Call Mary.

Sunday 28th - Grease ensemble auditions.

### *March*

Wednesday 2nd - Monthly Luncheon with Speaker, Felicity Harper, Archivist, Powderham Castle - 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.

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

### *April*

Wednesday 6th - Monthly Luncheon with Speaker, Barry Buxton, Founder of Palm FM - 12:00 for 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £15 - Reserve your space via Mary.

Saturday 9th - TOADS coffee morning - 11:15 to 1:15 - St Martins, Barton Hill Rd, Torquay.

Saturday 16th - Save the date for an Evening Meal at Pier Point, Torquay. More details to follow.

### *May*

Wednesday 4th - Monthly Luncheon with Speaker, Ian Cooper, well known local actor and retired police officer - 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.

Saturday 14th - TOADS coffee morning - 11:15 to 1:15 - St Martins, Barton Hill Rd, Torquay.

### *June*

Wednesday 1st - Monthly Luncheon with Speaker, John Risdon, local historian - 12:00 for 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £15 - Reserve your space via Mary.

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

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

Thursday 23rd June - Civic Reception for Grease, Princess Theatre. See Mary's article above.

### *July*

Wednesday 6th - Monthly Luncheon with Speaker, John Page, talking about his overland trip to Afghanistan - 12:00 for 12:30 - Headland Hotel, Torquay - £15 - Reserve your space via Mary.

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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)