TAUNTON THESPIANS PRESENT...



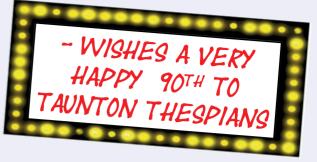


BREWHOUSE SATURDAY 17TH FEB 2018 7.30PM

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME







Learn to Sing in Harmony

Male singers' FREE 1-day workshop introduction to the enjoyable art of singing acapella 4-part Barbershop Harmony

Oakwood Church Centre, Obridge Road, Taunton TA2 7PU Saturday 24th March 10am - 4pm

Care to give it a go? It's easier than you might think!
In just one day you'll be harmonising "You'll Never Walk Alone" with us!
Register now to receive your free sheet music & learning tracks in advance.

Contact: Kevin Toller (01823)490109 or email kevin@kevintoller.com

CARLY PRESS AD





90 YEARS ON

SOME THOUGHTS ON HOW WE GOT HERE

I've illustrated this piece with a couple of photos of the leading ladies from our first and our most recent productions; quite a lot has changed over the intervening decades. Back then, our predecessors had to fill a 700 seat theatre for three nights, now we have the same number of seats over twice as many performances. Tilly of Bloomsbury was written by Ian Hay, whose name was guaranteed box office, along with I M Barrie and Noel Coward. These days, Coward might still be a draw, but audiences in Taunton definitely prefer a bit of murder, with Agatha Christie drawing the best crowds.

We've moved house a few times, too. Originally, to quote John Wilkins, "These manifold activities had to be pursued in a variety of make-shift rented premises, garages, army huts, a rifle range, and,

above all, some old stables known affectionately as 'The Dump.'" Following the floods of 1960 and a fire the next May, this was lost, and the society bought a condemned Georgian house on Canon Street, which was our home for the next thirty years. Meanwhile, John Wilkins and our President, John Meikle, along with other luminaries of the amateur theatre scene, were pushing hard to get the Council to commit to building a theatre. Forty one years ago, this goal was achieved, and The Brewhouse opened its doors, with a lighting rig provided on long-term loan by Taunton Thespians. Our first production at the new venue was The School for Scandal in May 1977, followed in October by The Killing of Sister George, Treasure Island in December, Hay Fever (with Stephen Daldry in the cast) in February and Anastasia in May 1978. I'm not sure we could accomplish that many full length productions that close together now! People work longer hours, and there's a lot more call on leisure time than there was.

In 1992, we sold Thespian House and purchased an old warehouse behind East Reach. This gives us the space to rehearse, to hold our regular club nights and play readings, to store our huge wardrobe and masses of props and furniture, and to store stage flats and build full Brewhouse stage sets for rehearsal. However, the core reason for buying it was to fulfil a long standing dream the society has had of creating our own studio

theatre. That dream is still some way from being reality; over the years lighting has been installed, and various modifications made to ensure it's usable on a day-to-day basis, but we need to raise a substantial amount of money to take the next step. However, it's something I believe we can do, and I hope that it's possible in the near future.

Tonight's show is a first for us; never in our history have we organised an event with so many performers from so many groups. I need to offer my personal thanks to Jane E, Torie, Lizzie, Peter, Clare, Polly, Lorna, Vin, John, Andy, maat, Jane B, Martin, Sue and Rene for inviting the groups, liaising with them, sorting out the running order, getting hold of raffle prizes and all the hundreds of other tasks involved. Thanks also to the participating groups for coming on board and demonstrating just how alive the performing arts are in the area, thanks to the hundreds of people who get up and do stuff on and off stage, without subsidy or support. The theatres we all perform in, be they purpose built or village halls, give entertainment to thousands every year. Tonight, you're doing your bit to help develop the Brewhouse; all the proceeds of the raffle and any surplus after costs on the evening are being donated to the theatre. I hope you have a wonderful evening!

MICHAEL GILBERT, CHAIRMAN, TAUNTON THESPIANS

Brewhouse Theatre • Nov 7th - 11th And Then There Were None

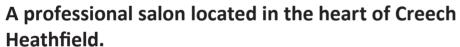


Clare Fidler as Vera



eathfield Hair & Beauty





Sarah and her team offer many years of experience with specialist techniques in all aspects of hair and beauty treatment, including wedding hair, makeup, tanning and nails.

ARTDECO OLAPLEX



















Heathfield Hair & Beauty

Charlton Road, Creech Heathfield, Taunton TA3 5EG

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SOME INFORMATION ABOUT OUR RAFFLE PRIZE DONORS

HEATHFIELD HAIR & BEAUTY BEAUTY TREATMENT Indulge in one of Heathfield Hair and Beauty's Discovery Facials – the effective rescue remedy for perfectly radiant skin. Decléor facials are world famous for this treatment, which includes revitalising massage, Essential Oils and a gentle polish to wake up tired skin. Or for men, there's the Express Energy Facial, DECLÉOR developed to recharge and revive skin instantly, including thorough exfoliation and revitalising massage to give your skin a new lease of life. There are other treatments, too, so discover Heathfield Hair and Beauty for yourself, and treat yourself to £30 off a beauty treatment. The salon is in Charlton Road, Creech Heathfield, Taunton TA3 5EG. Call them on 01823 412384 if you're lucky enough to win this prize! People who try the Heathfield Hair and Beauty salon in Creech St Michael rarely go anywhere else afterwards. And why? The secret is in the attention to detail and focussed customer service you'll find there. It's not just the friendly welcome, or the tea and coffee brought to your chair, or even eathfield the 'can do' attitude to anything their customers may ask of them – it's all this, and much more. Professional and friendly, a stone's throw from Taunton, with plenty of parking and an atmosphere which makes you throw off the cares of the day as soon as you enter, it's a real find for the whole family. And now, if you're lucky enough to win this prize, you can go and find out for yourself! Give the salon a call, and book yourself a new cut and style for 2018 with Laura or Natasha. Just drop into their salon at Charlton Road, Creech Heathfield, Taunton TA3 5EG, or call them on 01823 412384. Lisa Ballyn specialises in deep tissue massage and has been practising for thirty years. She has kindly donated a half hour massage to make you feel relaxed and revitalised. It's up to you whether you have a back and LISA BALLYN shoulders massage, or a head massage – whatever you choose, you can be sure that MASSAGE & BEAUTY THERAPY you're in professional hands, and that at the end of your 30 minutes, you'll feel like a different person. Lisa is professional, friendly and very, very busy, so don't leave it too long before you book your appointment... You will find her at 24 Collett Road, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton TA2 6DD, or call to book on 01823 619104. RIVERSIDE RESTAURANT, TAUNTON VOUCHER TOWARDS A MEAL The Riverside is a Turkish restaurant with a lot of heart. A recent Trip Advisor review said: "Brought to our table was a meze, a selection of dips and some lovely warm bread; the dips we had were taramasalata, hummus, onion and garlic and some red cabbage drizzled in a beautiful dressing. Our main meals then arrived, and they tasted delicious; the chicken and lamb we ordered were cooked to perfection, succulent and juicy all the way!!!" This gives you an idea of the treat in store for you if you win this prize. Owner Ismail Deniz offers a great menu and personal service. Treat yourself to a succulent lamb steak or kebab, while overlooking the river. Portions are generous and the welcome is warm and friendly. You'll find the Riverside Restaurant next to the bridge in Taunton (TAI IUB is the postcode), or you can call to book your table on 01823 279900.

1 X BREWHOUSE MEMBERSHIP FOR ONE YEAR

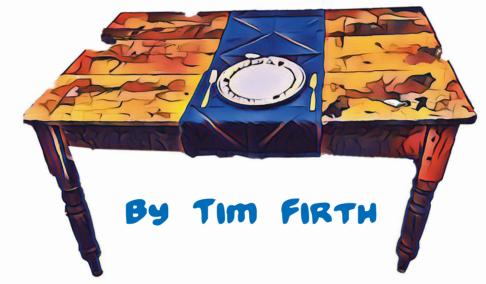
The Brewhouse Theatre is situated in the heart of the County town and prides itself on offering an enriching programme of live shows, films, activities and workshops. It is proud to be the venue of choice for the Taunton Thespians and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on 90 years of inspiring drama! Visit www.thebrewhouse.net for full listings of forthcoming shows and activities.



Chef Richard Guest and Maître D' Cédric Chirrosel believe that, to quote their website, 'cuisine is when , things taste like themselves'. In other words, locally sourced food cooked simply and to perfection. The Michelin Guide 2012 adds: '[A] simple little bistro set in a small courtyard and run by an experienced chef. Good-sized menu of hearty, unfussy dishes which mix French, British and some $\mathcal C$ Asian influences - supplemented by blackboard specials. Bright and breezy service.' There cannot be many people in Taunton who have not heard of Augustus... maybe 2018 is the year when you call them, book a table and try their amazing menus for yourself? Call 01823 324354 to book for lunch or evening service at this wonderful bistro at 3 The Courtyard, Saint James Street, Taunton, TAI IJR. Give your tastebuds a treat. HESTERCOMBE Hestercombe is a unique combination of beautiful gardens, all saved from disrepair and restored to their former glory over the last 20 years. Discover 50 acres steeped in history and brimming with wildlife and enjoy an exciting programme of events all year round. Between 1725 and 1730 John Bampfylde took HESTERCOMBE down most of the medieval house and re-fronted the west elevation creating a Georgian façade. Following his death in 1750, the landscape garden was created by his son Coplestone Warre Bampfylde. In 1904, the Formal Garden designed by Edwin Lutyens, with planting schemes by Gertrude Jekyll, was added. Hestercombe, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, TA2 8LG, www.hestercombe.com 01823 413923 HANDCRAFTED ANGEL Your designs brought to life in beautiful wood. Be it a house name, plaque, or a unique wood sculpture for yourself, or as a unique gift for a friend or family member. [B Carvings would love to discuss any requirements you might have. All items are lovingly handcrafted, carved from sustainable hard and JBCarvings softwoods for your delight. Do you have an apple tree that needs felling but would like something to remember it by? Send the wood to JB carvings! Website: www.jbcarvings.wixsite.com/ woodcarving. Enquire now: e-mail: jbcarvings@johnburbery.plus.com Tel: 01823 442118 B&Q . . £25 GIFT CARD B&Q is the UK's leading home improvement and garden retailer, helping customers have smarter homes since 1969. The way we live, shop and use our homes may have changed over the past five decades, but we all still need homes that work for every member of our household; homes that use space brilliantly, provide a balance of comfort and practicality, and are easy to maintain and improve so they look and feel great. At B&Q we help make that happen by bringing together inspiring project ideas, expert support and clever solutions. We offer great prices across 40,000 products in our 300 stores and on div. com, and our 27,000 colleagues are respected nation-wide for providing great advice to customers. They're the beating heart of B&Q and their iconic orange aprons are worn with pride. WHISKY AND TWO TAUNTON FLOWER SHOW TICKETS MHA Monahans is an independent firm of Chartered Accountants in the West of England. We work with businesses and individuals to help them flourish and grow. Clients tell us we're approachable, flexible and down-to-earth, and that they value our collaboration with them as much as our **MHA** Monahans commercial knowhow and professional expertise. Because we have offices across the West of England, we have local and regional insight and as members of the highly-regarded MHA, we have national and international reach. Rumwell Hall, Rumwell, Taunton, TA4 IEL. 01823 462400 £15 **VO**UCHER We were once was once a horse livery and market garden, but have been a garden centre since the 1980s. These days, we have a huge range of top quality plants and gardening products – and a very knowledgeable team, always happy to offer expert advice and practical tips. We also have a Wyevale garden centres gift shop, great for a spot of shopping, and a restaurant, which is perfect for a relaxing meal. Open Monday to Saturday - 9am to 5pm. Sunday - 10.30am to 4.30pm. Pen Elm Hill, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton TA2 6PE. Phone: 0844 288 5061.







A dark comedy by the author of *Calendar Girls*Directed by Ray Court

The Brewhouse Theatre Tue 6th to Sat 10th March 2018

7:30pm nightly, Saturday matinée 2:30pm

Tickets:

01823 283244 Brewhouse, Taunton 01823 340470 Taunton Visitor Centre Online: thebrewhouse.net

> £15 (full), £10 Tue eve. and Matinée £5 (students, under 16s and unwaged) Includes Brewhouse booking fee

Part of Taunton Thespians' 90th season

This amateur production of Safari Party, The is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.



Situated in the historical town of Taunton, Somerset's county capital, the Cooper Associates County Ground makes for the perfect day out. Whether you are a family looking to enjoy a day's cricket, younger people looking to enjoy an evening out after a day at work, or a business looking to provide your clients with some top-notch hospitality, we can cater for it all in our fun and lively atmosphere.

The Cooper Associates County Ground, Taunton, Somerset, TAI IJT. Phone 0845 337 1875 or email enquiries@somersetcountycc.co.uk

Berry's Coaches is a family run business currently operating a fleet of over 45 coaches providing school services, private hire, day excursions and our famous London Superfast service linking London and the West Country. We have a range of standard and executive vehicles, varying in size from a 16 seat executive minibus to our 77 seat executive double deck coaches and 78 seat double deck buses and operate out of our new purpose built depot in Taunton.

Our popular London Service was started in 1981 and now includes three routes and up to six services a day operating from pick-up points throughout the West Country – Tiverton, Wellington, Taunton, N. Petherton, Bridgwater, Ilminster, S. Petherton, Yeovil, Ilchester, Wincanton, Street, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Frome, Warminster & Codford Village.

Please call us on 01823 331356 during office hours or email info@berryscoaches.co.uk

BRENDON BOOKS..... 3 £20 BOOKS

Brendon Books has been run by Lionel and Jo Ward since 1989 and in recent years has become a non-profit making community interest company. Brendon Books sells new and second hand books, has a fast and special order service, stocks books for local authors and puts on a number of bookshop talks throughout the year. It keeps a wide range of Ordnance Survey walking maps and provides large-scale maps for planning applications. It also collaborates with a number of local organisations to put on events. It started the Taunton Literary Festival in 2010 which has grown over the years to become a highlight of the autumn calendar, they also produce LAMP, the arts magazine for the area, which is distributed to

thousands of households and is available in and around Taunton Deane, west and southwest Somerset.

Old Brewery Buildings, Bath Place, Taunton TAI 4ER Email: brendonbooks@gmail.com. Phone: 01823 337742

MONKTON FLM GARDEN & PET CENTRE..... £25 VOUCHER

Monkton Elm near Taunton is officially the HTA's garden centre destination of choice for Wales and the

West. It is family run, independent business which specialises in high quality plants and gardening equipment.

In 2015, Monkton Elm opened the Elm Tree Restaurant, a new purpose built building with modern facilities and much expanded capacity. The Elm Tree serves breakfasts, specialist coffees, homemade cakes and hot lunches. There is also a Pondside Café on site, which is perfect for light refreshments. As well as plants, pets and gardening products, Monkton Elm stocks gifts, clothing and books, and has a specialist Craft Centre for keen knitters, card makers and bead crafters. The garden centre has free parking for coaches. It is located just off the A38 near Taunton and is about a mile from M5 junction 25.

WEST SOMERSET RAILWAYTWO ADULT DAY ROVER TICKETS

Monkton Heathfield, Taunton Somerset, TA2 8QN. Email info@monkton-elm.co.uk Tel: 01823 412381

Our Railway, a true country branch line of the old Great Western Railway, is full of fascination whether you are looking for a nostalgic ride back in time through lovely countryside or to study the railway and industrial heritage which our line preserves. The historic steam locomotives, coaches and wagons, and the buildings of our ten unique stations linked by a twenty mile scenic journey will repay hours of exploration. The surrounding countryside is as varied as it is beautiful. The gently rolling Quantock hills and distant Exmoor, unspoilt villages and farms nestling in leafy lanes, the cliffs and coast of the Bristol Channel with views of distant South-Wales, confident church towers,

The Railway Station, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5BG. Tel 01643 704996

Dunster's imposing Castle and Minehead's seaside charm are all waiting to be discovered.



As part of our 90th Season Taunton Thespians present:

90

THE TWO

GENTLEMEN

OF VERONA

by William Shakespeare

Set in the "Roaring" Twenties. What a great reason for a party!

Think flappers, think jazz, think decadence...

Outdoors at stunning venues across Somerset

10th to the 21st of July 2018, 7:30pm

Come to our open auditions on 12th & 14th March, 7:30pm at The Place, Wilfred Road, Taunton, TA1 1TB

tauntonthespians.org.uk

PERFORMERS!

Taunton Thespians are staging
Oh What A Lovely War

at The Brewhouse from the **6**th - **11**th **November**

There will be a pre-audition workshop on

30th May at 7.30pm

at our rehearsal space

The Place, Wilfred Rd, Taunton TAI ITB

followed by auditions on

12th June at 7.30pm & 17th June at 2.30pm

Contact us via Facebook

or

Email productions@tauntonthespians.org.uk for more information

WE WANT





Apple FM is a Community Radio Station that launched at 10am on 11th May 2013. Aimed at providing a service for the care community of Taunton Deane, we have a wide range of programmes suitable for all tastes

and ages of people. We broadcast on 97.3FM, online and via our free APPs for iOS and Android devices. Based locally, in the Duchess Building at Musgrove Park Hospital, it is our aim to provide a service for the local community. We cover local events, weather, traffic and travel in and around Taunton. At Apple FM, we are by no means the new kids on the block. We have been going for around 46 years now and started as Taunton Hospital Broadcasting Service, broadcasting programmes in the evenings for most of that time to patients at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Call the studio on 01823 34259, text the word applefm followed by your message to 64446 or email us on studio@applefm.co.uk

Nestling between the Quantock Hills and Exmoor National Park, The New Inn is an 18th century former



coaching inn that offers the complete country village pub experience. Situated in the quaint village of Halse, we are just five miles from the Somerset county town of Taunton and only 10 minutes walk from the famous West Somerset Railway! The North Somerset coast is just 30 minutes away. The New Inn provides a great spot for lunch or dinner, accompanied by a glass of wine from the extensive wine

cellar or a pint of West Country real ale. At the New Inn, you'll find a warm, inviting and relaxed atmosphere – a true countryside escape. We pride ourselves on the wide variety of fresh fish, meat and game – and our friendly service.

Halse, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 3AF Telephone: 01823 432352 Email: reception@newinnhalse.com

SOME ARCHIVE PHOTOS!



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RAFFLE PRIZES

@2K THEATRE COMPANY	£20 M&S VOUCHER
	AND 2 TICKETS FOR THEIR NEXT PRODUCTION
APPLE FM	VIP TOUR OF THE STATION
ASHLEY STOCKTON FLORAL (TRULL)	FRESH FLORAL TABLE DECORATION
AUGUSTUS, TAUNTON	COURSE LUNCH FOR TWO (EXCLUDING DRINKS)
	£25 VOUCHER
	FOUR BREWHOUSE CINEMA VOUCHERS
BREWHOUSE	BREWHOUSE MEMBERSHIP FOR ONE YEAR
	£50 MEAL VOUCHER FOR THE NEW INN, HALSE
HEATHFIELD HAIR & BEAUTY	£35 LUXURY
	CUT AND STYLE WITH LAURA OR NATASHA
HEATHFIELD HAIR & BEAUTY	£30 BEAUTY TREATMENT
HESTERCOMBE	£29.50 FAMILY TICKET
	.UNIQUE HANDCRAFTED CHERRY WOOD ANGEL
LISA BALLYN	£30 HALF HOUR MASSAGE
	BOTTLE OF WHISKY
	D TWO TICKETS TO TAUNTON FLOWER SHOW
	£25 VOUCHER
	£20 MEAL VOUCHER
	TWO TICKETS TO
	ONE DAY OF A COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH
	2 FULL PRICE TICKETS TO OLIVER
	LUXURY CHEESE & WINE HAMPER WORTH £75
	2 FULL PRICE TICKETS FOR SUMMER TOUR 2018
	.2 FULL PRICE TICKETS FOR THE SAFARI PARTY
	£5 VOUCHER
TRULL PLAYERS	4 TICKETS, PROGRAMMES,
	A GLASS OF WINE EACH IN THE INTERVAL
	£15 GIFT VOUCHER
AS WELL AS OTHER PRIZES RECEIVED TO	O LATE FOR INCLUSION IN THIS PROGRAMME!

Taunton Thespians would like to thank all prize donors for their support. All proceeds of the raffle will go towards supporting the Brewhouse Theatre and its work in our community. We are passionate about the performing arts and, in the absence of funding to the same level as provided to sports in the area, will do all we can to ensure those who participate and those who watch can continue to do so.

ON STAGE

YOUR MASTER OF CEREMON

PART ONE

TAUNTON THESPIANS
TRAM-TRACK TRAGEDY (MELODRAMA PART 1)

THE RIVERTONES

THAT'S BARBERSHOP (ACAPELLA)

HALSE PLAYERS

FONDLY REMEMBERED (COMEDY)

HATS (HATCH BEAUCHAMP)

IN THE MOOD (MUSIC)

ROADWATER PLAYERS

2 SKETCHES (COMEDY)

SOMERSET OPERA

RUDDIGORE (LIGHT OPERA)

FOYER ENTERTAINMENT BY THE TAU

E TONIGHT!

JNIES IS MR MARTIN JEVON

PART TWO

TRULL PLAYERS

PANTOMANIA (COMEDY/MUSIC)

STREET THEATRE
SHAKESPEARE REVUE SKETCHES (COMEDY)

CATS (CHARD)

CATS DO JOSEPH (MUSIC)

BRADFORD PLAYERS

90 YEARS OF DANCE IN 7
MINUTES (MUSIC/COMEDY)

TAOS

SIDE BY SIDE (MUSIC)

TAUNTON THESPIANS
TRAM-TRACK TRAGEDY (MELODRAMA PART 2)

AUNTON UKULELE STRUMMERS CLUB



TAUNTON THESPIANS' VARIETY SHOW CREW

(Without whom nothing would be happening on stage tonight)

Production Manager Lizzie Knighton
Stage Manager
DSM Lorna Evans
ASM
Sound Operation
Lighting and Sound Design
Lighting & Sound Assistant
Follow spot operator
Publicity
Performers' Liaison Manager
Poster and Programme Designer
FOH Managers

TAUNTON THESPIANS' VARIETY SHOW ORGANISING COMMITTEE

(Our very own party planners, without whom nothing would have happened at all)

Polly Bray, Jane Busby, Andy Busby, John Cunningham, Vin Cunningham, Jane Edwards, Lorna Evans, Clare Fidler, Michael Gilbert, Martin Jevon, Rene Kilner, Lizzie Knighton, Torie Meredith, Peter Meredith, Sue Meredith, maat ward

Are you now, or have you ever been, a Taunton Thespian?

Over our 90 years, hundreds of drama lovers have trodden the boards, painted the sets, made the tea, stitched the costumes, driven the vans, climbed the ladders, designed the posters, pulled the curtains, found the venues, pasted up the billboards, typed up the scripts, made the props or carried out the dozens of other tasks necessary to get a show from page to stage. The archive pages of our website make fascinating reading, as they list people involved in shows from the 1920s onwards. But we are lacking some programmes and photos from over the years, so if you can help to fill in the gaps, do please get in touch.

If you have ever been a Thespian, we would love to hear from you. Email: chairman@tauntonthespians.org.uk with your stories, memories and photos of past shows.

We are marking our 90th season with a full range of theatre shows; this is one of them, and *The Safari Party* in March is the next. Details about auditions for our next two productions are on page 9 of this programme – take a look! We're also pushing ahead with converting 'The Place' (our HQ, in Wilfred Road, Taunton) into a fully functioning studio theatre.

If you have an interest in the theatre, whether it's onstage, backstage, design or production and administration, and are over 16, why not come along and join us? Membership is only £15 per year. Email: membership@tauntonthespians.org.uk

Book the Thespians for your event

If you are planning a party or fundraiser or other event and are looking for something different, why not consider booking the Thespians' Mummers Troupe or Thespians' Murder Squad or Dressing Up Tent or even a command performance? For details, email: productions@tauntonthespians.org.uk

To find out more about the Thespians and our activities, why not visit the website (tauntonthespians.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@tauntonthespian)

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ALL CASTS AND CREWS

TAUNTON THESPIANS

THE TRAM-TRACK TRAGEDY (MELODRAMA - PART ONE)

CAST	HELDI (MILLODIANIA LANTI DIAL)
Alan Coles	The Dastardly Sir Putrid Canker (Boo!) Little Nellie, Genuinely Touching in her Naivety The Bright, Lively, Loving and protective Sister Belle Blundering, Short-sighted Hero Claud Body (Hooray!) The Man with a Multitude of Parts (no, seriously!)
Director Producer Sound design and operation Wardrobe Make-up Props Rehearsal Prompt Performance Prompt Set Construction	
THE RIVERTONES	THAT'S BARBERSHOP (ACAPELLA)
	Dennis, Mike Ellis, Peter Garrard, Ron Marriott, Chris Mike Oliver, Shaun Wilson, John Stokes, Wynne Jones
•	Mallett, Mike Eastmond, George Bower
John Morrod, John Neenan, Des Ryan BARITONE VOICES Martin Sumpter, Peter Sto TENOR VOICES	, Mark Smith, Lee Spreadbury, Kevin Toller, John Bush ead, Brian Pankhurst, Rob Morgan, Kevin Hamer, John Mallett, Mike Eastmond, George Bower raham Blight, Murray Porter, Jim Kirkby, Russell West
John Morrod, John Neenan, Des Ryan BARITONE VOICES Martin Sumpter, Peter St	, Mark Smith, Lee Spreadbury, Kevin Toller, John Bush ead, Brian Pankhurst, Rob Morgan, Kevin Hamer, John Mallett, Mike Eastmond, George Bower
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15

The Chickens Chrissie Williams, Carole Walters, Sue Young, Jacqueline Green & Rachel Smith



ROADWATER PLAYERS	2 SKETCHES (COMEDY)
Second Gentleman	AKESPEARE REVUE'
Customer	
SOMERSET OPERA	RUDDIGORE (LIGHT OPERA)
Meredith, Sally Jago, Joyce Penn, Sue Goodma Adele Wall	n, Tracy Skinner, Suzi Allen, Annie Bowles, Wendy Freudenberg, Ker, Stephen Grimshaw, John Sanders, John Fisher, Charlie Webb
TRULL PLAYERS	PANTOMANIA (COMEDY/MUSIC)
Cinderella	
STREET THEATRE 3 SH	HAKESPEARE REVUE SKETCHES (COMEDY)
Performers Bruce Bo	ourquin, Neil Howiantz, Jane Sayer, Paul Townsend, Karen Trevis
CAST	CATS DO JOSEPH (MUSIC) Andrew Herbert, Jacacia Totterdell, Claire
Mitchell-Snudden, Mandy Cameron-Taylor, H	ayley Glazier, Gary Glazier, Steve Warwick, Mike Eldridge, Becci on, Carol Wellsburr, Leanne Henley, Morgan Miller, Maia Henley, Thalia Glazier, Jessica Newton, Jadeen Totterdell.
BRADFORD PLAYERS	
	F DANCE IN 7 MINUTES (MUSIC/COMEDY)
PERFORMERS Sue G	arrett, Mike Leach, Rebecca Beard, Kathleen Waugh, maat ward

TAOS CAST Robert David Duthie David Chris Williamson Jenny Tracy Skinner Paul Darren Oxman Sarah/Amy Caroline Kelly Peter Jay Quick Susan Kerry Warcup Larry Philip Cox Joanne Beth Cox

AND FINALLY

TAUNTON THESPIANS

THE TRAM-TRACK TRAGEDY (MELODRAMA PART 2)

MORE ABOUT THE GROUPS INVOLVED

As if there isn't enough about **TAUNTON THESPIANS** elsewhere in this programme, here's a quick rundown on the melodrama we're presenting this evening, courtesy of director Jane Busby.

The Tram Track Tragedy, alternatively titled Little Nellie's Bloomers

The Victorian melodrama has delighted audiences for many years with its unique style of exaggerated movement, large over the top sweeping gestures together with highly emotional vocal and strong facial expression. (Should be a doddle for our high-quality cast then, I hear you say!) But this stylistic way of acting is quite different from the norm. Actors whilst speaking should always (well, almost always) look out front..... Which is not as easy as you may think!

The stereotypical stock characters and storyline have remained the same throughout many a melodrama and ours is no different. The preposterous plot featuring themes of love, tragedy and attempted murder, reeks of moral tone, with good ultimately triumphing over evil.

Teeming with suspense, oodles of tension, and copious humour (albeit with a little bitty of innuendo!), the punch and pace of this piece all adds to its glorious Victorian charm.

The evil, grasping, corrupt villain (Boo!) is punished (Hooray!) and the vulnerable, innocent and good rewarded (Hoorah!)....You get the drift!

What is there not to like about this production!

THE RIVERTONES is an all-male acapella (unaccompanied) chorus. As members of the British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS), they are the only group of its kind in Somerset. In addition to wonderful harmony singing, they provide entertainment including some light humour and fun audience participation in theatres, village halls, churches, private venues, etc.

The Rivertones Chorus

They also sing as a smaller group for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and other occasions where that 'something special' is required. Their repertoire consists of a wide range of songs sung in four-part harmony. Their motto is 'Allowing ordinary singers to do extraordinary things'.

As you'll witness this evening, barbershop is very different from what you may have imagined.

The Rivertones are holding a FREE I-day Singing Workshop - Learn To Sing in Harmony - at the Oakwood Church, Obridge Road, Taunton TA2 7PU on Saturday, 24th March, I0am to 4pm. This is open to all men, some of whom mistakenly think they can't sing! Everyone can sing! For further details see the Rivertones' advertisement elsewhere in this programme.

To find out how you could become a member of The Rivertones or for more details of their inexpensive booking fees for fundraising opportunities or a private function, visit www.therivertones.org.uk





BRADFORD **COUNTY

Our next productions:-

LOND ANTHUN SAULE'S (NIME 7" -9" IUNE 2018



the little group with the big heart



Keep the Home Fires Burning A commemoration of the centenary of The Great War 26th-27th October 2018

We'd love to hear from you, whether you want to come along and watch or take part.

To find out more, contact us:on our website www.bradfordplayers.co.uk
by email emmavicarage@btinternet.com
on our ticketline 07581 880807

or like us on facebook Bradford Players



Bradford-On-Tone Village Hall TA41HF



CHARD AMATEUR THEATRE SOCIETY

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

New members are always welcome – on stage or general support

Membership age 8+ No upper limit!

No experience necessary – just the willingness to join in, in a friendly way.

Rehearsals at Crowshute House most Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 8pm.

Kittens, 8 years to school Year 6, Tuesdays 7.00pm – 8.00pm Sphynx & Adults 8 – 10pm

Sphynx's, School Year 7 to 18 years old and Adults, Wednesdays - 8 - 10pm

Come in and say HELLO!

Or contact Lorraine Marshall on 01460 65062

Follow us on Facebook at Chard Amateur Theatre Society



What if... you or a loved one fell or were unwell at home and couldn't get to the telephone?

Simply touching a button will summon help, whether it's a minor worry or a major emergency.

... you can rely on us.



Deane Helpline 01823 257185 Call our 24 hour phone line for enquiries

Information is on the web site www.tauntondeane.gov.uk



MORE ABOUT THE GROUPS INVOLVED

HALSE PLAYERS was born in 2007 and came to life with a pantomime which fulfilled expectations in every sense of that word; the group then stepped into very different gear with Time and the Conways. Priestley was followed by Ayckbourn, Dylan Thomas, Keith Waterhouse, Coward, Shaw, Mortimer, Russell, Bennett as well as lesser known playwrights such as Yasmina Reza, Helene Hanff, Hugh Whitemore, Goetz, Peter Whalley, and Gareth Armstrong. Along the way there have been mini musicals, a short opera, and two-handers from collections by various authors. All have been well received, and the Players have had fun; our skills have been stretched to comedy, thrillers, music, and those coming under the category of thought provoking.



Most of us turn our hand to front of stage, backstage, and whatever - learning a lot about adaptability, the skill needed to be a good prompt, that stage managing is a task only to be undertaken by the most organised, that there will always be a hiccough along the way, and the old adage of a bad dress rehearsal translating into a superb performance is indubitably true. Oh, and the whole point of an amateur theatrical group is to be as professional as is possible and to have fun along the way.

HATS (Hatch Amateur Theatre Society) is a very friendly group based in Hatch Beauchamp, performing a healthy mix of original and published plays.

The group was formed following a Safari Supper in the village in 2008 with the performance of a short comedy written by local playwright Rod Hancox. The following summer saw the pairing of two Ayckbourn plays staged in the gorgeous garden of Oakfield House. All involved in these productions were then keen to pursue the setting up of an amateur dramatics group and HATS was born.

More recent productions in addition to Alan Ayckbourn plays have included Outside Edge by Richard Harris, various pieces by local writers and latterly Michael Frayn's Matchbox Theatre. HATS are currently working on Road, an original play which takes a look at the effects on local communities of Highways England's plans for a new expressway along the route of the A358 from Ilminster to the M5. A very enjoyable reading of the first act has already been held.

New members are always welcome – HATS are on the lookout for not only actors but anyone with practical skills who could bolster the backstage crew or who would like to help with the bar or catering. For more information, please call chairman Imogen Graham on 01823 480088.

THE ROADWATER PLAYERS began life in the early 1970s as the Williton Players, but soon migrated to Roadwater. Since those early beginnings, the society has staged 94 shows, usually with a panto at Christmas

and a play in the spring. Renowned for their original village pantos, the Players have tackled many genres of plays as well, ranging from Shakespeare to Restoration Comedy to murder mysteries and right we donate the takings from our raffles to either St Margaret's Hospice or the Children's Hospice SW Own and each year the Children's Hospice SW. Our active membership hovers at around 30-

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40 people and we probably have the most cramped stage in Somerset; but that has never stopped us finding ingenious ways of staging bigger and better shows! No challenge is too great! We enter the Cinderella Trophy and Phoebe Rees competitions every year and despite our minnow status, have achieved much success over the years. Of course this sort of recognition is great, but our real driving force is seeing people from all walks of life coming together to stage a show in front of a hall packed with locals, who generally all leave with smiles on their faces. Do come and visit us if you get the chance!

90th Programme.indd 19



A Comedy in Thick Fog by Tim Firth

22 - 24 March 2018, Strode Theatre, Street

Book online: www.strodetheatre.org.uk Box office: 01458 442846
Tickets £13.50. Full concessions £12.50

An amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd. www.street-theatre.org



TAOS is proud to present



30th April - 6th May 2018

THE BREWHOUSE THEATRE TAUNTON

OFFICE 01823 283244

Monday, Tuesday Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 7.30 pm Saturday 2.00 pm Sunday 1.00 pm & 5.30 pm

By arrangement with MusicScope and Stage Musicals Limited of New Yor



MORE ABOUT THE GROUPS INVOLVED

Firstly congratulations to the Thespians on their remarkable feat of 90 years in show business! We all know there's no business like it and to be successfully performing after all this time is testament to their amazing abilities.

SOMERSET OPERA is a relative stripling, having only been in the business for 44 years.

We mount our own productions performed by our own members and regularly welcome guests who, once they appear, often return. Our main opera production

each year is invariably performed in full costume with a professional orchestra and principals. In addition, we sing concert performances of operas and choral works and, as SOG on Tour, perform across the county in forms ranging from complete G&S productions to concert parties.

Somerset Opera has a policy of casting roles within the society if we can. But we run open auditions and welcome new members from Somerset and beyond, so please get in touch - we'd be delighted to hear you. For budding and seasoned professionals, we welcome your CVs.

Our touring production in March is Gilbert and Sullivan's cleverly funny *Ruddigore*. Our grand opera in July is Bizet's stunning yet tragic *Carmen* with a range of great professionals, many of whom have sung with us in the past.

The **TRULL PLAYERS** have been entertaining local audiences since our creation in the village pub (still the birthplace of ideas for many of our shows!) in 2006. Initially producing an annual pantomime but more recently a spring show each year too – from one act plays to murder mysteries, a Sherlock spoof and youth performances – we are constantly striving to challenge ourselves, develop members and their skills.

We are extremely proud to have won the Somerset Fellowship of Drama Spotlight Shield last year for the best village pantomime in the county, having been runner up the year before. Hence our choice of script to entertain you with this evening. With members from 9 years upwards we are a small, friendly group who encourage and

support each other in all parts of the creative process, including writing original material, producing live music for pantomimes and making set, props and costumes.

Our next show, a two act murder mystery *Practice to Deceive*, is on 20th & 21st April in Trull Memorial Hall. Tickets available soon at www.trullplayers.org.uk. We are always delighted to welcome new members (on and off stage or in the audience) so for more information, contact us via our website, Facebook or find us in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday evenings.

STREET THEATRE COMPANY would like to congratulate Taunton Thespians on achieving the milestone of their 90th year and wish them every success in the future.

We are a very happy band of theatre fanatics working mostly out of Strode Theatre, Street, performing a wide range of shows, both StreetLeat classic and contemporary. We are not afraid to take on a challenge and are dedicated to producing plays of the highest standard,

presenting two or three plays a year, often including a summer touring production.

This year's offering includes:-

Steel Magnolias 22-24th November . . . Robert Harling's hilarious and touching play set in a beauty parlour in Louisiana.

You can keep in touch with all of our news through Facebook, or subscribe to our monthly newsletter streettheatrenews@gmail.com

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company



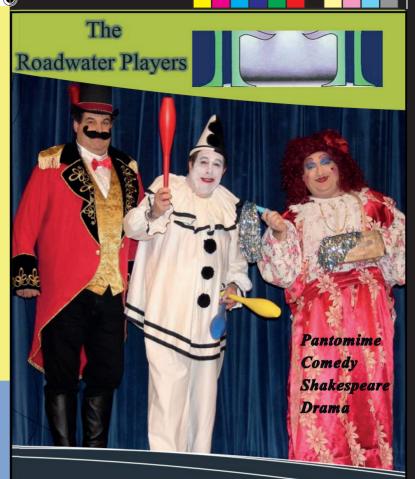


90 YEARS MORE.....

.Many Congratulations

from the 11 year old Halse Players

boxoffice@halsevillage.org.uk



Next Show:

Neighbourhood Watch' For more information or to get involved; by Alan Ayckbourn 22nd-26th May 2018

Tel 01984 640276 Mob 07973238731 www.roadwaterplayers.org

Thanks for the invite to this birthday party, Celebrating Thespians and all things arty

We offer most hearty congratulations,

On the ninety years since your foundation

Here's to very many more, Perhaps more appropriately;

encore!

the **PLAYERS**



MORE ABOUT THE GROUPS INVOLVED

Chard Amateur Theatre Society (CATS) is a Chard based drama society that is in its 66th year. The society is primarily a pantomime society performing each year at Chard Guildhall. However, we also perform a summer show which varies from variety shows to musical productions such as *Joseph*, sketch shows, one act plays and various charity events securing, a strong community presence. Our most recent panto was *Puss In Boots* in January 2018, which was a pleasure to showcase.

Our society accepts members from 8 years and upwards. We rehearse at The Crowshutel Centre, Chard on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

We promote the performing arts in a friendly way and host a range of fundraising events throughout the year to support the performances we produce such, as sponsored walks, beetle drives and quiz nights to name but a few.

We welcome new members and treasure the contribution of both performers and backstage help. We hope you have enjoyed our contribution to tonight's show and would like to thank the Taunton Thespians for asking us to perform here this evening.

BRADFORD PLAYERS are very happy to be here tonight, making our Brewhouse Theatre stage debut. You'd normally find us performing at Bradford-on-Tone Village Hall, a small but perfectly formed venue in a gorgeous local village, conveniently situated next to The White Horse (not that we're often found there, you understand, just after the odd rehearsal or three) and St Giles Church. Don't be fooled that only five of our members are here tonight. We may be thin on the ground (alas for some, not around the middle), but what we lack in numbers we more than make up for in enthusiasm. Most of our members are involved with the final performance of *The Emperor's New*

Clothes, this year's annual panto (oh yes they are!), so cannot be here. But please don't worry if you've missed it. If you fancy coming along to see any of our future productions, or if you'd like to get involved in other ways, then see our advert in the programme and don't hesitate to get in touch. You'd be made most welcome at one of the friendliest groups in the area. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Formed in 1900, **Taunton Amateur Operatic Society (TAOS)** has celebrated over 100 years of consistent musical theatre and is one of the oldest operatic societies in existence today. With established roots but eyes firmly fixed on the future, TAOS continues to provide a wide and diverse repertoire ranging from the classic to the modern contemporary. Their next production *Oliver!*, currently in rehearsals, promises once again to set the Brewhouse stage alight when the curtain goes up on 30th April this year.

The Society is a consistent nominee and winner of both NODA and Rose Bowl awards and our offering this evening is taken from our 2015 Rose Bowl award winning production of Company, Stephen Sondheim's observation on married life through the eyes of confirmed bachelor,

Robert. In this, the opening of act two, Robert is celebrating another birthday as a singleton with his 'crazy married' friends, all of whom 'can't get enough of him'. Robert sings of their friendship 'Side by Side,' followed by the four couples' exclamation, 'What Would We Do Without You'. The scene swiftly deteriorates into a 'circus' of relationships........

The **Taunton Ukulele Strummers Club (TUSC)** was formed in 2006 and is based on the idea that people who want to play ukulele can learn more quickly as part of a supportive group. It is a lot of fun and there is always a willing TUSCovite on hand with help and support for new members.

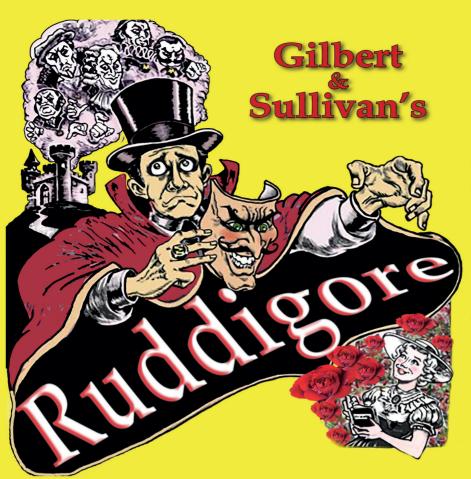
To be a member of TUSC, you just have to play ukulele and come along to the club. There is no pressure to attend every week – just come along as often as you can.

The club meets every Monday night at the Constitutional Club in Bishops Hull, Taunton. Doors at 7pm and we start playing at 7.30. There is a 'refreshment' break at 8.30 and we start playing again until 9.30pm.

If you wish to join TUSC, there is a Constitutional Club membership fee to pay, which doesn't cost the earth and goes towards keeping the club open for the local community.

TUSC regularly plays local gigs, mainly in support of local community events; new members are more than welcome to join us to soak up the adoration of our fans the world over.*

*This can in no way be substantiated.

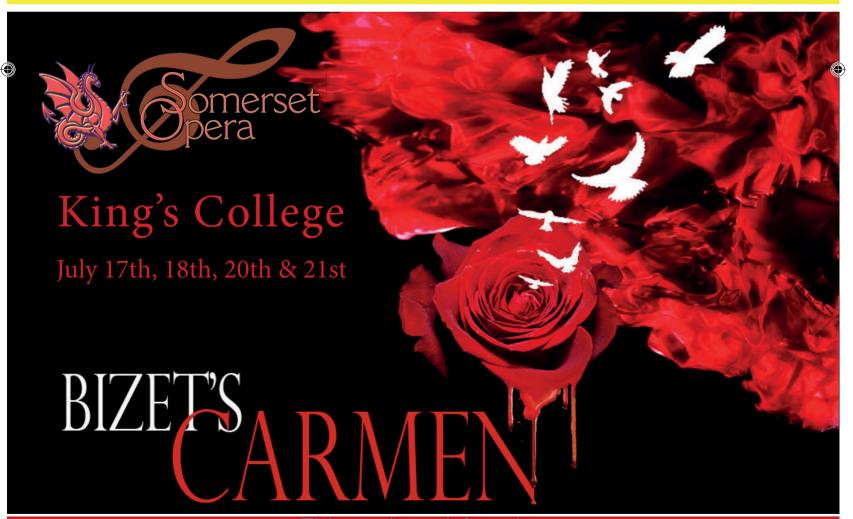




King's College Sunday March 25th 2:30 Matinee

other performances in March:

Wednesday 14th ~ Minehead Friday 16th Stogursey Sunday 18th ~ **North Curry** Thursday 22nd ~ **Ilminster** Friday 23rd **Edington** Saturday 24th ~ Milverton all at 7:30



Tickets and more information:

Taunton Visitor Centre 01823 340470

www.somersetopera.org.uk



