

# BACK STAGE

## DIARY DATES

**23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH**

**HOTHFIELD BRAIN INJURY UNIT**

Music & Songs

**6<sup>th</sup> MAY**

**MAY FAYRE**

Tenterden Recreation Ground

**23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> May + Matinee**

**HABEAS CORPUS**

Tenterden Town Hall

**OCTOBER**

(TBC)

**16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

**TODS BIG QUIZ**

Tenterden Town Hall

**2020**

**MAY**

**GOODNIGHT MR TOM**

Sinden Theatre

**OCTOBER**

**I AM A CAMERA**

Tenterden Town Hall

### **200 CLUB**

Unfortunately there was insufficient support for the 200 club and so it has reluctantly been decided to abandon it this year.

### **CONTACT TODS AT:**

**Secretary:** [contact@tods.me.uk](mailto:contact@tods.me.uk)  
**Website:** [website@tods.me.uk](http://website@tods.me.uk)  
**Newsletter:** [newsletter@tods.me.uk](mailto:newsletter@tods.me.uk)  
**Social Media:** [social@tods.me.uk](mailto:social@tods.me.uk)  
**Productions:** [productions@tods.me.uk](mailto:productions@tods.me.uk)

### **FOLLOW TODS AT:**

**Website:** [www.tods.me.uk](http://www.tods.me.uk)  
**Instagram:** [@tenterden\\_drama](https://www.instagram.com/tenterden_drama)  
**Facebook Page:** [@TenterdenDrama](https://www.facebook.com/TenterdenDrama)  
**Facebook Group:** [@TenterdenODS](https://www.facebook.com/TenterdenODS)  
**Twitter:** [@TenterdenDrama](https://www.twitter.com/TenterdenDrama)

Call us on 01580 241966 or write to The Secretary, TODS, Holly Cottage,  
Orchard Court, The Street, Benenden, Kent. TN17 4DE

# TODS



**T ENTER DEN  
OPERATIC AND  
DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

## NEWSLETTER

EDITION 1903

## FRONT OF HOUSE

## WELCOME

Welcome to the March newsletter as February's wonderful sunshine turns to the normal March winds. Already this year seems to have been pretty busy starting with the February production of Sondheim's 'Follies' at The Sinden Theatre with an appreciative audience at each of the four performances. Those who came to watch seemed to enjoy it very much and feedback has been very positive at the professionalism of the cast and orchestra / musicians. Huge thanks go to Louisa for directing such a challenging and successful production, to Fiona Murch for all the energy and hard work she put in as Assistant Producer, as well as taking the main part of Sally Durrant Plummer and to all the cast, musicians, backstage crew, set design and builders, props, costumes, Front of House, Sinden Theatre staff, sponsors, programme and poster designs and all the volunteers who gave so generously of their time and energy in ensuring it's great success. Forgive me for not mentioning you all by name. And finally of course the audience for their support in coming to each performance as without you it would not happen, so many, many thanks to you all.

Our next production is 'Habeas Corpus' in May and will be our KDA Festival entry. It is to be directed by David Waters, a director new to the society. We welcome him to TODS and wish him well with his first production. The play has now been cast and rehearsals are underway. It promises to be a very good production so do please come and support it at the Town Hall, May 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, including a matinee on the Saturday.

Sadly The Big Wrap charity, whose fundraising event we were supporting with the murder mystery evening, have had to cancel the event as they were unable to sell sufficient tickets to cover their costs. They may put on an event in the autumn but at present have made no definite plans.

Once again many thanks to everyone in their support of the society, and in particular Susanne Buckley, John Sewell, Brian Fagg and Barry Thomas – publicity, social media, marketing, maintaining the website and producing the monthly newsletter – without whom no one would know of our activities.

Sally Klemen.

# ACT ONE

## SNIPPETS

### HABEAS CORPUS

David Waters is directing the next TODS production, which promises to be hilarious. The cast has been confirmed as follows, and we wish them all lots of fun as rehearsals gather pace.

Confirmed cast for Habeas Corpus:

<b>Mrs Swabb</b>	Tina Gallagher
<b>Arthur Wicksteed</b>	Paul Carpenter
<b>Muriel Wicksteed</b>	Monica Janssens
<b>Dennis Wicksteed</b>	Max Chesters
<b>Connie Wicksteed</b>	Joanne McBride
<b>Canon Throbbing</b>	David Richardson
<b>Lady Rumpers</b>	Angela Patrick
<b>Felicity Rumpers</b>	TBC
<b>Mr Shanks</b>	Michael Whiteley
<b>Sir Percy Shorter</b>	Geoff Down
<b>Mr Purdue</b>	Michael Patrick

### Register

The warmest best wishes from TODS to the following folk who have birthdays in March.

Emma Priest 9<sup>th</sup>

If you would like a birthday or anniversary acknowledged in these pages send an email to [newsletter@tods.me.uk](mailto:newsletter@tods.me.uk)

Apologies & belated best wishes to TODS favourite prompt, the lovely Olive Neal who had a birthday on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

## OBITUARY

**William (Bill) Marshall – 05.09.1924-18.01.2019**

The members and friends of TODS will be very sad to hear of the death of Bill Marshall on Friday January 18<sup>th</sup> 2019, followed by a funeral service at St. Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook on Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although a member of CODS rather than TODS, Bill was known to many members through his association with the National Trust and in particular Smallhythe Place where he volunteered for many years and was involved in many different ways with some of the Barn Theatre productions. He was also known to us in his capacity as a NODA rep. and attended many productions in this role. We would like to send our deepest sympathy to Marcia and his son and family at this very sad time.

# ACT TWO

## YOUR NEWSLETTER

Believe it or not this is the twelfth newsletter in its current format, how time flies. But I am concerned about how many people actually receive it via email, how many bother to read it, and how the content and circulation can be improved?

The layout is designed to be printed in A4 landscape so when it is folded it becomes an A5 size newsletter. I appreciate most people read it on screen and do not print, however I also know our secretary actually prints off some for those TODS members who do not have email. I print it because I like to keep a hard copy.

Before I ask you to answer a few questions, I should perhaps explain why you might get more than one copy, from more than one address. These are the addresses you should allow into your in box:

[newsletter@tods.me.uk](mailto:newsletter@tods.me.uk)

[todsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:todsnewsletter@gmail.com)

[imbarrythomas@gmail.com](mailto:imbarrythomas@gmail.com)

Emails from one or more of these might disappear into your spam folder and be deleted without you realising it, so check your settings. I would like to use the "Mailchimp" facility as it is easier to send bulk emails, and also provides excellent feedback. You will know if the email has been sent by Mailchimp because it provides a button that says "Click here for your newsletter". The February newsletter was sent direct from my private address as I thought it might be less likely to be seen as spam.

So, would you please be kind enough to take a minute to provide some feedback by answering the following questions, you can hopefully copy and paste the questions into an email addressed to [newsletter@tods.me.uk](mailto:newsletter@tods.me.uk) and use the subject heading "Feedback".

1. As far as you know have you received all 12 newsletters?
2. Do you print your newsletter?
3. Do you like the layout? If not suggest an alternative.
4. Do you like the font & size of the font? (Calibri 10.5)
5. Are there any sections that you like/dislike?
6. How do you think it can be improved?
7. Is monthly too often, would you prefer it bi-monthly or quarterly?

Thank you, your input is invaluable.

TODS

# INTERVAL

## COMMERCIALS

TODS  
www.todsme.uk  
TODS  
TENTERDEN OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY  
www.todsme.uk

"a marvellous  
freaky farce ...  
rowdy and  
ribald"

"a comic  
masterpiece  
... inspired by  
seaside post-  
cards"

ALAN BENNETT'S  
OUTRAGEOUSLY FUNNY PLAY

**HABEAS  
CORPUS**  
[HE WHOSE LUST LASTS, LASTS LONGEST]

THURS 23RD  
AND FRIDAY  
24TH MAY  
7.30PM

SATURDAY  
25TH MAY  
2.30PM  
AND 7.30PM

TENTERDEN  
TOWN HALL  
TENTERDEN  
KENT

BOX OFFICE:  
tickets available online from  
ticketsource.co.uk/todsproductions

cash and cheque sales at  
Advantec Computing  
The Fairings, Tenterden

Advantec  
COMPUTING

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY:

Would your business benefit from an advert on this page? Why not sponsor TODS NEWSLETTER for just £150 a year for 12 inserts.

Leo Tolstoy's  
**Anna Karenina**  
a stage adaptation by  
Helen Edmundson  
An amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

7.30pm 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
Queen's Hall Theatre  
Cranbrook

**CODS**

# DRESS CIRCLE

## THIS IS THEIR LIFE

From this vantage point up in the Gods we are able to look down upon the TODS community. This month we take a look at **Steve Coles** as nominated by Chloe Swan.

Until 2012 I had never set foot on or behind a stage, or even had any interest in anything remotely to do with amateur dramatics.....Then I met Heather and my life changed – in more ways than one!

My first taste of the joys of putting together a show was coming along to rehearsals for **Calendar Girls** where the TODS family embraced me with open arms....and I was given some jobs to do! Following this I made a brief cameo appearance on stage in **Shout** - The Mod Musical, and straight after this was asked to be Stage Manager for **She Stoops to Conquer** at Woodchurch, under the guidance of Les Fenton. Since then I've never looked back and have stage managed many shows including **Abigail's Party**, **Wife After Death** and **Sweet Charity**, my favourite production being **Sister Act** because of the sense of camaraderie among the cast and crew, all pulling together to make a quality show. Being a Stage Manager standing in the wings - hearing the first audience titter, clap or cheer makes all the hard work worthwhile. I really do enjoy the feeling of being in charge, and calling time for the first performance gives me a huge adrenaline rush!

Having been born in Tankerton I moved to Canterbury when I was two and lived there for most of my life. I went to Canterbury High School where I became Head Boy, and also ran the tuck shop, I was also DJ for the end of term discos! Following this I had a resident spot as the DJ at Sturry Court Club in the mid 80s, spinning the vinyl! I've also appeared on a couple of T.V. game shows on Channel 5 in the '90s which, needless to say didn't get a second series!

My first car was an Austin A35 which those eagle-eyed of you will spot in Call the Midwife! And still to this day, that was the most reliable car I've ever owned.

One of my main interests is all aspects of aviation, and I've been fortunate enough to have 4 flying lessons, plus 90 minutes in a Boeing 737 simulator, and landed safely every time!

Things on my bucket list include a trip in a hot air balloon, a ride in a jet fighter, and I've always had the desire to see the earth from outer space, although the chances of this happening are stratospherically unlikely!

I have family connections with Paula Wilcox who I met after seeing her perform Shirley Valentine, and I have been lucky enough to be the recipient of The Hollywood Handshake when delivering wine to Paul Hollywood's house!

I'd like to nominate Jane Barton for the next "This Is Their Life".



# STAGE RIGHT

## FOLLIES REVIEW

**Follies:** with music and lyrics by Sondheim from the book by James Goldman. The story concerns a reunion in a crumbling Broadway Theatre, scheduled for demolition, of the past performers of the "Weismann's Follies", a musical revue which reflected the Ziegfeld Follies that played in that theatre between the World Wars. It focuses on two couples, Buddy and Sally Durant Plummer and Benjamin and Phyllis Rogers Stone, who are attending the reunion. Sally and Phyllis were showgirls in the Follies. Both couples are deeply unhappy with their marriages. Buddy, a travelling salesman, is having an affair with a girl on the road; Sally is still as much in love with Ben as she was years ago; and Ben is so self-absorbed that Phyllis feels emotionally abandoned. Several of the former showgirls perform their old numbers, sometimes accompanied by the ghosts of their former selves. The Broadway production opened on April 4, 1971. The music was award-winning and the production very costly.

**Front of House:** The front of house was well organised and welcoming.

**Theatre Ambience:** This theatre has tiered seating and every seat has a good view of the stage

**The Programme:** The program was attractive, inventive and informative however the pages showing the musical numbers and the cast were difficult to read. There was obviously a great deal of support from local businesses in the advertisements.

**Scenery/Set/Properties:** The open set with sets of tables and chairs was effective in its simplicity and with good use of a downstage entrance from the auditorium together with the upstage right stairs there was a real feel for the Revue Bar. The centre stage gave plenty of room for movement.

**Lighting &Sound:** Both the lighting and sound were well executed and unobtrusive.

**Make Up/Hair/Costume:** The characters were all suitably dressed to demonstrate their roles and character. Overall the costumes balanced well and the make up most effective. I would prefer to see black shoes with any form of dinner jacket and picky though it may seem clean shiny black shoes really do fit the period and the outfits.

**Music/Orchestra:** The orchestra led by Ian Harby made a really good sound and he kept an effective balance between the sound of the vocalists and the orchestra most of the time. The brass section was a little overpowering at time particularly towards the end of the show. One musician of note was the trumpeter who had a wonderful solo where he was playing the muted trumpet under the libretto – it was so mournful and moving.

**The Production:** Follies is a difficult show to do as there are no set changes and whilst there are opportunities for cast to leave the stage there needs to be a great deal of concentration and focus in order to keep the momentum going. *Continued over..*

# STAGE LEFT

It is so easy with this show to get confused about the individuals however the casting was such that the pairs were easy to follow.

Matthew Meredith, as Roscoe, had probably the most beautiful melody in the show, *Beautiful Girls* which he sang with great assuredness and good tonal quality. Barbara Gray and Monika Green are to be congratulated on the empathy they created, as Heidi Schiller and Young Heidi, during *One More Kiss*. The ensemble consisting of eight actors worked hard both with energy and commitment to maintain their characterisations. Each and every principal played their role with great integrity - there were some emotional moments, some hard, intense passages and some very difficult sections with very emotional undertones all of which they tackled extremely well and took the audience on the journey with them. There were mixed responses to the show as we left the audience but as the director stated "Sondheim Musicals are like Marmite". In general, the praise was for the cast and their interpretation rather than the show itself.

Congratulations to the director, Louise Nelson Chamber for her inspirational positioning and interpretation. The Musical Director, Ian Harby, is to be praised for getting such a high standard of musicianship from the principals and chorus alike. TODS are to be congratulated on tackling this very difficult show with such style and panache.

Kay Rowan

NODA South East Councillor

## HOTHFIELD

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR TALENTED VOLUNTEERS

TODS have been asked by Hothfield Brain Injury Rehabilitation & Neurological Care Centre to provide an hour of songs and entertainment for their patients. We are looking for people to come forward and sing/play music at the event, to include show songs and popular music. Contact Angela Patrick at [contact@tods.me.uk](mailto:contact@tods.me.uk) to register your interest. The proposed date is Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11.00am. This is such a wonderful organisation, please show your support and let's give the residents and patients something to remember.

At Hothfield they treat and care for patients over the age of 18 with a brain injury or other neurological condition such as multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease and parkinson's disease.