

Prompt:

the newsletter for **Teignmouth Players** and **TYKES**

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November 2020

Chairman's welcome.

Dear all,

This year is not one I'll forget in a hurry, and I imagine I am not alone in that.

We still don't know when we will be able to re-open the Ice Factory Studio Theatre, and we can only speculate on what the coming months will bring.

As you will all no doubt be aware, we, like pretty much every other Amateur Dramatic Society, have had to cancel our pantomime this year. This was a difficult decision for the committee and the charity trustees had to make. I just want to assure you that we have not taken this decision lightly. The challenges posed guaranteeing safety in rehearsals and only being allowed to sell a fraction of the tickets we need to be able to pay for the production make things not possible right now.

Most importantly our overriding priority is, and always will be your safety and that of our audiences.

Thanks must go to **Amy Burton-Smith** who has put a huge effort in to writing the exciting original script for **Sleeping Beauty**, and I know we all share the disappointment and frustration that we are unable to bring it to the stage this year.

I also want to thank **Nikki Small** at the **Pavilions Teignmouth** and her team for their patience and understanding of the position we find ourselves in.

STOP PRESS, all is not lost! See "Production News" for some breaking news as we set out our exciting alternative!!

I again find myself having to manage expectations. It goes without saying the intimate nature of the Ice Factory Studio Theatre presents us with a long list of logistical issues with social distancing, and I fear it will be some time yet before we are able to re-open.

In more positive news, we are carrying out maintenance work at the Ice Factory Studio Theatre, including what we hope will be a permanent fix for the leaking roof. Work has also been ongoing in recent weeks moving the entrance door to the Studio space slightly closer to the Bar, which will allow much more flexibility for performances and better sight lines. **Ken Swan** has been doing a

great job including repairing the ceiling, tidying up the decor and we have addressed some electrical issues that have come to light from before we took the building. Many of you will have seen update photos on our Facebook page. There are no longer be random light switches or fire alarm boxes in the middle of the stage area, and the fire door mechanism has been upgraded to a magnetic system that is directly linked to the fire alarm rather than reacting to noise (and making noise in the process).

Jackie Wesley-Harkcom has also been working hard re-making the hanging drapes, in particular the blacks which are now the correct length, and velcro together to give a much cleaner look to the performance area. Many thanks Jackie (and Phill!).

Planning for the major refurbishment is ongoing, but like everything, the pandemic has thrown a spanner in the works, not least because Teignbridge District Council building control services, understandably operating a limited service over recent months. I hope to have news on premises refurbishment in the coming months.

Talking about the Ice Factory, the committee have decided that the room downstairs and the kitchen facilities need to have an 'identity' rather than being a space with no name. We have, therefore, made the decision that the room and the kitchen facilities will now be known as '**The Hayden Room**'. We feel this will be a fitting and long lasting tribute to Harold and Joyce Hayden, who, as most of you know, contributed so much over many years to the Society, including a very generous legacy that has made so much more possible than we ever dreamed of.

We have been busy working away in the background behind the scenes looking to make our admin processes more efficient and effective, and as **Paul Gibbons**, our treasurer will mention later in this letter to you all, there are now new cover sheets that must be used for all expense claims, and when invoices are raised at our suppliers. We have also been busy drawing up guideline booklets for various areas within the Society, including front of house volunteers, stage managers, directors and production co-ordinators, and so on.

We are looking at moving our membership admin to an on-line system. There are a number of advantages that this will bring to you, including the ability for you to update your membership details pay subs on-line and manage Gift aid, and a host of other benefits that will remove a lot of pressure from our membership secretary's workload. The new system we are looking at is fully GDPR compliant and your data will be secure. Again, more details of this will follow.

A proposed change, like most retailers we will no longer be accepting cheques for box office or membership payments made at the Ice Factory. The anticipated impact of this change will be minimal, if any. If you send payment by post then cheques may continue to be used, but we have the facility to accept payment by card or using your mobile phone, both in the office and at the bar, and of course we will continue to accept cash.

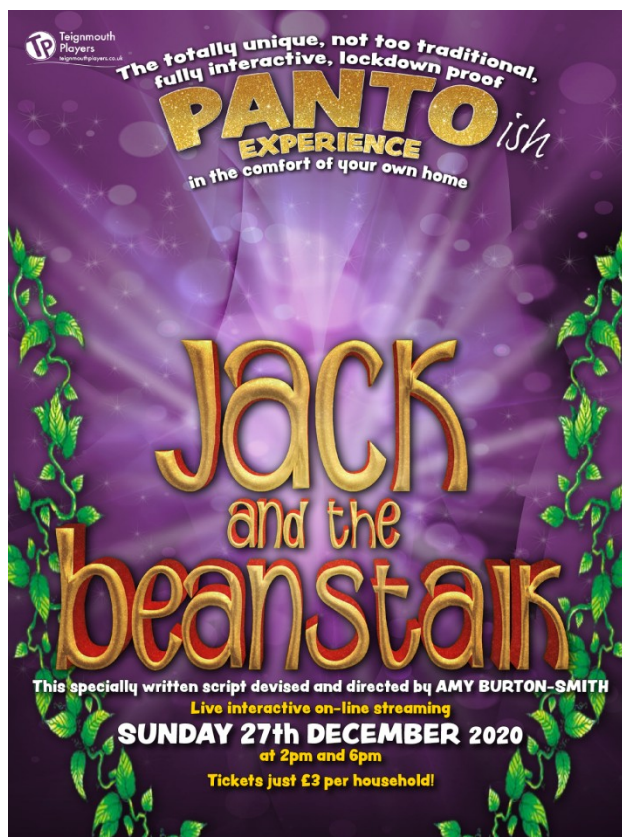
I know we are all feeling frustrated right now, but I hope you are all had a good summer, despite everything that is going on. I hope we can all meet again soon.

Take care everyone,

Daniel Saint (Chairman).

Production News.

Jack and the Beanstalk – Interactive Panto-ish Experience.



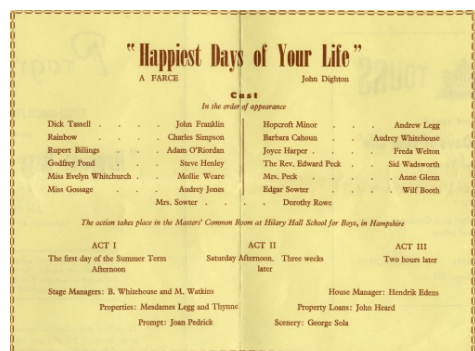
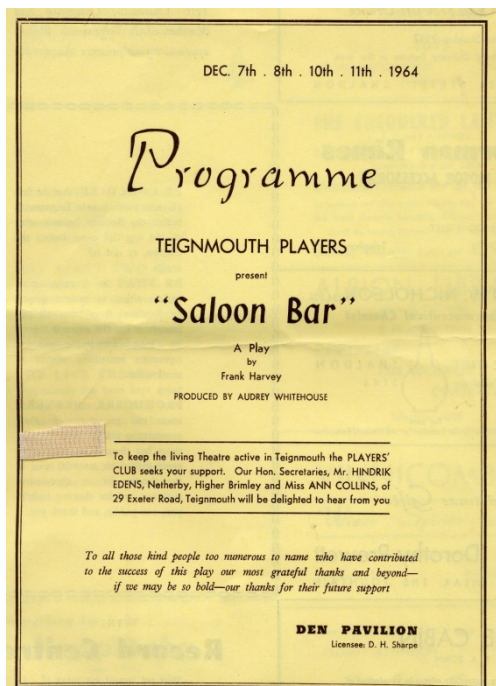
It's Panto Time - oh no it isn't! Actually, oh yes it is (kind of!)

Aside from the one year where the asbestos in the roof of the Carlton Theatre needed sorting out, the Teignmouth Players have never failed to put on a panto. From full scale productions to a 5 week ice factory panto from scratch job and every year we have entertained the local community. COVID has stolen so much from all of us and with this year's panto being cancelled, it looked like a very quiet Christmas...

However, a small team are working behind the scenes to trial an interactive online Panto show aimed at children and families who may act like children! A small cast are set to bring Jack and the Beanstalk to life as a fun and festive experience. We will have two shows at 2pm and 6pm on 27th December. Keep your eyes open for ticket details and spread the word. It would be great to see the hard work pay off and hopefully give us a template for some future opportunities.

Keep an eye on the Teignmouth Players' Facebook page and your email for more details.

Do you remember



Back in 1964, the first three productions the Teignmouth players ever stages were "Saloon Bar", "Happiest Days of Your Life" and "When We Are Married", the latter of which we also staged in 1984, 1999 and finally once again in 2014 to celebrate 50 years since we first performed it.

Our membership Coordinator, Margaret Long has been liaising with Angela Healy, Roger Smith and Jane Branch in order to put together a history of our productions, which number in excess of 400 since our first production.

If you have photos, programmes, cast lists, old scripts, publicity material or anything we might be able to use to build on this archive, please get hold of Margaret by email (membership@teignmouthplayers.com) or pop them into the letterbox at the Ice Factory Studio Theatre marked to Margaret's attention. (All will be returned once scanned)

Wardrobe Co-ordinator needed



After more years than she would care to remember, **Jane Athey** has been looking after wardrobe for Teignmouth Players, but feels the time has come to pass the reigns to someone else.

We are looking for anyone who feels they can take on the overall responsibility of the costume provision for all our productions. As well as overseeing the day to day management of our in-house stock, you'll be working with our production teams to source costumes externally when needed and co-ordinating our in-house team of sewers when we need to make our own. Even better if you are able to sew yourself, but not essential. Wardrobe is a team effort and having someone to stitch it all together is what we are looking for.

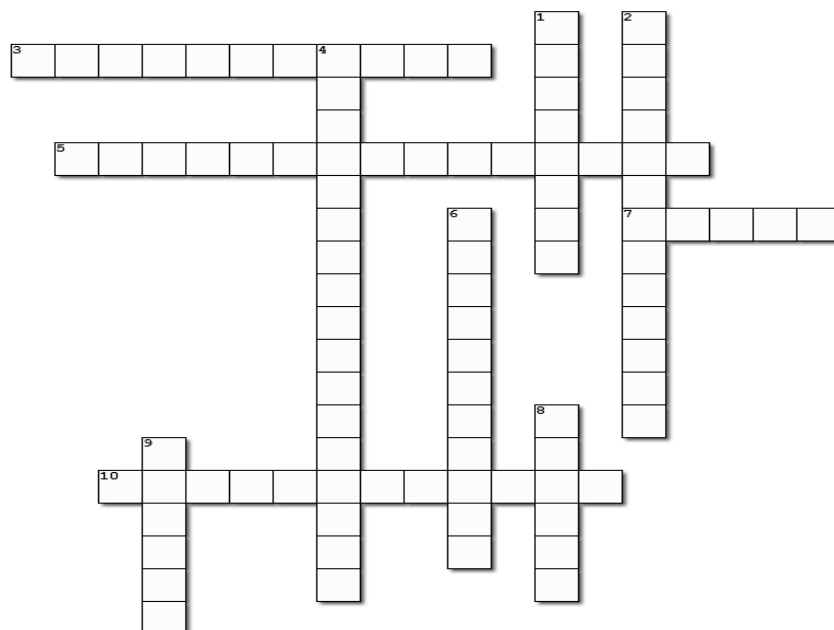
Jane will be delighted to help in whatever way she can moving forward and you won't be left to struggle. If you are interested or would like further information on what the role involves, please get in touch. It goes without saying we all owe Jane huge thanks for her tireless service and advice over 20+ years. You will be a hard act to follow!! (but don't let that put anyone off stepping forward!)

For more details contact Daniel Saint (Chairman) on info@teignmouthplayers.com

A bit puzzling

Here's a crossword for you to try your hand at: -

The answers are all well-known musicals and the clues are random lines from a popular song from that musical. Have a go.



Clues: -

Across: - 3 – Now as the ladder of life (4,7) 5 – Once you have these notes in your head (3,5,2,5) 7 – I never thought I’d come to this 10 – You may hear her laughing across a crowded room (5,7)	Down: - 1 – Tho’ your dreams be tossed and blown 2 – There was no ransom to be paid (3,10) 4 – Your spirit and my voice (7,2,3,5) 6 – and he’s coming out today (2,3,2,4) 8 – There isn’t a lot to spare 9 – Bright colours shining, wonderful and new.
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Answers at the end of the newsletter

All about the Money

As we aim to improve our internal processes and make sur that every penny counts, we have introduced a couple of new procedures to help us to trace, analyse and audit our finances better.

If you have expenses to claim or wish to purchase goods or services on behalf of the society, please give me a shout and I’ll send you over the forms you will need to get authorisation or to claim expenses with.

Essentially, expenditure falls into four areas.

1 – Production expenditure. For this you will be able to spend as long as the production budget has been signed off by the treasurer and committee.

2 – Project based expenditure. This will need a project budget, which will also need to be signed off by the treasurer and committee.

3 – Expenses. You should check with a member of the committee or the treasurer prior to spending. These will be claimed back retrospectively using an expenses claim form

4 – Lastly, petty cash. These are for minor things such as the coffee, tea, milk etc for the kitchen, cleaning products etc. As long as you have a receipt, you can ask a member of the committee to refund these to you directly from the petty cash box.

In this 12 month period our income will be almost entirely “ZERO”, so please check before you spend so that we keep the hit to our finances as low as possible other than planned expenditure.

Many thanks

Paul Gibbons
Treasurer.

Staying in Touch.

Some Contact details if you need them.

Chairman:	Daniel Saint	info@teignmouthplayers.com
Membership:	Margaret Long	membership@teignmouthplayers.com
Theatre Hire:	Ken Swan	bookings@teignmouthplayers.com
Treasurer:	Paul Gibbons	treasurer@teignmouthplayers.com
Prompt:	Paul Gibbons & Layla Crabtree	prompt@teignmouthplayers.com

Torbay Thespis

(An extract from the latest edition)

I'm pleased to report that 'Bijou Theatre Company' has rescheduled the programme and hopes to be able to bring you a couple of plays in February and April next year. This is a forecast, so the dates cannot be guaranteed, however it just might be possible.

'The Torbay Thespis'.

16-19th February. 2021. 7.30pm. 'Suspicious' by N J Crisp, directed by Jill Pettigrew.

27th-30th April. 7.30pm. 'The Ghost Train' by Arnold Ridley, directed by Jill Farrant.

Both plays are scheduled for performance at The Palace Theatre, Paignton. Book online, or phone 01803 665800. info@palacetheatrepaignton.co.uk.

Crossword Answers.

Across: 3 – Mary Poppins; 5 – The Sound of Music; 7 – Evita; 10 – South Pacific. **Down:** 1 – Carousel; 2 – Les Miserables; 4 – Phantom of the Opera; 6 – Me and My Girl; 8 – Oliver; 9 – Joseph