



## ***IS NO NEWS GOOD NEWS?***

Dear Members

Sadly with an almost complete lack of input, I have been forced to merge three editions of this newsletter into one. This is a shame as I know that lots of people always look forward to reading the newsletter – but with no content it is impossible for me to manage!

If I do not get more content, then sadly I shall have to start printing the newsletter in seasonal editions instead of monthly editions, which would be a great shame. If you have anything you wish to include in future editions, I would love to have it and will make sure that it is included – it does not have to be completely drama related!

Email: [newsletter.tads@googlemail.com](mailto:newsletter.tads@googlemail.com)

Phone: 07948 730 207

Thank you – sorry for moaning!

**James Stocker**  
Editor

## ***FROM YOU COMMITTEE***

The following actions have been taken by your Committee at their last meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008:

- A letter has been received from Tiptree Parish Council, regarding grants. Matt and Chris will be attending a council meeting to discuss possible grants for TADS.
- Our electricity suppliers for TADS hut have been changed from E-ON to British Gas. This has resulted in a cheaper rate of KW/H, and also means that there is no longer a standing charge which is very good news.
- The Committee are currently drafting a letter to send to local papers to publicize our recent matters and feelings with St. Lukes regarding the Termination of Hire.

Any member of the Committee can be contacted regarding the points above, using the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

## **ROBIN HOOD CAST**

The Auditions for Robin Hood took place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Val Ryan is directing this with Chris Fowler as Stage Manager. Rehearsals have now started and it is obvious that everybody is really enjoying themselves. Any member of TADS is welcome to come down to rehearsals – a rehearsal schedule is now available in the 'Members Area' of the TADS website [[www.tiptreedrama.co.uk](http://www.tiptreedrama.co.uk)].

The Cast – including a mixture of adult and junior members – is listed below:

**Will Gamwell**  
**Robin Hood**  
**Marian Harper**

Marcus Churchill  
Matt Rush  
Suzy Howes

**Riccon Hazel**  
**The Sheriff of Nottingham**  
**The Bishop of Hereford**  
**Hilton**  
**King John**  
**Little John**  
**Much**  
**Alice-a-Bland**  
**Ellen Deirnold**  
**Eadam**  
**Catherine**  
**Queen Elanor of Aquitane**  
**Prioress**  
**Guy of Gisbourne**  
**Friar Tuck**

Fred Lane  
Clive Hill  
Ray Banks  
Hannah Beard  
James Stocker  
Andrew Strathern  
Daniel Carr  
Annette Porte  
Rachel Shortland  
Jack Vanson  
Matilda Bourne  
Giovanna Austin  
Audrey Rowe  
John Thomas  
Barry Newcombe

**King's Foresters**

Aimee Smith  
Shauna Lynch  
Teresa Henderson

**King's Soldiers**

Peter Greenwood  
Katie Wallington

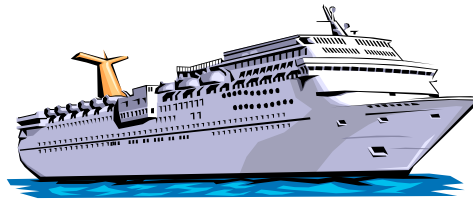
**Common Folk and Locals**

Eileen Lane  
Emily Carr  
Rebecca Shortland  
Jenny Hayward  
Amy Willis  
Leon Kennedy

**Monks**

Amy Willis  
Leon Kennedy





## **OUR HOLIDAY...**

As is the accepted custom for groups such as ours, when the news becomes a little sparse, one of the members gives a lecture on 'Our Holiday', usually complete with an interminable slide show on the most boring of aspects of the trip. So, I thought I would keep up the tradition and write a short article on 'Our Holiday'.

Having got used to a life on the ocean wave over the previous couple of years, we decided, this year to cruise to as many countries around the Baltic Sea as we could in two weeks.

With a peaceful, calm, sociable trip from Tilbury up the North Sea and through the Kiel Canal, our journey then took in Germany, Estonia, Finland, Sweden and Denmark.

But the highlight, and the real subject of this waffle is our visit to Saint Petersburg in Russia. We had arranged to go to the ballet in Russia!

Russia: we weren't allowed go ashore on our own and our passports were checked very very regularly; I spent quite a lot of my time trying to get the immigration officials to smile. Failed!

Anyway, back to the ballet. Ballet has always been a form of 'the arts' that I did my best to keep away from as it always sounded much too highbrow for a mere unpretentious mortal from Hutton.

All togged up in our best outfits, we were to travel from the ship in a coach-party to one of Saint Petersburg's second level theatres, it sounded a bit cheesy but I was willing to give it a go as 'you can't go to Russia and miss the ballet', can you?

Wow! It was just like you see it on the movies! As we arrived, along with many other coach parties, the coaches drove into a beautifully lit theatre square with the many colours of light reflecting from both the golden onion domes of the surrounding buildings and the puddles on the ground. It was breathtaking even in the rain.

The theatre itself, although very old, was very impressive in all pink and white and looked as if it had just been re-painted. We wandered through various receptions, partaking of many varieties of delicate cake, nibbles and of course champagne - well, I wasn't driving for a change.

Now back to the ballet: We had come to see Swan Lake performed by Russia's second national ballet company.

Even to the non-ballet types, this is a fairly well known production by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, but most of us (at least those who would admit it) didn't have a clue what it was about!

I won't bore you with the story but it had plenty of goodies, even more baddies, a touch of romance, lots of magic and of course lots of dancing.

Our guide was kind enough to supply us with the story of Swan Lake, Act by Act, in English. And believe it or not, that was more than sufficient to make the whole experience exceptionally enjoyable and understandable.

The music was stirring, the costumes where really bright and the dancing fantastic. Using the bright colours for the goodies and the bold, dark but outstanding colours for the baddies, the story telling was so impressive and understandable. It wasn't as I expected, lots of girls tippy-toeing round on one leg testing their tights for

holes, it was dramatic, with lots of really acrobatic and violent action. These ballet types are definitely fit - they used the whole of the stage: side-to-side and top-to-bottom!

The 'show' was in four acts with a social break in between each act. What did seem strange to me was the fact that at the end of the 3rd act, all the not-so important cast members took their bow; this I assume left the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> act for the prima-ballerina on her own and boy did she take advantage of it.

During the show, every time she came on stage, the audience applauded noisily and threw items (I presume that they were flowers) on to the stage. My favourites were definitely the baddies.

Their costumes and actions were acrobatically fantastic and really told the story. Body language and music told a very strong story.

If this was the country's second ballet company in the city's second level theatre, I can't image what a performance by the best-of-the-best would be like!

Our evening was a stupendous success - even the passport and visa man in the little hut when we returned to the ship seemed to be smiling.

Unfortunately, for several reasons we weren't able to get photographs of the evening so I am afraid the much promised slide-show is out - sorry, I know that you will be disappointed.

But seriously, the aim of this short article is to show that I started my ballet-viewing career the same way as I started my drama-watching adventures, as a philistine, and left Russia willing to visit another ballet whenever I get the chance. I'm hooked, I really enjoyed it.

The arts are not just for the 'posh'; they can be enjoyed by us all; you will be surprised at what's out there, even at a local level.

**Roger Lyons**

## ***OH I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE...***

Its time to dig out your loud shirts and swimmers because TADS is going to the NEETG awards evening! Possibly not the attire you would expect at such an event, but this years fancy dress theme is 'Beside the Seaside'! This year, TADS has received the following nominations:

	<b>Set Design and Construction</b>	<b>Best Actress</b>
	Humble Boy & A Night on the Tiles	Giovanna Austin as Flora Humble in Humble Boy
<b>Costume Award</b>	<b>Best Young Actress</b>	<b>Best Young Actress (Showcase Festival)</b>
The Allotment	Rachel Shortland as Nora Grant in A Glass of Bitter	Hannah Beard as Devilla Cruel in Cinderella
	<b>The Doris Griffiths Memorial Cup for Best Production</b>	
	Humble Boy	
<b>Best Young Actor (Showcase Festival)</b>	<b>Best Supporting Actress</b>	
James Stocker as Hernia and Adam Dyster as Nausea in Cinderella	Eileen Lane as Mrs Morris in A Night on the Tiles & Audrey Rowe as Mercy in Humble Boy	



Well done to everybody. The Awards Evening is on 12th September 2008 . If you have not already done so, please contact Chris by the 8th August if you would like to come so she can make sure that we get tickets.

## **NEWSLETTER GETS A NAME!**

As I'm sure you have all noticed, the Newsletter has now been given the name 'Spotlight'. Thank you to Anne and Ray for ideas for the name, and a big thank you to Ray for the fantastic logo!

## **TADS WEBSITE**

TADS does have a website – with all the latest information on forthcoming shows and members events. Please don't forget to check it out: [www.tiptreedrama.co.uk](http://www.tiptreedrama.co.uk)  
Thank you to Roger for looking after this.

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**



*The other side of the Law...*

Dear Members,

I feel very privileged to have been invited to serve a further year as President of TADS and accept with pleasure. I am so pleased to have been able to watch these plays before leaving for my holiday.

The two One Act plays and the monologue were all very interesting. The monologue 'Soldiering On' and 'The Allotment' I saw performed at Braxted Church and 'A Glass of Bitter' at the Headgate Theatre.

### **'A Glass of Bitter' By J.B Priestly**

I thought the junior members performed this interesting play extremely well. I know it is very difficult for teenagers to take on successfully a middle aged character. This you all achieved, and I congratulate you all; an honour for TADS and Rachel Shortland who was awarded 'Best Young Actress'.

### **'Soldering On' By Alan Bennett**

Giovana Austin, as always, excelled in this part. Beautifully written and very sad because it is such a 'true to life' story. I would love to see it again!

### **'The Allotment' By Gillian Plowman**

This was very difficult to perform in Braxted Church as there was no stage and a great deal of imagination was needed in this setting, and I was sorry that I was unable to stay to see the Headgate performance. Annette, Audrey, Mave, Giovana and Barbara were excellent in their roles.

Congratulations on winning 'Best Production' award. Keep up the good work!

**Pam Archer**  
President



## **NEETG THEATRE LIGHTING COURSE**

The North East Essex Theatre Guild, are holding a Theatre Lighting Course on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2009. No experience is necessary, making this is a fantastic opportunity for a beginner to get some experience, or just a refresher for those of you who have been scrabbling up on dangerously wobbly ladders for ages. Further details are included on the form at the end of this newsletter.

## ***JAM FILLED, JAM COVERED, JAM PACKED!***

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of May Junior TADS staged their own version of the History of Tiptree, “Jam Packed”; and after many hours of rehearsal it finally paid off! Showing the true story behind Tiptree from how the town was named to the finale of the TADS show “Cinderella”, performed earlier this year to finish on.

However, we couldn't have done it on our own. Having Colchester Borough Council's Olivia Armstrong was such a great help to us! By supporting us all the way we would like to say thank you for all her help, we really couldn't have done it without her! On the same note we would like thank Alex who organized, planned and helped us all the time! From supplying the costumes and props to helping us write the script she was fantastic to us and we would like to thank her for everything!

Yet another thank you, (it was amazing how many people helped with the production!) to Marcus and Aimee who did the backstage management, ensuring that we were in the right place at the right time and helping with all the props, we would like to say thank you for all the things you did all for us!

And finally we couldn't have put on such a show without the help of the Phoenix Technical Team and the front of house. To the front of house team, providing all the refreshments and the raffle, which combined with the total raised by the donations, raised £150.00! Thank you so much! And to the fabulous Phoenix technical crew, whom this performance wouldn't have happened, providing the sensational sound and lighting which made the show come alive! Special thanks to Ryan and Carl who organized the lighting and sound to provide a technically amazing show!

On behalf of the whole of Junior TADS we would like to thank everyone that helped out in the show, we enjoyed it so much and it was an amazing experience for us! Thank you so much!

***Matilda Bourne***



### ***THE AGM***

There was a good turnout at the AGM on the 19<sup>th</sup> May. I will apologise now that this is not very in depth and definitely not 100% accurate as I still have not got hold of the minutes...

Roger Lyons and Alex Berriman both announced they would be stepping down from their positions of chairman and secretary. The group thanked them both for their efforts. Alex did state however that she would be happy to remain as the group's Junior Representative.

Matt Rush agreed to take the position of Chairman and Teresa Henderson agreed to fill the position of Vice-Chairman which Matt had left.

Chris Fowler agreed to carry on with her position as Treasurer for another term, as did Claire Taylor as Committee Member.

With nobody willing to take the position, the group was left without a secretary. It was agreed that thereon the directors would be responsible for their own correspondence and that the committee collectively would be responsible for their correspondence.

Claire Taylor, Val Ryan and Barry Newcombe agreed to be Trustees for the group. The group agreed that the President and Vice-Presidents would continue for another term should they be happy.



## ***FORTHCOMING EVENTS...***

**NEETG Awards Evening**  
Princess Theatre, Clacton on Sea  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2008  
(Theme - "Beside the Seaside")

**"Robin Hood"**  
Thurstable School Hall  
30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008

**TADS Christmas Party**  
Rivenhall Oaks Golf Club  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2008

## ***TADS COMMITTEE***

Chairman	Matt Rush	07881 422141	mattrush101@hotmail.com
Vice - Chairman	Teresa Henderson	01621 817090	thtads@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer	Chris Fowler	01621 814309	christinefowler@live.co.uk
Committee Member	Claire Taylor	01621 810728	claire.l.taylor@environment-agency.gov.uk
Junior Representative	Alex Berriman	07800 893435	lexi_b@hotmail.com

## ***POSITION VACANT***

Following the events of the recent AGM, TADS no longer has a secretary. The group will continue to function without a secretary however the position really does need to be filled! Should anybody wish to take the position they can contact any member of the committee using the information above.

**Deadline for content to be submitted for next edition: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008.**  
**Should there not be enough content, then I will not be producing a newsletter.**  
**Please send all items for inclusion to [newsletter.tads@googlemail.com](mailto:newsletter.tads@googlemail.com)**