

Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of the WAOS Newsletter.

In this edition we look forward to our next show *Calendar Girls*, the call for new Committee Members, and some more discussion of *Salad Days* (October 2024) and some links on YouTube.

Plus the usual reminders on dates and WAOS committee details.

Calendar Girls The Musical – April 22-27

Having just watched the Preview Evening of this show in which we were treated to two rousing ensemble pieces and two solos from Susy Dighton-Hawkes and Constance Lawton, respectively, I am very excited to watch the whole thing. I usually sit through the second dress rehearsal if I'm not in a show (I'm usually Front of House, or behind the bar if I'm not on stage) and can't wait to see this in context ie with full band, costumes, lights and set. Although the songs are new to me and perhaps not immediately memorable, they definitely have emotional power. The song that Susy sings about how even the mundane things in life will simply not be the same when her husband has gone certainly tugs at the heart strings and the vocal power of Constance's determined effort to show how Yorkshire women can break the mould and "fly" also stirs the emotions. Alice's irreverent version of a medley of Christmas carols demonstrates that there is still plenty of humour amidst the sadness and the fact that the ladies of the WI not only raised huge sums of money from their calendar but inspired others to do the same offers hope for the future. If you've not bought your ticket yet don't leave it too late.

Fundraising for Farleigh via Calendar Girls

So far the Fundraising Sub-committee have raised over £8000 for Farleigh Hospice from the sale of calendars (including sponsorship), the sale of Sunflowers and the proceeds from a quiz. The silent auction at the Sunflower Ball, May 24 is expected to raise more money and there is one more drive to sell calendars and sunflowers during show week. There are still tickets left for the ball and everyone can bid in the silent auction. Just click on the link.

<https://www.waos.org/cg-charity-auction>

An Appeal for New Committee Members

As four members of the Committee step down at the next AGM (Elizabeth Chapman, Heather Davis, Paul Goddard and Annette Maguire) we thank them for all they have done over their many years of service. Committee membership is not for everyone but without a committee we could not function as a society. Someone has to book the shows, the rehearsal venues and accompanists. Someone has to keep in touch with Members and Friends and politely chase them for their subscriptions, without which we could not pay our administrative bills. Someone has to log each and every financial transaction, deal with banking and reconcile/prepare accounts at the end of each year. We even need someone to coordinate the production team prior to the show – sound, lighting, backstage, props, costumes etc etc. None of this is particularly complicated but it has to be done and takes some time to stay on top of it. There are some jobs that can be done out of office hours and there are some that require some time during the business day to make contact with those who only respond during working hours. All committee members are by definition Trustees of the charity WAOS and this carries some responsibility. However, it is also fun to be part of the team that makes things happen and plays a part in the continuity of a 100 year old musical theatre society. If you have just a little time to attend meetings one night every 4-6 weeks and would like to learn more please talk to Trevor Drury, <mailto:chairperson@waos.org>, the Chairperson of WAOS, about how you could get involved. Without a Committee we have no Society!

Do you wish to nominate someone (with their permission) or even yourself as a committee member? Click on the link.

<https://forms.office.com/e/2VSN2GfPHj>

Salad Days - never heard of it!

My initial response to this riposte is “So what? I hadn’t heard of *Betty Blue Eyes* but I still did it and it was one of the best shows I’ve ever done.” To help you learn about this show and explore what it has to offer, here are a few fun facts.

- Salad Days was the longest running West End hit until it was eclipsed by *Oliver!* in 1960.
- Salad Days was Cameron Mackintosh’s inspiration for becoming a musical theatre impresario.
- Julian Slade (the composer) became Cameron Mackintosh’s mentor.
- Other shows from the 1950s include *Carousel*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The King and I*, *Kismet*, *The Boyfriend*, *The Pajama Game*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Music Man*, *West Side Story*, *Gypsy* and *The Sound of Music* amongst others. Many of these are still being revived and their age doesn’t seem to matter.
- The show needs actors that can play students, policemen, parents, a bishop, an expressive mime artist, a hairdresser, a tramp, a dance hall singer, a cabaret dancer, a diplomat, a photographer, a manicurist and many more.
- There are parts for everyone, as well as being part of the ensemble. If we get fewer people than usual we can double up. There is plenty of movement or even dancing for those who can.
- What the critics thought.
 - *The Bittersweet musical with an evergreen charm.*
 - *It’s a musical full of joy, humour and ridiculousness*
 - *The message is clear, the only way to get the English to let their hair down is to make them do so.*
 - *What was a piece of fluffy escapism has now acquired, thanks to global recession and environmental chaos, an air of pure, fairytale fantasy.*

Reviews of the professional revivals

2011- Riverside Studios <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2011/jan/05/salad-days-review>

<https://westendwhingers.wordpress.com/2011/01/24/review-salad-days-riverside-studios/>

2017 – Union Theatre <https://www.thereviewshub.com/salad-days-union-theatre-london/>

2018 – Richmond Theatre <https://musicaltheatrereview.com/salad-days-richmond-theatre-and-touring/>

YouTube clips to give you a flavour.

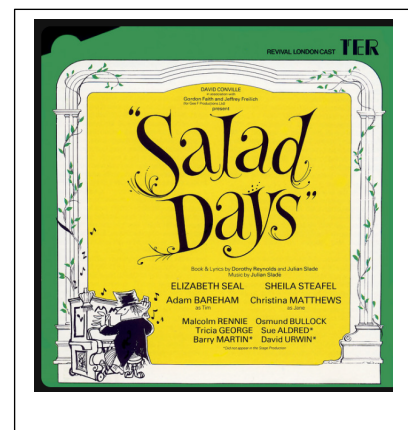
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96B-mKJPkao>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePA8R78vpom>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAAQOr5OqA>

Recommended Spotify album London Revival – see opposite

Come to the Open Evening, May 1 at Spring Lodge and learn more.



Urgent Request – Does anyone know a friend or family member who is willing to provide an independent examination of the WAOS accounts before our AGM (May 8). You do not have to be a qualified accountant; some knowledge of bank reconciliation and excel spreadsheets would suffice. Without these completed we cannot have a full AGM and will need to have an EGM once they are completed. To learn more please contact Anita Goold, our Treasurer, at anitagoold@waos.org.

Anita will be standing down as Treasurer after the AGM but will be staying on as a Trustee. There is therefore a vacancy for the role of Treasurer. Once again, please contact Anita Goold for more information.

WAOS Committee

President	Stewart Adkins
Chairman	Trevor Drury
Treasurer	Anita Goold ^{a/}
Secretary	Matt Waldie
Business Manager	Trevor Drury
Production Manager	Paul Goddard ^{b/}
Social Secretary	Emma Loring ^{c/}
Membership Secretary	Liz Chapman ^{b/}
Stage Manager	Ben Sawyer
Committee Members	Annette Maguire ^{b/} Heather Davis ^{b/}

a/ Stepping down as Treasurer but staying on Committee.

b/Stepping down at the AGM.

c/ Temporarily stepping down for the duration of Salad Days

General Enquires – secretary@WAOS.org

WAOS Web site - WWW.WAOS.ORG

Dates for your Diary

AGM

-May 8, WPH with Salad Days afterwards.

Salad Days Open Evening

- Wed, May 1, SL

Salad Days Pre-audition dates

- Tues, May 7, SL, Read through script, dance

- Wed, May 8, WPH, Music, dance after AGM

- Tues, May 14, SL, Music, dance

- Wed, May 15, WPH, Music, Dance, Auditions (9pm)

Salad days - Audition dates

- Sun, May 19, SL,

10.00 -11.00 Ensemble, Dance and Music

Auditions

11.00 -11.30 Troppo Auditions

12.00-17.30 Principal Auditions

Salad Days - Show week

- Oct 21-26, 2024

May 24, Sunflower Ball, WPH. Tickets still available.

For information about our shows, go to

<http://www.waos.org/news/forthcoming-shows/>