

GADS Newsletter

April 2013

Hello everyone.

It's been six months since the last GADS newsletter, so you may be forgiven if you were thinking that GADS had vanished into thin air. However, let me assure you that we're still alive and kicking even though we may be temporarily a bit thin on the ground. Here's what's going on:

Spring Play Cancelled

Since we are still somewhat short of acting members, the auditions for "Ladies Day" were open to anyone, not just GADS members. Sadly, very few people turned up, so we were compelled to cancel or, at least postpone the play. This strongly highlights a pressing need for a recruiting campaign and I would urge all of you to try to persuade any potential actors among your friends and acquaintances to come and join us.

Annual General Meeting ... and the Rest – May 8th

This year's AGM will be held in the Main Hall at Gosforth Public Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, May 8th. As usual anyone, whether they be members, patrons or just members of the general public, may attend but only life members or fully paid-up members or junior members over the age of 18 are entitled to participate in the proceedings or stand for election to any of our committees. If you think you may be behind with your subs I'm sure you all know how to contact Jim Polmear, our treasurer. What! You don't? Well, if you want to deliver your outstanding subs to him in person, or by post, you can find him at 51, Coniston Avenue, Seascale CA20 1LL. If, on the other hand, you'd like to arrange a clandestine exchange of cash at some secret rendezvous, you can ring him on 019467 28242.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the meeting. And if you have any friends who you think might be interested in joining the society, please don't hesitate to bring them along with you.

Next Year's Subscriptions

Whilst on the subject, I can't help noticing that subscriptions have been at their present level of £10 (members) and £5 (patrons and juniors) since 1996 (Yes, that's 18 years ago!), when they were raised from £6 and £3. We have now reached the point that, even if we put on no productions, our annual income from subs will not cover our annual insurance premium. Our illustrious treasurer has calculated that an increase to £12 and £6 would rectify matters, so we'll be proposing this at the AGM. I do hope you'll support us.

Next GADS Social Evening – May 17th

It doesn't seem a year since, in an attempt to attract new members and keep existing members together when little else is going on, the GADS social evenings were introduced. You may remember that after the success of the first two (five at the first meeting, nine at the second), I calculated that if attendance figures continued to multiply at this rate, there would be 992 of us at the December gathering.

Unsurprisingly, this didn't happen; nevertheless, ever optimistic, we are continuing to press on with our monthly get-togethers (or should that be "gets-together"?) on the third Friday of each month.

Our next social evening will be in the Horse and Groom on Friday, May 17th from 7.30 pm. As always, if any of you would like to bring friends along to meet us, we would be delighted. In order that we have some idea of how many will be there, Jenny would appreciate it if anyone intending to come would let her know (either by email at jennifer@lloyd30.orangehome.co.uk or by phone on 019467 25849) how many of you there will be. If there are enough, we'll book the upstairs room, otherwise we'll meet in the bar. But don't worry if you don't remember to tell Jenny – we'll not throw you out!

Auditions for Autumn Play

Our autumn play is scheduled for October 17th-19th. Lois is still keen to do *Ladies Day*, so, in the hope that more people will be available this time, another set of auditions will be held in the Supper Room at Gosforth Public Hall at 7.30pm on Monday June 24th and Thursday June 27th. The reason for holding auditions so soon is to allow time for a "Plan B" if there is still no interest in this play.

Young People's Workshop

Although dates have been booked for the next young people's workshop, Mark will not be available to run it this year. We're currently investigating alternatives and will let you know when we have anything to report.

All England Theatre Festival

Once again we were unable to enter the festival. This year there were only two entries in the Cumbria preliminary round. The evening began with CATS's production of Jimmie Chinn's *But Yesterday*. This was followed by Burton ADS's production of David Campton's *Permission to Cry*. Once again it was good to see two life members of GADS, in the shape of Ian and Sue Stokes, still acting their socks off in the Burton team.

After delivering his constructive comments on each play, popular adjudicator Robert Meadows pronounced the winning play to be *But Yesterday* so CATS now moves on to the next round of the competition on May 4th, once again at the Victoria Hall, at 7.30 pm. There they will meet Storm2Theatre, from the Wirral, performing Liz Boorman's adaptation of Chekhov's *The Bear*. The adjudicator will be Richard Woodward. We wish the Cumbrian team every success.

That's all folks!



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PS – As always, this newsletter will also be posted on the GADS website, www.gads.org.uk.