What are you reading our Mary?

It's a NUDE actually!

Another blooming WAACry!

Is that a naked woman???

THE WAACRY

The Wellington (Somerset) & District Arts Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registration Number: 04950364
Registered Office: Wellington Arts Centre, Eight Acre Lane, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8PS
Registered Charity Number: 1106158
I'll be amazed if this edition even makes it out of Taunton, considering the mass of traffic cones and roadworks that have silently taken over the County Town...

It’s month’s like this when the downsides of an expanding Town like Taunton, do make Susan and I wonder why we left Wellington? Especially when like many people, the Arts Centre becomes our Winter Residence. Those involved in the ‘Triple Threat’ that is Operatics (Mon & Thurs), Panto (Tues & Fri) and Genesis (Weds) will know this feeling!

Looking forward to the coming weeks, we have many events: Visiting artists at the WAA; two Carnival entries; The Autumn show; and before you know it, it’s Christmas.

Forgive us but we have a couple of other shows to plug that you might like. We’ve been producing, directing and choreographing the Hemyock Panto by Valley Arts which hits the stage Tues 29th Oct - Fri 1st Nov at Hemyock Parish Hall, featuring the WAA’s own Hannah Green as ‘Little Red Riding Hood’ and Tim Atkinson as ‘Cower’ - tickets 07540 432394.

If Shakespeare is your thing, the bloody and gruesome ‘Titus’ is being performed by The SPACE Company at the old Foxes Mill, in Wellington. A site specific classic, on your doorstep, 15th - 17th Oct at 7pm. Tickets from [www.tacchi-morris.com](http://www.tacchi-morris.com) and again this features current and former WAA Members with Sian Gilbert, Kiera Chard and Amber Smith taking to the stage, or dirt, and river come to think of it!

A final note from us: Calendar Girls - simply wonderful!

I’m off now to get even more intimate with our Landrover...

Susan and Kev (& Elvis)
DEADLINES & CONTACT

Next months deadline is:

24th November
And e-copies will be out/paper copies delivered to the Post office:
1st December

This is due to printing deadlines at Heathfield School!

Contact us:
waacry@w-a-a.co.uk
07540 432 394
24 Chaucer Court, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3FH

ABOUT THE WAA

Formed in the 1960’s, the Wellington Arts Association (WAA) brings together all groups interested in the Arts in the Wellington area under one roof and promotes their activities. At the Arts Centre we provide facilities for rehearsals, meetings, exhibitions, workshops, amateur and professional performances. On top of this, the Wellington Arts Association is an umbrella society for the following groups:

Genesis Youth Theatre Group
Wellington Operatic Society
Wellington Pantomime Group
The Civic Players
The Arcadians
Spectrum Arts And Crafts
Fake Thackray – Saturday 5th October

John Watterson has performed the songs of Jake Thackray at festivals, concerts, clubs, after dinner venues and – most specially – to members of Jake’s family.

Jake’s songs are exquisitely funny, satirical, incisive, irreverent, witty and gloriously un-PC – and sometimes all of these at the same time. Jake was a one off, his poetry broke the rules yet worked beautifully. He was a true craftsman of the English language, and his legacy of scores of songs continues to delight audiences of all ages today.

John's appreciation and love of Jake Thackray's music is obvious to his audience. John’s performance is a celebration of the man that was Jake Thackray - his work, his genius and his very essence, an essence that the new age of music lovers are in danger of missing out on.

On learning of Jake’s passing in 2002, John decided that the songs were too good not to be kept alive, so he set about learning more of them. ‘Before I had decided what to do when I grew up, it was time for my mid-life crisis. I told my wife, Carol that I wanted to give up the day job and sing Jake’s songs and she said – OK then – so I did!’

A short while ago John had the huge honour of performing at a memorial evening in Monmouth (which is where Jake and his family moved to) attended by Jake's widow, Sheila, and two of their sons. ‘The scariest gig of my life – but such a privilege!’

John lives in York and has two sons, Chris and Alex, who come to heckle their Dad whenever they can.

'We can't have Jake back but this is the next best thing - a real tribute’

Mike Harding

'It is marvellous that Jake Thackray's treasured songs ride again.
They are in safe hands’

Ralph McTell

www.fakethackray.com/

Saturday 5th October at 7.30pm (doors 7pm).

Worth mentioning also that tickets for "Fake Thackray" (5th October) are on sale - at "Nurtured by Nature", South Street - or online via www.w-a-a.co.uk. Support at this concert will be Jess Handley.
Cathryn Craig & Brian Willoughby – Sat 7th December

Cathryn Craig is from Richmond, Virginia and has built a strong reputation as both singer and songwriter. She is no stranger to Tennessee’s Nashville recording studios, working with Chet Atkins, The Righteous Brothers, Shel Silverstein and Jorma Kaukonen.

Brian Willoughby is best known for his virtuoso performances on electric and acoustic guitar, with progressive folk/rock band Strawbs. He also played with Mary Hopkin, Joe Brown, Bridget St.John, Jim Diamond and Monty Python.

- Both Cathryn and Brian have accompanied Nanci Griffith.
- Their “Alice’s Song” was an Aled Jones “highlight of the year” on BBC Radio 2.
- Cathryn was Simon Mayo's star guest on BBC Radio 2Day, live from Nashville.
- “Real World” is the current album, featuring live studio recordings of new and popular Craig / Willoughby compositions.

“They catch a mood that could produce goosebumps on sheet metal (The Glasgow Herald),

“…traditional songs and delicately crafted originals by assured performers with formidable story-telling abilities” (Record Collector),

“…sublime guitar work and one of the finest voices around” (Folking.com).

www.craigandwilloughby.com
Saturday 26th October 2013

Critics Halloween Dance with Cocktails

Live on stage: JW3 & The Lynx

Fancy Dress Optional

Entry fee: £5
Tickets available from the Critics Bar
“There is nothing like a dame… oh no there isn’t… oh yes there is!”

Here we are again the nights are sadly drawing in and the days are getting shorter but what could possibly lift the mood of such a gloomy time of the year; PANTOMIME of course!

Rehearsals are well underway for January’s production and what a production it is setting out to be!

With some familiar faces returning to the boards and some brand new faces it is set to be a great production of Sleeping Beauty. Supported by the foundation of cheesy jokes, slapstick and some feet tapping, head nodding music performed by our very own award winning PANTO BAND!

The cast for this production is as follows:

**Principals**
- Justin Thyme - Emily Mitchell
- Dame Thyme - Mike Hamilton
- Princess Nightingale - Elizabeth Harvey
- King Rolo - Ian Jones

Queen Beatrice - Kathryn Fear
Valet - Bob Blundell
Cynthia - Lynn Henden
Zendora - Mary Lewis
Fairy Lights - Dawn Morton
Felix - Kirk Shepherd
Sage - Jim Hawkins
Onion - David Waring
Salt - Ashleigh Payne
Pepper - Kiera Chard
Walter - Jesse Pincombe
Walter 2 - Ebony Sellick

**SENIOR DANCERS**
- Ellie Jones
- Becky Gatling
- Ashleigh Payne
- Kiera Chard
- Chloe Richards
- Dilly Croxall
- Catherine Vicarage

**JUNIOR DANCERS**
- Maddie David
- Jasmine Maunder
- Ebony Sellick
- Elizabeth Boyd
- Stephanie Tron
- Kaleigh Parsons

**SENIOR CHORUS**
- Paige Ritchie
- Matt Ellis
- Sian Gilbert
- Emily Fear
- Sophi Carroll
- Jade Waygood
- Chloe Chandler
Before we get to the stage, there are some dates for the diary.

**Wellington Carnival 28th September:**
Come along and show your support in our publicity launch.

**Taunton Carnival 19th October:**
We will be there too!

**Wellington School Christmas Fair 30th November:**
This of course is our ticket sale launch so get them quick or miss out!

**And of course the most important dates of all is show week...**
22\textsuperscript{nd}- 26\textsuperscript{th} January 7.30pm Daily (Wed-Sat) Matinees on Sat (10.00am/2.30pm), Sun (12.30pm)

**Rob Spurway, Hon. Secretary**

**Wellington Pantomime Group**
The Civic Players

Calendar Girls

WOW!

What a week! We are delighted to report that our production of Calendar Girls, was a huge success and we have all been thrilled by the reaction to it. With audiences totalling over 500 people, we hope we have really managed to reinvigorate The Civic Players and added to the quality productions of The WAA. Every performance was packed out, not least the special Tuesday performance, which saw 9 WI groups represented; it followed a magnificent Tea Party which was provided for them.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the show – to all the magnificent cast, the crew, and all those who helped with the WI Tea and the refreshments during the week. We have raised a great sum for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, which we will confirm in the next WAA Cry.

It was a very happy show for all concerned and I'm sure it will live long in the memory.

And so what next?
Single Spies

As announced in the (magnificent) Calendar Girls programme, our next production will take place from 26\textsuperscript{th}-29\textsuperscript{th} March 2014 and will be Alan Bennett’s, award-winning, Single Spies. This is, in fact, two plays: ‘An Englishman Aboard’ tells the story of a meeting between the spy Guy Burgess and the actress Coral Browne, after Burgess had fled to Russia. It was originally a wonderful BBC film starring Alan Bates as Burgess and Coral Browne as herself. ‘

A Question of Attribution’ concerns Anthony Blunt, Surveyor of the Queen’s Pictures, and his exposure as a spy in the late 1970’s. In the play, before his downfall, Blunt has a rather marvellous encounter with the Queen herself. In the original production, Alan Bennett himself played Blunt, with Prunella Scales as HMQ. These are beautifully written, intelligent, witty and intriguing pieces of work.

Auditions will take place 28\textsuperscript{th} November and 2\textsuperscript{nd} December. More details available from Paul Smith: 07931 425 471 or paulawsmith@gmail.com.

Thank you to all the support we have received. We look forward to continue bringing great drama productions to Wellington.

Ps: We still have a few Calendar Girls programmes/2014 calendars available for sale at only £3.00 each. If you are interested, please contact Paul – details as above.
CALENDAR GIRLS PICS

All photos thanks as always to Andy Jones of: www.shootingpixels.net
WELLINGTON OPERATIC SOCIETY presents

MORE MOVIE MAGIC!

5TH - 9TH NOVEMBER 2013
7:30PM DAILY, PLUS 2:30PM SATURDAY

TICKETS £6
At the Wellington Arts Centre, Eight Acre Lane
Box Office C9, Fore Street (from 19th October). Or call: 01823 663597

Directed By Christina Green

For further information about this show or other events, log onto our website www.w-a-a.co.uk

The Wellington (Somerset) & District Arts Association is a company limited by guarantee. Company no: 04950364. England registered charity number: 1106158.
At the WAA AGM held in September, we traditionally award the youth member who has in the view of the WAA Management Committee, contributed the most to the life of the WAA. This year, Georgia Channon was recognised, due to her multiple appearances with Genesis, Operatics and Panto, and much behind the scenes work! Well done Georgia. The Kevin Aspery Cup was first donated to the WAA by Kevin’s family, to recognise youth achievement.

On the same evening, Genesis held their AGM, and usually recognise a member of the Youth Theatre Group who has consistently impressed with both performances and off stage attitude. The Rosemary Savory Trophy (or Grandma as she’s know to many of us!) was this year awarded to Abbie Lockyer, who only joined Genesis last September. She was presented with it the following day!
Just a few words about being in Calendar Girls: It was magnificent!

Now a lot of words about being in Calendar Girls: It was the biggest challenge of my acting career. The pleasure & pride in being cast was soon replaced by trepidation & the fear of the responsibility of being in such renowned production. The script was amazing, so easy to learn because it was REAL. The direction from Paul was wonderful; clear on what he wanted from us but with free rein to bring our own characters to life.

Working with five of my best thespian friends was a truly beautiful experience. The emotion that flowed between us was so strong that we spent much of our rehearsal time in tears, both tears of sadness & tears of hilarity! What a bonding experience...mind you, there's also something about being naked, sorry NUDE, together that elicits trust & respect.....& laughter!!! (Don't ask!!)

The cohesion of the six of us "girls" might have put off the other actors in smaller roles, but I think that it did not. They were all kind & supportive... we had a ball backstage as well as on! Broccoli Brenda became my personal dresser, thank goodness, as I got stuck many a time in the quick changes. (three times per show I went onstage wearing two dresses, for a speedy return....only those who have had to do it know what I mean.)
We had fun sourcing & making props. There is definitely more attention to detail paid by those whose pudenda are at risk of public display! And the set...WOW the set...that hill...amazing! Thank you Graham & co. As ever we were backed by a solid team of technicians: The lighting (I preferred singing in the dark), the sound (thunderstorms will always make me drink vodka with no clothes on), Prompt Mary (with the worst job of all...I must have given her heart failure every night, stuttering over my ever lengthening vocabulary of profanities!!), Margaret (unflappable & always reliable with burgeoning amounts of props on a ridiculously tricky "run" every performance) and the ever respectful Tony (who made us feel safe & secure backstage).

Sue's ingenious idea of inviting the local WI groups to a special first night was inspired. The atmosphere of that six o'clock tea party was the perfect start to the week. The bar room decorations looked terrific (I suspect Penny had something to do with that) & the refreshments were outstanding. Many thanks to Christina & friends for those creative, delicious cupcakes etc. The LADIES of the WI were the stars that night. They came with an air of excited expectation & were determined to enjoy themselves. They laughed at all the "in" jokes, appeared to recognise some of the onstage characters & even applauded our final rendering of "Jerusalem" (with harmonies)! 
I take my hat off to the boys in our cast (well it's the only thing I am wearing, typing this, as I needed to get into character!). It cannot have been easy for them backstage. As you all know, there is very little space & 'much dashing-through-the-female-dressing-room' to be done in any Arts Centre show, but this time it was fraught with much more danger!! I have never before heard quite so many apologetic howls of embarrassment. I do believe the younger element have been scarred for life...Graham claims to be too shortsighted to have noticed if anyone else was even in the room!! (Apologies also to Jessie, whose enduring memory of the show will be my bare backside as she followed me, outdoors, round the back, SL to SR, removing my dress as I went along the alleyway!)

I am so sad it is all over. The reviews have been fabulous, the audience comments so enthusiastic & full of praise. We KNOW we did a good job (no false modesty here...in fact no modesty at all!!) and I want to do it all over again! I wasn't brave, I'm a natural show-off, & the hardest bit for me was learning to play the piano!! My best achievement? Not taking my clothes off in public (at my age!!) no, it's the MUM/WOW wreath, I have never been so chuffed before with something I have made. (It worked!!) And who will ever see Boris the spider again?

Yes, it is a real tattoo, done for the show, in memory of the best production in which I have ever had the privilege of performing. To steal Ruth's quote "I DID IT", we all did. Thank you for letting me.

Love Swannie/Cora x x x
Carnival
Following a long Summer break for the group, Genesis started up again a couple of weeks ago – and it is fair to say that we have hit the ground running. There are usually only 3 sessions from our first of the new term until Wellington Carnival and in that time we have to teach a dance, design and build a float (read flat bed truck), decide and source costumes/make up and organize the logistics. Although it is a lot of hard work, the group very much enjoys taking part in the Carnival and we are usually lucky enough to be successful as a walking (although we are generally a dancing) entry. We are also taking part in Taunton Carnival for the first time in a few years, so if you aren’t involved with the Pantomime or Genesis entry, then please try and pop down to either or both and support the Arts Centre. This year we are dancing to Livin’ La Vida Loca – watch out for those trusty feathers and a little bit of maraca action. Huge thanks to U-Drive, Bright*, Brandon Tool Hire & Buildbase!

Christmas Show 2013 - 7.30pm, 12th & 13th December, @ Wellington Arts Centre
Once the excitement of Carnival is out of the way we are straight into putting our Christmas show together. Unlike last year, the show will have
a full on Christmas theme and we promise to create a festive atmosphere and please feel free to join in the Christmas sing song in the second half. Most of the sessions will be lead by a different Committee member who will have prepared something to be added to the show – just another point that proves how hands on we are as a Committee. This show also gives the group a chance to devise their own pieces and we expect that the show will be made up of comedy, poems, dance, singing and possibly a little something extra.

Tickets are £5 are will be available from the week of Monday 4th November. Tickets will be behind the bar or you can contact Chairman Kevin Stratton on 07540 432394

**General**

Genesis would like to welcome Christina Green onto the Committee

We have also welcomed 4 new members to the group and look forward to working with them this year. We still have one space free and we aim to fill this for the first session after the Carnivals

This does mean that our waiting list is now shorter, so please contact me if you are interested in being put on it. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you are interested in joining the Committee or offering one off support for a show or a session

Susan Green
Secretary,
Genesis Youth Theatre
[ Susanjgreen84@gmail.com ](mailto:Susanjgreen84@gmail.com) / 07971 669767
"MORE MOVIE MAGIC"
NOVEMBER 5 - 9 ARTS CENTRE

Even though I have been away for two weeks, first looking after grandchildren, then increasing my knowledge of Italy with a stay in Sorrento, by the wonder that is Facebook, I have been able to keep in touch and so know that rehearsals have got off to a superb start under the direction of Christina Green. Everything points to another great show, so make sure you get your tickets as soon as they become available. The Box Office at C9 will open on Saturday October 19th and there will be the usual "Walk Round" to promote the show. Please also help by putting up posters in appropriate places especially in outlying areas.

TOURING  The Touring Group has been fairly busy during the summer months, but we are now coming into the 'silly season' leading up to Christmas!!

Here are the next few dates:

- POPPY CONCERT Friday October 25th  Wellington School Great Hall. Thank you to those who have let me know they are taking part in this event. Rehearsals take place at The Arts Centre on Sunday October 3rd at 3pm; Sunday October 13th at 3pm and Sunday October 20th at 6pm. We will also have a run through on Thursday 24th following the Autumn Show rehearsal.

Please let me know if you are available for the following:

- ABBEYFIELD, BISHOP'S HULL Thursday 14th November at 2pm.
- OAKTREE COURT Thursday November 28th at 3pm
WELLINGTON BOWLING CLUB Saturday November 30th in the evening, time tbd
• RELYON CHRISTMAS PARTY Sunday December 1st afternoon, time tbd

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN
MAY 6 - 10 2014 at The Wellesley
Just another reminder of dates if you are interested in taking part in this fantastic show. Remember, everything kicks off before the New Year, so make sure you have the dates in your diary:

LAUNCH PARTY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24th at The Arts Centre, 7pm
AUDITION REHEARSAL: THURSDAY 5th & MONDAY 9th DECEMBER, at The Arts Centre, 7.30pm
AUDITIONS: SUNDAY DECEMBER 15th at The Arts Centre, all day - specific audition times will be made known later.

For further information and details, please speak to the Director, Susan Green.

SPRING SHOW 2015/16
We are hopeful that we will soon be able to announce the shows and directors chosen for the next two years. There are a few in the running and the sub-committee is meeting again soon.

NODA SW WEEKEND 2014
The date for this has been announced as SEPTEMBER 19 - 21, but we have yet to be told the venue, which will be new. If you have never been to this weekend, start saving now as it can be very beneficial and great fun.
•
As we are kick starting the process earlier than usual, I thought it might be a good idea to get audition pieces out early too. Please feel free to email me for a script and a character breakdown. Please note that the script is a rough copy and all spelling mistakes etc, will be removed prior to rehearsals commencing.

Susan Green
07971 660767 / susanjgreen84@gmail.com

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<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Audition Pieces</th>
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<tr>
<td>Don Lockwood</td>
<td>Act 1 Sc 4 pg 10 – 13, Act 1 Sc 7 pg 26 – top of 28, Act 1 Sc 13 pg 47- 49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Seldon</td>
<td>Act 1 Sc 4 pg 10 -13, Act 1 Sc 13 pg 47- 49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lina Lamont</td>
<td>Act 1 Sc 7 pg 26 – top of 28, Act 1 Sc 10 pg 37, Act 2 sc 2 pg 61 – 62, Act 2 Sc 5 pg 72 - 74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cosmo Brown</td>
<td>Act 1 Sc 13 pg 47- 49, Act 2 Sc 1 pg 56 – 58, Act 2 Sc 4 pg 67-68</td>
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<tr>
<td>R.F Simpson</td>
<td>Act 2 Sc 1 pg 56 – 58, Act 2 Sc 4 pg 67-68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roscoe Dexter</td>
<td>Act 1 Sc 7 pg 24 - 29</td>
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<td>Dora Bailey</td>
<td>Act 1 Sc 1 Pg 2 - 4</td>
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<td>Don Lockwood</td>
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<td>Kathy Seldon</td>
<td>Would You</td>
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<td>Lina Lamont</td>
<td>What’s Wrong With Me</td>
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<td>Cosmo Brown</td>
<td>Make Em Laugh</td>
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OPERATIC SOCIETY ARCHIVES...

...MOVIE MAGIC, LAST TIME OUT!

Photos
Thanks to Mon!

Nov 2007
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<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 5th October</td>
<td>A tribute to Jake: Fake Thackray</td>
<td>Arts Centre</td>
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<td>Sat 19th October</td>
<td>Wellington Acoustic Music club</td>
<td>Arts Centre Bar</td>
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<td>Sat 26th October</td>
<td>Cocktail evening - with <em>The Lynx</em></td>
<td>Arts Centre</td>
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<td>Tues 5th – Sat 9th November</td>
<td>Wellington Opsoc presents: “Movie Magic”</td>
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<td>Sat 16th November</td>
<td>Wellington Acoustic Music club</td>
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<td>Sun 24th November</td>
<td>Launch party for: “Singing in the Rain”</td>
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<td>Sat 7th December</td>
<td>Cathryn Craig &amp; Brian Willoughby</td>
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<td>Thurs 12th – Fri 13th December</td>
<td>“Genesis Christmas Wonderland”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 15th December</td>
<td>Auditions for “Singing in the Rain”</td>
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For further information please visit: [www.w-a-a.co.uk](http://www.w-a-a.co.uk)

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