

# **WALBERSWICK AMATEUR THEATRICAL SOCIETY**

## **Season 2023/2024**

### Report for the AGM of the Parish Council Meeting

With a committee of nine for the Season 2023 – 2024, we began our WATS readings. We had moved to having our meetings in the Village Hall, as always on a Monday at 7.30 p.m.

The Committee has been amazing in coming along early to set out the room, set up the microphones, put out tables and chairs, put out crockery for tea, coffee, and biscuits/cake, and an introduction now of a delightful glass of wine, crisps and nuts etc. The Committee members have also done a grand job of cleaning up afterwards, and doing the washing up!

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Our process at the beginning of the season is to work out our Programme. At the Annual General Meeting we pass around a paper for members to fill in if they wish to act as Producer, and chose our Reading for one of our months, arrange to obtain the scripts from the Ipswich “Music & Drama” Library, select the readers from our membership, arrange a read-through evening at their home or elsewhere, and on the day of the WATS gathering, present the Play to the members attending that evening.

Our Plays/Drama have been, for our 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 meeting: “A Miscellany of Readings” prepared by Diana and Edward Wright and presented by members of WATS.

Our November meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 was selected, directed and cast by Doris and Clive Brynley-Jones and was a Play by Agatha Christie, “The Hollow”.

Our meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, presented a Play by Peter Gordon, “Out of Focus” chosen, cast and directed by Rosi Gerrell and Peter Austin.

In January 2024 we held our Annual Party, also in the Village Hall. We had 35 members and friends attending. Our caterers for the event were Coastal Caterers, found to be excellent and have catered for us for several years now. Our entertainment was one of Mary Nuttall’s own plays, “The Body in the Gunroom”, written and produced for our Party on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2003. For those who did not know Mary, she was a member of WATS

when it was first formed many years ago, and we met in member's home each month. Mary had been Chairman from 1994 – 1997. The play was acted out on the stage with suitable scenery, and directed by Peter Austin. This was a wonderful tribute to Mary, who we loved so much.

For our February 2024 reading the play, selected and produced by Alvin Hunt was "Gaslight" a Victorian thriller by Patrick Hamilton. There were five readers, and the play took place in a living-room on the first floor of a four-storied house in a gloomy and unfashionable quarter of London, in the latter part of the last century.

Our last reading for the season was held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, and chosen by Jill and Bill Willison and entitled "First things First" by Derek Benfield. This was a most amusing play, and we had a really good attendance.

During the season the numbers attending have varied. All are welcomed to come and try us as a group, and we have had visitors. Our last play was very well attended and several people wish to become Members this next autumn. There is a subscription for becoming a member and this year will be £15/ per member. All members receive a Programme card, pocket size for convenience. The charge has been increasing a little over the years, but now we are meeting at the Village Hall we of course pay a fee for the use of the Hall, and the introduction of a lovely "glass of cheer".

Judy Morton, Chairman of WATS

4<sup>th</sup> April 2024