



# L.A.D.S

NEWSLETTER for December/January 2023

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Christmas message from all at L.A.D.S.

2022 has been a healing year where the Tractor Shed saw the revival of fantastic shows and the hustle and bustle of behind the scenes took off once more. This year L.A.D.S members also embarked on a major “spruce up” of the necessities that are crucial for the effective functioning of shows and events alike. The year has seen successes such as Educating Rita and the outstanding Show Hits of 2022, yet also the unfortunate cancellation of the final nights of the performances of Last of the



Summer Wine. However, with the ups and the downs of the year there is no doubt that every effort, direction and intention made by all of the L.A.D.S members has made an impact on creating an outstanding year. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year. We are all looking forward to the coming events of 2023 and the passion, skills and talent that is resides in abundance within the L.A.D.S team.

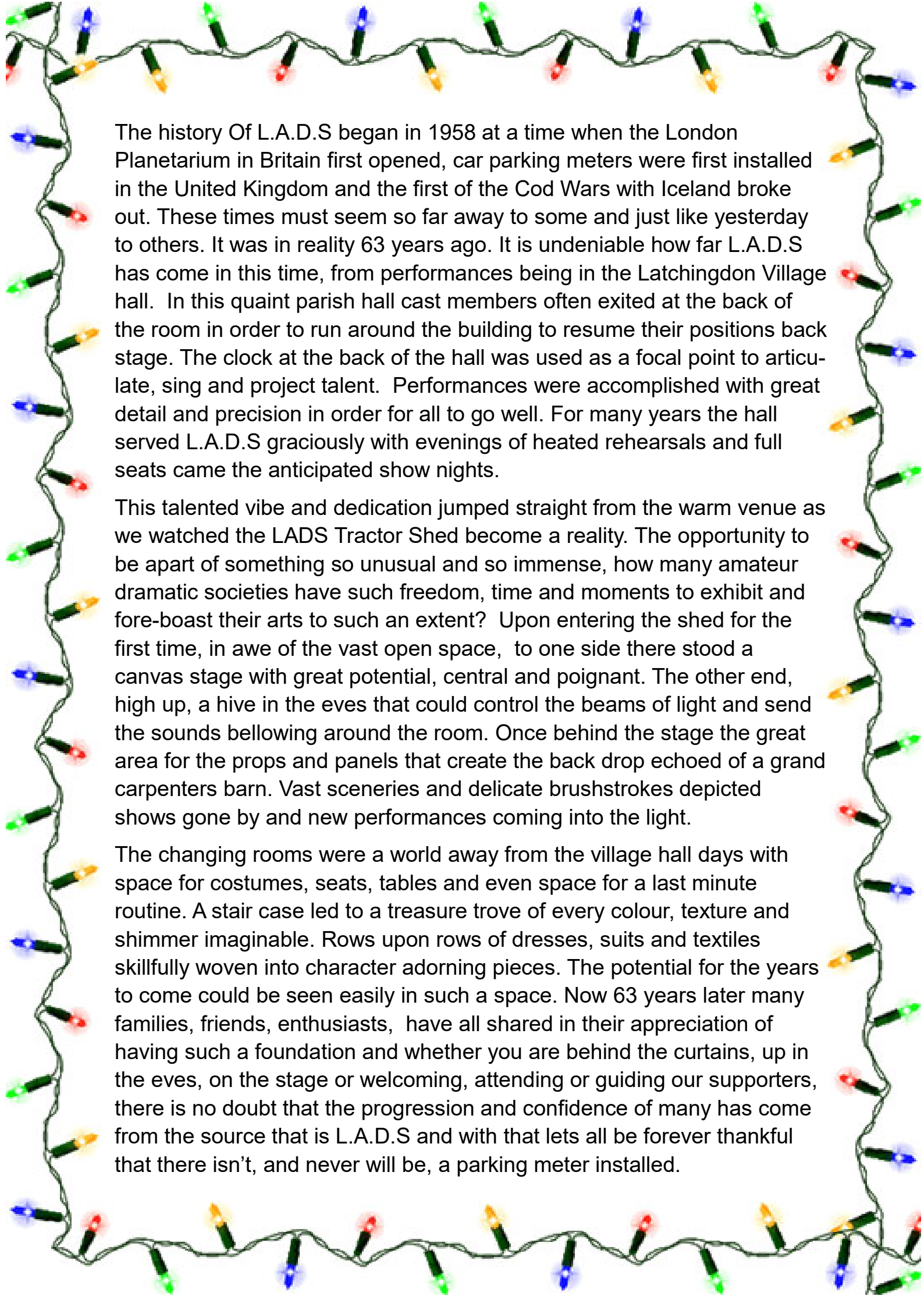
### **WHAT'S NEXT:**

Casting and rehearsals for Little Women will continue in January.

There will be dates in January announced soon to continue with the painting and general spruce up of the Tractor Shed.

Another Quiz Night is being planned for Spring time.

There will be a **Members Meeting** on **10th January 8pm** in the Shed and we look forward to seeing you there. New members are welcome, so bring along a friend.



The history Of L.A.D.S began in 1958 at a time when the London Planetarium in Britain first opened, car parking meters were first installed in the United Kingdom and the first of the Cod Wars with Iceland broke out. These times must seem so far away to some and just like yesterday to others. It was in reality 63 years ago. It is undeniable how far L.A.D.S has come in this time, from performances being in the Latchingdon Village hall. In this quaint parish hall cast members often exited at the back of the room in order to run around the building to resume their positions back stage. The clock at the back of the hall was used as a focal point to articulate, sing and project talent. Performances were accomplished with great detail and precision in order for all to go well. For many years the hall served L.A.D.S graciously with evenings of heated rehearsals and full seats came the anticipated show nights.

This talented vibe and dedication jumped straight from the warm venue as we watched the LADS Tractor Shed become a reality. The opportunity to be apart of something so unusual and so immense, how many amateur dramatic societies have such freedom, time and moments to exhibit and fore-boast their arts to such an extent? Upon entering the shed for the first time, in awe of the vast open space, to one side there stood a canvas stage with great potential, central and poignant. The other end, high up, a hive in the eves that could control the beams of light and send the sounds bellowing around the room. Once behind the stage the great area for the props and panels that create the back drop echoed of a grand carpenters barn. Vast sceneries and delicate brushstrokes depicted shows gone by and new performances coming into the light.

The changing rooms were a world away from the village hall days with space for costumes, seats, tables and even space for a last minute routine. A stair case led to a treasure trove of every colour, texture and shimmer imaginable. Rows upon rows of dresses, suits and textiles skillfully woven into character adorning pieces. The potential for the years to come could be seen easily in such a space. Now 63 years later many families, friends, enthusiasts, have all shared in their appreciation of having such a foundation and whether you are behind the curtains, up in the eves, on the stage or welcoming, attending or guiding our supporters, there is no doubt that the progression and confidence of many has come from the source that is L.A.D.S and with that lets all be forever thankful that there isn't, and never will be, a parking meter installed.

# *Members Memoirs*

With the delights and history on page 2, we would really like to hear your memories of LADS over the years.

These can be as long or as short as you want. Your favourite part, production, back stage antics or dressing room dramas. Include pictures too, if you have them.

I'm sure I speak for many in that nobody will ever forget the last night party and the traditional cheese and onion sandwiches (Peter's favourite), which are made by our fabulous Brenda.

Email your memories to Moir at [houseofgunfield@btinternet.com](mailto:houseofgunfield@btinternet.com) or post them to her at 35 Lawlinge Road, Latchingdon, CM3 6JY.

Practical Ways of Flying a Carpet by John Folkard is a book detailing the history of LADS first 50 years. A lovely piece after the traditional 'forward' is:

## John's Masterpiece

There never was going to be a book. Sometime into retirement, John started writing out programmes, collating our press publicity, criticisms and old programmes. There was then the nucleus of a book which became 'The Masterpiece' a dream.

I hope the reader finds pleasure from John's own opinion and his warts and all approach. Some may even find a play they might try. A lot of LADS young and old will find many reasons for reading the book and hopefully revive old times — from picking up nails under the stage — absorbing lines to the few who burnt the midnight oil on costumes, tractor shed, set building and in particular Kevin Royan for his tireless work in the layout and design of this book. Dead on the desk for Agatha Christie or sick in the toilet in Stags and Hens, you are the stars of John's book. Remembering the tears and headaches that seem clear after Saturday nights final curtain in the enduring aroma of Brenda's cheese and onion sandwiches.

Thank you John and Joan

PJ

# WHAT'S NEXT IN 2023....

## Little Women

To be confirmed

## Showhits 2023

30th August to 2nd September

## A Bunch of Amateurs

15th to 18th November (to be confirmed)



If there are any types of events you would like us to consider holding, please contact our Social and Fundraising Secretary, Heather.

## Email contacts:

General: info@ladsdrama.com

Secretary: Sharyn Hughes at sharynhughes@hotmail.com

Chair: Moir Gunfield at houseofgunfield@btinternet.com



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L.A.D.S Latchingdon Arts and Drama Society