



AGM 2024 - Events report April 2023 to March 2024

Helen Mason, Events Secretary

As both Liz and David have already mentioned, our Second Tuesday events programme aims to engage members between shows. From our early conversations about what kind of theatre group we wanted STC to be, the idea of a monthly 'lighter' event offering that people could 'dip into' when/ if not performing was appealing. Founder members amongst us had several tales to tell of amateur theatre groups where if you weren't in the cast or crew for the up and coming production, there was little if anything to do but come to see the show. We wanted STC to offer a different theatre experience, and to our credit, even throughout the pandemic and lockdown we have run at least 11 and usually 12 workshops each year ever since. The year in question was no exception. We offered our usual mix of events associated with stagecraft. Play readings proved our most popular event last year, but our programme was varied including behind the scenes technical workshops, improvisation, skills development including voice and singing and our core end of year favourite *Streatham's Got Talent*. In a similar theme to membership and audience numbers, our events have seen a marked drop in attendance post-pandemic, despite us doing our best to mix firm favourites with new offers. This is disappointing and a tricky challenge. In an attempt to engage more of our mailing list followers, we devised 2 new event offers this year to complement our Second Tuesday programme. The first is a play reading club. Imagine a book club but instead substitute an agreed light-hearted play and an arrangement to meet and read it together in a local cafe with tea, coffee and cake options one afternoon. We trialled our first club in April deliberately in an afternoon rather than an evening and in a cafe. It went down very well. Liz facilitated the first session and can tell you more. Watch this space for the next one. The second opportunity to get together is so beautifully simple it may have passed you by. Any STC member can now flag the details of a production they are planning to go see (ideally supporting local community and amateur theatre) and invite other STC members to see the show. If the committee knows details well enough in advance we will flag the show in our monthly newsletter. There is no compulsion to arrange a joint outing, or even sit together, but it might be nice to see a familiar face at the bar. I've enjoyed my 10th year as Events Secretary and as always would like to note my thanks to everyone who has come along, led a workshop, shared their expertise and helped with arrangements on the night. If there is something we haven't done and you think we should, something you could run, or you have ideas for maybe getting more people along to events, do have a chat tonight or send an email to our info address.

Many thanks, Helen