



**The International Theatre Studio (ITS)
The President's Report to the AGM March 2016
Mrs Carol Woolnoth**

Our 40th Anniversary year

It is hard to believe that another year has passed and, for ITS, it has been another really busy and productive one. It was our 40th year and I think we proved that we are still a thriving and vibrant organisation that is well supported and valued by residents and holidaymakers alike.

The 40th party celebration was well attended with 64 of us enjoying a super meal and then live music at El Campanario. June Rendle, Diana Clarke and Barbara Mitchell dealt with the formalities of such an occasion superbly. They all spoke eloquently about ITS and the past 40 years.

Fred Wallis

Sadly not long after the AGM on 11th April 2015, Fred Wallis passed away. He was an active member of ITS for over 30 years and produced many of our performances. His death prompted lots of beautiful messages that, we hope, gave some comfort to his sister and family members.

Murder Mysteries

Twice we performed "Come die with me" written by Diana King and directed by Kate Jackson.

Similarly, we performed "For the love of the game" written and directed by Veronica de Dero and Andrew Gommersall twice too.

These events are enjoyed and organised by golf clubs and club organisations as social events for their members. For ITS, they provide an opportunity for more members to take part in productions.

The spring and autumn productions

In April 2015, 300 people came to see "Side Effects" written by Eric Chappell, and directed by Diana King; and in November almost 400 people came to see "Waiting for Gateaux" by Ed Waugh and Trevor Wood, directed by Kate Jackson.

Both plays were a success and enjoyed by the audiences. We were very fortunate to be able to rehearse in the Atalaya Park Hotel well before the performance dates, which is a huge advantage for the director, cast and crew.

The Salon Varietes in Fuengirola wanted us to transfer “Side Effects” to them but we were unable to do this as two cast members were out of the country.

Auditions

Our recent auditions have been well attended and a number of new and sometimes younger members have taken part. This is very encouraging for ITS and one that we intend to foster. In “Waiting for Gateaux”, the director, Kate, was able to include a young actor in the play by adding a dance scene; and Veronica, one of the cast, mentored Anna whilst she trained her as understudy. A great experience for everyone.

Volunteers needed

We really need to find some volunteers who would like to learn about set building and technical effects as our existing volunteers would like to step back in the future. They are very willing to train new people to take on these roles.

At this point I must thank the people who work tirelessly in the back ground to support our productions; Jamie, Richard and Andrew for their work on technical issues and special effects; Karl and Sandra for their work producing our plays; Sandra and Mareta for stage managing and props; Geoff, Fridrik and Karl for set construction; Dennis and John for front of house; Eileen for posters and tickets printing; Peter for programme and poster design; Wendy and Diana for their work as prompts; Barbara and Ruth for organising the 40th party; Diana, Veronica and Andrew for writing our murder mysteries; Nina for work on the website and last but not least Alfonso, the owner of El Candil Bar who hosts all our meetings without charge to ITS. Thank you.

Play Readings

We have only managed one play reading this year in January 2016. Kate Jackson, vice president, led us through a comedy. These events are important social events as people come to participate or just to watch. We do intend to organise more of these this year.

The Lark in the Park

This annual event was a great success, raising €2500 for the Butterfly Children (Mariposa de Piel). Kate Jackson directed “The Last Bread Pudding” with three new (and younger) cast members making their ITS debut. It was a wonderful evening as usual.

Collaboration for mutual benefit

We have established a link with the U3A to arrange theatre trips with them and this resulted in 54 U3A members attending our last performance in November. It also offers ITS members access to coach trips to other theatres with discounted tickets.

Two of our members appeared in productions at the Salon last year which is another way to publicise the work of ITS and to retain talented performers.

Newsletters

We produced seven newsletters this year to help us to keep all our members, friends and supporters informed about all our activities and our decision-making.

ITS Store

Last year I raised this in my report and I am delighted to say that we have secured an alternative storage place with better access and for less money than we have been paying.

The ITS Board

Andrew Gommersall joined the Board in September 2015 and immediately set up with an ITS Facebook account to allow us to keep in touch with younger members.

Sadly, Maretta Ragnarsson resigned from the Board due to her work commitments but she will continue to support ITS when she can.

I am very grateful to the Board members for their work and support, We meet very month and our partners and families are an integral part of the work we do as volunteers.

I have been President of ITS since 2012 and my resignation tonight will allow me to spend more time travelling to see my new grandchild and to spend time with my husband, Geoff.

I am very proud to have been President of ITS and I am confident that I am standing down at a good time leaving a talented group of people managing things in a professional way. I will of course still be part of ITS into the future.

ITS will continue to go from strength to strength because of the support we have from our members and friends. On behalf of all the Board members, thank you to all involved in ITS.