RADS Chairman’s Report ----year 2022/23

RADS artistic year got off to a flying start in July/August with “Stepping Out” by Richard Harris. A super summer production, it had audiences amazed by the fabulous tap dancing and teamwork on display. Thanks to Director Lynne Kerr and her cast and crew for a great start to the artistic year and for overcoming the many difficulties, from pandemics to cast withdrawals to mention only two! Socially, we had a pleasant walk alongside the River Swale at Catterick Bridge and a chat over a drink and a snack at the Farmers Arms afterwards.----------- In September I attended the NODA North Performance Awards at which RADS won Best Drama Performance in region for “Arcadia,” directed by Kath Torbet, the Noda North Councillor’s award for “Lord Arthur Savile’s Crime” directed by Gregan Davis and RADS Katrianna Torbet won Best Young Actor award for her role as Thomasina in “Arcadia.” Well done to all involved. Gregan organised a quiz night for club night, on performing Arts. Great fun! Rehearsals were well underway for A Midsummer Night’s Dream.-------In October our clubnight was a visit to the Station Cinema to see National Theatre Live production, “Jack Absolute Flies Again”. ----In November our acclaimed performance of A Midsummer Night’s Dream took place. All credit to Jim Brown, Director, to get this play up and running to the high standard of performance which was on display, given the early difficulties in casting. We also got approval of our application for our Community Investment Fund Grant for computer equipment. Thanks to Beki Stevenson for organising this. To finish the year off we had our Christmas Party in the Black Lion Hotel and a jolly time was had by all.------A new calendar year saw us rehearsing our spring play “Swive”, as well as having play readings at our club nights for one-act play” The Form” in January and “Macbeth” in February. In March, “Swive” was ready for performance and proved to be a highly successful production of this unusual modern take on the Court of Elizabeth 1. Well done to Gregan Davis and cast and crew for an excellent production. -- “The Form” was our entry for the All England Drama Festival prelim round at Frazer Theatre Knaresborough and we congratulate Roger Ordish , Director , and his cast and crew for their excellent performance. They were runners up on the night and Andrew Spivey was awarded Best actor for this round of plays. RADS also took part in Richmond Town’s Mayfest celebrations this year and thanks to Gregan Davis and his group of strolling players for taking part!

Over the past few years we have struggled to get members to take on backstage roles and to try to resolve this I organised two sessions in the Georgian Theatre with the Theatre’s production manager and in April this year with our own members who were experienced in stage management, set construction and design and wardrobe. Thanks to them for their work over many years and hopefully more members will come forward for training. All directors of plays need a stage manager and a production assistant who will look after, on behalf of the director pre-show procurement of wardrobe, set, props etc. and stage production matters. It can really be a very rewarding thing to do! -----I have represented the society in the town of Richmond this year at the Mayor’s Civic Service and at the Mayor Making. I believe it is important for RADS chair to continue to have a visible presence in the Town of Richmond and to support civic events. I and RADS President Lynne Kerr have welcomed Council dignitaries and NODA officials at each production in the theatre and attended the NODA Awards Evening in Newcastle and the NODA Northern Conference and AGM at Scotch Corner Hotel. Finally I would like to thank my committee for attending our Zoom and in-person meetings and for their work this year, but chiefly thanks to you the members for your support. ---- Regards to all -- Warnock Kerr -- RADS --Chair’s Report to AGM 12/6/23

Forward Look

Whisky Galore for Autumn 2023 –directed by Mike Walker

Two one act Plays for Sedgefield Drama Festival in September -------- Little Grimley Presents, Strictly Sex Factor (On Ice) Directed by Max Walker and

The Form, directed by Roger Ordish.