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Dear Member

Those of us who saw "Top Hat" in January thoroughly enjoyed the show and I hope to get your support for our next West End theatre visit to see "Woman in Black" at the Fortune Theatre on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 3 pm. Some of us saw this thriller more than 20 years ago but I know several of you haven't seen it. Theatre tickets are so expensive but plays are usually cheaper than musicals and this one is a reasonable price of £24.50 (face value £45.50). Please return the attached slip, together with your remittance, to reach me no later than 12<sup>th</sup> March. As time is short, 'phone first if you wish.

In June and July I hope to book a cruise from Tower Bridge to Southend (which we did two years ago) and a coach trip to Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire. For September I'm planning a visit to the British Museum, where an exhibition will shortly be opening "Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum", followed by tea at a nearby hotel.

Full details for Key and dates of the other planned trips will be given in the next newsletter, when more information has become available.

Meanwhile, a list is enclosed of those who have not yet paid their subscriptions of £5 per annum, which were due last October. I should be grateful if you would let me have your remittance for one or more years as soon as possible but at the latest by the end of March.

Also attached is page 5 of the January newsletter. This was, unfortunately, omitted from the mailing due to an oversight by College when printing.

**BERYL RYAN WRITES: "Top Hat", the musical, at The Aldwych Theatre on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013:** Sixteen members of the Association went to see this show and it turned out to be just what the doctor ordered, just pure escapism on what was a very cold, grey day. This stage show certainly did justice to the film and Tom Chambers, who appeared in Holby City on TV and was a former winner of "Strictly Come Dancing" and his leading lady Summer Strallan, tap danced and ballroom danced on stage in a way that I am sure the audience enjoyed.

I expect a good percentage of all the Association members would be familiar with the many songs from the 1930s which were featured in the 1935 film starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. There were numerous, easily recognisable wonderful songs written by Irving Berlin, such as Putting on the Ritz, Dancing Queen to Queen, A Lovely Day to be Caught in the Rain, I'm Putting all my Eggs in One Basket, Let's Face the Music and Dance.

The art deco sets were fabulous, whisking the audience from grand hotels in London and Venice by way of an ingenious sequence set aboard an aeroplane. It is also worth mentioning the beautifully stylish costumes. There were some great comedy sketches provided by Ricardo Alfonso as Alberto Beddini, an explosive Latin dress designer and the aloof and eloquent butler Bates played by Stephen Boswell.

All in all an excellent show which I am certain everyone enjoyed. Thanks Beryl for arranging everything.

Yours sincerely

*Beryl*

**Beryl Paine**  
**Treasurer/Social Secretary**