

WDS NEWS!



WDS Studio Newsletter

Winter 2017

What's On at WDS

We've been busy bunnies over the summer, and more of that later, but we've got an exciting programme of new courses for you this term and into Spring 2018. Our beginner's courses are now being followed by some fab new technique courses, so that everyone can take the time to work on specific areas. Our beginner's classes are going from strength to strength (Natalie's amazing beginner's ballet class on Mondays was Sold Out this half term so watch this space for new dates). Both these courses are helping to bring in new people to the Woking Dance Space family and we welcome them to our community!



Having a fantastic wardrobe team means we have lots of great costumes available for us, and other groups to make use of, so we once again set up our photography set and took some showcase shots for our catalogue. The gallery is available on the website if you know of anyone needing access to costumes. Our sister studio, Eastbourne Dance Space, were able to make full use of our wardrobe in fitting out their dancers for their show earlier in November. We were really pleased to see them being put to such great use, in their fantastic first show.

We are also gearing up for the annual Christmas celebration. This year, we have chosen to make the setting a little less formal, so no class numbers, just friends, family, a few drinks and the odd mince pie or 2.... We look forward to seeing you there (Christmas jumpers optional...) all welcome—Sunday 10th December from 6pm.

Finally, we say a sad farewell to Sarah who was running our Monday tap classes. Following the reduction of tap classes from two to one, Sarah felt she couldn't justify the round trip to WDS on such a busy evening. We are sorry to see her go, but wish her all the best with her new venture of her own classes, which she is running nearer to where she lives.



Catch a Course at WDS

Following on from some of your feedback, we have changed the Monday night schedule to enable us to have two sets of courses, as it was proving difficult for people to attend on Friday night.

So.... Monday night is now Course Night!

With all our courses, we try to gauge interest beforehand so we can decide whether or not to run these in advance—class is way more fun if there's more than a handful of people in it. So please do let us know if you are interested, as you might find we make the wrong decision or the class is sold out!!

You can book onto the courses via the website shop.

<http://wokingdancespace.org.uk/ocart/index.php?route=product/category&path=68>

The early 6:30pm slot is where we will mostly be running our beginner's courses. These run on rotation incorporating Ballet, Contemporary and Tap. The 7.30pm slot is more experimental and we are currently looking at options such as re-running the successful ballet technique, a tap technique and Beginners Plus tap for those who have just done the beginners course, and even a pointe class.

Take a look at the proposed schedule below and spread the word!!

	8th Jan — 12th Feb	19th Feb — 26th March
6.30pm	Basic Contemporary	Basic Tap
7.30pm	Pointe Technique	Ballet Technique

The survey gave us some great feedback and ideas for new courses—keep them coming!!

Down at the Studio

We chatted to Studio Manager Thea Groombridge to find out what changes have been made recently and what's lined up in the future.

So what's new then?

"Well the first thing you probably have noticed is the new heater and fans that have been installed over the summer. Our old heater had to be replaced (nobody could even remember how old it was!), so we looked around at all the options, including some new heat exchanger systems as well as considering whether we could have radiators (turned out to be a definite no-no). In the end we decided that the best system for our purposes was to replace like for like with the addition of fans overhead to circulate the warm air. We found a couple of suppliers and arranged to have the installation done during our summer break. I am sure everyone will be surprised to know that the whole thing cost us £8,000, so its not something we expect to do every year!"

Are you pleased with it?

"Its definitely more efficient than the old one, and quieter, which is great for class time. We have a had a few teething troubles with learning the new controls though so bear with us, we have the installer coming back in to show us the quick fix buttons."

Anything else happen over the Summer?

"Well as part of the heater installation we had to completely lift the floor and relay it afterwards. Being a specialist Harlequin dance floor, its not cheap (in the region of £2k!) and we did not want the installers to put holes in it. It was also a good opportunity to clean it up a bit and re-tape, which took the Trustees many sticky hours, unpeeling all the black tape, rolling it up and then lay it back down again a week or so later. Urgh—horrible job! Luckily we had a few good tracks playing while we did it."

So what's next?

"Hopefully that's the last of the big expenses for a while. There are a few other back office projects running around to hopefully make the Executive team's job easier, and some ideas to sort out the acoustics (that's the echo-ho-ho issue...). But for now we can concentrate on doing the thing we love best—dancing!"



Did you know?

The average age of the dancers at WDS—according to our survey—is 41-50, and the average journey to class is 7.5 miles.

The average length of time people have been dancing with us is 5.9 years, but **14** have been with us for 10 years or more!

Awesome!

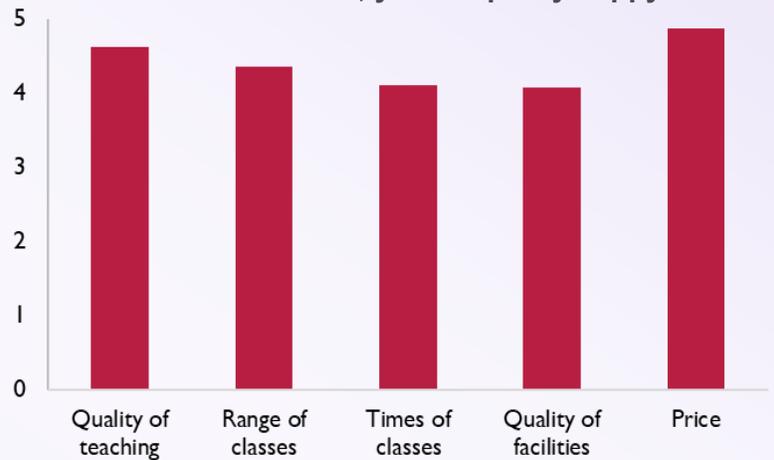
Survey Update

Thank you to all those who took part in our survey—in the end we got 63 full responses which we have collated, analysed and reported on. We will be sharing the topics with you in future newsletters, but meanwhile here's a sample of the overall results we received, along with some people's thoughts...

We asked you to rate key features of WDS out of 5... and it looks like overall, you are pretty happy!!

We asked
"Would you recommend
WDS to others?"

96% said either 'Definitely'
or 'Probably'!



Overall its an amazing studio and the classes are great!

The studio is a lovely environment to dance in, friendly and homely. I'm so glad I found you!

Without the studio I would never have taken part in a show or learnt to tap dance...and I love it!

Thankyou for what WDS provides

Don't worry if you didn't get to it this time, it wont be a one hit wonder. We're aiming to roll one out every year, so we can make sure our community is the best it can be!

Shows and performances

There is a new look to our next Joining Forces show in 2018. This bi-annual show was conceived as an umbrella opportunity for great local dance groups out there, who couldn't afford to hire a theatre or put on their own show. WDS

JF—important dates!!

Run through	22nd April
Sundays	6th May
Get In & Act 1 Tech	Sunday 13th May
Act 2 Tech	Monday 14th May
Dress run	Tuesday 15th May
Performances	Weds 16th—Sat 19th May

numbers were done outside of classes wherever possible. Well, the demand from guest groups is now so great that, in combination with input from our community, we (WDS) are taking a year's break from Sunday rehearsals, and Joining Forces 2018 will feature just guest groups along with the fabulous WDS Epic (so there is still an opportunity for those who would like to perform!). So far we have interest from some rather cheeky Burlesque groups, our favourite Belly Dancers, some children from Arden Holford and Surrey Community



Dance, plus of course our friends at First Dance and Stagecoach. Some of our teachers are also creating numbers outside of class time, so we look forward to a great line up—watch this space!

Rehearsals are also well underway for the Princess Ballet number we are performing in First Dance's show in April. Good luck ladies!

Did you know?

Facebook is the most popular method of communication amongst our dancers, but everybody uses more than one way to get dancing information... bet Mr Zuckerberg is happy



Fees Update

OK, we've been fortunate in our situation to hold class fees down for quite a while now, but with the various changes and some increased expenses, we have been forced to go about upping them. Although we aren't a profit seeking business, we do have to cover our costs and survive, so have kept the increases as minimal as possible.

So, the bad news is that from January all classes will go up to **£5** per session, with a concession rate (for students and seniors) at **£4.50**.

...the silver lining of course is that means we don't all have to go hunting for those pesky 50p pieces any more...

On the good news front we have increased the options for you to pay in advance, online, and have re-instated Paypal. We would like to encourage everyone to continue to use the online webshop to 'order' their classes, all payment methods are listed on there as well.

(Please bear in mind that there are charges associated with PayPal, so making a bank transfer is a preferred option at this time).

One of the other key survey feedback points was a concern about the amount of time taken to process payments before or between classes, so we have taken this on board and will be exploring other electronic payment options. These are potentially costly though, so our research needs to be thorough. In the meantime, we would like to encourage dancers to utilise the great discount applied when paying in advance (minimum 12% depending on number of classes taken).



Dates for your diary!!

Christmas Party	Sunday 10th Dec—all welcome!
Spring Term	Thurs 4th Jan—Weds 28th March (11 weeks)
Half Term	12th—16th Feb Except the Monday courses which <u>will</u> run this week
Summer Term	9th April—20th July (12 weeks)
First Dance Show	w/c 22nd April
Joining Forces show	w/c 13th May

Contact Us

For queries, issues, feedback
info@wokingdancespace.org.uk

For class info & timetables
www.wokingdancespace.org.uk

To order DVDs, book onto courses or pay for classes
[http://wokingdancespace.org.uk/ocart/index.php?
route=product/category&path=68](http://wokingdancespace.org.uk/ocart/index.php?route=product/category&path=68)

We are on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/wokingdancespace/

We also have a closed group, for notices and fun things!
www.facebook.com/groups/81987041732/