

New Mills & District
Amateur Operatic
&
Dramatic Society

News and
Views

September 2002

No. 48

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Our hopes that the membership would respond to the call in our last edition and attend the A.G.M. in greater numbers were sadly not realised. We had hoped that more members there would add opinion to a debate on how the Theatre and the Society could be developed, but a rather pathetic attendance of 38 mean't that we were once again preaching to the converted.

We must not however presume that no good came out of the meeting and the general opinion that we should concentrate on promoting the upkeep and use of the Theatre, and an increasing the membership is being acted upon. We now have a small group of members active in publicising and advertising the Society generally and another group exploring new avenues for increasing ticket sales – or `getting bums on seats` as they like to describe their cause.

We are hopeful that their efforts will increase membership and improve our Box Office figures which last year were most disappointing.

On the Theatre improvement programme, a major renewal of cabling to stage lighting bars is well underway, but will require maximum effort to be ready for `Me and My Gal`.

This year is the societies 80th anniversary, a significant milestone which we should recognize. The clarion call is now out to support our celebration dinner at Disley Golf Club on Friday October 11th. Judy & Joan are working hard to organize the event but need to know numbers and menus as soon as possible. It is intended to make this a great night with welcome drinks, a first class pianist to entertain before and during our meal and a disco to dance the rest of the night away. It has the makings of a real celebration so bring your friends, make up a table, let your hair down – don't let the Society down.

See you there.

Colin Brown

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Following the A.G.M. the composition of the General Committee changed slightly and is now:-

President	Mrs Mary Crabtree
Chairman	Colin Brown
Vice Chairman	David Howe
Secretary	Beverly Critchlow
Treasurer	Darren Cooper
Members	Terry Barber, Brian Beddows, Jean Cordin, Judy Foley, Wilf Gould, Louise Hallam, Richard Hole & Nick Howe.

The Production Committee

Chairman	Wilf Gould
Secretary	Jenny Wood
Members	John Foley, Alison Frater & Louise Hallam.

BRIANS AMAZING **TECHNICOLOUR OUTFIT**

It was the last day of June,
Wet, windy and cold,
Travel to Glapwell near Chesterfield, we`re told.

There were Crowds and Bunting
All over the place,
People were waiting for some kind of race.

Then appeared Brian,
So manly and bold,
He really was a sight to behold.

His outfit made you feel quite faint.
He looked as if someone had thrown pots of paint.

But Brian did`nt care,
He`d a mission to complete,
To carry the baton was no mean feat.

First came outriders, ten in all,
Followed by Brian, careful not to fall.

As we waved our flags,
Enjoying the fun,
500 metres for Martin he`d run

To finish the challenge made Brian so glad,
And we all know Martin would be proud of his dad.

BETTY PLANT.

S.S.U.

80TH BIRTHDAY PARTY. FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER

Have you sent in your menu yet? Time is going on and as we are hoping to make this a birthday party to remember we want as many as possible to come.

If you want further copies of the menu or if (in a moment of uncharacteristic forgetfulness) you have lost the one we sent you Judy and I have a supply and one can be sent to you on request. Phone Numbers – Judy 732183 – Joan 742364

Because this a special Society Anniversary we involved Colin in the planning and I don't think you will be disappointed with the final arrangements. While we are enjoying a good meal there will be a pianist to get us in the party mood and after the meal a disco. As we can have the room until mid-night we think this sets the stage for a memorable party. The Golf Club can cater for up to 90 people so **we do hope you will bring your friends.**

And we still have no theatre visit to look forward to. Please do keep your eyes open and let me know if you hear of anything that you think would appeal.

JOAN. P. MAYS

ALL THE WORLDS A STAGE

True to the saying 'All the Worlds a Stage' five members of our Society volunteered to help at the recent Commonwealth Games. They took their thespian experiences a stage further into the Stadium and other areas.

Brian Beddows, always happy to strut his stuff on the stage, ran (or walked fast!) for Queen and Commonwealth carrying the baton. I have it on good authority that the baton flashed so quickly it looked like a beacon.

Jenny Wood, an authority on front of house procedures, took her expertise to `Event Services`. From dawn until almost dusk some days she guided the public and answered numerous queries – but she didn't have to sell raffle tickets! One of the most frequently asked questions was `Where is the loo?' but the prize went to the lady who asked Jenny `Can anybody run in the Marathon or is it just for the athletes?' The spectators at the athletic events were apparently, a much more subdued crowd than those at the Rugby 7's. They hijacked the lifeguard's chair complete with occupant – and moved it 50/60 yards down the road. Jenny's brother, Neville Hough, was a driver for team Cameroon. He has so many tales to tell he could become an after dinner speaker.

Pat and Nick Peach – a dynamic duo with a wealth of experience of running and marathons, marshalled the competitors successfully around the streets of Manchester and beyond. I hasten to add they weren't to blame for the competitor who did an extra circuit of the track at the stadium.

As at the Art I assumed a back stage role but this time my props were food. At Bessemer Street we catered for all staff in accreditation and uniforms and later on the hundreds of drivers who drive – and lost – the many officials to the various venues. I would like an official definition on the difference between an allergy and a fad. Mayonnaise topped the list of `allergies` but when we gave extra sandwiches away it suddenly seemed irrelevant whether they had Mayo on the bread or not. Mayo must be one of the most effective fat burning spreads on the market. One driver hadn't had a sandwich for 4 days because they all contained Mayo and he had lost 9lbs! I must inform Weight Watchers of this closely guarded secret. Each day the volunteers had a choice of at least nine different sandwiches and each day there were a handful of people who didn't like any of them.

For some people organising the volunteer workforce is their career. They move from event to event and reckon to spend about 18 months in each host country. Nice work if you can get it!

Playing a part in the Manchester Commonwealth Games was a wonderful experience and all of us have some amusing tales to tell. It was a chance of a lifetime to be involved in such a major event and we were all delighted to have been given the opportunity to participate.

Moira Whiteford.

NEW FROM FRIENDS OF THE ART THEATRE.

Friends of the Art Theatre are delighted to report that they had a very successful day auditioning for places in the dance teams of Goldilocks. Once again we had an excellent response and it was a difficult task to choose the teams. However I am pleased to report that three teams have been chosen and they have already been measured for costumes and are looking forward to rehearsals starting in October.

The next step towards the Pantomime will be the get-together on Monday 9th September at 8.00 p.m. Auditions pieces for both principal parts and the chorus will be available on this evening. There will again be a Senior chorus and anyone interested in auditioning for a part in the Senior chorus should also come along to the get-together.

This year auditions will be held on **Saturday 21st September** from 1.30 p.m. onwards. More specific times will be given at the get-together.

Moira Whiteford

THEATRE DIARY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND KINDER YOUTH CHOIR

NOVEMBER 25TH – 30TH N.M.A.O.D.S
'ME & MY GIRL'
Tickets Joan Mays 01663 742364

JANUARY 31ST FEBRUARY 1ST
FEBRUARY 6TH, 7TH & 8TH.
'GOLDILOCKS & THE THREE BEARS'
Tickets from Joan Mays 01663 742364
(Bookings start second week in December)

OBITUARY

ROBERT F. CRADDOCK

We were all deeply saddened to hear of the recent death, after a long illness, of Robert F. Craddock.

Bob, as he was always known to his many friends, joined the Society with his wife Patsy in the late 1950's when they brought their insurance broking business to the town. It was the start of a long association with the Society which over the years also included their children Andrea, Jonathon & Jeremy as active members.

Bob was always a support man, giving generously of his time and resources especially in our efforts to buy the Theatre and subsequently carry out improvements. He had a tremendous sense of humour which he communicated to all around him and even in times of crises Bob would manage to make us laugh.

Sadly, Bob contracted a long and debilitating illness which robbed him of much of his independence and eventually caused him to need constant assistance. There are still

many of our members who will remember with affection many happy occasions in his company.

From the Committee and Society members we extend our sincere sympathy to Bob`s family in their sad loss

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