

*New Mills & District*  
*Amateur Operatic*  
*&*  
*Dramatic Society*



*News and Views*

March 2003

No. 49

## CHAIRMANS REMARKS

A Happy New Year to all readers of our 'News & Views' A.O.D.S. members or otherwise.

Our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year has so far been very successful, the Annual Dinner in October, reported elsewhere in this issue, was a very pleasant gathering of young and old, giving members and friends the chance to reminisce at least over the last 40 years.

The November production of '*Me and My Girl*' was an extremely happy company show and was warmly received by our audiences. Since our year tends to be from June to June we must also include congratulations to F.O.A.T. for keeping the momentum going with their high quality pantomime production '*Goldilocks & The Three Bears*'.

It is always a pleasant duty to present NODA long service awards to members at the Annual Dinner. These are a lasting, and to most recipients, a valued reminder of their service to the Amateur Stage. It is therefore important that we ensure our records are accurate and that we have all the awards available in good time for the presentation day. To some extent this has been complicated by the addition of 10, 15, and 20 year badges which have become available at their recipient discretion. You will see elsewhere in this issue that Jean Cordin has taken over responsibility for ensuring that henceforth all members entitled to any award will be informed in advance, and assuming they are present will receive their badge or medal at the annual presentation.

As ever we go on hopefully to an equally successful 81<sup>st</sup> year, and as announced, our production in November is '*Hello Dolly*'. This is an excellent company show with plenty of opportunity to play equally important principal or smaller parts, chorus or dancers. Like most Societies we wait with bated breath for the cast to be assembled, hoping to attract good numbers, especially men, to our auditions. Those who have been with us before, please come again, for anyone thinking of joining us for the first time, please come along, we can promise you wont be disappointed with the fun and friendship we can offer

COLIN BROWN

## **NODA LONG SERVICE AWARDS**

As most of you will know it is our practice to present the above awards around October/November time and in recent years the Ceremony has taken place at our Annual Dinner.

In order to treat this occasion appropriately it is essential that early application for registration is made to NODA to provide sufficient time for our receipt of the Awards and preparation for the Presentation Ceremony.

The awards which are currently available are as follows:-

- 25 years medal followed by Silver Bars for each subsequent 5 years service up to 50 years Gold Bar with further awards at 55, 60, 65 and 70 years.
- In addition members are invited to apply for 10, 15 and 20 year Badges, however it is the Societies policy to pass on to the applicant the cost of the first Badge (currently (£8.50))

When considering eligibility the following conditions have to be met:-

- Qualification commences after attaining 16 years of age.
- Only active service years count towards an award (It is specified that where possible this service should cover work and events throughout the year)
- Broken Service may be counted up towards an award.
- Service to other Societies affiliated to NODA will count (provided that evidence of this is included with the application)

In future I shall be writing annually to those people who's membership entitles them to these NODA awards, and any queries with this regard should be addressed to me.

Terry Barber continues to be Membership Secretary and he will still collect subscriptions and keep the membership list up to date.

Jean Cordin  
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## **S.S.U.**

Surely someone has heard of an exciting show coming somewhere in the not too distant future?

I rely on people keeping their eyes open to let me know if there is anything since Miss Saigon nearly a year ago and it is high time we got planning for another outing. I promise I will look into any suggestions – both from the point of view of price and likely uptake – but I do need the suggestions.

We have nothing to tell you yet about the Annual Dinner, except to say that there will be one. Details should be in the next bulletin.

Joan P Mays.

# HELLO DOLLY

It seems like no time at all since we closed our 2002 Production of *'Me And My Girl'* and here we are, two months into the New Year, already announcing dates for our Autumn 2003 Musical.

The show will be *'Hello Dolly'*, one of Jerry Herman's most popular musicals. On the two previous occasions that we have staged *'Hello Dolly'* has been received by our audiences with much enthusiasm and acclaim.

Based on the book *'THE MATCHMAKER'* by THORNTON WILDER. The show first opened in New York on January 16<sup>th</sup> 1964 and played at Drury Lane, London on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1965 since when it has played all round the world. It is a happy show full of sharply drawn characters, lots of Toe-Tapping Tunes ----- *'Put on your Sunday clothes'*, *'Before the Parade Passes By'*, *'It only takes a moment'*, and the title tune *'Hello Dolly'* ----- and colourful costumes.

Strong humour runs throughout the show and it is never more apparent than the scene in the Hat Shop, and the Waiter's Gallop.

**There will be a Get-Together at the Art Theatre, New Mills on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m.** when the Director, Barry Aspinall, Musical Director, David Chapman and Choreographer, Caroline Dent will discuss their requirements. Auditions Pieces will be issued and audition dates will be announced.

**The show itself will be staged at the Art Theatre from November 24<sup>th</sup> to November 29<sup>th</sup> 2003.**

Do come along and bring your friends along on March 26<sup>th</sup>. You will be made very welcome.

WILFRED GOULD

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## WANTED – CHORUSMASTER

Dave Chapman, Musical Director for *'Hello Dolly'* has got a very busy year in front of him and has asked us, if possible, to find a Chorus Master to take some of the load. It needs to be someone capable of running chorus rehearsals one night a week (Wednesday preferred) from roughly August to November.

If you know of anyone who might be interested please contact Jenny Wood on 01663 742351

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## SOCIETY SWEATSHIRTS

These are now available from Judy Foley

Price £16.00

Please contact Judy on 01663 732183

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**March 21 – 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Kinder Choir**

Contact for Tickets  
Jackie Pattison 01663 765254.

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**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 8 p.m.**

**Get-Together - Hello Dolly**

Contact Jenny Wood 01663 742351

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Monday November 24<sup>th</sup> - Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup>

**‘HELLO DOLLY’**

Ticket Information Joan Mays 01663 742364.

## **NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF THE ART THEATRE**

On looking through back issues of News and Views I note that I suggested to those of you who missed The Wizard of Oz that you book early for Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Thank you very much – you obviously heeded this advice as we had excellent audiences. I see from our Booking Secretary's break down that overall we had 80% attendance. This is no more than our production team deserved – it was an excellent show and it was obvious from all those taking part that they were thoroughly enjoying themselves. It's very rewarding for our committee when we see the younger members which we have nurtured through several pantomimes progressing to the main shows – and some of course take up the Theatre as a career. Nevertheless we would welcome some of our more `senior` members to join the Panto cast. It's a short rehearsal time and you get Christmas off for good behaviour!!

We have already read scripts for the Panto in 2004, which we hope will be *Pinocchio*. Again we have our talented production team of Cheryl Howarth as Director, Beryl Gresty as Choreographer and Caroline Hawkins as Musical Director. A wealth of experience to produce another success I am sure you will agree.

We will be having the usual registration night for the dancing teams sometime late June/early July with auditions following mid-July. These will of course be advertised in the local press and in the next edition of News and Views. If you would like further details please phone me , Moira Whiteford, on 0161 427 5317

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Friends of the Art Theatre Committee are delighted to be able to inform you that their Chairperson, Hilary West, is progressing well after a major operation. We hope that she will soon be back at the helm and ready to lead us into our next operation.

MOIRA WHITEFORD

## **LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN**

Carole Ward  
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Cheshire  
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0161 494 8448

To Colin and Committee

I just felt I had to write a little note to you all and say what a pleasure it has been to take part in `Me and My Girl`. This being my second show after `My Fair Lady` with New Mills.

Everyone is so very friendly from Terry and his crew, the props ladies (+ the tea), Jenny wardrobe, Mrs Mays and everyone else that helps, its been a delight.

It`s always a bonus to work with Dianne, I have done many times in the past, as she is very kind and understanding and gets the best from everyone.

I only wish I lived nearer so I could take a more active part but I will always help out if its needed.

May I wish you all the very best wishes for 2003.

Yours sincerely

Carole Ward.

## **OBITURIES**

### **ANNE GORDON**

Members of N.M.A.O.D.S. and her many friends and colleagues were deeply saddened to learn of the death, on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2002, of MRS ANNE GORDON. Anne died at the East Cheshire Hospice after a long courageous fight with illness.

Anne moved into New Mills on her marriage to Keith, both of them having a lasting love of music.

She joined us in 1947 to play in `The Sound of Music`, and was soon identified as a valuable chorus member.

In 1978 she joined the then `Fund Raising` committee becoming their secretary in 1979. In 1980 she was elected a member of the full Executive Committee and became society secretary in 1984, a position she held until 1995 when she resigned to pursue her other love of riding and horses.

All of us who worked with her at the time will remember Anne with much affection. She had a great sense of humour but also much determination, and having decided on a course of action with regard to committee or production work could be a bit like Mrs Thatcher - `not for turning`.

We will retain fond memories of a first class member and a valuable secretary who did much that was of lasting benefit to the Society.

We all at N.M.A.O.D.S. extend our sincere sympathy to Keith, Kate and Joanne.

COLIN BROWN

### **MRS EMMA BURTON**

It is with regret we report the death, at the age of 99, of Mrs Emma Burton. Mrs Burton, who died on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2002 was a much loved Promter at the Theatre from 1959 to 1972. Always pleasant and smiling she sat in what is now the Stage Managers corner dispensing coffee and reassurance wherever it was needed.

We extend our sympathy to her family

LOUISE HALLAM

## **ANNUAL DINNER DANCE**

An excellent evening was enjoyed by all those who attended our 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations, in the form of a Dinner Dance at the Disley Golf Club on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Judy Foley and Joan Mays team up once again pulled out all the stops and made it an occasion to remember. Friends old and new joined us to celebrate and Margaret Beddows wonderful cake was a delight.

In his remarks the chairman welcomed everyone and recalled that it was 42 years almost to the day that had become sole tenants of the Art Theatre.

At that time in 1959 following a glorious summer and autumn when we had been cleaning and painting the theatre, it was all go to ensure we were ready to open with a production of Mr Kettle and Mrs Moon for our grand re-opening. It is hard to believe that 40 years on we are still here.

It has not always been easy, there have been ups and downs, but over the years our theatre has attracted the very best in performance and production, and on this 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary New Mills Society can look back with pride on its achievements. Our forbears from 1959 would be amazed at what they could see today. We are lucky to have our fine building but it is people who make it work and over the years we have had people too numerous to mention who have contributed to our success from front of house to back stage. To them whoever or wherever they be, go our gratitude and thanks.

The presentation of NODA medals was also done by Colin as the Area Representative Sheryl Haydock Howarth was indisposed.

The presentation of a society life membership is awarded to members for dedicated work for the society and Jean Cordin and John Foley fully deserve these awards. Jean for 21 years of continuous work as an outstanding treasurer, plus front of house duties, and to John for 25 years unbroken committee service, 9 years chairman, plus chorus and principal work.

Other medals were presented to Paul Holt for 20 year badge, Pat Bradley 25 year medal, Christine Henshaw 30 year bar, Alison Frater and Gill Crosland 40 year bars.

# BACKSTAGE

Over the last 12 months the Monday night gang have had a very busy year being involved with all the productions on the stage as well as the Hire out events the team have worked unstintingly on maintenance around the building

Worthy of note in these areas are two of the team, Keith Robinson and Dan Thompson, who whilst employed by Chairman Colin's firm 'Brown and Smith' have spent their working day and after work some of their evenings in the dark areas never seen by the general public

Those dark dusty areas of the roof void -

*Just ask Hazel who arrived in a white T Shirt and left in a Black one*

- and the area between the stalls and the balcony have been invaded and self dusted as the teams have pulled through all the new electrical cables that feed the backstage general distribution boards and the stage lighting dimmer racks.

Not the small cables you find in your home, these cables are over one inch in diameter and average 20 meters long, often requiring the combined effort of six people to thread them through these dark dusty places

Other members of the team have followed the great work of last year, when the redecoration of the dressing rooms was completed, by repainting the stage area, the black hand gang –

*Memories of Carl whose hands will never be the same*

- took on a new meaning as over of 20 LITRES OF BLACK MATT EMULSION paint has been used to paint the walls in the wings and rear corridor from floor level to roof level 24 feet above the stage floor, some adventurous ladders work being undertaken

Those little jobs that need a special touch of ingenuity or sheer determination

*Keith C and his pipe lagging*

*Terry and 'Bertha' the saw with potential – a beast and a half*

Always on hand to turn their hand to any little or large job

Many thanks are due to the unstinting efforts of these few volunteers.

We meet on Monday Evening's from 8 pm until 10 pm

If you want to join the team please come along.

If you just want a backstage tour you will be most welcome.