

New Mills & District
Amateur Operatic
&
Dramatic Society



News and Views

March 2004

No. 51

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As usual, with the years first edition of '*News & Views*', I wish all our readers a belated but sincere 'Happy New Year', and hope that the year so far is going well.

Since the last edition, the Societies members & friends enjoyed another Annual Dinner at Disley Golf Club where again it was a pleasure to present Noda Long Service Awards & also to make a special presentation to **Betty Gould** for 30 years of dedicated service as principal accompanist. During this time apart from holidays and very rare illness Betty was at the piano for every Society Musical events including auditions and rehearsals. This is a remarkable record, which I doubt if we shall see repeated.

Our congratulations and thanks are due to the production team and cast of our November show '*Hello Dolly*'. This was a success well received by our audiences, which are becoming harder to find. This is not just a New Mills problem but is experienced by all in the Amateur Stage Musical world.

Audiences were not a problem for 'FRIENDS' who's recent pantomime production '*Pinocchio*' packed them in with capacity audiences for four of the 7 performances, another roaring success as we have now come to expect.

This year ahead now proceeds with the imminent Get-Together and Auditions for our November production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein favourite '*South Pacific*' dates etc. elsewhere in this edition.

Our next event in the theatre, for which our members are now rehearsing and which we hope to give to a capacity audience is '*Martins Musicals*'.

This will be presented on Saturday, April 17th as a tribute to the memory of **Martin Beddows**, a young and enthusiastic society member who, two years ago, after a long and brave fight against cancer sadly died at the age of 26.

The show will be a musical entertainment made up of excerpts from all the shows Martin took part in and all proceeds will be donated to a Cancer Charity chosen by Margaret & Brian. We do hope for a good support for this event, which promises everyone an excellent evenings entertainment.

COLIN BROWN

'SOUTH PACIFIC'

Get Together, March 24th.
Art Theatre, New Mills. 8.00 p.m.

'*South Pacific*' is a classic Rodgers & Hammerstein show with lots of memorable songs featured, including Some Enchanted Evening, Bloody Mary, There is Nothing Like a Dame, I'm gonna Wash that Man right out-a-my hair, Younger than Springtime, and the delightful Bali Ha'I Ballet.

We welcome everyone who is interested in taking part to come to the get-together on March 24th, when the production team will be present and they will be pleased to give us all an insight into the characters, and give out Audition Pieces and Dates.

'South Pacific'
will be presented
at the Art Theatre, New Mills,
Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th November 2004.

Production Team

Director

Musical Director

Choreographer

Dianne Aspinall

Dave Chapman

Carolyn Dent

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Jenny Wood, Production Secretary.

MARTINS MUSICALS

An evening in memory of Martin Beddows

At the

ART THEATRE

Jodrell Street, New Mills

Saturday April 17th at 7.30 p.m.

Price £7.00 with concessions £6.00

Proceeds to Christie Hospital Cancer Research

For Tickets ring 01663 742364

NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF THE ART

February 7th 2004. The curtain goes down on another successful Panto. Everyone who was privileged to see this Panto would agree it was a spectacular production. The underwater scene was magical and I know there were many children in the audiences who were talking about it long after the final curtain and who will remember it for a very long time.

We are indebted to Terry and his team of 'Monday Nighters' who built the entire set themselves – thank you to everyone who helped, it was a credit to you all.

There were many sketches of the whale before a final decision was made and it was obviously the right choice because it looked so realistic – it even spurted water on the last weekend!! The periscope too was a huge success.

Ticket sales surpassed all expectations with virtual sell-outs for four performances.

The Friends Committee are already thinking about the next Pantomime; we are fortunate to have the services of the same very talented production team. If all goes according to plan we hope to stage '*Dick Whittington and his Cat*' a traditional pantomime, which we feel sure, will appeal to a large audience.

MOIRA WHITEFORD

S.S.U.

I don't know if there aren't any good shows around or if nobody can find them but we have no outings planned at the moment. Do keep eyes and ears open and let me know if you have spotted anything of interest. We cannot manage trips as far as London these days as prices are prohibitive but there are a lot of theatres within reach if there is anything we want to see.

However, there is one thing on the horizon! Just to let you know that we will be holding the Annual Dinner again this year, as usual in early October. We haven't completed arrangements yet but full details will be given in the next bulletin.

JOAN P MAYS

ANNUAL DINNER 2003

The Annual Dinner of the Society was once again held at Disley Golf Club where on October 10th around 60 members and friends spent a very happy evening. A splendid meal was followed by dancing to the Carmina Burana Disco, and for some the evening turned out to be quite lively.

Before the dancing the Chairman gave a short speech and made various presentations, further details elsewhere in this issue.

The Chairman also gave the warmest thanks to Joan Mays and Judy Foley for the time and energy they had put into making the evening such a success a view shared by all those present. We look forward to more of the same next year.

Louise Hallam

FOR SERVICES RENDERED

On the 9th of October 2003 the Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace.

On the 10th of October 2003 our Chairman did likewise at the Society's Annual Dinner at Disley Golf Club.

The following **NODA Long Service Awards** were made: -

10 Year Badge	– Julia Cooper and Ann Radford
20 Year Badge	– Brian Beddows
30 Year Silver Bar	– Lesley Barber
35 Year Silver Bar	– Lynne Woodward

and a **50 Year Gold Bar** – **Louise Hallam.**

Finally the Society made it's own award to **Betty Gould** in recognition of **32 years as Principal Pianist.** This took the form of an Edinburgh Crystal Vase appropriately engraved.

Just a reminder of the conditions of eligibility for a NODA Long Service Award: -

Qualification commences after attaining 16 years of age

Only active service years count towards an award. (It is specified in the conditions laid down by NODA, that where possible this service should cover work and events throughout the year).

Broken service may also be counted towards an award.

Service with other societies affiliated to NODA will count (provided that evidence of this is included with the application).

Jean Cordin
Committee Member.

ARTISTIC ?

Read on

The Society needs a new logo for its stationary and we invite budding artists or calligraphers to submit designs or ideas.

The design must include "New Mills & District Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society" or "N.M.A.O.D.S." and ideally also mention, "The Art Theatre".

Entries please to the Editor, News and Views a.k.a. Lou Hallam, at the Theatre

STUBBORN NOT STUPID

The major show for the Society in 1961 was *'The Desert Song'* a truly great musical of its time. The script asked that the soubrette Susan – should make her first entrance riding on a donkey. Only those involved can begin to imagine the hilarity we went through to get that donkey on stage. Here is a poem, written at the time, that will give you some idea. Its author seems to be lost in the past, so if **you** wrote it, or know who did, we would dearly like to know.

Four stalwarts set out after dark,
To get a donkey into th` Art.
They wanted it for Desert Song
They thought to train it, won`t take long.
But Donkey, it had other views
And that`s how`t donkey got in`t news.

They walked it up t` door and there
It planted down its feet four square.
They pushed and pulled with all their might
It really was a funny sight.
But donkey, sticking to its gun
Sat down, and thought I`ll watch the fun.

Then Derek Brown had this idea
Lets walk it up and down just here,
They pushed it left and then t` right
And then a bus loomed into sight.
Get it in`t gutter someone said
By now the four were seeing red.

The doors all opened one by one
“It`s going” someone said “its non”
How do they make a donkey go
“Nay don`t ask me, I thowt tha`d know”.
Give it a sugar, “Its had a pound”
Then t` donkey stuck its feet in`t ground

Then Colin Brown got down behind
Fresh inspiration for to find
“You should have seen our Colin Mum”
“He held that donkey up by`t bum
He got his arms around its narrow
And tried to push it like a barrow”.

“Nay that wont do” Bert Gladwin said
“That donkey thinks tha`t daft in`t yed”.
At last they got it on`t stage
The donkey in a foaming rage
It thought, they got me here I`ll show em
I`ll sit me down again, and blow em.

This tale is true
It`s not a phoney
Now for this moke
They used a pony.

OBITURIES

Margaret Hargreaves (nee Ashton)

We report with regret the death of Margaret Hargreaves. Margaret joined the Society when we resumed performing Musicals in 1952. She was a talented dancer and for some years played leading dancing roles with the Society. We send our sympathy to Bill and the Family.

Louise Hallam

Sydney Warburton

We were sorry to learn of the passing of Sydney Warburton, a long-standing patron of the Society whose support was much appreciated. We extend our condolences to Joan and the Family

Mark Cavill

It is with sadness we report the passing of Mark Cavill, a playing member of the Society for many years. Although ill for many years, Mark never let it stand in his way. He will be missed by many friends and members of our society.

Mr J. N. Handforth

The Society was sad to learn in 2003 of the death of Mr J. N. Handforth. He was for several years a Patron and great supporter of the Society. He will be remembered by many people in New Mills as a teacher at Spring Bank School. We have lost a loyal supporter, and we extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs Handforth and Family.

Colin Brown

Mrs Ann Swann

It was with deep regret that we learned of the sudden and untimely death of Ann Swann in November.

Ann progressed as so many of us did from Sunday School pantomimes to Operatic Society Musicals. She joined the Society at the age of 16 in 1954 as Ann McNeil and went into the chorus. From there she went on to play several minor roles, notably as Nettie in Carousel but also in Merry Widow, Me & My Girl and Perchance to Dream.

She remained a life long member as she did with Providence Church and will be sadly missed; as she will by the many organizations of which she was a member.

We extend our sympathy to her husband Les and children Valerie and Daniel