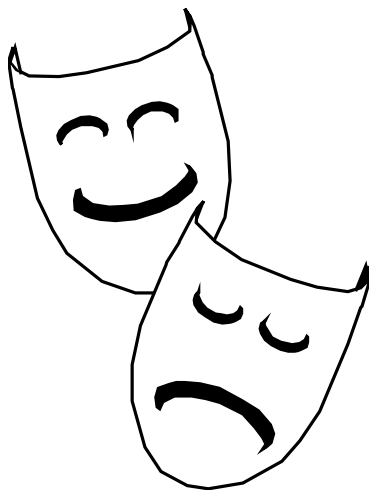


New Mills &  
District  
Amateur  
Operatic  
&  
Dramatic  
Society



# News and Views

February 2005

No. 53

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS



This first edition of News & Views of 2005 gives me the opportunity to wish all members and friends a Happy & Prosperous New Year. Although the festive season was over shadowed by the sad events in Southern Asia I hope everyone was able to enjoy their own celebrations.

We enter the New Year with the accolades for a very successful productions of `South Pacific` still ringing in our ears, and we look forward to the coming year with confidence.

As announced elsewhere in this edition our production for November 2005 will be the “*Hot Mikado*”. This will be a somewhat radical change of style for the Society, and is a show which presents us with a great challenge. It is the perfect vehicle to enable a young and enthusiastic cast to strut their stuff & we sincerely hope that the response will justify the choice.



All matters concerning the Theatre's structure, the start of which were outlined in previous editions are now at planning or application stage.

In respect of the proposal to transfer the Theatre into a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status, a name has now been registered :- “**The New Mills Art Theatre Ltd**”. This information with all the necessary details has been submitted to The Charity Commissioners and we now await their decision.

For the proposed building alterations, the architect, Jennings Associates have produced a very attractive scheme which greatly enhances the buildings appearance, whilst embracing as much as possible the requirements to improve our Front of House facilities. These include the requirements for disabled access. All these plans are now with the local planning authority awaiting their approval.

Assuming all our efforts are successful, builder estimates will be our next move followed by the all important applications for grants and other fund raising schemes. The success of these will determine the various possibilities and time scale whereby we can proceed. A busy time ahead you will agree, when we shall appreciate all the support you can give.

Best Wishes to Everyone.

Colin Brown.

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

After the finale of “South Pacific” last November, a cheque of £4000 was handed over to Christies. The proceeds were from the show “*MARTINS MUSICALS*”, which was performed last April.

Brian and I would like to thank everyone who was involved with every aspect of the show, from the conception to the conclusion. It was a sad but very proud night for Brian, Myself and Claire.

The Theatre was full to capacity which ensured not only the financial success of the evening, but also the fantastic atmosphere which prevailed throughout the show. Thank you once again for such a memorable evening

Brian and Margaret Beddows

## **ANNUAL DINNER**

The Societies Annual Dinner was held on October 8<sup>th</sup>, again at Disley Golf Club. A truly excellent meal was followed by the presentation of N.O.D.A. Long Service Awards:-

45 Year Bar to Alan Frater

40 Year Bar to John Foley

30 Year Bar to Moira Whiteford

Val Procter who was unable to attend will be presented with her 25 year Medal at a later date.

The evening ended with a very enjoyable Disco provided by Chris Pearson.

About 40 members & friends enjoyed a very happy evening and it is disappointing that more members did not attend.

Our thanks are once more given to Joan & Judy for their excellent arrangements.



## **HOT MIKADO**

Book and lyrics by DAVID H.BELL

Music adapted & arranged by

ROB BOWMAN

Based on "THE MIKADO"

By W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan

Originally produced at Ford's Theatre.

Washington D.C.

By arrangement with Josef Weinberger

Ltd.

**GET TOGETHER. WED. MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup> .  
8. p.m. ART THEATRE, NEW MILLS.**

East meets West head-on in this hilarious 1940's style updating of the perennial Gilbert & Sullivan classic. With the music transmuted into Blues, Cab Calloway Swing, Hot Gospel, scorching Torch Songs and "Three Little Maids" turned into an Andrews Sisters' show-stopper, this zoot-suited, all singing all-dancing colourful show is certain to provide the ideal evening out for the whole family. The show is a great hit for G&S., Jazz, Tap or Jitterbug, wonderful show to appear in, and a mega-audience-pleaser. We welcome all who are interested in being in the show to come to the Get-Together on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 p.m. at the Art Theatre, New Mills. The show will be presented November 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2005.

**Jenny Wood – Audition Secretary**

### **PRODUCTION TEAM:-**

Director

Musical Director

Dance Arranger

Chorus Mistress

Dianne Aspinall

Dave Chapman

Caroline Dent

Sheena McInnes

## **RADIO TIMES**

Our very busy Chairman added another dimension to his responsibilities on November 9<sup>th</sup> when he was interviewed by High Peak Radio.

He was able to give some very interesting information about the history of The Art Theatre and our Societies connection with it.

He was also able to get some good publicity for the November show and the Friends of the Art Theatre Pantomime.

Well done Colin! Yet another hat to add to your collection.

## S.S.U.

I think most people have heard about the proposed theatre trip in April but in case the grapevine has missed anyone here are the details:-

I have tickets reserved for “Hot Mikado” on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April at the Robert Powell Theatre in Salford. The company is “All Saints Musical Production” and the ticket price will be £7.00. I will arrange a coach from New Mills but I cannot give a price for that as yet. If anyone else is interested in coming please let me know as soon as possible as I am closing bookings at the end of February. My phone number is 01663 742364.

We know it is 6 months away but bearing in mind Colin’s directive that all those present at the dinner last year show reassemble in 2005, Judy and I thought we had better give you plenty of warning. Please take note that the N.M.A.O.D.S. Annual Dinner is now booked for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Disley Golf Club. Further details will be announced at a later date.

And finally – if we suddenly come across a show that we want to see it is difficult to get word to everyone if there is no “News & Views” imminent and delay means we don’t get the chance of good seats. I have collected a lot of e-mail addresses but there must be many more that I don’t know about. If you are interested in hearing about theatre trips and haven’t already given me your address please send me an e-mail to me at [ipmays@lsaweb.net](mailto:ipmays@lsaweb.net) and I will add your name to my list. In this way I can contact a lot of people quickly and easily. This doesn’t mean that people without such an address will miss out – I promise you won’t – but it could make life easier for me.

And don’t forget – if you hear of a show we might be interested in please do let me know.

Joan Mays.

[www.arttheatre.co.uk](http://www.arttheatre.co.uk)

Nick Howe has started to develop a Web Site for the Society

If you have any information or old photos that could be considered for adding to the site please contact Nick via the link on the site

Or just visit for a browse and let Nick have your comments

## **FRIENDS OF THE ART THEATRE.**

We are always pleased when people enthuse about the Pantomime as they leave the Theatre so it is a bonus when they get home and put pen to paper. We thought we might share our pleasure when reading the attached letter received by our Producer.

Moira Whiteford

4<sup>th</sup> February 2005

Dear Sheryl Haydock-Howorth,

May I just say how much I and my family enjoyed DICK WHITTINGTON which we saw last week on Friday. It was an extremely enjoyable evening, not least on account of the high standard all round, delightful performances, disciplined and charming dancing, good pacing and sensible jokes.

Please will you pass on my congratulations to all your colleagues who combined together to give us such a happy evening. One of my guests was a professional actor, just out of pantomime himself, so he was full of praise for all aspects. He and I know from experience that such high standards incur many weeks of long & patient rehearsal. New Mills should be proud of such an achievement on your production, and I hope your other houses has been as full and as appreciative as ours.

## **NEW MILLS ART THEATRE CLUB.**

We are in the process of setting up a youngsters theatre club. So many children love performing in the local area and we are ideally placed to provide them with opportunity to develop their theatrical skills.

A number of professionals are available to take part in a programme of activities. We envisage several small productions during the year. Just now we are applying for start up funding from a variety of sources.

Wish us luck – any comments, just ring me

Nick Peach 01663 746721.

## OBITUARIES

### Margaret Livesey.

It was with great sadness that many Society members learned of the death of MRS MARGARET MARSDEN (nee Livesey) who passed away on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Margaret had lived in High Lane for many years but was legendary for her performances as leading lady in the Oldham and Ashton areas where she had previously lived.

She had been in popular demand by local societies and had performed most of the leading soprano roles, her favourites being the shows of Ivor Novello and "The Merry Widow".

Ashton Operatic was Margaret's home society where she not only played leading roles but also served on the Committee for many years.

She came to New Mills as a member and friend giving help and assistance wherever she could. At show times she would sit in at many rehearsals and during show week was an imposing lady, never less than immaculate, her clear voice resounding in the foyer, exhorting people to purchase "Souvenir Programmes".

The amateur stage has lost a great friend and supporter and we at New Mills will remember Margaret for the pleasure she brought to the Society.

We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband Tom, at this sad time.

Colin Brown

### Doreen Hinchliffe

In December we learned, with regret, of the death of Doreen Hinchliffe, Doreen, mother of long standing member Barbara Broadley was a lifelong supporter of the Society and continued her interest after the family moved to Hartington.

We shall miss the friendly chats many of us had with Doreen after the show – she always gave us support.

Our sympathy goes to Barbara, John & their family.