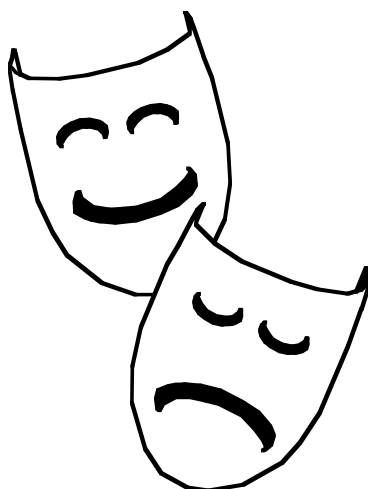


New Mills & District
Amateur Operatic
&
Dramatic Society



News and Views

March 2006

No. 55

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

As this is the first News & Views in 2006 it is my pleasure to wish all who read it A Happy & Prosperous New Year.

Since our last edition we have staged "Hot Mikado". Unfortunately this show did not attract large audiences, but those who did come enjoyed a show in which cast and production team excelled themselves, and best of all we made a profit.

`Friends` again excelled with the pantomime `Aladdin` - just completed as I write this article. As we have come to expect, it was a resounding success and I congratulate everyone involved.

Most members will now, I hope, have seen the plans for the proposed front of house development. We have planning permission, but these things seldom go smoothly, and there have been problems concerning structural engineering which needed to be investigated. Unfortunately the answers usually increase the cost, but we are now very near to a final design and costings from which we can investigate possible grant assistance.

So we go into a New Year and begin to plan our next show "Guys & Dolls" (details elsewhere in this issue"). This is a show that needs men, hopefully they will appear, but if you are interested and have not been with us before or you know someone who is interested please come along to the get-together on March 20th. We are a friendly bunch & will make you feel welcome.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Theatre through 2005, we are now operating as a limited company with charitable status and are working hard to increase the use of the Theatre by other groups and organisations. We hope in this way to stress the community value of our Theatre and to raise money for development.

It does need a lot of people if we are to operate regularly and anyone who is interested in the development and future of the Theatre will be very welcome. Contact can be made by ringing me, Colin Brown, on 01663 744935.

My very best wishes to everyone for 2006.

Colin Brown

GUYS AND DOLLS

Music & Lyrics by Frank Loesser

Book by Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling

Based on a short story by Damon Runyan.

This wonderful musical will be presented at the Art Theatre, New Mills from 20th to 25th November 2006.

Director: Dianne Aspinall

Musical Director : David Chapman

Choreographer : Jenny Saville.

Vocal Coach : Sheena McInnes

Assisted by Accompanist : Tim Walker.

GET TOGETHER. March 20th 2006. 8 p.m.

ART THEATRE

This show was premiered at the 46th St. Theatre, Broadway. New York. on November 24th 1950. *Guys and Dolls* tells the story of a group of small-time gamblers and the ladies in their lives. Nathan Detroit bets his pal Sky Masterson that he can't make the next lady he sees fall in love with him, and when the next lady happens to be the prim and proper neighbourhood missionary Sarah Brown, the stage is set for an evening of high-spirited entertainment, set to the toe-tapping beat of Loesser's superlative compositions.

Frank Loesser's score features classic songs such as 'Luck be a Lady', 'Sit down you're Rocking the Boat', 'I've never been in love before', 'If I were a Bell', and the wonderful title song 'Guys and Dolls'.

WE WELCOME EVERYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN THE SHOW TO COME TO THE GET TOGETHER ON MARCH 20TH.

Jenny Wood Production Coordinator.

www.arttheatre.co.uk

RNCM - BIG BAND - Jazz Collective

Director Mike Hall

Thursday March 30th 7.30 p.m.

At THE ART THEATRE NEW MILLS

Tickets £5.00

Telephone No. 01663 742364

or from Friday 17th March

Book Stop, Market Street, New Mills

As a regular follower of the **R**oyal **N**orthern **C**ollege of **M**usic Big Band I can only recommend that if you enjoy the Big Band sound delivered with an exciting pulsating rhythm, then this is a concert you really should not miss.

Performances by the band outside the collage are very few and we are very privileged to have persuaded Mike Hall and the College to let the Band come the Art Theatre.

The musicians are all the rising stars of the college who give their free time to join the 'Jazz Collective', a group directed by Mike Hall who attend weekly improvisation and Jazz based instrumental classes.

Master classes with visiting top class musicians are also a feature of their training . Mike Hall, who is head of Jazz studies at R.N.C.M, is a world class saxophonist who started his musical career with The National Youth Orchestra, and has since soloed with many of the world's top musicians, most recently spending a week with the "Echoes of Ellington" band at Ronnie Scott's club in London. He writes and arranges a great deal of his own music which he showcases with his own group "Crystal". I hope this wets the appetite for a great night's entertainment – see you there!

Colin Brown

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Society was held on October 7th, once more at Disley Golf Club where an excellent meal was followed by the presentation of N.O.D.A. medals:-

30 Years	Derek Brown
35 Years	Judy Foley, Betty Gould and posthumously Wilfred Gould
50 Years	Eileen Brown

It was disappointing that so few members attended and it is hoped that more members will come and join what is always a happy, lively “do”.

We thank again Judy & Joan for the excellent arrangements.

Louie Hallam

S.S.U.

A date to put in your diary – **Friday 6th October 2006.** We are again planning the Annual Dinner at Disley Golf Club for our 84th Birthday and do hope a lot of you will come. There is a new menu and it looks good.

On May 15th 53 of us will be going to see “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” at the Palace Theatre and are really looking forward to it.

We did look into the possibility of taking a party to see “Mamma Mia” but they have altered the arrangement for this production and would only hold the seats for a couple of months – usually they will hold them for at least 6 months. The seats available for block bookings are limited and to get good seats it would have meant committing ourselves to payment eighteen months or so in advance. In general people are not very keen on that so I didn’t pursue it.

But please keep your eyes open and let me know if you come across anything you would like to see

Joan P Mays.

NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF THE ART THEATRE

The curtain goes down on another successful Panto. Everyone who was privileged to see this Panto would agree it was a spectacular production. The sets were wonderful the cave was so realistic you really felt you were underground. We are indebted to Terry and his team of “Monday Nighters” who built and painted the set themselves – thank you to everyone who helped, it was a credit to you all.

There was a 10% increase in ticket sales with a 100% attendance on the last Saturday Matinee.

The Friends Committee are already thinking about the next Panto; we are fortunate to have the services of the same very talented production team. If all goes according to plan we hope to stage “Cinderella” a traditional pantomime, which we feel sure, will appeal to a large audience.

ART THEATRE CLUB

Since going to a weekly session in September, we have gained a solid membership, with around twenty youngsters coming regularly.

Our drama sessions are led by Rachael Ward, who is a recent honours graduate in drama. The children are well motivated and we have even been out twice!

Initially we attended a performance of HOT MIKADO and then journeyed to Mossley to see the show SUESSICAL.

Rachael is preparing the children for a drama presentation to their parents in March. We are currently planning the next phase of our development and shall have exciting things to tell you about in the next edition.

Thanks for all the support from NMAODS and FRIENDS

Nick Peach

CHANGES

Colin Brown, our Society Chairman, who is also Chairman of the Production Sub-Committee, wishes to have more time available to concentrate on the search for the funding of the proposed development.

We are therefore looking for a New Chairperson for the Production Sub-Committee. If you are interested or know someone you think suitable and would like to know more, please contact Colin on 01663 744935

Terry Barber has taken over the responsibility of Theatre Booking's. Any queries concerning the hire of the Theatre they should now be addressed to Terry on 01663 743826 or 07801 825 726

WHATS ON AT THE ART THEATRE

18th March

Kinder Choirs in Concert

20th March

GUYS AND DOLLS GET TOGETHER

30th March

**Royal Northern College of Music
BIG BAND Jazz Collective**

9th & 10th June

Hope Valley Dance Centre

30th June and

1st July

7th and 8th July

Caroline Dent Dance and Theatre School

20th to 25th

November

GUYS AND DOLLS

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 Company.

The awards which are currently available are as follows:-

25 year 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 Society's policy to pass on to the applicant the cost of the first Badge (currently £10.00)

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.

If you believe you are eligible for a badge or medal and have slipped through the net please contact me and I will send an application form to you.

Jean Cordin, 1 Hawk Road, New Mills, High Peak SK22 4JJ (01663 742339)

TO VIDEO OR NOT TO VIDEO? **THAT IS THE QUESTION AND THE ANSWER MUST BE NO.**

We have been asked by many members why they are not allowed to make video's or recordings of our shows. Because the subject could become a legal minefield NODA has been asked to clarify the position. We reprint their explanation below.

PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS AND COPYRIGHT **FREQUENTLY ASK QUESTIONS**

We want to Video our next show. Are we allowed to do this?

The short answer is “No”. There is practically no chance that you can video your show legally.

We don't want to sell video's commercially, so why not?

Because the rightsholders with whom you have a contract to perform the show often only hold what are called “Grand Rights”, which means the right to license **live** performances. The film rights, which include videoing, are almost always controlled by a different organization altogether. The rightsholders with whom you have a contract simply do not have the power to give you permission.

So who has the film rights?

For most American shows, the film rights are held by American film or TV companies, and even if you were able to trace the film rights, they would almost certainly be likely to refuse.

I have heard of commercial companies who say they have a licence to video any show. Can they do this?

In short, no. They will probably tell you that they have licence from the MCPS, but this is a Private Function Licence only, covering events such as Weddings, Presentations etc., which allows copyright material to be included on the soundtrack. It does not allow filming of shows or other public entertainment events.

So can we never video a show?

If the show is owned outright by the rightsholders – and this is a rare possibility – they may give permission for just one archive copy to be made on payment of a fee. We advise that you check with the rightsholder the situation pertaining to the show you want to video.

What about sound recordings of our shows?

Exactly the same laws apply. Without permission from each individual copyright owner or his/her agents, you may be liable to legal action.

What about shows that are out of copyright, such as Gilbert & Sullivan?

That's fine, if they are genuinely out of copyright. But if you use hired orchestral parts, you would have to ask the owners whether copyright applies. If your own MD arranges the music, and allows you to make a recording, you would have to check with any professional musicians you are using, including all members of the Musicians Union, for they have the right to refuse you permission to record their performance and the right to charge for it.

What exactly is copyright?

Copyright is the exclusive right of an author, composer etc. to do certain acts in relation to his/her work. If anyone else does any of those acts without permission, there is an infringement of copyright. This means that, when you sign a contract to do a show, you are agreeing to do it **as written**, and all you can do is give a live performance of it. If you make any changes to the script, libretto or music, you are breaking the law.

What would happen if we were to alter dialogue or music without permission?

Remember that rightsholders do employ representatives to travel round the country to watch the shows they have licensed. You may be certain that if you have altered, **in any way**, the show that you have been licensed to perform, that show will be cancelled, and you will have no redress of any losses you incur. And your society will not be granted a licence to perform any other show in that rightsholders catalogue for some time to come.

Hiring band parts, scores and libs seems very expensive. Can't we just photocopy them?

No. Photocopying is restricted under copyright law, and the rightsholders will come down extremely hard on anyone who breaches this rule. If copies of music or songs prove to be unavailable, then permission to copy may be sought from the music publisher named on the music, *not* the owner of the stage rights *nor* the PRS, but you may have to pay a fee and/or deliver all copies made to the publisher after use.

Who is responsible for ensuring that copyright is adhered to?

Ultimately it is the Society's committee which must take responsibility. It is up to the members of the committee to ensure that no-one involved in the production carries out a breach of copyright.

OBITUARIES

Mr. WILFRID GOULD

The news of Wilfrid's sudden and unexpected death on Friday 16th September was received with a deep sense of shock and sadness by the members of New Mills A.O.D.S. and his many friends in other amateur stage societies throughout the area.

Wilfrid joined New Mills in 1970 when his wife Betty became society accompanist of the show Me and My Girl, and there started on the most outstanding joint service memberships the New Mills Society has ever had, culminating in both being awarded life membership.

Wilf and Betty's knowledge of stage musicals gained over years of visits to the professional theatre enabled Wilfred to understand how a production should and would work, and this combined with his talent for organization and administration, especially budget control, he applied to the society's organization. First as secretary of the Fund Raising Committee then, Society Secretary, Production Secretary and Production Committee Chairman and many times it was Wilfrid's skill and knowledge which made the difference between profit and loss on a production.

Not all Wilfrid's time was spent in administration, he enjoyed taking part on stage appearing in several productions of which his favorite was Fiddler on the Roof for which he grew a splendid beard and took part in the famous bottle dance.

In latter years Wilfrid's health became a problem and this restricted his activity to some extent, but not his enthusiasm. He was a regular member of the F.O.H. team and with Betty he took up the challenge of producing the show programme which due to his efforts in enlisting advertising and sponsors has resulted in programme sales being one of the main profit items to our show budget.

For thirty five years Wilfrid has been at the centre of the New Mills Society mostly as a committee member, but whatever or whenever help or support were required Wilfrid and Betty could be relied on for support; be it theatre cleaning or a major event, Wilfrid would be there.

It is often said no one is indispensable and that may be true but in the case of Wilfrid a replacement will be a rare find. Our memories of Wilfrid and the pleasure of his company will be with us for many years to come and it is with the sincere gratitude of us all that we offer our deepest sympathy to Betty, Stephen, Paula and their respective families at this very sad time.

Colin Brown

Mr. BERNARD RILEY

Many of our society members especially those of the 60`s/70`s era were sad to learn of the death of Bernard Riley earlier this year. Bernard and his late wife Roma were active members when the society took over the theatre in 1959 jointly giving a lot of time and effort to the theatre renovation and fund raising.

Bernard was an ever present member of the stage crew, he was a skilled engineer and was very much responsible for the successful installation of our revolving stage. We retain many happy memories of Bernard's presence and the society's sincere condolences are extended to his son Paul and family.

Colin Brown

Mr. DOMINIC LEDWICH

Dominic Ledwich whose death the society was sad to learn of recently, was a member during the 1960's and supported the society both as a player and a regular helper in the theatre.

We remember Dominic as a cheerful and willing helper and the sincere sympathy of the society is extended to his family for their sad loss.

Colin Brown

ARTHUR AND JOYCE SMITH

It was with a sad sense of loss that all associated with the Art Theatre received the news of the deaths of Arthur and Joyce Smith within a few days of each other in October.

Arthur and Joyce were close neighbours to the theatre and had supported us and the production for many years.

Arthur a life long neighbour to the theatre and a plumber by trade, had been a constant help in our endeavours with the theatre improvements where his experience in all things building and his time given without the need to ask, were great help in our endeavours.

We shall miss both Arthur and Joyce for their support and friendship and the sincere sympathy of all at the theatre is extended to their family at this very sad time.

Colin Brown