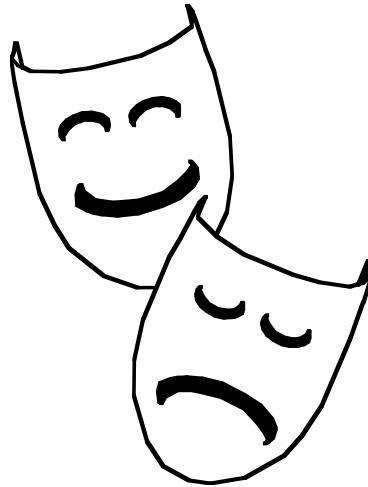


New Mills & District
Amateur Operatic
&
Dramatic Society



News and Views

February 2008

No. 58

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Greetings to all readers of our first edition of N & V for 2008.

Time passes quickly and since our last edition our 2007 production '*Anything Goes*' has been added to our past productions list, a show well received by those who saw it but short of bums on seats which is a problem affecting many amateur society productions these days.

Most recent has been F.O.A.T. pantomime '*Jack & The Beanstalk*' certainly not short of bums on seats and congratulations are due to everyone involved in this very successful production.

Unfortunately the New Year brought bad news for amateur societies and organisations in the Tameside area where we have many friends in the Ashton and Dukinfield societies with announcement that the Tameside Hippodrome will close on March 31st leaving them without a suitable stage.

According to press reports the company who leased the council owned theatre have terminated their contract, the staff have been made redundant creating an uncertain future for the building. Reports add that the council are addressing the problem and hopefully a solution will be found to enable the theatre to reopen and the local societies to continue with their productions. We sincerely hope that the council's efforts are successful. This event or course only emphasises the fortunate position New Mills AODS enjoys in owning the Art Theatre.

What Tameside and societies of many other areas would give to be in our position. A position for which 2009 will be a significant milestone.

On March 21st 1959 the Art Theatre was closed leaving the New Mills society homeless and was put on the market as suitable for warehousing or similar with a market price of £2,250.00; luckily there was no immediate interest.

On April 6th the first of several members meetings took place to explore the possible lease or purchase of the building from the owners, The Sheffield Cinema Co. and by June an agreement was reached to lease at £300.00 per annum for two years, and a reopening date was fixed for the Saturday 26th September.

For those who can remember, through ten weeks with a glorious summer outside, an enormous amount of work took place to rescue what was virtually a derelict auditorium to be ready to open on time with a play production '*The Scandalous Affair of Mr. Kettle and Mrs. Moon*' followed in November with a production of '*Carousel*'. The race was won and the society was back on track.

The rest is now history, not always easy. In 1964, after the theatre pipe work had frozen solid and burst, an Annual General Meeting voted to end the lease, but fighting spirit prevailed, the theatre was purchased and in 2009 we celebrate fifty years of unbroken occupation and conservation for an almost unique building.

This is an outstanding achievement for our society and I would like to think that we are proud enough to mark the event with some special event or events in 2009. Already we have '*Oklahoma*' as the 2009 production, but I hope that we can add to that with something special yet to be arranged, watch this space.

Keep in touch visit the Theatre Web Site - www.arttheatre.co.uk

Returning to present events we are about to embark on the preparation for our 2008 production 'Sweet Charity' details elsewhere in this issue, we hope that there will be a good response from those wishing to take part.

Also on **12th March 2008** we welcome back **The Royal Northern College of Music Big Band** directed by Mike Hall presenting as they always do a great nights musical entertainment and hopefully a boost to society funds, if you have seen them before please tell friends how good they are, if you have not seen them and enjoy Big Band. This is a performance not to be missed.

Colin Brown

THANKS

The society would like to give a vote of thanks to Derek Brown who, after several years' service as House Manager, has decided to stand down. Derek has invested a good deal of time and effort into ensuring that Front of House staff have been in position for all events at the theatre and our sincere thanks go to Derek with our best wishes for the future.

We are pleased to welcome as our New Front of House Manager, Mr Ernest Wood. Ernest has been associated with the society for many years but due to work commitment could not take an active part. Following his recent retirement he has returned to active service and is keen to see the theatre prosper. We are pleased to welcome him to the job confident it will be in good hands.

And also our thanks to Jean Cordin, for once again arranging our entry to the Christmas Tree Competition at St. George's Church. We didn't figure in the winners but it is always satisfying to join with other organisations in the town.

Mary Crabtree

Just before this News and Views went to press news has been received that our President, Mary Crabtree, died on Tuesday 26th February 2008.

Details of her Funeral are currently not available other than this will be a private funeral and burial Any further enquires to Jeremy Unsworth Funeral Services 01663 742772.

We take this opportunity to pass all members condolences to Phillipa, Her family and all Mary's Relations

SWEET CHARITY

Charity Hope Valentine is a generous 'lady of the town' the 'town' being Times Square in New York. She has a heart of gold and is always ready to give it to any man around who is willing to take it. Sometimes giving her heart means giving her earnings – not an uncommon thing for girls like Charity. In her search for a man we are introduced to the variety of characters that abound in down town 'New York.

There are her cynical girl friends from the Fandango Ballroom where they all work and Herman, who runs the Dance Hall and has a cash register for a mind. There is the eccentric evangelist and his 'Flower Power' followers, the fun people of Coney Island, the passers by in Central Park and the 'Try to do Gooders' of the Y.M.C.A. There is Vidal the continental superstar type and Oscar who nearly becomes the true hero of the story. That is just a taste of what you will find in 'Sweet Charity' a show definitely worth watching or taking part in.

SWEET CHARITY

Book by Neil Simon. Music by Cy Coleman Lyrics by Dorothy Field

Sweet Charity will be our 2008 show to be presented at the Art Theatre 24th – 29th November 2008.

Director	Dianne Aspinall
Musical Director	David Chapman
Choreographer	Dawn Wilde
Accompanist	Tim Walker

We invite those who are interested in being involved in the show to come to the
Get-Together on Monday 17th March at the Theatre at 8 pm.

Auditions date and pieces will be given out on that evening and Dianne will give a synopsis of the plot and the characters.

We look forward to seeing you on the 17th March.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner was held on October 5th, again at Disley Golf Club where a pleasant evening was spent giving the members the opportunity, after a very good meal, to catch up with friends and their news.

During the evening “NODA” medals presentation was held:-

50 Years (Posthumously)	Jenny Wood.
45 Years	Gill Crosland
45 Years	Alison Frater
20 Year Badges	Sandra Bullen
	Margaret Beddows
10 Year Badges	Keith Robinson
	Pauline Rowe
	Keith Clayton

The 30 Year Bar awarded to Pat Bradley was presented to her at the Pantomime by Betty Plant Chairman of F.O.A.T.

Thank you once again Joan & Judy for the excellent arrangements.

S.S.U.

We have 3 important announcements to bring to your attention.

1. **Annual Dinner** We hope to hold the dinner as usual in early October but nothing is fixed yet. It has been suggested that we try a different venue but if we do we want to be sure that this is acceptable to everyone. We can't afford to lose any of our “regulars” and we want people's views. It has been suggested that we go to the “Royal” in Hayfield for a change. Judy & I have been to see the facilities which are good, there is adequate parking and we are assured that the food is excellent. What do you think? The traveling would be the same for the New Mills folk but it might be further for some who come from afar. We don't want people just to decide not to come – so please air your views. The “Get-Together” on March 17th would be a good time to let either Judy or me know what you think.

2. **Mary Poppins** I have tickets held for “Mary Poppins” at the Palace Theatre in Manchester for March 2nd 2009 – repeat 2009! The seats are in the front circle – centre block – the 3rd, 4th and 5th rows. These seats normally cost £40 but with the reduction for block booking we can get them for £32.50. Please let me know as soon as possible if you want any.

3. **Honk** I have received notice this week of the musical “Honk – the Ugly Duckling Musical” which received the Best New Musical Olivier Award in 2000. It is being presented by the All Saints Musical Production Company. This is the company that staged Hot Mikado that a group of us went to see a few years ago in Salford. This time they are putting the show on at the Lowry Quays Theatre in April. If enough want to go I will book a coach – certainly the Lowry isn't a very easy place to get to but it depends on numbers. It is on for a week but I suggest we go on Friday 18th April at 7.15 pm. There doesn't appear to be any reduction for block bookings so you can choose your price -£5, £13 or £15. Please let me know by the “Get-Together” on March 17th at the very latest if you want tickets.

Joan P Mays

Keep in touch visit the Theatre Web Site - www.arttheatre.co.uk

ART THEATRE WEBSITE

The origins of the Art Theatre website are a little vague now but it's creation really came about from attending the 2003 and 2004 annual general meetings where the requirement for a theatre website was always discussed but never really actioned.

So in a mad moment one evening in 2004 I thought that something would be better than nothing and looked in creating one. (How difficult could it be??!!)

From this, the domain name www.arttheatre.co.uk was registered, and with a little help of software and acquired graphics the basic theatre website was created.

The domain statistics show that the site is visited regularly and email enquires come through via the site from people interested in using the theatre.

The most viewed page is Events which provides information on forthcoming and previous events. The Previous Events page is intend to be a historical list and will hopefully soon be updated with all the shows listed in the NMAODS programmes.

To this day it hasn't really changed much from its initial release but the intention is always there to add and improve on its appearance.

Obvious additions to the site would be more photographs of the theatre but if anybody would like to see any particular items adding or have things for inclusion please feel free to make contact.

Nick H

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www.arttheatre.co.uk

News from Friends of the Art

February '08

After every Pantomime we wonder how we are going to maintain the standard for the following year and these were our thoughts in 2007 when the curtain went down on *Cinderella*. Those of you who did manage to come along to see *Jack and the Beanstalk* (and there were almost 3000 of you!) were not disappointed. It was fast, colourful and full of action – the traditional family Pantomime that our audiences have come to expect.

This kind of show doesn't happen overnight and for such results we have our production team to thank.

Sheryl Haydock-Howorth for her dedicated direction and innovative ideas.

Beryl Gresty for her dance routines and her empathy with the children

and of course Carolyn Hawkins who brings it all to life in the orchestra pit with her astounding musical talent.

Thanks must also go to Natalie Coverley who has been Beryl's assistant for the last three years. Natalie will be leaving us this year to take up a place at the Mountview Academy in London studying musical theatre. We all wish her well.

Sadly Sheryl and Beryl have decided that this years Panto would be their last but I am more than delighted to tell you that Carolyn will be returning.

Losing key members was a blow. Sheryl has been with us for 9 Pantomimes and Beryl a staggering 14! However once the Panto was over meetings were held, thoughts voiced and suggestions put forward. I am delighted to be able to tell you that Dianne Aspinall has agreed to direct our next Panto and Nicola Clayton will be the choreographer.

Those of you who are familiar with the musical shows at the Art will know that Dianne has been the 'resident' director for many years and has in fact directed some of our Pantos. *Peter Pan* in 2000 - when principals were flying through the air – will always be remembered. Nicola Clayton has come up through the ranks, starting as a dancer in *Snow White*, progressing through to the main show and qualifying as a dance teacher along the way. Nicola too is well known to our members.

We are already in the throws of sending for scripts which we hope will be *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. I can tell you that the **Get-together** will be at the Theatre on **Monday 7 July at 8.00 p.m.** – so put this date in your diary now!

With another good team on board we are confident that the 2009 Panto will be another resounding success.

What's happening at the Art

Wednesday 12th March @ 7-30pm

Royal Northern College of Music

Jazz Collective **BIG BAND**

Tickets Theatre Box Office 01663 742364 or The Derbyshire Building Society, Union Road, New Mills

Monday 17th March @ 8-00pm

Sweet Charity Get-Together

Further information - Moira Whiteford 0161 427 5317

Friday 16th May @ 7-30pm

New Mills Junior Football Club Awards Presentation Evening

Saturday 17th May @ 7-45pm

Buzz Hawkins does THE BRADSHAWS ... an' all that!

Tickets Theatre Box Office 01663 742364

or The Derbyshire Building Society, Union Road, New Mills

Friday 20th June and Saturday 21st June @ 7-30pm

Amy's School of Dance

- **MIX THE BEAT**

Further details to be announced on the web site

Friday and Saturday 4 & 5th July and 11th and 12th July

New Mills Dance & Theatre Centre

- **SUMMER SHOW**

Further details to be announced on the web site

Monday 7th July @ 8pm

Friends of the Art Theatre - Pantomime Get Together

Further information - Moira Whiteford 0161 427 5317

Monday 24th November to Saturday 29th November

NMAODS presents the musical SWEET CHARITY

Further details to be announced on the web site