

New Mills & District
Amateur Operatic
&
Dramatic Society



News and Views

August 2008

No. 59

CHAIRMANS REMARKS

Since our last News & Views a well attended AGM took place on Tuesday 3rd June, the main business of which was to consider proposals for changes in the committee and management of the society and theatre.

The need for change was created when the theatre gained charitable status and became a company limited by guarantee, with the need to operate in accordance with the Company Memorandum and Articles of Association requiring the appointment of Directors.

To comply with these requirements the proposal was that the theatre would operate under its own management structure with a Board of Directors elected from the various sections of the organisation.

The proposal was accepted and a board of directors was elected with the following members.

Chairman of the New Mills A.O.D.S. also to Chair Directors Meetings

Bill Plant - Theatre Licensee.

David Howe - Front of House Management & Vice Chairman

Nick Howe - Technical & Stage Management

John Foley - Elected by Society Members

Richard Hole - Elected by Society Members

Charles Wood - Friends of the Art Theatre

Terry Barber - Theatre Booking Coordinator, not a Director

Darren Cooper - Company Secretary and Theatre Treasurer, not a Director

Directors must resign on a three year rotation but can be re-elected if they are willing to stand.

With the theatre managed separately the New Mills A.O.D.S. General Committee, who until this time had administered all things, now have only to deal with productions and events directly connected to the A.O.D.S.

This it was decided did not need a committee of nine elected members plus Secretary and Treasurer and the proposal to reduce the members to six, elected, as previously for three year terms, with two members to resign each year, was adopted, again, each retiring member can stand for re-election if they wish to do so.

As I always emphasise, it is very important to remember that no matter how the management or the committees are organised the Art Theatre is still owned by the members of the New Mills & District A.O.D.S. And of course they are all shareholders of the New Mills Art Theatre Ltd.

To achieve the necessary rotation the present committee will resign en block at the 2009 AGM and the new committee will be elected from those wishing to stand.

The Secretary and Treasurer will remain annual elections.

We were extremely sorry this year when Beverly Eaves who had been society secretary for several years decided not to continue, and it was the desire of all who had worked with her to thank her sincerely for the good work she had done on behalf of the society. As society secretaries are not easy to find we were delighted when Geoff Lunn who has a lot of stage and production experience volunteered to take on the job and was immediately elected.

The year moves on very quickly and our next production '**SWEET CHARITY**' Tuesday 25th to Sat 29th November 2008 is now fully cast and rehearsals have begun.

We have assembled a very strong cast and under the direction of our well established production team Director Dianne Aspinall, Musical Director David Chapman and Choreographer Dawn Wilde, we know that the result will be an outstanding production of this great song and dance show with such numbers as *Hey Big Spender* and *The Rhythm of Life* in the outstanding musical score.

However our productions get ever more expensive to stage and there are limits to the price that can be charged for tickers, so to avoid a financial loss the answer is more Bums on Seats, and who better to promote the show than members and friends of the society who I hope will tell their friends and associates with confidence, that the show they are coming to see is something special, performed in a special theatre, much better than a night with the television. And its never to early to start so **Promotion, Promotion, Promotion**, from now until opening night in November, think of a number, say ten and see if you can persuade that many people to buy tickets. The bigger the number the better you can be sure there will be no disappointed customers.

Talking of promotion see '**Last Night of the Proms**' details in this edition. This is the Society and Theatres contribution in conjunction with the High Peak Orchestra to provide a grand final for the *New Mills Festival 2008* and we really do hope there will be good public support, so again, tell all friends and family not to miss what will be a great night's entertainment.

CAST OF SWEET CHARITY

CHARITY	Janice Jackson
DADDY BRUBECK	Gary Ward
HERMAN	Brian Ganderton
NICKIE	Julie Proffitt
HELENE	Nicola Clayton
CARMEN	Betsy Schrader
ROSIE	Sophie Ward
OSCAR	Robbie Carnegie
VIDAL	Roger Haslam
URSULA	Emma Tovey

SHALL WE PARTY

Referring back to Chairman's remarks in our last News & Views February 2008 it is the New Mills A.O.D.S. Fiftieth Anniversary as custodians and owners of the Art Theatre.

When we first started, a lot of people said it would not last, we could not survive, well we did survive and fifty years on we are still here with a much improved theatre and I feel we should not let it pass with some special celebration to mark the occasion.

Already friends have chosen '*SNOW WHITE*' as their pantomime and from the response to audition this is sure to be a great success, the Societies main show. '*OKLAHOMA*', already chosen for November 2009 is one of the greatest Rogers & Hammerstein company musicals. So what better way to celebrate this outstanding achievement?

It could be a memorable night, but such an event would require a lot of organisation and significant financial commitment prior to the event, and before starting out on any major planning it would be desirable to have some idea of the support such an event might get. Hopefully a lot.,

To find out how many might be interested and without any definite personal commitment, is it possible to get people to either return the slip enclosed in this News & Views or by the wonders of modern science email one of the email addresses to give those involved some idea of interest and venue size required.

Special and fairly urgent attention to this would be very much appreciated.

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

As our contribution to the *New Mills Festival 2008*, which runs from the 13th to the 28th September, the Art Theatre and A.O.D.S. are joining forces with the High Peak Orchestra to present 'A Last Night of The Proms' as a grand finale to the festival events.

The High Peak Orchestra are well known for their high standard of performance throughout the area and further afield, and will, given the scope of their programme present a night of musical entertainment not to be missed.

Tchaikovsky	5 th Symphony
Strauss	Radetzky March
Strauss	Blue Danube Waltzes
Elgar	Pomp & Circumstance Marches No's 5, 2 & 1

Wood Sea Songs
Arne Rule Britannia
Parry Jerusalem

We are of course hoping that our audience will come in good voice and eager to join in the traditional choral renderings so much part of these events, and where the A.O.D.S. members will make their contribution.

Words will be provided with the programme, flags given to wave and fireworks, stage variety, to bring a rousing end to what should be a great night of music and entertainment.

newmillsfestival 



Last Night of the Proms

With The High Peak Orchestra

Sunday 28th September

Art Theatre, Jodrell Street, New Mills

At 7-30pm

Tickets £7-00

Available From:-

The Derbyshire Building Society
Union Rd. New Mills

Or By Phone:- Art Theate Ticket Secretary 01663 **742364**

From Members of the High Peak Orchestra

Or pay on the door

News from Friends of the Art Theatre

Sunday 20th July – principal auditions for the *Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs*. A date to be remembered by many of our Committee!

We started the day at 9.30 a.m. with potential 43 dwarfs to audition.

Inevitably one or two withdrew at the last minute and there were a few `no shows` but nevertheless it was a very long stint – and that was just the dwarfs!

Following the dwarfs were the fairies – 13 of them and next Snow White – a mere 8 interested in playing this part.

And so the list goes on through Princes, Comedy Roles, The Dame and several Wicked Queens.

In total we had upwards of 90 people audition before we could think about slotting them into the 17 principal roles. Our day finished about 5.30 p.m.

It was good to see what a wealth of talent there is amongst the young people keen to get into Amateur Theatre. If only we could find someone with the time, energy and enthusiasm to start up a Youth Theatre we could assure them they would have no problems with membership.

Our next hurdle will be the dancing and chorus auditions – another marathon. At the moment we have 60 potential dancers for 18/20 places and 35 vying for about 12 places in the chorus. Heigh Ho!

S.S.U.

Nothing new this time- just a reminder of things to come. You have all had notice of the Annual Dinner to be held at the Royal Hotel in Hayfield on Friday October 10th. Bookings should be in by August 31st but if anyone still wants to come Judy is very accommodating although please get them in as soon as possible.

In March a party of us are going to see “Mary Poppins” at the Palace Theatre but I will tell you about that in my next bulletin.

The only other thing is the usual request that you let me know if you hear of any show that you think members would like to see.

Joan P. Mays

A Tribute to Mary Crabtree.

Everyone associated with the New Mills A.O.D.S. was sad to learn of the death reported in the last edition of News & Views, of our Society President Mary Crabtree on the 26th February. Mary was a society member for a full seventy years during which time she had been involved in every aspect of the society.

Starting as a dancer in 1938 she continued to play, appearing over the years, in many of the societies productions. Especially she enjoyed the plays which were for many years a large part of the societies activity, and as a keen enthusiast of both the amateur and professional stage, for many years she enjoyed visits to see the Royal Shakespeare productions at Stratford-Upon-Avon.

A lifelong dedicated supporter of New Mills A.O.D.S. Mary had at different times held all the official society positions including Chairperson and for several recent years President until her death.

Mary was an enthusiastic supporter when the society took over the theatre in 1959 and as a prominent and highly regarded figure in local amateur stage circles had over the years, in the societies occasional times of need, been able to persuade prominent players from other societies to appear in New Mills productions many who remained as members and friends, not least one Alfred Brown, whose influence as Director of many of the societies productions raised it to a level preciously unattainable but now accepted as the norm. Mary gave much in time and effort which has been of great benefit in the societies progress over the years and she made many generous gestures one which prevailed annually to provide fresh flowers to be worn by the Front of House helpers and production team throughout the week of the show.

For those who knew her Mary will be remembered as an outstanding member and friend to New Mills A.O.D.S.

Jim Lawrie

The society members were extremely sad to learn of the death of Jim Lawrie in April 2008

Jim joined the society with his wife Barbara and immediately became part of the Front of House team where for a significant period he was an ever present and very affective House Manager also giving valuable assistance in other areas.

We at the theatre have pleasant memories of Jim and he will be sadly missed by those at the theatre who shared his company.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Barbara and family at this sad time.

What's on at the Art

Sunday 28th September 2008 at 7-30pm

Last Night of the Proms

With the High Peak Orchestra

Tickets £7-00

Saturday 11th October 2008 at 7-30pm

Partners in Croon

Enjoy an evening in the style of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin

Tickets £7 (£5 Concessions)

Tuesday 24th November to Saturday 29th November at 7-15pm
Matinee Saturday at 2-15pm

Sweet Charity

NMAODS Musical for 2008

Tickets Tues £5 Wed/Thu & Mat £9(Concession £8) Fri & Sat £10

Fri /Sat 30/31st January 09 & Thu/Fri Sat 5/6/7th February 09
Matinee Saturday's at 2-15pm

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

FOAT Pantomime

Tickets £7-50 (£5-50 Child)

**Tickets available from
The Ticket Secretary 01663 742364**

Or nearer to the event time from The Derbyshire Building Society, Union Road, New Mills

Keep up to date visit the Web Site - www.arttheatre.co.uk

Shall we Party?

As mentioned in this edition of New & Views please complete this form and post to The Art Theatre, Jodrell Street, New Mills High Peak SK22 3HJ.

Or email a response to the Theatre web site - www.arttheatre.co.uk

I would be interested in attending a 50th Anniversary party

I would be interested in helping to organise/run the party

I would not be interested in a 50th Anniversary party

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