

*2021*



*NOD.A SE A.G.M.*

*- with entertainment*

# *Welcome to this AGM via Zoom*

Welcome to all members  
of NODA South East who  
have joined us today.

A special welcome to our  
President Christine Hunter  
Hughes, Vice President  
Gordon Richardson and  
Chief Operating Officer  
Dale Freeman




*Apologies for absence*

*Elizabeth Knight*

*In memory of those who have passed  
away since last year's A.G.M.*

*Jack Wray, Syd Young, Roy Cope, Derek Salt,  
John Endicott, Peter Boffin, Michael Patrick, Edna Waghorn,  
Jim Welling, Oli Williams, John Golds*

*A time for reflection for all those we  
have known in the am dram world.  
May they rest in peace.*



The minutes of last year's AGM have been circulated to all members and there are no matters arising at this time.

***Report of the AGM held  
on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2020***

# *Councillor's Report*

We have been very fortunate here in the South East to have a relatively stable committee and everyone on the Regional committee works extremely hard for the benefit of the members of NODA here in the South East.

In particular, John Barnes, as Regional Membership Secretary, is frightfully efficient in ensuring our regional records are up to date, assisting reps with contact details and even more importantly welcoming new members both individuals and societies. It is so important that our lines of communication are efficient and the information gets to the right people.

Our Awards Secretary, Margaret Coltman continues to maintain a watchful eye over all the applications for long service awards and ensures all the relevant forms are completed and awards paid for. We now have a more automated system of application on-line but it is still vital that she checks every application. I am sure there must be quite a backlog of people requiring awards at this time so go onto the NODA website line and have a look

You will notice from the agenda that there is a vacancy for the Treasurer. This is purely because, although he is not leaving the Committee, he is changing his hat to become the Regional Rep for District 9. He has been of great assistance to me and an invaluable part of the team. Keith has carried out his duties meticulously and will be a hard act to follow. Thank you Keith for all you have done. So, if he is to become Regional Rep for District 9 what is happening to Jose Harrison. No, she hasn't been sacked – far from it she is stepping down after 20 years, to spend more time with her husband and family and in particular to enjoy a period of retirement – although I'll believe that when I see it especially as she has volunteered to be an assistant rep. I have been very grateful for all Jose's support over the years and often she has spurred me on when I have had doubts. The committee would also like to express their thanks for all wonderful lunches she has prepared for our committee meetings. They have been sorely missed over the past year!

Keith has, in his possession, a gift from the Committee and a certificate of appreciation for her to hang up and remind herself of those 20 years of service to NODA. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for all she has done to raise the NODA banner and support her societies.

I hoped you liked the pdf of the powerpoint slides that made up the minutes of last year's meeting. I propose to do the same this year as it is more interesting to share with your members. Anyone wanting it as a powerpoint document should let me know.

During the past year the committee have met via zoom meetings on a regular basis. An interesting fact is that attendance has been 100% something we had problems achieving in the past. I anticipate that in the future we will meet virtually for half of our meetings and in the flesh so to speak for the other half. This will not only cut down on expenses but enable committee members to make the most of their Sundays especially when they have an afternoon rehearsal.

Your regional reps have been very busy receiving many emails from me to promote activities and on line course. Many of these have been shared with yourselves and I hope they have been of interest and of course have shared them with all your members. The reps are champing at the bit to get out and about around the region to view all you productions over the coming months. We will however maintain whatever COVID precautions are in place at the time and not jeopardise anyone's health. Do contact your rep if you have any queries rather than worrying about something unnecessarily.

# *Councillor's Report continued*

NODA Today our magazine continues to appear with every more exciting features. We have had some tremendous articles written by groups in the South East over the past year. In the next edition, due to land on your doorsteps shortly after 5<sup>th</sup> April, there are 4 very special items. The magazine is only as good as the contributions so have a think about your next effort for the magazine.

Many of you will be aware that NODA Theatre Summer School took a different route last August and became an E-School. I don't think any of us had heard of such a thing before 2020. It was highly successful and received great feedback. I am sure it will come as no surprise that we propose to repeat the e-school this year. It will be bigger and better with five pathways. I cannot tell you what they are today as the big announcement will be on 5<sup>th</sup> April. The courses will run for the 5 days alongside a 2 day course. We are hoping there will be evening opportunities for everyone to join in. For more information please go to the NODA website.

It is anticipated that 2021 will bring about the return of the real Theatre Summer School with lots of new and innovative ideas and activities.

September heralds the National AGM in Durham. All being well we shall be there to see Gordon Richardson take on the Presidential chain. I look forward to seeing him at events in the south east during his year.

Closer to home Regional Reps have been promoting and organising District meetings. Those that have taken place have been very successful. A chance to share ideas, ask for help and ideas and support each other as well as answering questions. The successful meetings have requested a regular meeting via zoom. As I have said previously, it seems that attendance at such meetings is easier than travelling to a meeting away from home. Similarly our Regional Youth Coordinator has instigated Youth Forum meetings which it has been agreed will take place every 3 months – many will be via zoom for all the reasons I have already mentioned.

For those of you who are panto afficiandos, please do remember the new NODA pantoscript site with 150 different scripts to suit every size of cast and venue. Discount of course for NODA members.

There has been no programme and poster competition this year and all those we received prior to lockdown will be carried over to this year. Hopefully there will be enough productions in the latter part of 2021 for us to run the competition. Work has been done to improve and simplify the rules for the competition so please look out for amendments to the rules for 2022 onwards.

The support we all receive from Dale Freeman and his staff is second to none. Despite all the restrictions he has continued to run the ship with efficiency and humour. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him and his staff for their forbearance and good humour when dealing with all our trials and tribulations.

Your regional committee always work very hard and I would like to thank them, on your behalf, for all their efforts including their tremendous support for me.

Finally, thank you to the societies and individuals who support and promote NODA in all its activities and on behalf of NODA we would like to continue supporting you in all your endeavours in 2021. Here's to a very successful NODA year with a lot to report on this time next year.

# *Certificate of Appreciation*

I am delighted to be able to present a certificate of appreciation and a gift to Jose Harrison, of District 9, for her 20 years as a regional rep. She has been most dedicated and an inspiration to everyone she meets. We are hoping she will continue as an assistant. Thank you Jose.



*noda*  
Be inspired by amateur theatre



*National Operatic & Dramatic Association*

*South East Region*

*Certificate of Appreciation*

*Awarded to*

**Jose Harrison**

*In recognition of outstanding loyal service  
to the*

*National Operatic & Dramatic Association  
as a Regional Representative  
of the South East Region*

*Regional Councillor*





# *Membership Secretary's Report*

*240 societies  
41 individual & 6 joint members  
9 Life Members  
2 Honorary Life Members*

At the end of the year our membership totalled 298 which broken down gives us 240 Societies, 41 Individual Members, 6 Joint Members, 9 Life Members and 2 Honorary Life Members. We had 3 new societies and 1 IM join during the year.

NODA has ceased the “rolling” membership, but extended all Society membership to 31 March 2021, when the membership year for Societies will commence on 1 April each year. Individual/Joint membership renewal is on the anniversary of the date of joining.

Membership renewal begins with a reminder from Head Office which once completed and returned ensures the correct invoice is raised which may be paid on-line via BACS or by cheque.

In order that we can have efficient communication with our members it is vitally important that contact details are kept up to date.

**John W Barnes  
NODA SE Membership Secretary**



# *Treasurer's Report*

The figures you have on the income/expenditure/balance sheet for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 are for obvious reasons totally unrepresentative of any other year in the past.

Once we hit March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 and the music/theatre industry came to a grinding halt, it meant that our Regional Reps like many people in the country had to stop doing the things they loved. The figures for the expenditure must therefore be at least less than a quarter of the usual amount spent. Added to this, the fact that the South-East Celebration Day and National A.G.M. were virtual, this must bring the expenditure down even lower. We spent in total £762.41 during the year and received £1000 from head office. Our balance at 31/12/2019 was £198.78. So £198.78 plus £1000 minus £762.41 equals £436.37 - our current balance in the bank.

If there are any queries on any of the amounts spent as printed on the accounts summary, I can hopefully answer them.

So as lockdown begins to ease and trustfully continues to do so, we at N.O.D.A. hope to see amateur theatre come back to life. I wish you well as you start rehearsals and work towards more productions later this year or in 2022. Well done to those in the technical know-how who in the last few months who have been performing productions on youtube and similar media. Thank you.

On a personal note, I am now looking forward to following my dear friend, Jose Harrison with whom I have been working in amdram for over thirty years, as Regional Rep for district 9. (Crawley, Horsham, Worthing, Littlehampton and Bognor Regis) and look forward to meeting some of you at your future ventures.

I am looking forward to becoming a Regional Rep and hopefully we can find a volunteer to take on the Treasurer's role.

**Keith Smithers**  
**NODA SE Treasurer**



# *President's Address –*

*Christine Hunter Hughes*

Hello everyone and thank you to Kay and the NODA South East Committee and members for inviting me to join you for your NODA South East Virtual AGM for 2021. We made a couple of very memorable and enjoyable visits to your part of the Country and had several more planned which of course sadly never took place. It's all starting to feel as if nothing much has changed; but of course, it has! We now have the vaccine and a road map out of the lockdown, which it will hopefully be possible to follow, so that come the summer things will hopefully be back to something like normal again – or whatever passes for the new normal! I know that societies are certainly planning to return as quickly as possible and only last week I received an invitation to a musical to be performed by a relatively new group in mid-June, which will be my first visit 'in person' since last October in my 2-year Presidency.

I think I can safely say that my biennial presidential term has certainly been unique. In fact, apart from a socially distanced play which I saw last October, the NODA North AGM held at Scotch Corner on 15<sup>th</sup> March last year was my last official engagement in person. Since then, like everyone else, we have all just had to make the absolute most of the things we can do and try not to dwell too much on the things we are, at present, unable to do! However, one of the very real positives of virtual meetings is that it gives you the opportunity to connect with SO many more members. No, it's not the same but it is still a wonderful coming together of the South East NODA Family and a clear demonstration that there are no strangers in NODA, only friends we have not met yet.

We are all looking forward to September when we shall all be able to celebrate Gordon Richardson from NODA North being installed as the NODA National President in Durham, albeit 12 months late, but what a celebration it will be, not least because (hopefully) we are all going to be able to get together to celebrate in style once more.



*President's  
Address –  
continued*

Your NODA Council has continued to meet via Zoom to ensure that we are all ready, willing and able to offer additional help and support just as soon as it is safe to return to rehearsals and productions. However, until that wonderful day dawns please do continue to do all the things wonderfully creative things, which have been so well demonstrated over the last twelve months to engage with both members and audiences to maintain the NODA family with all the social benefits that 'just belonging' brings. The friendship, camaraderie, tolerance, and that sense of belonging and community which have proved invaluable whilst we have all been existing in, more or less splendid isolation for so long and unable to meet physically, or put on shows to entertain audiences, or even meet friends and family.

In view of the uncertainties which still prevail the Summer School Committee have, very reluctantly, decided that this year's summer school will be a virtual event, as last years was. However, planning has already begun for Summer School to revert to normal in 2022 – when we are promised bells and whistles!

Speaking of bells and whistles – I do hope that you have had a chance to look at the New NODA Pantomime website? Do take a look. If pantomimes are within your performing canon, there really is something for everyone, and what better way to welcome your audiences back than with a pantomime? I think we could all do with a really good laugh?

I would like to thank Kay, and all the NODA South East Committee for the organisation which has been necessary to bring this year's AGM to 'a screen near you' in that hope and expectation that it will prove to be a unique occasion and that in the very near future shows can and **MUST** go on!


A large, irregular blue brushstroke graphic that serves as a background for the title text.

***Election of SE  
Councillor***

**Kay Rowan is willing to continue to serve as Regional Councillor – and there not being any other nominations, the President Christine Hunter Hughes declared Kay Rowan duly elected as Councillor for the South East Region for 2021-2022. (Under Rule 23)**

With one exception the following Regional Reps are willing to continue, and there being no other nominations I declare they are duly elected for 2021-2022.

- District 1 Lance Milton
- District 2 Brenda Gower
- District 3 Anne Lawson
- District 5 Gordon Harris
- District 6 Cheryl Marksford
- District 7 Doreen Grierson
- District 9 Keith Smithers
- District 10 Mark Donalds
- District 12 E Gloria Smith
- District 13 Marie Coltman
- District 14 Chris Horton
- District 16 Christine Blow
- District 17 Mark Allen
- District 18 Pauline Surrey
- District 19 Graham Botterill



*Election of  
Regional  
Representatives*

# *Appointment of Officers & Co-Opted Members 2021-2022*

## **Appointment of Officers**

**Treasurer**

**Keith Smithers**

*(Wishes to stand down)*

**Secretary**

**Pauline Catterall**

**Membership Secretary**

**John Barnes**

## **Appointment of Co-opted Members**

**Editor**

**Gregory Gower**

**Awards Secretary**

**Margaret Coltman**

**Web Manager**

**Mark Donalds**

**Youth Advisor**

**Mike Mullen**



**The South East Regional  
Conference 2022 will be  
held on**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
venue to be announced

**There being no further  
business I declare the  
formal part of the AGM  
closed.**



***Appreciation to the Societies Who  
Contributed This Afternoon***

*BATS (Basingstoke) District 14*

*CAOS (Chichester) District 10*

*Centrestage Productions Youth Theatre District 17*

*Eastbourne G&S Society District 3*

*Godalming Theatre Group District 18*

*Kentish Players District 6*

*Lindley Players District 5*

*NOMADS District 18*

