

TnodaDAY★

Spring 2017 | £3.90

Be inspired by amateur theatre

**All the news, views and events
in your region**

Gordon Blackburn, an appreciation
**2017 Presidential Gala Weekend
and AGM update**

The Next Generation

Rounding up NODA Youth activity across the UK

Please share this copy of NODA TODAY with fellow society members

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

15 The Metro Centre
Peterborough
PE2 7UH
Tel: +44 (0) 1733 374 790
Fax: +44 (0) 1733 237 286
Email: info@noda.org.uk

© 2017 National Operatic and Dramatic Association
Registered Charity no: 254640
Registered CIO 1171216
Registered Company no: 241572
Patrons: The Lord Lloyd Webber
Connie Fisher

NODA Insurance:
www.nodainsurance.co.uk
01823 250736

NODASafe: www.noda.org.uk/nodasafemembers
0345 257 6632
nodasafe@noda.org.uk
@NODASafe

NODA Legal Helpline:
01733 374 790
(NODA Membership Services)
info@noda.org.uk

Social Media
www.facebook.com/NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation
@NODAtweets
www.youtube.com/OfficialNODA

Design and Production
warwickprint
enquiries@warwickprint.co.uk

Editor

Janine Graeme
janine.graeme@noda.org.uk

Head Office Staff

Dale Freeman
Chief Operating Officer
dale@noda.org.uk

Beverly Clarke
Finance Assistant
& Summer School
Administration
beverly@noda.org.uk

Richard Hutchinson
Membership Services
richard@noda.org.uk

General Membership Enquiries
info@noda.org.uk
01733 374790

General Finance Enquiries
finance@noda.org.uk
01733 374790

04/17



Welcome to this Spring Edition of NODA Today.

Welcome to 2017 and a year full of optimism, after an eventful 2016. The event I least envisaged was stepping into the role of Chairman of NODA, as an interim measure, until our AGM at Torquay on 23rd September. However, that did happen, so borrowing the RAF motto of “per ardua ad astra” – or in plain English “through difficulties to the stars” the NODA Trustees have every intention of doing just that! One shining star has been the enthusiasm shown by the large number of members applying to attend NODA Theatrical Summer School at its new venue, Yarnfield Park, where I am sure they will soon discover we are not the ordinary “convention”! Moving location is not easy, but the support we have received from everyone has shown that it can be done; sincere thanks go to the Summer School Committee for all their hard work in making it possible, and to Bev Clarke at Head Office in dealing with all the applications and queries.

In the last edition of NODA Today, reference was made to NODA applying to the Charity Commission to become NODA CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The Charity Commission have approved the application and work is underway to ensure a smooth transition from NODA to NODA CIO as we will be known for legal documents, but this still allows the use of “NODA” without the “CIO”.

Council

Chairman of Trustees
John W. Barnes

President
Michael Hastilow
michael.hastilow@noda.org.uk

Immediate Past President
Chris Ingram
chris.ingram@noda.org.uk

NODA East
Don McKay
don.mckay@noda.org.uk

NODA East Midlands
Nanette Lovell
nanette.lovell@noda.org.uk

NODA London
Jacquie Stedman
jacquie.stedman@noda.org.uk

NODA Limited

Chairman
Eric Smart

Chairman of Trustees
John W. Barnes

Directors

Neil Maidman, Michael Hastilow, Gordon Richardson, Fred Piggford, Sarah Hanley, Stuart McCue-Dick.

NODA was shocked and saddened by the death of Gordon Blackburn, Regional Councillor for NODA Scotland, who will be greatly missed by all who knew him as a friend and colleague; a tribute to Gordon is in this magazine.

Various staff changes have taken place at Head Office, in that Sue Cuthbert who was our Finance Manager resigned in December as did Hazel Allerton. Our sincere thanks and best wishes for the future go to both. Dermot Hurd left us when his temporary contract finished, and we were pleased to welcome back Richard Hutchinson. Bronwen Stanway (HQ Management Team) left us on 3rd February. Dale Freeman is now Chief Operating Officer at Head Office, with financial support being provided by our Auditors (MacIntyre Hudson) in the interim, until further staffing is determined.

Elsewhere in this edition, you will find information about the Presidential inauguration and AGM to be held at the Palace Hotel, Torquay on 22/23 September. I encourage you to attend this prestigious occasion and make an early booking. This is a beautiful venue with the opportunity to spend a few days on the English Riviera. I look forward to meeting you at this celebratory weekend.

My best wishes for successful productions in the coming months.

John W. Barnes

Interim Chairman
National Operatic and Dramatic Association

NODA North
Gordon Richardson
gordon.richardson@noda.org.uk

NODA North East
David Streeter
david.streeter@noda.org.uk

NODA North West
Christine Hunter Hughes
christine.hunter@noda.org.uk

NODA Scotland
(Acting Councillor)
T. Davies Brock
davies.brock@noda.org.uk

NODA South East
Kay Rowan
kay.rowan@noda.org.uk

NODA South West
Nick Lawrence
nick.lawrence@noda.org.uk

NODA Wales and Ireland
Leah Collett
leah.collett@noda.org.uk

NODA West Midlands
Ian G. Cox
ian.cox@noda.org.uk

Life Members
John W. Barnes
john.barnes@noda.org.uk

Robert Lumsden
bert.lumsden@noda.org.uk

Gordon Blackburn – an appreciation

Gordon was first appointed to the NODA Scotland committee in 2002 to serve as the regional representative for District 6 covering Edinburgh. This was a role he was to fulfil with great diligence and commitment, striving to offer any help and support he could to the clubs and societies under his care. During this time he also acted as Long Service Award secretary dealing with numerous requests -often at very short notice.

In 2008 when Bert Lumsden was elected the National President of NODA, Gordon was elected as his successor as Regional Councillor for Scotland. A role he would carry out until his untimely passing on 9 January 2017 at the age of 68.

As Regional Councillor for Scotland he would travel to the Association's headquarters in Peterborough for regular trustee meetings and he took great delight in putting his fellow Councillors politely but firmly in their place. He was fiercely protective of NODA in Scotland and in particular our own charity NODA Scotland.

Gordon was keen to engage with NODA members up and down the country and loved nothing more than visiting shows with his sister Moira. He always took time to chat with both cast and crew afterwards passing on words of help and encouragement for future productions.

Gordon realised that for amateur theatre to survive and indeed flourish two things were vital:

- ★ Encouraging younger members to join clubs and societies.
- ★ Making clubs and societies realise they had to become more business-like in their approach to productions.

To encourage youth societies in their own right and youth sections within adult societies, Gordon worked tirelessly with our local Youth Advisor in Scotland to give these groups all the help and support they needed to grow and develop.

Whilst amateur theatre is for many a hobby, NODA realised that a business-like approach was necessary if groups were to survive. To this end they ran a series of workshops entitled The Business of Amateur Theatre. Gordon took these



Gordon in front of a display of programmes including one for his first show 'Cub Capers' in 1960 at the Empire Theatre, Edinburgh.

and refined them for a Scottish audience and presented them to members the length and breadth of the country.

The major event each year in the NODA Scotland calendar is the annual conference and AGM, held for the past 64 years at Peebles Hydro. For the 300+ guests who attended each year it just seemed to happen. For the committee and Councillor Gordon in particular there was a massive amount of planning and preparation that started almost as soon as one conference ended. Gordon always wanted the conference to be bigger and better, to evolve to serve the needs of the members and was not afraid two years ago, following feedback, to suggest a radical change to the format. It took two years to put in place but never was Gordon happier than when we departed

the Hydro on Monday 30 October last year. He said “Well, we did it”.

We all knew Gordon worked hard on behalf of NODA and he greatly appreciated the hard work, commitment and dedication of the members of the NODA Scotland committee each of them bringing valuable skills and experience to their individual roles. Although over the past three years or so I worked closely with Gordon as Regional Treasurer and Website and Facebook Editor, I don't think any of us really appreciated just how much work he did in the background above and beyond the duties expected of a Regional Councillor.

As well as his work for NODA, Gordon was also heavily involved in Edinburgh's amateur musical scene over a number of years as a performer, director and technical expert who was more than happy to share his wealth of knowledge and experience with others.

Gordon began his time on stage in 1960 at the Empire Theatre (now the Festival Theatre) in a show called “Cub Capers” because he was too young to join the Scout Gang Show. He did, however, join the following year and maintained his association with them latterly as Honorary Life President.

In 1976 he joined Southern Light Opera Company as their Company Stage Manager. This was an association, like the Gang Show, that was to last until his passing.

Gordon also directed shows for a number of companies throughout Scotland and twice had the good fortune to direct his personal favourite “Show Boat”.

For all that you did for amateur theatre and for simply being a friend, Gordon, thank you. ★

Stuart McCue-Dick
NODA Scotland Treasurer
and Web Editor



Gordon and his sister Moira Moyes at the 2016 NODA Scotland Conference at Peebles Hydro.

The Best Man



For Senior Youth Groups
or Young Adult Groups.
(think 'Fame' set in the UK)



... the Australian Version!

Directors... are you fed up with directing duplicates of West End mega-musicals where your artistic challenge is more one of copying than creating?

Treasurers... are you losing money on shows that are 'guaranteed' box office hits?

If the titles above convey something to you, then it's quite likely that your audience members will also understand what they're about... so put your audience e-mail list and social media posts to good use and offer them something fresh.

'Oklahoma' and 'Grease' have had their day, choose to delight and challenge your audience with something new.

Stagescripts

www.stagescripts.com

sales@stagescripts.com

0345 686 0611

THEATRICAL TRADERS ASSOCIATION

The Theatrical Traders Association represents all the affiliated traders who supply amateur theatre in the UK.
Membership of the TTA means a reputable supplier who maintains the standards set by the Association.

COSTUMIERS

Ace Theatrical Costumiers Unit G, Crown Business Park, Duketown, Tredegar Blaenau Gwent NP22 4EF 01495 350008 elande1@tiscali.co.uk	Ariel Company Theatre Costume Hire Unit 20, Bolney Grange Business Park, Stairbridge lane, Bolney, Sussex RH17 5PB 01444 250407 www.arielhire.co.uk	Dress Circle Costumiers Brook House, Maldon Road, Witham, Essex CM8 3HY 01376 515500 www.dresscirclecostumiers.com
The History Bunker Ltd. 263a Whitehall Road Leeds, West Yorkshire LS12 6ER 0113 220 5881 www.thehistorybunker.com	Molly Limpet's Theatrical Emporium Ltd. 712 Chesterfield Road, Sheffield S8 0SD 0114 250 0851 www.mollylimpets.com	Northern Costume Hire Long Ing Mill, Long Ing Lane, Barnoldswick, Lancashire BB18 6BJ 01282 817351 www.northerncostumehire.co.uk
Stage Costume Unit 2, Victoria Industrial Park, Victoria Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 5AJ 01322 311787 www.stagecostume.co.uk	Triple C's Costumes Brindley House, Engine Lane, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 7AQ 01384 893911 www.tripleccostumehire.com	Utopia Costumes Utopia House, Academy Street, Forfar, Angus DD8 2HA 01307 468231 www.utopiacostumes.com

SCENERY, PROPS ETC.

The Border Studio Riverside Mill, Level Crossing Road, Selkirk, Scottish Borders TD7 5EQ 01750 20237 www.borderstudio.com	HWL (UK) Limited Cricket Street, Denton, Manchester M34 3DR 0161 335 0220 www.hwlt.co.uk	Proscenium Ltd. Sladen Wood Mill, Todmorden Road, Littleborough, Rochdale OL15 9EW 01706 377226 www.proscenium.co.uk
Scenery Hire Ltd. Unit 10, Avondale Road, Avondale Industrial Est, Cwmbran, Gwent NP44 1UG 01633 262 728 www.sceneryhire.co.uk	Scenic Projects Ltd. Nelson Wharf Business Park, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9LP 01502 575000 www.scenicprojects.co.uk	Scenery Solutions Trading Ltd. Unit 2, Barton Farm Industrial Estate, Chickenhall Lane, Eastleigh, SO50 6RP 023 8064 1496 www.scenerysolutions.co.uk

RIGHTSHOLDERS

Stagescripts Ltd Lantern House, 84 Littlehaven Lane Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4JB 0345 686 0611 www.stagescripts.com
--

TICKET PRINTERS

Just Tickets 23 Wood Lane, Sonning Common, Reading, Berkshire RG4 9SJ 0345 126 0631 www.just-tickets.com
--

WIGS AND MAKE-UP

The Wig Centre (formerly Bromley Ltd.) Cricket Street, Denton, Manchester M34 3DR 0161 335 0687 wigs@hwlt.co.uk	D.R. Easton Ltd. 1 Dorothy Avenue, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 8LP 01273 588262 www.derekeastonwigs.co.uk
--	---

Look out for the TTA logo. For help with the supply of anything
for your productions contact the TTA helpline on 0345 126 0631

www.theatricaltradersassociation.co.uk



Notice is given that the Final General Meeting of The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (The Association), Charity No. 24640

Will be held on Saturday 23rd September 2017 at 2.15pm, at The Palace Hotel, Babbacombe Road, Torquay, TQ1 2TG.

Notice is given that the First Annual General Meeting of The National Operatic and Dramatic Association CIO (NODA CIO) Charity No.1171216.

Will be held immediately following on from the Final General Meeting of The Association, which will be held at The Palace Hotel, Babbacombe Road, Torquay, TQ1 3TG.

A report and audited accounts of The Association covering the extended period from 1 January 2016 to 30 April 2017 will be circulated prior to the meeting together with other reports, detailed agendas and timings for both "The Association" and "NODA CIO".

The Association Rule 27 c) requires that particulars of all resolutions required to be brought before the Annual General Meeting shall be given to the Chief Executive no less than 30 days before the date fixed for such meeting. To give effect to this rule and the equivalent in NODA CIO rules, notice shall be sent to John W Barnes, Chairman of Trustees, at NODA, 15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough PE2 7UH or by e-mail to john.barnes@noda.org.uk to arrive no later than 23rd August 2017

noda Theatre Summer School Passionate about Theatre

29th July –
5th August

NODA Theatre Summer School Visitors' Day

Many of you will now be aware that the NODA Theatre Summer School will, this year, will be held at Yarnfield Park near Stone in Staffs.

What you may not be aware of is that **Wednesday 2nd August** is this years Visitors' Day.

In the past this has been for the benefit of Regional Committee Members. With a new venue we have the new opportunity for NODA members to join the bubble, to experience the quality of teaching and get a feel for the types of courses we run. Tea/coffee and lunch can be provided.

There is a cost to attend the event and overnight accommodation can be provided for those who are travelling from further field.

For all your 'Visitors Day' enquires email jacquie.stedman@noda.org.uk or ask your District Rep or Regional Councillor. I look forward to welcoming you on the 2nd August.

Before I sign off, a quick reminder that there are a few places left at the Summer School for The Art of Burlesque and Directing Ayckbourn, you can book your place via the website.

Jacquie Stedman
Chairman
NODA Theatre Summer School 2017



roundup

NODA Youth Advisors

NODA East
Zelda Rolfe
zelda.rolfe@noda.org.uk

NODA East (North)
Tina Doyle
tina.doyle@noda.org.uk

NODA East (South)
Alexandra Berriman
alex.berriman@noda.org.uk

NODA East Midlands
Amanda Hall
amanda.hall@noda.org.uk

NODA London
Ann Hertler-Smith
ann.hertler.smith@noda.org.uk

NODA North
Michelle Coulson
michelle.coulson@noda.org.uk

NODA North East
Joanne Sykes
jo.sykes@noda.org.uk

NODA North West
Jenny King
jenny.king@noda.org.uk

NODA Scotland
Craig Inglis
craig.inglis@noda.org.uk

NODA South East
Jackie Kenyon
jackie.kenyon@noda.org.uk

NODA South West
Jack Price
jack.price@noda.org.uk

NODA Wales and Ireland
Zoe Richards
zoe.richards@noda.org.uk

NODA West Midlands
Louise Walker
louise.walker@noda.org.uk

All around the country there is some wonderful work going on with our young people. Even the weather could not stop youngsters in the North-East & East Midlands from making the most of NODA tutors, Sarah Osborne and Danyl Turvey. It didn't stop there. During their lunch break they participated in a focus group to discuss what they enjoy, what they would like to try; as well as learning a little about NODA and being encouraged to explore all opportunities open to them in amateur theatre.

Meanwhile down in the South-East preparations are underway for another "wonderland" production. Let's hope the youngsters and their audiences have a wonderful time.

Julian Fox of Stage One Youth was asked the important question, "What motivates us?". Unsurprisingly he came up with the answer "They do!" The question to you is "What inspires you to support your local youngsters?"

Steps to Stage Success

On a windy Sunday in February young people from across NODA North East, with some very welcome guests from NODA East Midlands, came together at a dance school in Ossett for a fabulous day of workshops to develop their stage skills. The participants were aged between 11 and 15 with the majority being at the younger end of the age range. The workshops were very active and the young people were only given a short break in the morning and afternoon and there were whispers of "It's not this hard in my Society!"

When asked about why they enjoyed performing in certain shows responses varied including the chance to take on a role, enjoying a particular genre of music and being allowed to create a different character. It was really pleasing to hear one participant explain that she enjoyed being in "Oliver!" because "We were given the chance to perform with adult members and be involved in a show that included a wide range of ages, not just children".

At the end of the day the young people were all encouraged to feed back on what they had enjoyed the most during the day and responses included: "All of it", "Everything", "I have enjoyed challenging myself with the dancing", "I enjoyed building my confidence in dance", "Learning new dance moves", "Making a character", "Building a character in drama", "Four Line Scenes in drama", "Short



performance", "Freeze frames", "I enjoyed working with and meeting different people".

All the feedback received from the young people and their parents was very positive. Overall a great day and hopefully a little introduction for young people about what NODA has to offer.

Jo Sykes, North East.

From Winter Wonderland to Alice in Wonderland



Knightstar Productions Youth Company have enjoyed a busy few months. In December they produced 'Winter Wonderland' - a compilation of suitably themed Christmas and Winter musical numbers, and now they are winging their way to Wonderland again this time with our production of Disney's "Alice in Wonderland Jr."

They have a group of around 20

youngsters from ages 8 to 14 of all abilities - some with years of dance and stage training and some who have never stepped on stage before! "What is lovely to see is how they all work together and support each other, making friends and growing in confidence along the way. This is as well as having FUN!! That's what it's all about after all!

Jackie Kenyon, South East

Stage One Youth

Since their foundation in 2010 Stage One Youth have received the London Region's Youngsters Award three times. This year they have been invited to perform at the London Region's AGM [which is a perfectly good reason to attend the meeting! VP.] Based in Maidenhead it caters for youngsters between 14 and 21. They have staged shows such as popular favourites "Les Miserables" - the school edition, "West Side Story" and "Miss Saigon". They are presently preparing "The Phantom of the Opera". They are obviously not afraid of a challenge. What is it that motivates them?

Co-Founder, Julian Fox says. "The first and most important thing is we have a

great circle of passionate adults who believe in the ethos that our rewards come from what the youth achieve. Watching the young people rise to challenges and regularly exceed their own expectations is a true delight and very rewarding experience. Julian admits that you have to be a bit crazy to offer up all the hours that this takes but they thrive on the youngsters' successes. For those looking to progress to Drama Schools and University Courses we provide a valuable opportunity to develop their skills with other like minded young people and encourage them to learn further by joining the many local adult theatre groups in our area.

London

How familiar is this to the work you do?

Whilst our method is through a stage production, we believe in providing skills that young people will benefit from in all walks of life:

Growing in confidence Learning teamwork Focus and discipline Challenging themselves

Committing massive effort and then deservedly relishing their achievements.

We challenge them to expand the perceptions they have of their own limits, push past them and realise that they should re-think those limits continually.



At their recent NODA meeting Council reluctantly accepted Phil Barnett's resignation as Councillor

for Youth. We are extremely grateful to Phil for the enthusiasm he has shown for the advancement of our youngsters and the inspiration he has been to us all. The work he has generated will be continued by our Youth Advisors around the country. Many thanks for all your time and effort, Phil, so generously given.



If you have some good ideas for workshops, why not contact your local Youth Advisor? She/He will be glad to hear your ideas and will work with you to help set up something near to you. Perhaps you could get a number of societies together to promote a joint workshop for your young people. NODA will be pleased to help find suitable tutors and your Youth Advisor can apply for some financial aid for you from the central pot.

Nick Lawrence Vice President



The North West Region will be holding their annual Youth Awards at the Mercure Hotel in Manchester on Saturday 29th April 2017. The Youth Meeting at 4:30 is where their young members and their parents can meet each other and discuss all things relevant to Youth Theatre. There will also be several Exhibitor stands where they can get details of new shows available, lighting and sound technology and show and group T-shirts. The four course banquet will begin at 6:30p.m. in the beautiful banqueting hall of the Mercure. This year there will be a cabaret by Pendleton Hippodrome Youth Theatre who were the winners of the Best Production at last year's awards. The actual awards then follow the cabaret. Just like the Oscars there are cheers for the nominees in every one of the 18 categories including youngster in an adult production as well as all the musical production awards. We finish the evening with a disco which gets everyone dancing and making new friends. It really is a fabulous evening to celebrate the talent shown by the young performers in the North West Region. **North West**

regionalroundup East

HALF CENTURY FOR SONYA

Sonya Taylor is a well-known figure in Felixstowe and has just celebrated 50 years' service with the Felixstowe Musical Society. Read more about Sonya in the next edition. ★



NOUGHTY ANNIVERSARY FOR PLAYERS

On the 9th April 2016, the Loddon Players marked 40 years of entertainment with a special Ruby anniversary reunion tea, and a walk down memory lane. The celebrations brought together over 70 members and friends of the group, which included those who have been involved with the Players over the last 40 years. Everyone enjoyed the event which had a party atmosphere with bunting, costumes, photo albums, press cuttings, a photo booth, and tombola. The celebration cake was cut by John Harris, who was responsible for starting the first pantomime in 1976, together with Maureen Larkin, our longest serving active member. Everybody who attended said what a lovely time they had had and how good it was to meet up with people whose contribution over the years has been so important and much appreciated. In particular the Players are very proud that, over the last 40 years, they have donated in excess of £75,000 to many local and national charities. Donations

have also been given to a number of young members of the group to help them on charitable events and those members who have moved on to professional careers in entertainment having spent time with the society. ★



East Committee

Councillor
Don McKay
01480 219181
don.mckay@noda.org.uk

Membership Secretary
Julie Petrucci
01223 880023
julie.petrucci@noda.org.uk

Treasurer
Tessa Davies
01702 525112
07803167786
tessa.davies@noda.org.uk

Web Manager
June Forway
01480 300409
june.forway@noda.org.uk

Awards Secretary
Jane Farr
01553 772038
jane.farr@noda.org.uk

Magazine Editor
Julia Rymer
07786 620623
julia.rymer@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor
Zelda Rolfe
01603 408017
zelda.rolfe@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor North
Tina Doyle
01733 2435014
tina.doyle@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor South
Alexandra Berriman
07800 893435
alex.berriman@noda.org.uk

Minutes Secretary
Catherine Dixey
01449 676878
catherine.dixey@noda.org.uk

East Districts & Representatives

DISTRICT 1
Sandra Samwell
01733 810367
sandra.samwell@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 1 ASSISTANT
Alex Berriman
07890893435
alex.berriman@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 2
Richard Fitt
01767 652115
richard.fitt@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 3
Nova Horley
01582 604344
nova.horley@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 4 N
Stephen P E Hayter
01553 810291
stephen.hayter@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 4 S
Julie Petrucci
01223 880023
julie.petrucci@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 4 S ASSISTANT
DeeDee Doke
01582 604344
nova.horley@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 5
Susan Dupont
01603 416638
susan.dupont@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 6
Terry Rymer
07786 620622
terry.rymer@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 7
Decia Ranger
01371 874073
decia.ranger@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 8
Alexandra Berriman
07800 893435
alex.berriman@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 9
Vicki Avery
01992 441441
vicki.avery@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 10
Tessa Davies
01702 525112
tessa.davies@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 11
Ann Platten
01787 374069
ann.platten@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 12
Pamela White
01449 721467
pamela.white@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 12 ASSISTANT
Linda Grey
01449 760567
linda.grey@noda.org.uk

Caged Birds Led To 70 Years And Going Strong!

Set up in 1947 the first production by St John's Players (Fulbourn) was *Birds in a Cage*. The police stopped the first play as the hall was not licensed! Only for the Players to fall foul of the law again when it was discovered that entertainment tax was due on each ticket sold and stamps had to be promptly purchased from the Post Office. Success followed and their two plays a year increased to three and



a Theatre Club began in 1966. During the past 70 years many, many people have been involved, on stage, behind the scenes and especially those who do not get to take a bow but without whom the group could not go on. The Players' first production of their 70th year, *The Railway Children*, saw all performances sold out. Happy Platinum Anniversary St John's Players. *Julie Petrucci District 4 South.* ★

Suffolk to Spain – The Tempest on Tour

An impromptu parade in the last weekend of July 2016 took the residents of the remote Spanish village Laroles by surprise. Starting at the bustling community pool and trailing through the winding hilly streets, the parade was comprised of actors and musicians from the English Sudbury Dramatic Society company of *The Tempest*, workshop attendees, children and the volunteers and organisers of the local *Me Vuelves* Lorca theatre festival. Singing and inviting the residents in both English and Spanish to attend a performance the following evening, the parade was the final piece in a series of preparations two years in the making and characterised by a spirit of collaboration that marked the entire production.

The company performed to an appreciative audience of well over 200 as part of the five-week festival in the open-air theatre in the Alpujarra Mountains, Granada. The audience was as vibrant and varied as the production, bringing in residents of Laroles, English people living abroad and travellers from Madrid and the surrounding area.

Festival director and founder Anna Kemp said, 'I was delighted with the results ... I have always known that the *Tempest* in English represented a golden opportunity to consolidate new, foreign, English-speaking public, or supporters of the project but it was always a gamble and it's great all our hard work paid off. I was also really pleased people from the local community came too, despite not speaking the language. We are all about making culture accessible and inspire others and we've had lots of very positive comments and enthusiastic responses which shows that theatre crosses borders and can unite people at a human level. (*The Tempest* was directed by Annie Eddington and produced by Sara Knight. Nine actors played all of the roles and the company also included musicians Martin and Janine Plackett, who composed original music and arranged period pieces from Spain and England for the production. That is the wonder that is Shakespeare - and indeed theatre itself. The *Me Vuelves* Lorca theatre festival is in its third year and is made possible by Kemp and her team of 20-plus 'very loyal, very hard-working volunteers.' Report submitted Heidi Bernhard-Bubb) ★

Singing in the Synagogue

On Sunday 8th May 2016, the Pied Pipers Musical Theatre Club staged a production at the Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue in Cambridge. This performance was in recognition of the Beth Shalom for the use of their Synagogue as rehearsal space during the lead up to The Pied Pipers' performance of *Singin' in the Rain*, which was staged at the ADC theatre from 5th - 9th April 2016. The Synagogue, which was about to open one night as week as a homeless shelter, agreed that The Pied Pipers could use the space on a Wednesday evening for the duration of their rehearsal period, in return for



The Pied Pipers putting on an evening of entertainment as a fund raiser for the Beth Shalom. The variety evening was made up of two halves of forty minutes and a raffle for the audience to participate in during the interval. It was a huge success and the profit for the Synagogue funds was £320, which will aid the Synagogue's homeless shelter fund. ★

60th Celebrations Across the Water

A recent joint Civic and Twinning Association visit to Rambouillet further strengthened the French Connection for Great Yarmouth to celebrate their 60th year Twinning anniversary.

The second occasion to celebrate this remarkable milestone was made in September, when a party from Rambouillet visited Great Yarmouth during the annual 'Out There' Festival held in St Georges Park.

By special request from our French friends, who had been previously impressed by song and dance routines put on for them at the Town Hall by our local Dusmagrik Young People's Theatre Company, 21 of their team of youngsters joined our coach trip this time, under the supervision of their leaders Mary and Rusty Carter and Janice Harvey.

The Dusmagrik children, aged between 11 and 15, were hosted in pairs and were also joined by two of their mothers. Their 45 minute song and dance performance at the National Bergerie theatre was much appreciated, especially with its nautical theme and song about 'wonderful Yarmouth'.

Lovely countryside and forests surround Rambouillet but things nautical, like boats, sea and sand, are conspicuous by their absence!

At the Gala Dinner on our final evening, the Dusmagrik youngsters again took to the stage for an impromptu Bollywood routine which I was told was one of their 'warm-up' routines. Well it almost set the room on fire with appreciative applause and laughter when some of the youngsters of the Rambouillet CCJ committee tried to emulate the dance moves on the high up balcony opposite the stage. How our children didn't miss a beat through giggling, I just don't know!

There followed an unveiling of the new Rambouillet town sign with the names of its five Twin Towns and the signing of our Twinning's 60th anniversary document by Kate Watts, on behalf of GYBC Chief Executive – witnessed by both town Mayors. Vive le Jumelage! Long live the Twinning! (submitted by Brian Granger - Great Yarmouth Twinning Association) ★

regionalroundup East Midlands

East Midlands Committee

Councillor
Nanette Lovell
01604 712651
nanette.lovell@noda.org.uk

Interim Secretary
Mavis Bedall
0115 913 9490
mavis.bedall@noda.org.uk

Membership Secretary
Phil Williams
0115 9198545
phil.williams@noda.org.uk

Interim Treasurer
Nanette Lovell
01604 712651
nanette.lovell@noda.org.uk

Web Manager
Alex Wood
01604 862634
alex.wood@noda.org.uk

Awards Secretary
Peter Beddall
0115 913 9490
peter.beddall@noda.org.uk

Magazine/News Editor
Alex Wood
01604 862634
alex.wood@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor
Amanda Hall
0773 9573079
amanda.hall@noda.org.uk

East Midlands Districts & Representatives

DISTRICT 1
Keith Scott-Savage
01332 670239
keith.scott-savage@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 2
Joyce Handbury
01773 745082
joyce.handbury@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 3
Martin Holtom
07854 171014
martin.holtom@noda.org.uk

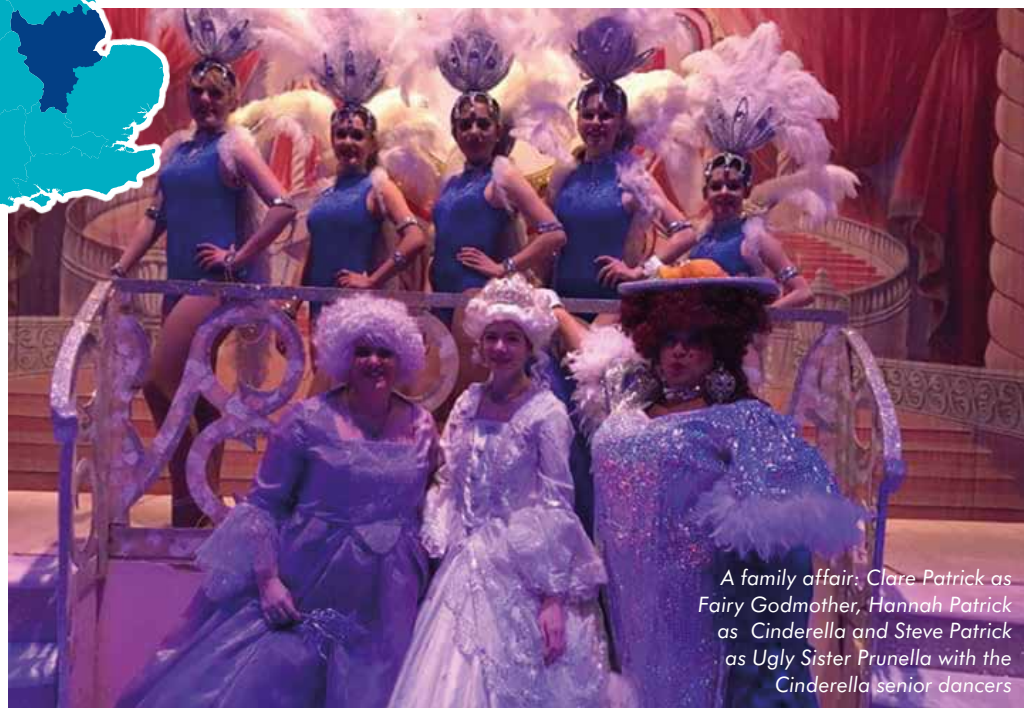
INTERIM DISTRICT 4
Anne Key-Huckerby
01522 682964
anne.key-huckerby@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 5
Peter Breach
01406 373359
peter.breach@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 6A & B
Christine Clarke
01455 610010
christine.clarke@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 7
Caroline Jervis
01536 391307
caroline.jervis@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 8
Jenny Chandler
01604 233709



A family affair, Clare Patrick as Fairy Godmother, Hannah Patrick as Cinderella and Steve Patrick as Ugly Sister Prunella with the Cinderella senior dancers

The Castle Theatre – Back in Business!

For those of you who have been following the story of the Castle (now called the Castle Theatre) Wellingborough I'm hoping that this is a sign of a happy ending for the theatre which is now fully back in operation again. It's also a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wellingborough Pantomime Society – who celebrated with their fine community pantomime Cinderella. It was nice to see things had got back to normal at the Castle Theatre! ★



David Fisher

David Fisher, who passed away very suddenly on Monday 23rd January 2017, was East Midlands District 4 Representative and, more recently, our Treasurer.

He began acting and singing at school and cubs but it was a drama course at the age of sixteen which gave him the acting bug. David had belonged to drama groups and musical societies all over the Eastern region including Bungay, Beccles, Worlingham, Great Yarmouth, Fakenham, Bottisham and Cambridge. With roles ranging from panto dames, Strephon in Iolanthe, Herr Flick, a Musical Hall Chairman and, most recently in Skegness, as Fraser from Dads Army.

David had, for the last nine and a half years, lived in Skegness with wife Miriam and was the Representative for District 4 since 2015. ★

EXTRAORDINARY TIMES – A CHRISTMAS STORY

Debbie Weetman, Producer/Director, Kaleidoscope Players, Derby recalls her experience of an eventful Christmas

December, and Panto week is about to begin! House full of props, drapes, backdrops, wigs, costumes. Then came the call! Our set builder/designer Barry (also playing Panto King) was on his way to hospital with a suspected heart attack! Clearly not glad tidings.

An emotional roller coaster ensued; thoughts for Barry and family jostling with the enormity of what this would mean for the coming week. Was it the stress of completing the set? Had he had enough help? Rapunzel's Tower was complete but stood proudly in our store, the plan of how it it all worked in Barry's head.

Imagine my relief when

- ★ four wise men turned up with power tools and expertise.
- ★ not three but four kings were to come forward offering their individual talents.
- ★ shepherds, after finishing their day jobs, flocked in to add finishing details.
- ★ angels appeared offering calming words and an abundance of support.
- ★ no frankincense or myrrh, but the alternatives of donuts and coffee were joyfully received.

With the set looking fabulous and Barry doing well 'Tec' rehearsals

were now in full flow.

Opening night arrived with me not sure if it was night or day anymore. Doors were cast open and there was room inside for everyone on a starry night. Cast, props and set came on and off mostly in the right places and there was sound and light. I began to relax and enjoy and be proud of what I had helped to create.

Other minor disasters included an very unexpected reijg of skills in the sound and lighting department, a stand in curtain operator, and a fall on the back stairs. All were overcome again with the help of our small band of willing volunteers.

These unforeseen events are probably mirrored in many amateur companies, although hopefully not all in the same week (only an unexpected birth would have completed my story). I reflected on how precarious it can be relying on a few committed members and other volunteers to do all those essential jobs. Many people want to 'tread the boards', but there are less who want to make the boards into scenery, make scenery appear and disappear, and create magic with sound and light. All to make what happens 'out front' work. WE need YOU!

And so I am back home, Barry is recovering well, and now with time to rest and eat proper food and hot coffee, what am I doing? Planning the next show of course! ★



'Need something special? I can make that!' – is how Martyn Plant introduced himself and became involved in a production of The Railway Children and much more...

The production team of The Railway Children at Concordia Theatre, Hinckley

were discussing how to get a railway engine for their production when Martyn made his generous offer. A couple of years earlier Jo, his daughter and regular performer at Concordia, had been urging her Dad to join the band of volunteer technicians, set designers and builders, particularly as he was an experienced engineer and, as she put it, "had a good eye for what was needed back stage". The steam engine with full steam and lights that he created turned out to be a masterpiece and definitely increased ticket sales as news of it spread among Hinckley theatre goers. Martyn has now developed his new found interest in becoming Stage Manager, set designer and builder for The Hired Man, which The Tinhatters, a NODA award winning society, presented at Concordia in October 2016. He also built a wonderful "Grease Lightning" motor car together with two sets of bleachers, all tested for load bearing, for our recent production of Grease. In addition we have purchased a Ford Cortina car and six Singer sewing machines for our production of Made in Dagenham in 2018, with Martyn providing both transport and now storage for these tremendous properties. So in just a few short years Martyn has become a key person amongst our tremendous workshop team for not only The Tinhatters but also Concordia Theatre.

Several performing groups are already expressing interest in his goodies and if any other society is interested in hiring any of these items please contact Martyn on 01455 212722 or 07932 617513. By the way you can hire them but you can't have Martyn! ★

★ NODA EAST MIDLANDS ★ ★ LONG SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTED ★ ★ JULY TO DECEMBER 2015 ★

Members are reminded that there is a variety of ways by which NODA can reward your service to amateur theatre. For details of the badges, medals and pins available contact head office or your regional councillor. Oh – and always allow a reasonable amount of time (six weeks) for the award to be delivered.

★ **65 YEARS**
★ **Erewash Musical Society:**
★ Fay Kirk, and Jean Simmons

★ **60 YEARS**
★ **Long Eaton Operatic Society:**
★ Jennifer Carty

★ **45 YEARS**
★ **Chesterfield Operatic Society:**
★ Diane Sanderson

★ **Long Eaton Operatic Society:**
★ Angela Walters

★ **40 YEARS**
★ **Chesterfield Gilbert & Sullivan Society:**
★ David Stokes

★ **Long Eaton Operatic Society:**
★ John Fox

regionalroundup London

London Committee

Councillor
Jacquie Stedman
020 8529 3318
jacquie.stedman@noda.org.uk

Regional Secretary
Ann Hertler-Smith
01923 267604
ann.hertler-smith@noda.org.uk

Treasurer
Dave Evans
07966 173956
david.evans@noda.org.uk

Membership Secretary
Frances Chalkwright
020 8926 7413
frances.chalkwright@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor
Ann Hertler-Smith
01923 267604
ann.hertler-smith@noda.org.uk

Magazine Editor
Rosemary Roberts
01628 636984
rosemary.roberts@noda.org.uk

Long Service Awards Secretary
Harvey Kesselman
020 8621 3192
harvey.kesselman@noda.org.uk

Social Media
Nick Ford
07748 966 011
nick.ford@noda.org.uk

Councillor's Comments

Welcome to this edition of NODA Today.

Well here we are in 2017 with a new year ahead in which to continue this wonderful hobby of ours. I am pleased to report that Amateur Theatre is alive and well in the London Region and I hope it continues to be that way.

At the end of February we judged the Programme and Poster competition for those productions which took place in 2016 – many thanks to all those of you who submitted entries. The standard was very high and it is not an easy job and takes all day – but at least the judges get fed and watered during the course of the day! The winners will be announced on 4 June as part of the Regional Weekend and Performance Festival on 3 and 4 June and feedback forms will follow soon after that.

At our Regional Weekend we will have our brochure as usual so this is just a reminder that if you want to take a boxed advert for your next show after June (or whenever) within the brochure then you need to get in touch with our Editor Rosemary Roberts (roberts.noda@btconnect.com) who will be pleased to assist. This brochure will be double value this year as it will cover the whole weekend ... and the rates are very reasonable!

You should all have received the initial information about the Regional Weekend – we are very excited about

this new venture and sincerely hope that it will make belonging to NODA a truly theatrical experience. We are changing our venue which will give us more space for workshops and enable us to welcome back our theatrical traders. **Do please keep the date free – you'll have a great time! ★**

Jacquie Stedman
Councillor



didyoumada?
We have a suggestion box
suggestions@noda.org.uk



Below Stairs

Royalty free musical by local NODA member

Below Stairs came into being back in 2001 when the composer, Alan Lewis, wrote it as a way of keeping sane during the first of three cancers. He and the writer, Trevor Pilling, worked hard to get it premiered in Chesham in 2002 and since then there's been a further 15 productions. The show is royalty free, Alan only asks that you raise money for Cancer Research UK at the performances. To date the show has raised £8,750 for the charity.

The simple, believable, story is set in Edwardian London at the outbreak of WW1 and backed by a varied melodic score that writer/actor Simon Williams of *Upstairs, Downstairs* describes as fabulous. The story revolves round a lady's maid, Lucy Ambleside, a bright, intelligent young woman with ambition and a gift for mimicry. Having always wanted to appear in Music Hall, she auditions on her day off and gets an occasional spot with the

local impresario, but life thereafter gets complicated.

Below Stairs requires a minimum cast of 12. Excluding minor roles, there are named parts for six females (one being early teens), and eight males (one also early teens) plus chorus. The score is available for piano, or piano, keyboard and double bass.

"Why does it succeed so brilliantly? The basic excellence stems from well-polished script and lyrics, giving the foundation for a fine variety of tuneful songs. Witty lines and good humour were supplied in abundance... and the finale was superb." Bucks Examiner

Visit **www.belowstairs.com** to learn what's involved, and listen to some of the tracks from the show and download the script. And if you do go ahead, you'll be helping to promote a feel-good musical that ultimately benefits not only the society and the audience but a very worthy charity as well. ★



A WORD ABOUT P-R-O-J-E-C-T-I-O-N

One of the most difficult things an actor, amateur or professional, has to make sure of is that their dialogue must be spoken clearly and with the understanding that whatever is said must be heard by the audience sitting at the back of the auditorium. It is no use depending upon a sound engineer, if one has a personal mic., to increase the volume if the speaker delivers their dialogue on stage too quietly, as, in that case, turning up the sound would cause distortion. Any director of a show, be it a play or a musical, knows the dialogue so well that unless they sit at the back of the theatre, or in the circle (if there is one) during a dress rehearsal, they have no idea whether the dialogue on stage can be heard by the audience sitting in those seats during a performance.

Even in a small venue, a church or a school hall, words spoken on stage must be projected. In other words delivery should be spoken louder than one would use in everyday conversation. Always make certain you are facing towards the audience when speaking, if that is not possible and you have to turn your back to the audience, increase the volume. Even in a two way conversation on stage, your face should be angled so that your speech can be heard throughout the theatre without relying upon the 'sound man'. Projection, projection, projection. ★

Harvey Kesselman

London Districts & Representatives

DISTRICT 1
Tony Sweeney
020 8654 0682
anthony.sweeney@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 2
Zena Wigram
01895 636028
zena.wigram@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 3
VACANCY

DISTRICT 4
Robin Kelly
020 8859 1354
robin.kelly@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 5
VACANCY

DISTRICT 6
Andrew Rogers
020 8508 9635
andrew.rogers@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 7
Paul M Holgate
020 8804 9553
paul.holgate@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 8
Tony Austin
01895 634288
tony.austin@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 9
Bill Baynes
020 8428 0533
bill.baynes@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 10
Mike Monk
07792 784455
mike.monk@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 11 & 11a
Judith Watsham
01494 774557
judith.watsham@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 12
Rob Bertwistle
07731 642907
rob.bertwistle@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 13
Jeanette Maskell
01635 41791
jeanette.maskell@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 14
Susan Boobyer-Pickles
07900 136073
susan.boobyer@noda.org.uk

Terry Hunt
07758 888943
terry.hunt@noda.org.uk

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

KEEP THE DATE FREE – The NODA London Regional Weekend and Performance Festival will be Saturday/Sunday 3 and 4 June. Further details to follow in due course, plus how to advertise in the Awards Day brochure.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



regionalroundup North

Councillor's Chat

Welcome to 2017, having survived the almost weekly entreaties of societies looking for last minute replacements for flu victims, surviving the inevitable groans at having to rehearse between Christmas and New Year, and surviving the panto season whilst being followed by ghosts 'behind you'.

We all have come through the other side –

well almost everyone. Some long standing societies sadly fell by the wayside due to dwindling membership. A lesson to us all - we all must be vigilant and aware of promoting ourselves to not only our public but within our own hobby – articles on these pages are of local societies doing just that – I hope 2017 is kind to you all. ★

Gordon Richardson
Regional Councillor

There is nothing like a dame!

December 2016 saw Riverside Musical Theatre Company with a real problem; due to unforeseen circumstances their panto dame was unable to complete the run of their panto "Jack and the Beanstalk". On the afternoon of their second performance date a call went out to friends to see if anyone could help them with only 4 hours until curtain up. That call was answered by Lee Brannigan who was in rehearsal for his professional panto "Aladdin" at the Alun Armstrong theatre a few miles away. Lee, who was in full make up as he had been doing a publicity photo-shoot, stepped in complete with costumes, wigs and his own comedic style and saved the show. With a script in his handbag which he hardly referenced, he powered through the show and saved the hard work of the rest of the cast from being in vain. This was true camaraderie in amateur theatre, well done Lee! ★



Lee with the some of the cast of "Jack and the Beanstalk"



Seeing double Cinderella

Two societies, who were both performing "Cinderella", worked together and planned their publicity photo-shoots for the same day and in the same venue. The casts of Jarrow Musical Theatre Company and Dryburn Theatrical Workshop met in the historic Lambton Castle and shared the talents of David Brennan and Stagedoor Photography for their photographs. Lambton Castle has been used as a film set for many professional television productions including "The Paradise" and "Worst Witch" and was made available to the groups due to a member who is in both societies being friends with the owner. Great fun was had by all in this beautiful location and a photograph of both sets of principals together was a must. ★

Photograph courtesy of Stagedoor Photography



Improvisation classes for Coquetdale ADS – hopefully Improve-isation!

Northumberland may be an isolated rural community but it has a vibrant amateur dramatics scene, recently demonstrated to the regional representative when she came to CADS' opening "rehearsal" of the season. A totally different approach had been taken at the start of working on our recent panto "Treasure Island".

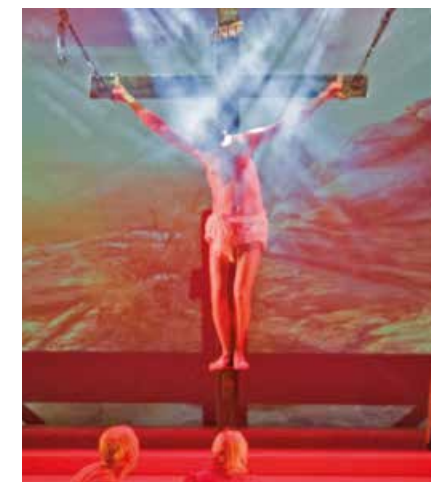
Instead of our usual procedure of read-through, auditions and casting, new director John Mawer introduced CADS' members to three weeks of improvisation classes without any reference to the script at all. These classes proved to be hugely popular and hugely enjoyable as well as teaching us valuable acting techniques.

John's experience of improv and expertise in teaching has been gained by working for several years as a stand-up comic in London and regularly appearing at the Edinburgh Fringe. Coquetdale's audiences were delighted when newcomer John played the baddie in CADS' last production Ali Baba. CADS' members were equally delighted when he accepted our invitation not only to write a new panto script, but also to direct it.

The emphasis in the classes was on stage craft and stage awareness. After warm-up and ice-breaking games we were invited to say and do silly things to overcome any inhibitions. Focus games, in which we had to pay minute attention to what was going on all the time, or else risk spoiling the game for everyone, were great fun

aimed to get us to be fully aware of what is happening on stage at all times. There were exercises in developing spontaneity and expressing particular emotions without actually saying anything, or when speaking gibberish. Short impro scenes were played out by small groups whilst other members formed the audience. There was no shortage of volunteers; we all thoroughly enjoyed the games and activities which John gradually developed.

All of this impro work, John hopes, could provide shortcuts for once the group is working on stage. "Actors are often fixated on the director telling them what to do, whereas it is the actor's interpretation that is important," he says. The director's job is to make sure it all comes together – "like a policeman directing the traffic, but not driving the car". So what we all learned is that impro is not about the final version of the show – it's about how we get there. As John puts it, "Going from dictatorship to democracy." ★



Winners Again @ 65 Years Young

2016 was another very successful year for the multi award winning Teesside Musical Theatre Company. As well as celebrating 65 years in musical theatre, they also won the NODA District 8 Adult Performance Award for their 2016 production of "Jesus Christ Superstar". The talent of two of TMTC's young members was also recognised, as Emily Bashford won the District "Rising Star" award for her performance in the group's production of "Scrooge – The Musical"; meanwhile Hannah Smith was nominated for the District Adult Performance award for her mature and accomplished performance as Mary Magdalene in JCS. This success encourages optimism that TMTC will still be around in another 65 years.

As part of the 65th year celebrations, TMTC performed a concert to reprise many of the songs performed in previous years. Alison Dale, their Director, also gave the Youth Company the opportunity to take part; a chance for the future to also be celebrated. Following the concert, members continued the celebrations with a dinner dance at Eaglescliffe Golf Club. This was a well earned chance for members to unwind after weeks of intense rehearsals.

TMTC are enjoying well deserved acclaim for recent productions, and it is hoped that ticket sales will be boosted by their reputation for the upcoming 2017 production of "Spamalot" being performed at Middlesbrough Theatre on 15-20 May 2017. "Spamalot" was aptly described by the Newcastle Evening Chronicle as "a pantomime for all seasons", and TMTC's production promises to be spectacular and hilarious, appealing to everyone who wants to leave the theatre feeling thoroughly entertained. ★

North Committee

Councillor
Gordon Richardson
0191 586 6350
gordon.richardson@noda.org.uk

Treasurer
Derek Coleman
derek.coleman@noda.org.uk

Regional Secretary
Pauline Swann
pauline.swann@noda.org.uk

Awards Secretary
Fred Piggford
fred.piggford@noda.org.uk

Membership Secretary
Pauline Swann
pauline.swann@noda.org.uk

Webmaster
Gordon Richardson
gordon.richardson@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor
Michelle Coulson
michelle.coulson@noda.org.uk

Regional Editor
Vacant

North Districts & Representatives

DISTRICT 1
Ray Lowry
ray.lowry@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 2
Foster Johnson
foster.johnson@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 3
Michelle Coulson
michelle.coulson@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 4
Peter Oliver
peter.oliver@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 5
Michael L. Avery
michael.avery@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 6
Peter Parlour
peter.parlour@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 8
Jean Scarlett-Carr
jean.scarlett-carr@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 9
Kathryn Curry
kathryn.curry@noda.org.uk

Supporting amateur theatre in times of need...

“ Our claim was dealt with efficiently. I sent in the relevant paperwork as requested with a covering letter and that was it! ”

“ Procedure was swift, simple and effective - pleasantly surprised ”

“ This is the first claim we have had over many years and the staff were most helpful. We will remain with Lloyd & Whyte and recommend them to other drama groups. ”

Society Insurance | Committee Insurance | Home Insurance

www.nodainsurance.co.uk

Call: 01823 250736

noda
INSURANCE
Protecting Amateur Theatre

NODA Insurance is a trading style of Lloyd & Whyte Ltd, used under licence from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. Lloyd & Whyte Ltd are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Calls may be recorded for use in quality management, training and customer support.

NODA Presidential Gala and AGM 2017

The Palace Hotel, Torquay
Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th September

Welcome to the South West, join us for the inauguration of Nick Lawrence as President of NODA and the National AGM. The Palace Hotel in Torquay has been booked and we have the whole weekend to catch up and celebrate at a venue that has been welcoming NODA South West for a number of years. In fact, the National Weekends of 2002 and 2010 were held at this friendly venue, incidentally for Nick, it will be a triple celebration.

A WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION

FRIDAY: We welcome you to the NODA South West Region and invite you to join us and your Regional Councillors to an informal dinner, where we will be raising a glass to the weekend.

SATURDAY: Help celebrate and support your talents at this year's workshops, and of course the National AGM at 2.15pm and inauguration of Nick Lawrence as National President, followed by a formal dinner and dancing to a live band, cabaret and a general knees-up.

SUNDAY: A time for Regional Committee Members from across the country to meet at 10am, while the showstoppers' workshop keeps family and travel companions entertained. Attendees can book (on arrival) for the optional Carvery lunch. This is an opportunity to celebrate the weekend and raising a cheer in honour of Nick's 65th birthday surrounded by NODA friends before leaving for home.

The Palace Hotel can be described as "Old fashioned charm with modern conveniences" The hotel is 4 minutes' walk from the beach, set in 25 acres of beautiful gardens and woodland, the hotel has 2 swimming pools, a 9-hole golf course and a restaurant serving English and French cuisine.

The Hotel is the former home of the Bishop of Exeter and has been a luxury

hotel since the 1920s and is ideal for a leisure break. We can make arrangements for you to stay longer should you wish. NODA members will be pleased to know the on-site parking is free and there is free Wi-Fi in public areas, it is close to the centre of Torquay and the harbour can pander to your off stage pursuits.

The hotel will make no extra charge for single occupancy, and so the various prices are all worked out per person.

You can book your place(s) with a non-refundable deposit of £50.00 per person. This can be paid by cheque made out to NODA and sent to Nick Lawrence at 63, Mill Street, Ottery St. Mary, Devon EX11 1AB. For BACS or Credit Card payments, contact Nick Lawrence – nick.lawrence@noda.org.uk for account details.

SPECIAL OFFER : If you pay in full by 21st July 2017 you can take advantage of a reduced fee.

Final booking and final payment date is Friday 8th September 2017.

NODA Presidential Gala and AGM 2017

The Palace Hotel, Torquay
Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th September

BOOKING FORM

Please print for accuracy:

Name(s):

Address:

..... Postcode:

Email: NODA Region:

Phone (emergency only):

N.B. Confirmation and other news about the celebrations will be sent via email. Your tickets and name tags will be available with complete information packs including timings on your arrival.

Please tick which is your chosen package:

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A: to include 2 nights (Friday & Saturday) bed & breakfast
£275.00
*£250.00 before 31 st July | <input type="checkbox"/> B: to include 1 night (Saturday) bed & breakfast
£210.00
*£200.00 before 31 st July | <input type="checkbox"/> C: Saturday including Evening gala – non-resident
£75.00
Deposit £25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> D: Gala dinner dance only
£45.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> E: day delegate with workshop & lunch – non-resident
£40.00 |
|---|---|--|--|---|

Please tick if required: ☐ Sunday Lunch optional extra (£15.95) ☐ Saturday workshop (£10.00)

Extra stay: including evening meal and bed & breakfast. Please tick the nights required:

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday 18th
£69.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday 19th
£69.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday 20th
£69.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 21st
£69.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday 24th
£69.00 |
|---|--|--|---|---|

Type of Room required: ☐ Double ☐ Twin ☐ Single

Dietary Requirements: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Dairy Intolerant ☐ Nut Allergy

Other:

Payment choices:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Deposit
(non-returnable)
£50.00 per person | <input type="checkbox"/> Pay rest in full before 31 st July | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 further payments before 31 st July | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 further payments before 9 th September. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pay in full at time of booking including non- returnable deposit | <input type="checkbox"/> Pay rest in full before 9 th Sept. | <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by BACS Bank Sort Code 60-83-01 Account Number 20379546 Quote AG and your name |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque made to NODA | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card payments. Contact Nick Lawrence for account details | |

Disability considerations (there are lifts to all floors):

Send form to Nick Lawrence, 63 Mill Street, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1AB or email nick.lawrence@noda.org.uk

Please note:

South West Region Annual General Meeting: Friday 22nd September 6:30pm in the Bishop Suite

Traders' Exhibition: Saturday 23rd September in the Sun Lounge

Acting, Singing & Technical Workshops: Saturday 23rd September 10:00am

Annual General Meeting of the Association: Saturday 23rd September 2:15pm in the Bishop Suite

Regional Committee Members' Annual Meeting: Sunday 24th September 10:00am in the Anstey Room

Showstoppers Workshop: Sunday 24th September 10:00am – 12:30pm in the Bishop Suite.

Online booking form: <http://bit.ly/2nfmjpt>

The Changing scene, NODA as a CIO

EGM on 1st April
Chris Ingram
(Immediate Past President),
Michael Hastilow
(President)
John W. Barnes
(Chairman)
Nick Lawrence
(Vice President)

© Janine Graeme

NODA is a collection of individuals and societies who have grouped themselves together in what is called "an unincorporated body" It is a form of association developed in the 19th century and has worked reasonably well until 21st Century where it begins to creak under the amount of legislation, regulation and changing social attitudes.

The Council of NODA recognising these changes have been looking at incorporation for some 2 years and considered the best form for NODA would be to be incorporated as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under the auspices of the Charity Commission.

The advantage of this route is that only Charities can be incorporated as a CIO and this reduces the regulations under which we have to operate. One set of returns to the Charity Commission and

only compliance with the Charity Act and their rules on accounting standards whereas to be incorporated through the Companies Acts requires a balancing act meeting the Companies Act regulations on governance, accounts and returns and those required by the Charity Commission where not all aspects are identical to those of the Companies Act.

The benefit is that NODA as a CIO has its own existence whereas as an unincorporated body it can only operate through its trustees. Property had to be held by trustees on behalf of the Association and this form of ownership has to be followed for other contracts. Financial liability extends to all its members. This has not been a major issue as NODA was and is financially sound, however it has been recognised as a potential risk. With incorporation, the risk of such liability is eliminated.

The way in which NODA is structured and governed will not change once the

transfer has been approved. Member societies and individual members will continue to elect Regional Reps and Councillors. Regional Councillors will form the governing body.

The technicalities for achieving this were at the EGM called for 1st April. At this meeting members were asked to approve the transfer to the CIO, an organisation of which they then became members with similar rights to those they had in the "old NODA" but without the liability and still with a governance structure mirror imaging the "old NODA". With the passing of the EGM resolutions the change-over will take place on 1st May.

Our National Conference in Torquay in September will now host two formal meetings; the final meeting of NODA, the association, and the First Annual General Meeting of NODA, the CIO. Between the two meetings, all the business and activities we associate with the National will be covered. ★

regionalroundup North East

North East Committee

Councillor
David Streeter
0114 235 2490
david.streeter@noda.org.uk

Regional Secretary
Judy McMurray
0114 236 2430
judy.mcmurray@noda.org.uk

Regional Treasurer
Geoff Haywood
01226 724925
geoff.haywood@noda.org.uk

Membership Secretary
John Parsons
01724 334931
john.parsons@noda.org.uk

Web Manager
Bryan Craven
0113 252 2514
bryan.craven@noda.org.uk

Long Service Awards Secretary
Pamela Booth
01943 430318
pamela.booth@noda.org.uk

Regional Editor
Tony Harris
01377 272063
tony.harris@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor
Jo Sykes
07967 504554
jo.sykes@noda.org.uk

North East Districts & Representatives

DISTRICT 1
Terry Harrison
01423 870656
terry.harrison@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 2
Helen Dent
01723 317688
helen.dent@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 3
Tony Harris
01377 272063
tony.harris@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 4
John Parsons
01724 334931
john.parsons@noda.org.uk

Councillor's Comments

By the time everyone is reading this, the 2017 NODA North East Gala Weekend and AGM will have taken place. As people will know from various regional correspondence, I had decided during the autumn last year that, having been Councillor for five years, I would step back and not stand for re-election. The nomination and election processes took place early this year and your new Councillor will have been announced at the Regional AGM and subsequently published on the North East regional pages of the NODA web site. In accordance with the Association's rules, the Councillor Elect will formally take over as Regional Councillor at the NODA National AGM in September.

The biggest challenge for the Councillor, and indeed the district Regional Representatives, is to ensure that the membership base are aware of all the benefits of being part of the Association. If you are unsure, contact your district Regional Representative or visit the NODA web pages to ensure you get the information.

I count the format modification to the Bridlington Gala Weekend, distribution of Summer School Bursaries, Regional Workshops, District Meetings and advice to those Societies who have requested it, as positive contributions during my tenure. I will remember this period with affection. But you will not be getting rid of me. I will attend the future Bridlington Weekends and will be able - as an Individual Member - to ask all those awkward questions at the AGM. I am joking of course - maybe.

My congratulations and best wishes to the incoming Councillor.



I thank everyone for the welcome, support and friendship received over the past five years. To all Societies my best wishes for all future productions and I thank all Individual & Joint Individual Members for their support of the Association.

David Streeter
Councillor, NODA North East



Society's 200th Production

North East Regional Councillor David Streeter and Les Smith, Representative for North East District 5, recently visited the Civic Theatre, Rotherham, on the occasion of Rotherham Phoenix Players 200th production. The chosen play was 'Theft' by Eric Chappell, author of the well-known TV comedy 'Rising Damp'.

Pictured are Back row: Julie Webb, Director and Regional Representative NE Area 14, Les Smith, Frank Bardsley (Trevor), Greg Muscroft (Spriggs), Mark Hague (John), David Streeter, Neil Mather (Chairman). Seated: Gloria Elford Box (Barbara), Tracey Briggs (Jenny). ★

DISTRICT 5
Leslie Smith
01226 756654
leslie.smith@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 6
Mary Titterton
0114 236 8619
mary.titterton@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 7
Noel Rigg
01924 466659
noel.rigg@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 8
David Lockwood
01484 322868
david.lockwood@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 9
Christine Castle
0113 2664672
christine.castle@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 10
Jacqui Hartley
01422 706050
jacqui.hartley@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 11
Sally Holmes
0113 2192095
sally.holmes@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 12
Judith Smith
01274 568305
judith.smith@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 13
Geoff Haywood
01226 724925
geoff.haywood@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 14
Julie Webb
0114 2551869
julie.webb@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 15
Pamela Booth
01943 430318
pamela.booth@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 16
Bryan Craven
0113 252 2514
bryan.craven@noda.org.uk



Britain Has Spirit Winner

Nick Challenger from South Yorkshire based Wales Musical Theatre Company and Wales Panto Society has recently been announced as a regional winner of the Britain Has Spirit awards. The awards, run by Together Mutual Insurance, have been established to recognise the work of local volunteers as research shows there is room to build spirit in local communities.

Community is at the heart of what Nick believes in. He leads two local theatre groups with almost all his spare time being spent doing something associated with the groups including writing scripts, running rehearsals, ordering more extravagant costumes and, the area that has been highlighted for the awards, supporting a group of local kids. This is where he comes into his own. There are no rules to join the group - after all it's a fully inclusive community group. No singing or dancing experience is required, anyone can have a go. This ethos has ensured that

children who wouldn't have been given the opportunity anywhere else have thrived and built a new found confidence.

The award judges highlighted the work with one particular boy with autism who rarely went out and had few friends. When Nick was asked if the boy could join the group as he loved pantomime he was open to providing the help and support to make it happen. Two years on he is a well-loved member of the group who appears on stage in both Showstoppers and the annual Pantomime. He has grown in confidence and has friends within the group.

This is just one example of the amazing community group run by Nick Challenger who went forward for the national award. Unfortunately he did not win this ultimate award but getting so far is a great tribute to his work and to the support he obviously receives from the members of his societies. ★

Les Smith

Settle Awards

Two members of Settle Amateur Operatic Society (husband and wife) enjoyed a joint presentation of their NODA 50 Year Long Service Awards at their "retirement" celebration party in September 2016, also attended by the Regional Representative for North East District 11, Sally Holmes, and her husband Gary.

John and Helen Reid have both been members of Settle Amateur Operatic Society for 50 years. Having held the posts of Chairman and Secretary for 29 and 25 years respectively they decided to retire from the organisational side of the society after the AGM in February last year.



The awards were presented at an Afternoon Tea held at Langcliffe Institute. Pictured are John and Helen with Chris Ingram. ★

LAOS – The Musical Theatre Company.

Following two years of 'hibernation' from presenting productions at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, LAOS have not been idle, using the time to organise fund-raising projects, which they continue to do. The good news is they have secured a week's run at the world-famous City Varieties Music Hall in Leeds for a production of 'The Full Monty' in May 2017. This iconic theatre, which re-opened four years ago after an 8 million pound refit, will be the perfect venue for this musical. The society will then return to the Grand Theatre, Leeds, in 2018 with a production of 'Cats' and we wish them well. ★

Steps to Stage Workshop

NODA North East ran a day long workshop for young people aged 11-16 in February. Staged at the West Yorkshire Theatre Dance Centre in Ossett, which is fairly central for the Region as a whole, the day included participation in dance and drama workshops led by Danyl Turvey and Sarah Osborne respectively.

Another full Youth Day for 16 to 18 year old members of affiliated societies was planned to take place at the Region's annual Gala Weekend at Bridlington in the middle of April when dance, drama and singing workshops were organised along with a tour of The Spa complex. Those attending also had the opportunity to see a performance of "Broadway to Bridlington" by Steps Productions and get their first taste of the Region's Weekend – we hope they will be back in future. ★

Summer School Bursary Awards

Winners of the Region's Summer School Bursary awards were announced at the Bridlington Gala Weekend and, following auditions and interviews, the successful candidates for National Bursaries were Cat Enos (Dinnington Operatic Society), Ian Start (Beverley Musical Theatre) and Tristan Waterworth (Bridlington AODS). Regional Bursaries were awarded to Karen McCarthy (Whitby Amateur Dramatic Society), Dean Patrick (Bramley Parish Theatre Players), Kirstie Probert (Dinnington Operatic Society and Individual Member) and Vivien Siberry-Scott (STOS Theatre Company). ★

regionalroundup North West

Committee Friends Stand Down

North West Committee

Councillor
Christine Hunter Hughes
01772 728817
christine.hunterhughes@noda.org.uk

Regional Secretary
Sharon Drummond
01706 854208/07976 076962
sharon.drummond@noda.org.uk

Regional Treasurer
Trevor Mills
01477 534843
trevor.mills@noda.org.uk

Web Manager
Ian Johnston
01900 66209
ian.johnston@noda.org.uk

Awards Secretary
Christine Sanderson
01772 827812 / 07961 561647
christine.sanderson@noda.org.uk

Magazine/News Editor
Anna Mansell
07971 193616
anna.mansell@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor
Jenny King
0151 639 4189
jenny.king@noda.org.uk

North West Districts & Representatives

DISTRICT 1
Kevin Proctor
07771 961865
kevin.proctor@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 2
Eddie Regan
01772 453885
eddie.regan@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 3
David Slater
01282 423079

DISTRICT 4
Budge Grounsell
0151 639 8328
budge.grounsell@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 5
Jackie Kay
01204 852410
jackie.kay@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 6
Pat Connor
01257 277615
pat.connor@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 7
Sharon Drummond
01706 854208
sharon.drummond@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 8
Louise Colohan
07999 049807
louise.colohan@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 10
Ed McGee
01900 603050
ed.mcgee@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 11
Martin Craig
01229 431516 /
07870 835997
martin.craig@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 12
**Lloyd Bamber
& Luke Taberer**
Luke: 07906 358645
Lloyd: 07971 544242
lloyd.luke@noda.org.uk

The North West Committee has said 'so long, farewell' to two of its committee members.

Long standing District 11, Cumbria, representative Katherine Carradus has stood down from her position.

Katherine, who's been a member of Kendal Amateur Operatic Society since 1955 – making her debut in Rio Rita – and is the society's President, became a district rep in 2009 although had helped her predecessor Edith Yates for some time before that.

She said: "I've had a ball, met wonderful people and seen fantastic shows, but it is the people who have made being a district rep so special."

Fellow Cumbrian and KAOS stalwart Joan Carnaffin has been the North West committee's secretary for four years.

Katharine looked back fondly on NODA

trips with her friend, including the NODA centenary celebrations in London in 1999.

"The invites asked people to dress theatrically for the ball at the Natural History Museum, so I was the Merry Widow and Joan dressed from Desert Song," she said. "But when we arrived, not a person was in costume. Not one."

"And the following day there was a cruise on the Thames, but we knew what to expect although we still went ahead wearing our gingham dresses and wigs. We'd been to Leeds for the costumes, and had a real job getting them packed into our suitcases."

"We looked such a sight we couldn't even get a taxi after the cruise, I think they thought we'd been out all night."

District 7 representative Sharon Drummond has taken on the secretary role, and Martin Craig is the new District 11 representative. ★

Katherine as Julie Jordan in Carousel in 1961 and...



...The Desert Song, as Margot, in 1986



Let's Do It, Did Good For Charity

A one-night only performance of the late, great comedian Victoria Wood's sketches raised more than £1,000 for charity.

Performers from Oswaldtwistle's Civic Arts Centre staged Let's Do It! to a full house at the Civic Theatre in memory of the popular Lancashire actress, writer and comic.

Civic Arts Centre and Theatre members Joanne Shepherd and Gayle Knight selected some of Wood's most popular moments, such as Two Soups, My Friend Kimberly and extracts from sitcoms Dinnerladies and Acorn Antiques.

Gayle said: "We thoroughly enjoyed putting together such a special tribute to a truly wonderful performer, while raising money for a worthy cause at the same time."



After the performance, the cast presented more than £1,200 to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Luke Ashley Taberer and Lloyd Bamber, North West regional representatives for District 12, awarded the event with their Tom Kinder Memorial Award at the local area's awards celebration.

Lloyd said: "It was great to see people

of many ages getting involved with a production that had such sentiment at heart.

"Victoria Wood was such a well-loved performer, and nowhere more so than here in her home county of Lancashire, and the Civic Arts team created a very enjoyable night – made all the better for raising such a good amount of money for charity." ★

Glittering Events Around The Region

Regional reps across the North West have once again celebrated achievements in their areas with local awards nights.

Winners from each of the events, held in districts covering Manchester, East Lancashire, Preston and the Fylde Coast, and West Lancashire, all go forward to the North West's regional awards during its AGM weekend in central Manchester.

Across the four events, around 1,500 amateur theatre lovers wined and dined, before collecting their trophies. ★



Party goers celebrate at the North West district 3 awards night



regionalroundup Scotland

NODA Scotland Conference

The NODA Scotland Conference 2017 will be held from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October at Peebles Hydro, Innerleithen Road, Peebles EH45 8LX. Full details will be posted in due course.

The Enduring Popularity of Gilbert & Sullivan

Tomorrow (at the time of writing), on a Sunday night in the Scottish winter, Edinburgh Gilbert & Sullivan Society will enthusiastically come together for a sing-along performance of *HMS Pinafore*. It will be enjoyed by performers and audience alike, even though the show is 139 years old this year.

Surely this must be because *HMS Pinafore* was at the time one of the most popular of the G&S operas, and still is. Surely the less popular examples have long since faded away? But not so! St Andrews University G&S are currently working on *Utopia, Limited* for performance in April.

This was one of the least popular in its day, and remains one of the least known today. Yet it persists. G&S remains popular.

Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society are just about to take to the stage with *Ruddigore*. It's a show full of bright, catchy music, and of course contains the famous ghost scene. Although it's fair to say that *Ruddigore* has never been at the most popular end of the scale with the public, amongst G&S performers it is one of the most popular operas to be in. The



Gilbert & Sullivan operas all remain popular in their various ways. The existence of companies focused on their performance alone is ample proof. Of course, there are fluctuations in "audience appeal", and that's where something of a change is taking place. Assuming the show is well done, our experience is that audience members thoroughly enjoy it. Even those audience members who have not been to a G&S opera before, and may have been somewhat

apprehensive, also thoroughly enjoy it. The challenge is that it is becoming more difficult to get those who have never experienced a Gilbert & Sullivan before to be part of the audience in the first place. So many other options are available.

Having said that, the popularity of Gilbert & Sullivan remains strong and clear amongst performers and audiences alike. And long may it continue! ★

George Alexander, Chairman,
Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society

NODA Scotland Website and Facebook

The NODA Scotland Web Manager will be delighted to receive contributions to the NODA Scotland section of the website. Here you will find all sorts of useful information including news and show listings which can be submitted as far in advance as you have made plans.



Don't forget we also have a very active Facebook page – please spread the word about this to your members.

Items for inclusion on either the website or Facebook page should be emailed to stuart.dick@noda.org.uk ★



Our Future is Here!

Minerva Youth Theatre is a vibrant, young company which stages its shows in Eastwood Park Theatre on the south side of Glasgow. The playing members range from twelve to twenty years in age and the creative production team led by Artistic Director Susan B Russell, assisted by Musical Director Chris Pugh and Choreographer Donna Reilly, is always on the lookout for newly released shows to expand and test the enthusiasm and abilities of the members. It was therefore quite natural for them to be in the lead for a performing licence when The Really Useful Group and patron of NODA, Lord Lloyd Webber, released the acclaimed musical *Cats* to amateur youth theatre. ★

T Davies Brock, Acting Councillor,
NODA Scotland, and Regional
Representative (Renfrewshire, Ayrshire
& Bute)



KAOS at 110

Kirkcaldy Amateur Operatic Society, founded in 1907, can trace its roots within the history of Kirkcaldy Musical Society which was formed in 1866. The first production, *The Pirates of Penzance*, was followed by a run of Gilbert & Sullivan Comic Operas spanning the years before and after the Great War.

The early productions up to 1932 took place in the King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy – designed by John D Swanston and opened in 1904. In 1933 productions switched to the Adam Smith Halls, the building being the home of productions to this day.

By the mid 1920s there was a move away from the Gilbert & Sullivan tradition towards other musicals of the era e.g. *A Greek Slave* and *The Nautch Girl*. As the decade proceeded Edwardian musicals such as *The Arcadians* (which was a Scottish Amateur Premiere) were being produced. In 1927 the Society staged G&S for the last time (*The Mikado*) with however a unique distinction of being produced in repertoire with *A Country Girl* throughout the week. In the run up to the Second World War 1920s musicals prevailed, e.g. *Rio Rita*, *The Desert Song* and *Rose Marie*. Following empty war years 'The Opera Week' returned in 1946 with a production of *Véronique*. In 1950 *Show Boat* was staged – a musical which challenged opinions.

As with other societies KAOS staged productions annually for the remainder of the century as they became available for amateur production. The aim was to challenge the company and also to provide audiences with a varied experience of the musical genre. At times compilation shows were created and in conjunction with the Adam Smith Theatre a second biennial production was staged.

Throughout the 110 years that the Society has been performing in Kirkcaldy it has continued to try new musical styles as well as staging old favourites, continually developing the talents of its members as well as entertaining the community. We hope to continue to do so for many years to come. ★

Harry Kerr, Honorary President & Archivist,
Kirkcaldy Amateur Operatic Society

GORDON T. BLACKBURN

Societies and Individual Members in Scotland are saddened at the loss of our Councillor, Gordon T Blackburn, a tribute to whom appears on page 3 of the magazine.

The Florians Need You!

The Florians, one of the North of Scotland's oldest and best known drama clubs, are looking to replace the seating in their 98 seat theatre in Inverness. Following a major refurbishment in the 1990s, we installed plush second-hand seating obtained from the Gaiety Theatre in Ayr. This seating has served us

well over the years, but is now starting to show its age (we reckon around 80 years old), and spare parts are impossible to find. Does anybody out there know of any good quality second-hand theatre or cinema seating for sale? Perhaps your local theatre has recently been refurbished? Maybe a theatre or cinema near you has closed and the seating is surplus to requirements? If anyone out there is able to help, we would be most grateful. Thank you! Please contact: treasurer@florians.org.uk ★



regionalroundup South East

South East Committee

Councillor
Kay Rowan
01420 83076
kay.rowan@noda.org.uk

Regional Secretary
Pauline Catterall
01730 827200
pauline.catterall@noda.org.uk

Regional Treasurer
Keith Smithers
01903 419913
keith.smithers@noda.org.uk

Membership Secretary
John Barnes
01580 830830
john.barnes@noda.org.uk

Web Manager
Mark Donalds
023924 69197
mark.donalds@noda.org.uk

Awards Secretary
Margaret Coltman
01202 658380
margaret.coltman@noda.org.uk

Magazine/News Editor
Gregory Gower
01323 737813
gregory.gower@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor
Jackie Kenyon
07533 884599
jackie.kenyon@noda.org.uk

Assistant Regional Rep (East)
Phillip Hall
01273 473500
phillip.hall@noda.org.uk

Drama Advisor
Margaret Fields
01962 775 438
margaret.fields@noda.org.uk

Media Guru
Vanessa Denson
SEmedia@noda.org.uk

South East Districts & Representatives

DISTRICT 1
LANCE MILTON
07803 896871
lance.milton@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 2
Brenda Gower
01323 737813
brenda.gower@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 3
Anne Lawson
01424 428693
anne.lawson@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 5
Gordon Harris
01634 402323
gordon.harris@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 6
Cheryl Mumford
cheryl.mumford@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 7
Doreen Grierson
01474 813611
doreen.grierson@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 9
Jose Harrison
01903 892248
jose.harrison@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 10
Mark Donalds
023924 69197
mark.donalds@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 11
Vacant

DISTRICT 12
Gloria Smith
01932 866323
gloria.smith@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 13
Marie Coltman
01202 581385
marie.coltman@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 14
Chris Horton
01256 882 426
chris.horton@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 16
Rita Boffin
01983 731491
rita.boffin@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 17
Mark Allen
07889 677182
mark.allen@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 18
Pauline Surrey
07976 587642
pauline.surrey@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 19
Jon Fox
020 8668 6768
jon.fox@noda.org.uk

Councillor's Comments

It seems a long time since I have had a Councillor's Comment published however that was mainly due to exciting articles coming in from you the members. Do keep them coming. Greg Gower our Regional Editor will be pleased to discuss any ideas you have for articles.

Last year we held the Regional Celebration in Alton. This year we are moving to a new venue nearer to the east of the region. See advert. We are hoping to attract even more traders than we did last year who added their particular touch of glamour to the occasion. We very much appreciate their support.

You will have read elsewhere of the exciting times that are ahead for the NODA Theatre Summer School at its new venue. The courses are going like hotcakes with the usual wide range of courses and excellent tutors. Last year four of your regional reps visited the School for a day and experienced first-hand the inspirational atmosphere created by everyone and

they will undoubtedly be singing from the rooftops trying to get you to sign up. John Barnes and I are lucky enough to be part of the team behind the scenes and wouldn't miss it for anything. Financial assistance, help, aid, support, backing, grant or bursary – they all amount to the same thing - is available in the form of training grants from your South East Committee. So far we have awarded 4 bursaries for this year. Please contact me if you would like more information - similarly if you know of someone who would benefit let them know.

By the time you read this spring rehearsals and shows will be in full swing and the pantomime season well and truly ended so my reps and I will be yet again being royally entertained by the wide range of talent that is here in the South East performing an ever widening variety of shows.

Success to all of you in all your theatrical endeavours. ★

Kay Rowan
South East Regional Councillor



NODA South East Celebrates!

with our annual Presentation of Awards, AGM & Entertainment. In the presence of National President Michael Hastilow

Sunday 2nd July 2017 2.30pm
Barnham Community Hall
Yapton Rd, Barnham, Bognor Regis PO22 0AY

Trade Stands & Displays open at 12.30 Anyone requiring further information or wishing to exhibit or display should contact **pauline.catterall@noda.org.uk** ★

NODA SOUTH EAST AWARDS WINNERS

District	Society	Name	Award
2	Battle Light Opera Group	John W. Barnes	20 Year Badge
3	Little Common & Bexhill Players	Lyn Ford	25 Year Long Service Medal Award
3	TWODS Limited	Colin Moore	60 Year Diamond bar & Certificate
8	The Forge Singers	John Bateson	10 Year Badge
		Nikki Sinclair	10 Year Badge
9	Littlehampton Musical Comedy Society	Malanie Baker	25 Year Long Service Medal Award
		Charlotte Reader	10 Year Badge
		Mark Roberts	10 Year Badge
		Ian Sheppards	10 Year Badge
		Melanie Short	10 Year Badge
		Kelly Manchee	10 Year Badge
		Claire Bennett	10 Year Badge
9	HAODS (Horsham Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society)	Christine Tomkin	15 Year Badge
		Jane O'Sullivan	30 Silver Bar
		Lynn Andrews	30 Silver Bar
		Philip Chadwell	35 Silver Bar
		Yvonne Chadwell	40 Silver Bar
10	South Downe Musical Society	Lauren Kempton	10 Year Badge
		Becky Garnett	10 Year Badge
		Tom Hudson	15 Year Badge
		Julie Davies	20 Year Badge
		Dave Harkness	20 Year Badge
		Charles Gennes	40 Year Silver Bar
Youth Awards			
10	Fareham Musical Society	Matthew Swann	3 year award



HAODS (Horsham Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society) celebrates 150 year of service to amateur theatre From left to right Yvonne Chadwell (40 years) Jane O'Sullivan (30 years), Jeremy Quinn M.P. , Harriet Douglas, Christine Tomkin (15 years), Philip Chadwell (35 years) Lynn Andrews (30 years).

★ WANTED ★

ASSISTANT REGIONAL REPS to support a vibrant and experienced team of Regional Reps - all parts of the region needed. Must enjoy all aspects of theatre, have the ability to visit societies and willing to write a review as part of the roles' requirements. Training is given/provided.

Apply by email in the first instance to SE Councillor Kay Rowan:
kay.rowan@noda.org.uk ★

Awards Round Up

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A LONG SERVICE AWARD?

Awards for members who have contributed to NODA over an extended period – 10 years and upwards.

NODA YOUTH AWARD – A Youth Award may be awarded from the age of 11 after a minimum of three years' service to a maximum age of 20 ie. The Award may first be presented at the age of 14.

NODA YOUTH CERTIFICATE – A Youth Certificate may be awarded from the age of 5 for every three years of service to a maximum age of 20 ie. The Certificate may first be presented at the age of 8.

More info from your NODA SE Awards Secretary Margaret Coltman:
margaret.coltman@noda.org.uk ★



Lyn Ford has been involved with Little Common & Bexhill Players for 25 years and is currently Secretary of the society. She has played principal roles in plays, revue, murder mystery and pantomime. She has devised and directed two revues, a play and in 2015 her first pantomime

regionalroundup South West

South West Committee

Councillor & Membership Secretary
Nick Lawrence
01404 758463
nick.lawrence@noda.org.uk

Regional Secretary & Pantomime Liaison
Iain Douglas
07880 543 719
iain.douglas@noda.org.uk

Regional Treasurer
Adrian Vanstone
01395 272 803
adrian.vanstone@noda.org.uk

Regional Webmasters
Stuart Lyddon
07827 317 532
stuart.lyddon@noda.org.uk

Sarah Hall
sarah.hall@noda.org.uk
Regional Awards Secretary
Frankie Telford
01453 842 695
frankie.telford@noda.org.uk

Regional Editor
Matthew Heaton
01249 713 743
matthew.heaton@noda.org.uk

Conference Administrator
Lynne Caygill
01395 272 577
lynne.caygill@noda.org.uk

Regional Youth Advisor
Jack Price
07921 290 654
jack.price@noda.org.uk

South West Districts & Representatives

DISTRICT 1
Oriel Bennett
01726 883 523
oriel.bennett@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 2
Kathy West
01208 816 214
kathy.west@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 3
Michael Simpson
01752 330 159
michael.simpson@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 4
Iain Douglas
07880 543 719
iain.douglas@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 5
Graham Liverton
01395 579972
graham.liverton@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 6
Janet Elworthy
01823 680 117
janet.elworthy@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 7
Mrs Dianne Ffitch
07799 557871
di.fffitch@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 8
Leigh Conley
07496 612258
leigh.conley@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 8A
Jo Wilson-Hunt
01823 663 257
jo.wilson-hunt@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 9
Sue Pomeroy
01278 662 181
sue.pomeroy@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 10
Petra Schofield
07966 552 853
petra.schofield@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 11
Sylvia Coates
07904 929 989
sylvia.coates@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 12
Brian Oliver
brian.oliver@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 13
Tony Winstone
07974 289 817
tony.winstone@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 14
Mrs Dee Way
01225 867 099
dee.way@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 15
Frankie Telford
01453 842 695
frankie.telford@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 16
Stuart Dark
07894 660 060
01793 630 655
stuart.dark@noda.org.uk

Society Celebrates over 150 years of Service to Amateur Theatre!

St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society held their Annual Dinner at Carlyon Bay Golf Club recently. During the evening, presentations were made on NODA long service awards. These included awards for 50, 45 and 30 years and others totalling 165 years. The awards are presented to individuals who are part of amateur theatre in many ways - including stage hands, front of house staff and those on stage.

The awards presented were to John Vickery (50 years), Angela Moon (45 years), Andy Gill (30 years), Mandy Raikes (20 years), Sarah Pease (10 years) and Darren Williams (10 years).

A spokesman for the society said that "It is important to recognise the commitment that it takes to make our shows as enjoyable as they are, and provide entertainment in our community".

The society is already planning next year's show which will take place at the Keay Theatre in January 2018.

For further information please contact Andy Gill on 07714 587621 ★



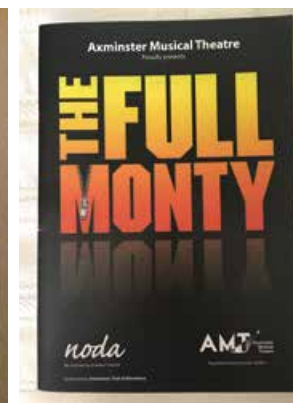
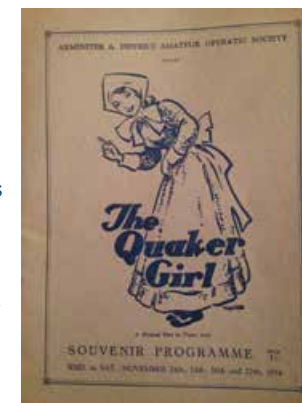
Service Award
Winners: left to right:
Andy Gill, Angela
Moon, John Vickery,
Mandy Raikes, Sarah
Pease and Darren
Williams.

Do you have any ideas
for NODA to consider?
Email them to
suggestions@
noda.org.uk

Axminster Musical Theatre has something big to celebrate!

Axminster Musical Theatre, until recently Axminster and District Operatic Society, will be celebrating its 75th production in November this year. The Society was formed in 1926, putting on HMS Pinafore as their first production. A show each year followed, until *The Quaker Girl* in 1939 when the War interrupted. Shows recommenced in 1954 with *The Quaker Girl* marking its return and providing the Axminster area with one of the musical highlights of the year. There was a short break between 1961 until 1965 when the Society did not perform due to major refurbishments at The Guildhall.

Since then there have been productions at The Guildhall every year. This November will be a first for the Society when it is performing the much loved



South Pacific with NODA President Elect Nick Lawrence at the helm as director and with Ian Crew as musical director.

Anyone who would like to be part of this exciting production should contact Axminster Musical Theatre, via the website www.axmt.co.uk.

Featured are one of the earlier programme covers, through to the cover of last year's *The Full Monty*. ★



Leigh Conley takes over Mid and South Somerset Area

Meet your New Representative for the South West's District 8

I'm the new NODA South West Representative for District 8. I have only been a Rep for a few months, but really enjoy this role as it allows me to see some great shows, that I wouldn't normally see, and meet some incredibly passionate people.

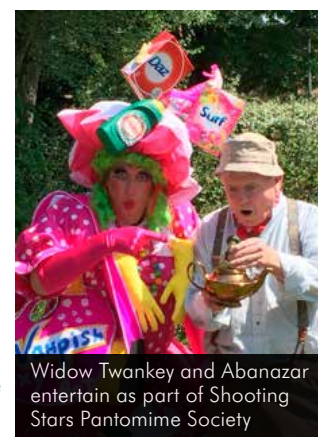
I live in Chard with my partner Judith; her son Tristan and my daughter Piper. I also have two younger children, Georgie and Xander, who are regular visitors to our home. I work as a Teaching Assistant, which is a great job and I have just started to take on an, unofficial, role as Drama coordinator for the school. One day I would love to do a role like this in an official capacity.

I have been involved in Amateur Dramatics for 15 years and my first role was as Herr Flick in 'Allo 'Allo. Since then I have been in numerous productions but my favourite roles would have to be as Francis Henshall in One Man Two Guvnors and as Herod in Jesus Christ Superstar, it was during this production that I met my partner (she was one of Herod's dancers). I have directed a few times and was very pleased to have won the NODA South West Award for Best Comedy Production 2015, for my production of Cash on Delivery.

When I am not Am-Dram'ing I am a bit of a film geek and I help run a Community Cinema in Chard. We all also enjoy playing lawn bowls (even though we're not in our 70s!). If I could give a top-tip to a drama club it would simply be enjoy yourself - if you're having fun, then so will the audience. ★

Shooting Stars Pantomime Society does it for Charity!

As we all know, there is nothing better during the festive season and in the New Year than a traditional pantomime to truly conjure up theatre magic for all the family.



Widow Twankey and Abanazar entertain as part of Shooting Stars Pantomime Society

New to NODA group Shooting Stars Pantomime Company, based in Monkton Heathfield, Somerset, did this as they brought the enchanting tale of Aladdin - packed full of laughter, surprises, illusions and songs to the Tacchi-Morris Theatre stage in Taunton. It featured professional Magic Circle illusions performed by the great and evil Magician, Abanazar himself, and a Widow Twankey, who from 'her' soapbox 'Daz-led' the audience with an eye catching array of costumes!

Shooting Stars Pantomime Company is a non-profit community group founded by pantomime dame and magician Nigel Ford to raise funds for Selworthy School in Taunton, a co-educational special school for children and young

people with learning difficulties aged 4-19. Nigel always wanted to put on a pantomime in the village where he spent much of his younger years.

They were also very fortunate to have Tommy Banner of The Wurzels as Patron of this Pantomime company, who was honoured to be associated with this project. For many years Tommy was a driver for disabled people in Taunton and was so pleased to be involved with this new venture.

Businesses also showed their support by making a donation to sponsor seats and therefore subsidise the cost for local community and school groups who may not ordinarily have been able to attend. In total they raised just over £3000 for a very worthwhile cause and of course royally entertained families from the local community from 6th - Sunday 11th December. ★

Image © Stuart Lyddon



regionalroundup Wales & Ireland

Wales & Ireland Committee

Councillor
Leah Collett 01792 587509
leah.collett@noda.org.uk

Regional Secretary
Jackie Titley 01686 650955
jackie.titley@noda.org.uk

Regional Treasurer &
Membership Secretary
Ian Hogg 01686 650955
ian.hogg@noda.org.uk

Magazine Editor
Dee McIlroy 01873 855311
07531 260935
dee.mcilroy@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor
Zoe Richards 07816 149856
zoe.richards@noda.org.uk

Web Manager
Guy Wooles 02920 710818
guy.wooles@noda.org.uk

Awards Secretary
Lyn Emmerson
01492 870205
lyn.emmerson@noda.org.uk

Wales & Ireland Districts & Representatives

DISTRICT 1
Lyn Emmerson 01492 870205
lyn.emmerson@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 1A
Jackie Titley 01686 650955
jackie.titley@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 2
Sheelagh Hobart
02891 852760
sheelagh.hobart@noda.org.uk

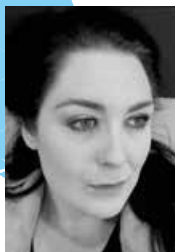
DISTRICT 3
Dee McIlroy 01873 855311
dee.mcilroy@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 5
Luke Spencer 01554 229904
luke.spencer@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 6
Jordan John Hill
jordan.hill@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 7
Sharon Davies
01633 764939
sharon.davies@noda.org.uk

COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS



Welcome everyone to another edition of NODA Today. Over the last few months we have been enjoying the wonderful work across the Wales & Ireland region and excited to bring you some highlights in this edition. We have also been hard at work finalising our regional weekend where we have some

wonderful treats lined up, we hope to see you there.

In the meantime pop the kettle on, put your feet up and catch up with us. ★

Leah Collett
Wales and Ireland Regional Councillor

WALES & IRELAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE & AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Sunday 28th May

REGIONAL AGM

Monday 29th May

Three Counties Hotel, Hereford. Guest Speaker Connie Fisher & masterclass by Caroline Sheen – Stars of the West End*

**subject to change due to professional engagements*



NODA Regional Conference Masterclass with Star of the West End Caroline Sheen

THE STARS OF ABERGAVENNY A4B AWARDS 2016



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



Images © Seren Image

- 1 Tom Davies Best Supporting Actor under 25 with Abergavenny President Patrick Foy
- 2 Eleanor James Best Supporting Actress under 25 with Peter Holder
- 3 Liz Davies Chairman of A4B presenting The Off Stage Award to President of Abergavenny Rotary Club Patrick Foy
- 4 Alys Le Moignan Best Actress under 25 with Barrie Jackson
- 5 Cecilia Bawler Best Actress & Supporting Actress with President of Rotary Club Patrick Foy
- 6 Miles Harding Best Actor under 25 with Andrew Fowler
- 7 Rob Jenkins Director AAODS Sister Act
- 8 Bernard Zavishlock Award to Barrie Jackson presented by Sarah Fowler
- 9 Director, MD & cast Sister Act with Mayor & Mayoress of Abergavenny

Address change for NODA Long Service Awards

We would like to remind all members that the address for Lyn Emmerson Badges and Medals Secretary has changed. To avoid disappointment please check the NODA website where all information will be listed and new forms available. **noda.org.uk**

A Song, A Dance, A Con and a Welsh Premiere!

Swansea AOS turned Swansea Bay into the French Riviera in March for the Welsh Amateur Premier of Dirty Rotten Scoundrels the Musical. Although it was a tad colder the spectacular views captured the Riviera's sophistication and charm with the Dylan Thomas Theatre creating the perfect setting. Based on the 1988 comedy starring Sir Michael Caine and Steve Martin the Broadway hit musical has had successful runs in both the West End and the UK tour. Here at NODA we are always excited to see what shows the rights holders may release next. With nearly every show choice requiring multiple committee meetings and a touch of blind faith it is always a difficult choice to make and in many ways a gamble for any society. After Sister Act and The Addams Family becoming popular releases with societies and drawing in most cases great audience figures we can't wait to see what comes next and look forward to many more premieres throughout Wales and Ireland.

Shout about it!

Is your production a District/ Regional premiere?
Send your details and photos to **leah.collett@noda.org.uk**

regionalroundup West Midlands

COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS



As the traditional pantomime season ebbs in the Amateur Theatre calendar, I am confident NODA members and their appreciative audiences can reflect on a highly successful and enjoyable time.

societies and groups who are celebrating significant anniversaries this year and it is hugely encouraging to see a number of youth groups achieving notable milestones since their formation.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming you all at our Regional Conference and AGM on Sunday 23rd April. This year when we have a new venue and format. At the awards ceremony, you will of course find out the runners up and winners in the various production categories. Throughout the day there will also be opportunities to speak with your representative and other members of the regional committee. ★

Ian G. Cox
West Midlands Regional Councillor

I am delighted to have attended many quality productions in addition to pantomimes including musicals, drama, and youth groups. All of which have been thoroughly entertaining and the visits made even more special thanks to your warm welcomes and kind hospitality.

In this issue, we are highlighting some

Clocking up the years between them

Worcester Operatic and Dramatic Society celebrate 125 years this year, the celebrations kicked off in February with a Dinner Dance at the same venue as their first meeting. The society are performing "HMS Pinafore and Other Infernal Nonsense" in April, a nod to their first production and a few in between.

Congratulations to North Staffs Operatic Society who are also celebrating 125 years with a celebratory evening in June. Members, past and present will perform excerpts from many shows and will be joined by some past members who have gone on to make theatre their profession.

Spotlight Youth Productions are celebrating 20 years of fun, laughter and entertainment this year, here pictured in their recent production "The Most Incredible Panto" ★



North Staffs Operatic Society



Spotlight Youth Productions

West Midlands Committee

Councillor
Ian G. Cox 01527 543808
ian.cox@noda.org.uk

Regional Secretary and
Regional Treasurer
Wendy Winterburn
01432 273907
wendy.winterburn@noda.org.uk

Membership Secretary
Paul Douglass
07876 190519
paul.douglass@noda.org.uk

Webmaster
Jordan McFarlane MBCS
07450 250059
jordan.mcfarlane@noda.org.uk

Awards Secretary
Wyn Mason 01782 616486
wyn.mason@noda.org.uk

Regional Editor
Janine Graeme
janine.graeme@noda.org.uk

Youth Advisor
Louise Walker
louise.walker@noda.org.uk

West Midlands Districts & Representatives

DISTRICT 1
Louise Hickey MBE
01531 635133
louise.hickey@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 2
Kay Ikin 01948 880200
kay.ikin@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 3
Rachel Millar 01785 602830
rachel.millar@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 4
Alison Smith 07961 069505
alison.smith@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 5
Andy Brown 01905 795996
andy.brown@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 6
Joyce Eyre 07711 625353
joyce.eyre@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 7
Jean Beard 01902 882362
jean.beard@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 8
Dennis Price 01384 571737
dennis.price@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 9
Paul Douglass 07876 190519
paul.douglass@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 10
Bruce Wyatt 01905 840684
bruce.wyatt@noda.org.uk

DISTRICT 11
Brian Hirst 01543 677144
brian.hirst@noda.org.uk

Meet the Award Winning Stars of Side by Side.

In 2002, Side by Side Theatre Company of Stourbridge performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the first time and have done so seven times since. In 2007, they performed at the Platengymnasiet College in Motala, Sweden and they also achieved Best Musical On The Fringe at Brighton Fringe Festival in 2008.

Other accolades include performances at Prague Fringe Festival, and being part of the RSC's Open Stages Project in 2012 and 2015. Additional notable successes followed with appearances at the Dudley Festival of Music, Drama and Dance.

It was from the 'Learning for Life' Drama Course at Stourbridge College that the group evolved and now through workshops and the artistic ideas of members create their own work. Susan Wallin, their Artistic Director rightly expresses great pride in the group's achievements as they prepare to celebrate their 20th year.

Testimonies from Side by Side members include "It is an amazing group to be part of", "Side By Side has helped me so much in confidence, self-esteem and making friends", "If it hadn't been for Side by Side I wouldn't be where I am now!"

Sarah proudly holds her 15 year NODA Medal and with over 19 years with the company has played major roles in their productions.

Susan adds that "joining the group has provided James with new found



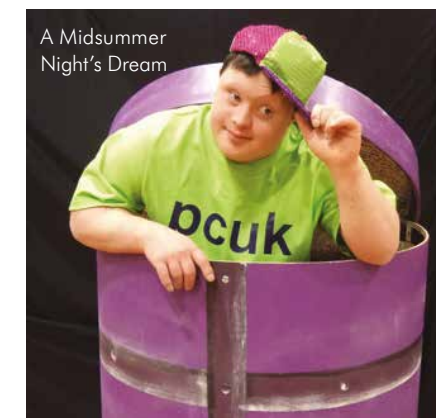
Myth In Store



Trial of Peter Pan

confidence demonstrating a lovely singing voice and enjoying performing on stage as a Sorcerer, Gang Leader, a singer, a Judge and a Fairy King"

Ben, 7 years with the company, has played many character parts, including a highly acclaimed 'Puck' in their version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' alongside



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Susie who played the Fairy. Susan notes Susie's accomplishments in taking lead roles and speaking for the company at public events has been the making of a once quiet nervous young person.

An intense passion for performing is seen by many of our societies as the opportunity to forge and develop friendships with likeminded people. Encouragement to find voice and prominence by taking leading roles also helps boost self-confidence in other areas of our lives.

Side by Side surely is one society who focus on and cherish their members' input and abilities. Nothing holds these guys back, Happy 20th Anniversary and we look forward to many more productions from this much talented company. ★

Susan Wallin Artistic Director of Side By Side and Janine Graeme – West Midlands Regional Editor



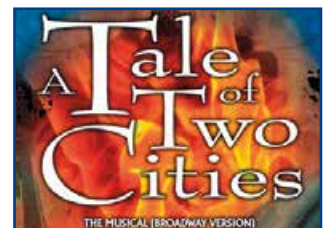
Congratulations to NODA West Midlands Societies who made it to the What's On Readers Award finalists lists in the categories of Best Amateur Dramatic/Operatic Group and Best Amateur Production. The winners will be announced in April on the Whats On website, Good Luck.

THEATRE: Best Amateur Dramatic/Operatic Group

- ★ Bilston Operatic Company
- ★ Bournville Musical Theatre Company
- ★ West Bromwich Operatic Society (WBOS)
- ★ Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company (MUSCOM)

THEATRE: Best Amateur Production

- ★ Fame - Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company (MUSCOM)
- ★ Jekyll & Hyde - Bournville Musical Theatre Company
- ★ Legally Blonde - Stourbridge Amateur Operatic Society
- ★ Made in Dagenham - West Bromwich Operatic Society (WBOS)
- ★ Our House: The Madness Musical - Bilston Operatic Company



Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society welcomed writer, composer and lyricist Jill Santoriello of the musical "A Tale of Two Cities" to the Shropshire premier in March this year. ★

Encore Radio is Proud to Support Local Amateur Theatre

Advertise your shows and events for free at encoreradio.co.uk



Encore Radio – Songs from your favourite musicals

On DAB in London & the South East • On our free app • At encoreradio.co.uk