

THE CIVIC HALL AMATEUR PLAYERS SOCIETY - C.H.A.P.S.

Founded 1979

(Affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association)

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2022

Dear All,

Happy New Year everyone, and welcome to our first newsletter for 2022. We hope that you have all had a lovely and above all safe Christmas and New Year, with friends and family, and that Santa has brought you some lovely presents.

'CHARLES DICKENS AND A CHRISTMAS CAROL'

It was a great disappointment to us all that in the end we had to cancel all of the performances which we were hoping to stage of our production of 'Charles Dickens and a Christmas Carol'. Incidences of Covid infection amongst the cast, the risk of further infection, and the difficulty of ensuring the safety of cast, helpers and audience at performances, all made the risks too high for us to continue safely. We had hoped at one point to cancel just the performances at the Memorial Hall and The Trinity Centre, and to keep the matinee and evening ones at St. David's Church in Craig y Don. To do a performance here was the instigation for this play, as Mark (Ramsden), our producer, had had a number of requests from parishioners there, to stage this play for a second time.

I have received many replies from members following my email advising of the cancellation, and all say that we have made the right and best decision. Lyn Emmerson from NODA has sent the following:

'Ah this is a shame but a really wise decision. I was going to email you later today Geoff as I couldn't commit to attending on 11th December at St David's. We are reminded by NODA not to do show visits if there is any chance of Covid around.

Thank you all for your commitment to NODA.

I shall miss your usual panto on the run up to Christmas but I complement the committee on taking this wise decision.

Meanwhile, a very Merry and safe Christmas to you all, and I look forward to better and safer times in 2022.

Lyn (NODA) × × 

We must thank Mark, for all that he has done. He has had to cope with changes in cast and performance times and venues, and covid restrictions which he has tried hard to find a way around. Janet too has given a lot of her time in trying to make arrangements for everything, Margaret has pulled together the costumes that we were to wear, Martin and Jenny have created and distributed posters and publicity notices, both hard copy and digital, at a difficult time for them both, and Sian was organising and making the stage props. But as the omicron virus has intensified, as it has done more of late, our decision to cancel was surely the right one. This is further borne out by the professional pantomimes at both Theatre Colwyn and Venue Cymru having to close after a few nights with the new restrictions making it very difficult to continue.

ERIN DOLAN IN THEATRE COLWYN PANTOMIME

Erin has been starring in the pantomime 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' at Theatre Colwyn, as 'Goldilocks' herself. After graduating from drama school, this is her first professional role and we are so pleased for her. A bouquet of flowers was sent to Erin from the Society to recognise and congratulate her on this special occasion. It's such a shame that the live performances had to end early. Janet says: *'Magic Light Productions put Goldilocks etc online this afternoon, (Friday. 31 Dec) I watched it and Erin was magnificent, her dancing, singing, acting and level of energy and enthusiasm made the show. She always stood out but now..wow...totally professional! Made me proud to say I once acted along side her'*. I think this goes for us all.

NEW MEMBERS

We give a warm welcome to Janis and her sister Julie. Janis has been with the Society before, having produced our 2010 pantomime 'Dick Whittington'.

DAVE JORDAN

Dave's funeral at St Hilary's Church, Llanrhos, on the 11th November was an occasion which will always be remembered with a smile. Entering the church to the 1960's hit 'Waterloo Sunset' by the Kinks, singing 'Leaving on a Jet Plane' with John Denver, and the English rugby anthem, 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' with UB40, will live long in the memory. Dave was from Cheltenham, and his loyalty to English rugby was always a source of good humoured banter with his Welsh team mates at Llandudno Rugby Club.



OTHER NEWS

The episode of the 'Tudur's TV Flashback' series that included excerpts of Chaps' 2001 pantomime 'Little Red Riding Hood' was repeated on BBC2 on the 28th December, much to our surprise; it was lovely to see and we hope that you may have seen it too.

Something else that I hope you were able to see on the television over Christmas was the stage show of Cole Porter's musical 'Anything Goes', filmed at the Barbican Theatre in London and shown on BBC2 on Boxing Day evening. Starring renowned Broadway actress Sutton Foster, and Robert Lindsay, Felicity Kendal and Gary Wilmot, the songs and the dances were fabulous to see. There was much comedy, especially from Robert Lindsay's gangster character 'Moonface Martin'. If it is repeated, please try to catch it, it was live theatre at its very best.



CHAPS WEBSITE - <http://chapsconwy.org.uk/>

Please remember to check out our Society website which has details of our current news, past shows and newsletters.

As always, if you have any information or happenings that you would like to share with other members, then please get in touch. And please remember, the Corona virus is still around, so please take care, and we'll look to get together again as soon as it's safe to do so.

With our best wishes for a happy and healthy new year,
Janet, Geoff and Sue.