



ESSEX CHRONICLE & HOLLYWOOD TO OUR RESCUE!

**CAODS & YOUNG GEN JOIN FORCES TO STOP COUNCIL BUILDING ON METEOR WAY
BELOW IS THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON 13TH MAY**

A local performing arts group is heading up a protest against a plan to redevelop the area they are based at, as part of Chelmsford's Local Development Plan and has gained support from Hollywood star Stephen Moyer. Meteor Way, which is located just off Waterhouse Lane, is one of many areas in the city centre, that has been shortlisted as a strategic growth site for redevelopment in the near future. Proposals for the site include 380 new homes, with customised open space with local play and informal areas and a built frontage framing the park with a strong elevation facing the river. Currently occupying the site are a number of independent companies and charities, including the 1st Chelmsford Scout Group, Chelmsford Ballet Company, The Classical Ballet and Theatre Dance School. Heading up the campaign is 41 year-old Claire Carr from Billericay, who is the chairman of CAODS (Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society), and says that although the city is in need of more homes, it shouldn't be at the expense of their rehearsal space. "We understand that Chelmsford needs more housing and most people in the area will understand that too," she said. "However, we are opposed to the fact that they want to build on Meteor Way." There are various local companies, societies and charities located there and we don't want to leave because we are set in a very good location. "We have ease of access with a car park and have invested a lot of money into our large rehearsal space, scenery dock, prop store, changing room and kitchens so it works perfectly for us." Claire has been put forward to represent both CAODS and the Chelmsford Young Generation Amateur Musical Society, who own the lease for the building that they share, and the mother of two said she is worried about whether they can afford to move premises if their protest is unsuccessful. "They are saying that they would relocate us, but the financial implications of that is what I find the most worrying." If they relocate us and it is to a different site with a different lease – or even onto private land – we will have the worry about whether we can afford it. "Both CAODS and Chelmsford Young Generation Amateur Musical Society are both registered as charities so we haven't got the money to afford a market rate lease." Also, would the building be suitable for what we need with a car park and ease of access? Actor Stephen Moyer, who played a main cast role during HBO's hit show True Blood, started his performing arts training at both CAODS and Young Gen and has personally contacted Chelmsford City Council himself to help protest against the plans. "I have been an actor for nearly 30 years. Before my formal training at The London Academy of Dramatic Art (LAMDA), I was a performer in Chelmsford at CAODS and Chelmsford Young Generation," he said. "The headquarters in Meteor Way were the beginning for me of a building in confidence that allowed me to feel that I was able to pursue acting as a profession. "Many many hundreds of performers have passed through the doors of the incredible facility on Meteor Way. From shy young children to adults who were looking for a way to express themselves." Not to mention the thousands and thousands of people who have seen the shows that these two venerable Chelmsford institutions have put on at The Civic and Cramphorn Theatres. "It would be incredibly sad to see this amazing institution moved on when it has done so much for the local social landscape. I've travelled all over the world performing for a long time now and nowhere in the world have I see a better community theatre/amateur dramatic venue than that in Meteor Way."



Hey, Jude.....Members of both CAODS & Young Gen committees met with **Councillor Jude Deakin** last week to discuss the issues relating to Essex County Council's proposal to build on Meteor Way. I am pleased to inform you that she was sympathetic to our plight and has mentioned the development in her Lib Dem newsletter and set up a petition for the Meteor Way sites. The newsletter will go out to her constituents in June and we'll put it up on the website/notice boards as well. In it she states **"I will support the groups in their efforts to remain in Meteor Way"**. Our next steps are to meet with more councillors to express our concerns. By working as a team, members on both committees hope their combined efforts will pay off. More updates as we have them - watch this space.....



Lerner & Lowe's "My Fair Lady" has only recently become available to amateurs again - for a limited period only! We will be submitting our application, but this in no way means that we are guaranteed of getting it. There are a number of factors that influence whether or not we get the shows members would like to perform, namely our close proximity to London and what other local societies are doing. As always, **your suggestions for future productions** would be much appreciated - but please be realistic - there is little hope of us being able to successfully apply for any show that is currently running in the West End!

Many congratulations to everyone who successfully auditioned for our next production! A cast list, for those of you who don't already know, is available on our website. As rehearsals get underway, we are happy to announce that the lovely **Natasha Lesley** is your **Cast Rep** for this show. Her role will be to communicate with the committee regarding rehearsals, production etc, giving feedback and highlighting any issues as we go through the next few months - and to feed back anything from those discussions to the cast where needed. She will attend the first section of each month's committee meeting from June to September (every second Tuesday of the month) when we discuss the show. Obviously, we would still like you to all talk directly with us about anything you want to, but in addition, you also now have Tash to make your comments known to regarding this production specifically. Many thanks to Tash for taking on this role! A reminder also to **save the date** for the two publicity days we have planned for ASU - at Hylands House & High Chelmer - **6th August & 2nd September** respectively. See you all there!

**ALL
SHOOK
UP**

**BOX OFFICE
NOW OPEN!**



£1,004!

Huge thanks must go to **Keeley & friends** who put on a fab evening's entertainment and in the process - with your support - raised a whopping £1,004 for the CAODS coffers! P.S. - I hear the kitchen staff were pretty good too.....



Contact Dave Yetton on 01245
263537
david.yetton@blueyonder.co.uk

100 CLUB MAY WINNERS:

1st Clive Wilton £30

2nd Simon Titchner £20

3rd Trevor Lowman £10



Caods Catch Up Evening

Monday 3rd July 2017

7.45pm

Bill's

Bond Street, Chelmsford

CM1 1GD

bills-website.co.uk

*No pre-pay required, just drop an email
to Cassie at cassie.estall@gmail.com*



Look who's 70!

Happy belated birthday to our dear director Ray, who turned 70 just after 'Anything Goes'.... He kept that one quiet ;-). Lots of love from all @ CAODS xxx (Photograph courtesy of Audrey Hinton)



MEMBERSHIP MONIES NOW DUE, PLEASE!

Our annual membership year runs from 1st June to 31st May and membership renewals were due on 1st June 2017. Renewal rates remain the same price as last year at **£15 for Non-Acting membership** or **£40 for Acting membership**. Membership fees help cover the everyday running costs of the society and also enable us to claim up to an extra 25% on top of what you pay under the gift aid scheme. To make sure we can claim this back we just need you to complete the gift aid declaration on the annual membership form if you are a UK Tax payer.

You can pay your membership fee by bank transfer directly into the CAODS Membership Bank Account. The account details are:-

Account No. - 65724318

Sort Code - 08-92-99

(Please ensure your name is used as a reference when doing an online payment)

The quickest and easiest way to complete a membership form is online via our website. Click on this link: <http://caods.com/join-us/> and click on the Membership Form box to open the form.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above e-mail address or speak to Dave Yetton.

Kind regards,

Peter Hockley
Membership Secretary

CAODS