

MEMBER'S BULLETIN AUGUST 2020

Editor: Frankie Mae



Sweet Charity

As you will have seen in our recent communication, we received an email from the Civic Theatre which confirmed they are cancelling all shows up to 1st April, which unfortunately includes our March

production of Sweet Charity.

After receiving this sad news, the Committee held our monthly meeting to discuss the 2021/2022 shows. Taking into consideration costs, staging, size of cast and other factors we have made the decision to postpone, rather than cancel, Sweet Charity. Therefore we will now be taking Sweet Charity to the stage on the 21st - 25th September 2021. This does unfortunately mean that Calamity Jane has been cancelled, and at present cannot be licensed in the near future.

We all can't wait to get back in front of an audience so we are in the process of thinking up some ideas and projects to get us together again when we are allowed so watch this space! If anyone has any ideas then please do get in touch with a member of the committee, your suggestions are welcome!

Congratulations!

On the 15th August 1970 two young lovers tied the knot and in the year 2020 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! Of course the question we're all asking ourselves is who could put up with Lord David Yetton for so long?? We wish you all the best David and Carol and although perhaps not quite the celebration you had planned, we hope you had a lovely day surrounded by loved ones.



A Tribute to Jill Parsons

As many of you will already know, our dear friend Jill Parsons, passed away recently. Jill's family were very touched by the Young Gen members, from multiple generations and CAODS members, who turned out to pay tribute to her on the day of her funeral.

Jill most certainly was a very important part of Young Gen for many, many years. Young Gen was founded by Jill's husband Stan in 1968 after CAODS performed *Oliver*. The response from children to take part was overwhelming and Stan saw a need for setting up a youth group. At this time he was Chairman of CAODS committee and the suggestion was put to the committee and as no one was willing to take it on, Stan took it upon himself to start a junior section of CAODS, before taking the name of Chelmsford Young Generation Amateur Musical Society in 1973.

100 Club Winners!

June Winners

£30 Mike Broad

£20 Cassie Estall

£10 Wendy Josling

Congratulations to our winners! Please support your society by joining the 100 club or join for your friends and family it's only £1 per month. Contact Dave Yetton on 01245 263 537 or david.yetton@blueyonder.co.uk.

Membership

So our membership cut off was the 1st September but it's not too late to make a payment quickly if you forgot! Otherwise you won't get to keep up to date with all our exciting plans for the year ahead. All last minute payments to be made to:
Sort code: 08-92-99
Account: 65724318

Please don't forget to also complete the form [online](#) and let us know if you are happy for us to claim gift aid on your membership payment. It really helps us out in times like this.

We really appreciate your continued support throughout this very strange year.

Get well soon!

Just a quick follow up from our previous bulletin as we had a few members of the society who were poorly. We are delighted to hear that Mandy Parsall is now out of hospital and home.

Jill played a huge part in the success of the society over the years. In the days before show tickets were computerised and booked direct with the Civic Theatre, Jill ran the box office from the family home in Hillside Grove.

Before Young Gen had their own HQ building, the show costumes were housed in the loft of Jill and Stan's home. Jill was involved with organising the costumes, as well as the many Committee meetings.

Jill and Stan had two children, Nick and Rachel. Rachel became an avid Young Genner and performer in many of their shows and of course CAODS shows. Amanda joined Young Gen some years later, met and married Nick and also became a member of CAODS. Amanda and Nick's daughter Millie enjoys doing shows with both Young Gen and CAODS too!

In later years, Jill still loved coming to see the shows. Jill was there to see Young Gen's 42nd Street and earlier this year CAODS' performance of Shrek. These theatre outings also provided her with an opportunity to catch up with old friends as life became more tricky for her.

Jill was a Life Member of CAODS and will be greatly missed.



Centenary Celebrations

We recently received confirmation from The Lion that they have cancelled all social events for the rest of this year and therefore will no longer be able to host our 100th anniversary ball.

The committee are in the process of contacting other suitable venues and hope to have some updates for you regarding deposits and dates in the next bulletin if not before.

Government Guidelines

Members will be aware that there has been a considerable amount of movement in the Government's advice on the resumption of activities within the performing arts since the last bulletin. It is now possible for rehearsals and even performances to resume for both professional and amateurs but only with strict social distancing measures in place at all times for both performers, crew and audiences. Whilst professional productions may be able to put in place systems (such as isolated bubbles that undergo regular testing) to allow close contact on stage this does not apply to non-professionals under any circumstances and the current social distancing (i.e) 2m or 1m+ with mitigations such as face coverings) must be rigidly applied.

The Civic Theatre has informed us that they will not be reopening for audience attended productions until into next year and, when they do start, the audience capacity will be

limited to 150 making it economically unviable to put on a musical production, even for an amateur company. However, Young Gen are looking to re-open headquarters (following some extensive refurbishment works and adaption for Covid Secure protocols) and your Committee are discussing with them what CAODS might be able to do in the space.

As outlined in our previous bulletin, there will be protocols in place that will need to be followed by all participants but we will let members know the details of these in due course (as they have to be assessed and modified for each individual activity). As previously, the situation remains fluid in response to (now) rising levels of infection across the country (the Government has, from Monday 14th September for example tighten the restrictions on social gatherings). The DCMS Select Committee took evidence from the industry on 8th September. They have said that this will be passed back to Government Ministers for further consideration and we'll keep you updated as much as possible.