

# The Club News

## After the Script -

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When you came to Toad of Toad Hall last year you will have seen David Carlile as Toad, when you came to see Alice's Adventures in Wonderland you will have seen David Carlile as author. Now you can see David Carlile as director as he skilfully directs the cast in our next production Arsenic and Old Lace.

The play is a popular one amongst actors and audiences alike being performed regularly over the

last fifty or so years. Indeed it is being revived on the West End Stage and will be opening in February.

We are fortunate in being able to put this play on, as when plays are on the West End Stage production is usually barred to Amateurs. In fact we were notified a while ago that there was a restriction around the London area. We were fortunate in that we heard about the possible revival and paid the royalties last August.

We welcome several new faces to the stage one of whom walked in off the street during Alice having seen the theatre details and production history on the internet. We hope that they all will enjoy their first outing with us and appear many more times in the future.

## Lost Property

During the run of 'Inspector Drake and The Perfect Crime' a ring was found in the bar. It looks like an engagement ring but no one has come forward to claim it. If anyone has lost this or

knows someone who may have done please contact us.

If you lose anything and you have been to the theatre lately then we may just have it.

At the moment we have one

article that is breeding furiously and that is umbrellas! We are now extremely well stocked but would rather not be! Raindrops certainly aren't falling on our heads!

## 400 Club Winners

The 400 club was drawn on Thursday 5th December 2002. The winners were

£50	Miss W Hayter	£5	Mr & Mrs D C Smith
			Mrs B M Bott
£30	Mrs J A Granger-Brown		Mr & Mrs P Wyche
			Mr R W Spriggs
£10	Ms L Bambury		Mr & Mrs W Glenfield
	Mr M Granger-Brown		Mrs J Robinson
	Mrs B Cartledge		Mrs B Coombs
	Mr A C Redfern		Miss B Kennerley
	Mr R Fry		Mr P E Peel
	Mrs L Pilkington		Mrs M Williams
			Mr H Hince
			Mrs P Wilkinson

**£50 Winner**

**Miss W Hayter**

## Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Review



For the second year running the Altrincham and Sale messenger did not publish the review of the Christmas show which was done by their reporter Julia Taylor. However we managed so get hold of a copy and here it is in full.

“Last week, theatre goes journeyed down the rabbit hole to enter the mad, magical world of Wonderland featured in ALICES ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND at the Club Theatre, Altrincham. In David Carlile’s version, the story is dreamed up and narrated by panto-like funny pair Tweedledee and Tweedledum (Lynda Bradbury and Paul Walker) who make their debut rowing across the stream by the bank where Alice and her sister sit reading. More spectacular and cleverly executed scenes

follow– The Duchess’s kitchen, the Palace garden, the Mad Hatter’s tea party and many more backed up by special effects which make the original author’s unbelievable scenarios, credible.

At the tender age of 15, Charlotte Wood plays Alice with the poise and presence of someone twice her age coupled with the naivety and curiosity of the child she portrays. This promising young actress seems to grasp instinctively her part in holding together fragmented scenes and characters binding the mixture with some lovely songs.

These songs and others, composed by Val Harris with words by John Banks are catchy, light and essential to

the show’s success. A few names stand out from the cast of 20. These are Hilary Slater as the jittery White Rabbit, Helen Corrie, the charismatically cruel Queen, Esther Wingate, the mafia-style Caterpillar and Don Saunders, the sad, sad, Mock Turtle. I’m tempted to add ‘Uncle Tom Cobley and all’ foe every person’s contribution counted.”

So there you have it. Congrats to Val Harris and everyone, who was involved in getting this world premiere onto the stage. Once again the theatre has endeavoured to maintain its policy of providing its audiences with something new and different and its actors, young and old, with fresh challenges.

## Christmas Shows at the Club

We had a busy time straight after ‘Alice’ with three shows in two weeks. First up was the Club Drama production ‘Mixty Maxty’.

This was a very good evening that had something for everyone with the students singing, dancing, presenting serious drama and comedy pieces, mime and choral speaking to name just some of the many items. There was a good turnout of parents but sadly only a handful of members. All were however impressed with the

high standard that was on display.

Next year Club Drama will be presenting a production of Shakespeare’s ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’. On the strength of what we saw this will be a production that you shouldn’t miss.

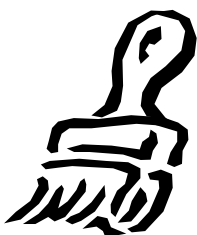
Next we had the singing group ‘Clean Cut’. Their evening was put on in aid of charity and what an excellent show it was too. This was well supported and we hope

that they raised a lot of money. If they come again do make a point to come and see them you won’t be disappointed.

Following close behind was the drama group Northern Youth who performed a play entitled ‘Seven Sided Dice’. This was an unusual piece but the audiences were sadly lacking in numbers.

Many thanks to the same small band of people who came to man the theatre for these events.

### Something For Everyone



## Splish– Splosh!

We have done so much painting last year in the theatre and on our sets that our paint brushes are in very poor health. So if you have brought any new ones last year please think of us before your dust bin gets the old ones. They cannot be worse than the ones we have at present and would be a great help. All sizes are welcome. Thank you.

## Front of House

This is not a hard job but it is a very important one and it is easier when there are a lot of people to help. We had a very good meeting at the start of the season but somehow we now seem to be struggling again. Thank you to all those new people who have come and done a night and to the regular band.

However we really do need to build our Front of House staff up so that we are well catered for every production that is staged at the theatre including all our outside lets.

Please could you state clearly on your order forms if you can help and which nights or ring VAL HARRIS 0161 928 2277, well before the play

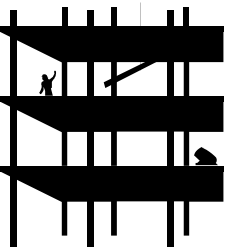
week, with the same information. We would be grateful if you didn't just turn up as we have found ourselves with too many helpers one night and not enough for others.

Please help your theatre, especially when we have some front of house people acting or otherwise involved



## Reach for the Sky

Well maybe not quite the sky but as many of you will have now seen we have been reaching up to the ceiling during last summer. The painting of the auditorium and stage area was an



enormous undertaking. Many days and evenings saw, in particular, Messrs Bowden, Smith and Banks hanging from ladders discussing the task with the angels! We managed to borrow some scaffolding at the time but now have our own! Our thanks to Mr Gilbert for his kind donation of a scaffolding tower. This will be very useful in continuing the maintenance work that has to be done every year inside and outside the theatre. Again thank you to everyone who did wield a paint brush over that period and now thanks to Mr Gilbert we are able to offer the chance for more of us to reach a little higher this coming summer!

Talking with the  
angels

## How Do they do It?

Many people have kindly said to Val and myself how much they have enjoyed the original music that we have written for plays and the Christmas show songs. They have also asked how we put them together. Well it's not easy and in the case of 'Alice' it was quite a challenge as they all had to be very different so as to fit each character.

It often starts in Val's music room and always with a piece of blank paper staring at a keyboard/guitar and hoping to be hit by divine inspiration. We try and help this along with a pot of tea and, if I am lucky, some cake. One disadvantage is that I cannot write or read music yet this is cancelled out by Val's amazing ability to write down a tune by ear alone. So I can

play, tap, hum or whatever and she can turn it into musically notes. She can read and write, music that is! Very useful as many a time I have caught people staring at me at traffic lights 'la la laing' desperately on my way home to a tape recorder or Val's house. The only problem, at times, I'm told, is that sometimes I put too many notes in 'like Mozart'. This earns me a nagging from Val, more work for her you see. Yes, but look where it got him?

Sometimes a word or a line can come to mind and it's a matter of writing it down quickly and then lo and behold Val will play a few notes and the main melody arrives. Now that is irritating, especially when you have been awake all night trying

to sort one out. You go round, she sits at the keyboard and bob's your uncle! However that's the magic of it all and I had better add, talent. Yet once words and notes flow and it starts to come together then there is a lot of excitement as slowly the rest follows.

We write with a view not to merely decorate a dramatic piece but enhance it. It is hard work but great satisfaction is gained in hearing the work performed and having people ask for copies. We are pleased to say that this will soon be possible. So if you would like any music from any of the shows or plays please let Val or myself know. There will be a small fee but this will be donated to the Club Theatre.

*J.F.Banks*





## THE CLUB THEATRE

17 Oxford Road  
Altrincham  
Cheshire  
WA14 2ED

Phone: 0161 928 1113  
E-mail: [secretary@clubtheatre.org.uk](mailto:secretary@clubtheatre.org.uk)  
Website: [www.clubtheatre.org.uk](http://www.clubtheatre.org.uk)

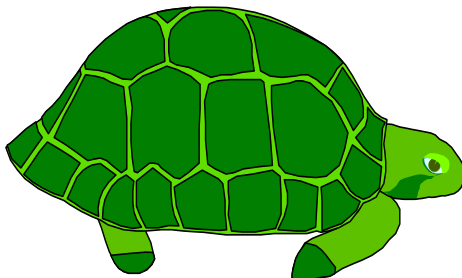
## Useful Numbers

There is always someone who will be able to help or put you in touch with the right person if you have any questions or queries about any aspect of the theatre. Feel free to call.

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Mr Ian Bowden</b>	<b>0161 980 2551</b>
<b>Acting , Front of House</b>	<b>Val Harris</b>	<b>0161 928 2277</b>
<b>Sponsorship</b>	<b>Val Harris</b>	<b>0161 928 2277</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Roy Burman</b>	<b>0161 928 1477</b>
<b>Stage Director</b>	<b>Steve Smith</b>	<b>0161 941 2116</b>
<b>Costumes</b>	<b>Enid Holt</b>	<b>0161 928 1113</b>
<b>'Thursday Club'</b>	<b>Barry Swithenbank</b>	<b>0161 980 7743</b>
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	<b>John Banks</b>	<b>0161 486 1843</b>
<b>Ticket Secretary</b>	<b>Stella Blackburn</b>	<b>0161 980 8572</b>
<b>Drama School</b>	<b>Val Harris</b>	<b>0161 928 2277</b>
<b>Club Theatre Office</b>		<b>0161 928 1113</b>

## Not Many People Know THAT!

### KILLED BY A TORTOISE.



The Greek dramatist Aeschylus (525-456 BC) was told by a prophet that he would die of 'a blow from heaven'. The prophet's words came true when –

according to a popular story - an eagle dropped a tortoise on the playwright's bald head, mistaking it for a stone and killed him outright.

Aeschylus was buried in an austere tomb at Gela in Sicily, which made no mention of his dramatic works. The inscription simply stated that he had been a soldier at the battle of Marathon in 490BC, when the Greeks repelled the invading Persians.

Of the 90 plays that he wrote only seven survived - including 'Seven against

Thebes', 'The Suppliant Women' and the trilogy known as the 'Oresteia' (458 BC), a grim tale of guilt and vengeance.

Aeschylus changed the form of Greek drama by adding a second actor to the customary solo actor and chorus and thus invented dramatic dialogue.

So you see being a playwright can be a dangerous business.

All articles, stories, jokes, sayings you name it are welcome. We cannot make any promises that it will always get into the newsletter due to space. However we will look at it and consider it for publication. So get writing and sent anything you think may be worth sharing. You never know you may just see it in the next edition.