

# HI NOTES

## Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society Newsletter

DECEMBER 2018

Send any information for Hi Notes to: [secretary@yaos.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yaos.org.uk)

### 'Sweeney Todd'

What a fabulous show 'Sweeney Todd' was – the music and the actual drama of the show were superb. What a great cast! It was a shame more people did not see it – the ones who did see it thought it was fabulous - the box office was very poor (56%) and we have lost quite heavily. Obviously the subject matter put people off which was a great shame – they missed a fantastic piece of theatre. Our grateful thanks to all concerned – on stage and off stage – and particular thanks to Martyn Knight, for giving us such an amazing show, and to Sheila Driver for assisting and to Lynne Merrifield for her superb musical direction.

So on to -

'42<sup>nd</sup> Street' - a musical which we **hope** will be popular with our audiences! We welcome our own Sheila Driver as Director again and Gill Merrifield as Musical Director with Sarah Long assisting Sheila.

The '42<sup>nd</sup> Street' season commenced with New Members auditions/Open Evening on Monday 29 October and the principal auditions took place on Sunday 18 November. We have a great cast for this very special 'dancing' show –

Dorothy Brock	Marie Brolly
Peggy Sawyer	Leah Driver
Julian Marsh	Luke Whitchurch
Maggie Jones	Charlotte Wood
Bert Barry	Stephen Roberts
Billy Lawlor	Sterling Wilder-Gay
Ann Reilly	Jennifer Holland-Brewer
Phyllis Dale	Hannah Long
Lorraine Fleming	Naomi Lawton
Andy Lee	Shaun Driver
Abner Dillon	Fred McLoughlin
Pat Denning	David Smith
Gladys	Helena Reid
Diane Lorimer	Sarah Middleditch
Ethel	Tracy Rock
Mac	Mark Rudd
Oscar	uncast

**Tickets** will be going on sale to high bookers on Friday 18 January, to the cast on Monday 21 January and members' booking will be Wednesday 23 January with a second chance to buy tickets on Monday 28 January. Tickets will then be at the Octagon from early February. (Tickets £19 for all performances (£17 concessions) apart from Wednesday 27 March when all seats will be £17. **Don't forget - there will be three matinees for**

**this show – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Sunday 1 April and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April but no performance on Monday 2 April.**

And now a letter from our Chairman, Geoff –

Dear all

I would just like to congratulate everyone who auditioned for '42<sup>nd</sup> Street'.

The standard was absolutely amazing and caused long discussions until the audition panel came up with the cast. Commiserations to those not chosen; you all did extremely well - better luck next time.

Rehearsals are going very well and creating a good atmosphere.

I just want to say a word about ticket sales. Having made losses on our last five shows it is vital that all members make every effort to sell as many tickets as possible. We have gone back to our old selling method where members get priority booking before tickets go on sale at the Octagon. We are particularly looking at cast members who, apart from a few, have sold very few tickets in the past.

There have been discussions about raising the membership fee, which many consider to be very low, or for all cast to have to purchase a set amount of tickets for them to sell; this is done by some Societies. We would rather not go down that road so we are **appealing** to all the cast to make every effort to sell as many tickets as possible. The signs are that '42<sup>nd</sup> Street' is catching the public's imagination so go out there and sell, sell, sell!

A Happy Christmas to everyone and a healthy and prosperous ticket selling New Year.

Geoff

Then on to –

'**Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**' in Autumn 2019. We were delighted to get the licence for this fantastic show which we hope will appeal to both adults and children alike!! For this show we welcome back Jeremy Tustin as Director and Kat Stevens as our Musical Director.

Auditions will be held on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 May with setting rehearsals mainly in June, July, September and October (email Secretary if you need the actual dates). The show will open on Wednesday 9 October and run until Saturday 19 October. There will be matinees on both Saturdays (commencing at 1.00 pm with the evening performances on both Saturdays commencing at 6.00 pm) and a matinee on the Sunday commencing at 1.00 pm. All weekday evening performances will commence at 7.30 pm. There will be no Monday evening performance.

After 'Chitty' it will be 'The Sound of Music' time again! Now this is a show which always sells well and is going to be very popular with the public again!! We are delighted that the great combination of Sheila Driver as Director and Gill Merrifield as Musical Director will be in charge again!!

### Committee News

Our AGM was held on the 22 October when there were no changes to either Officers or Committee! However, we welcomed Charles Clive-Ponsonby-Fane as our new President for the next 3 years – Charles, of course, is no stranger to the Society!

Your new Committee is as follows:-

President:	Charles Clive-Ponsonby-Fane
Chairman	Geoff Thresh
Vice Chairman	Mark Rudd
Secretary	Paula Budzynski
Treasurer	David (Hal) Hallett
Business Manager	Lorna Murphy Durran
Stage Director	Nigel Bussell

**Committee Members:** Sarah Andrew, Guy Burgess, David Burke, Lucy Crane, Clive Jesty and Nick Mountjoy

If you wish to contact anyone then please do so through our website: [www.yaos.org.uk](http://www.yaos.org.uk) or contact [secretary@yaos.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yaos.org.uk)

### Silver Show Singers

Please remember the Silver Singers who meet every second Tuesday at 2.15 pm, Edwards House.

Let Mark know if you are interested in joining the group by ringing him on 01935 422231.

### NODA Long Service Awards

Congratulations go to recent **NODA long service** award recipients.

Russell Chatwin	70 year pin
Roger Howell	60 year diamond bar
Marian Stainer	55 year pin
Tricia Perry	55 year pin
Ernie Thomas	55 year pin
Sheila Driver	40 year silver bar
Sally Matthews	25 year medal + 3 silver bars
Jean Rudd	25 year medal + 1 silver bar
Derek Bourne	35 year silver bar
Mark Rudd	25 year medal
David Burke	10 year badge

Unfortunately, due to escalating costs, the Society is no longer in a position to pay for members' long service awards. In future if members apply for an award would

they please submit an application through Paula who will let them know what the cost of the award is.

### Social News

**Carol Singing at Yeovil Hospital** – Tuesday 18 December. Meet in the foyer at 6.45 pm

**Cabaret Night** – Supper and a Show featuring 'Songs from the Shows' performed by YAOS members. Friday 26 April and Saturday 27 April at East Coker Village Hall. Join in the fun and dress in the Roaring 20s theme! Tickets £15.

There is a form on the website for members to complete and return to Chris Owen if you would like to take part in the show – please submit this to Chris asap. Chris's tel no is 01935 434770 or text her on 07557 389113.

Tell all your friends about this fabulous future event!!!!!!

### Our love and best wishes go to:-

David Burke who has recently had an operation

Charles Clive-Ponsonby-Fane who has recently had a knee replacement and also -  
Pauline Warren who has also had a partial knee replacement.

### Don't Forget ....

The Suggestions Box in Edwards House! Let the Committee know if you have any tangible comment to make.

**Website** Keep your eye on our website for all information and updates. Guy would welcome any feedback on the website – content, design etc. If anyone would like to make comment, good or bad (!) Guy would be very interested to hear it!!

The next edition of Hi Notes will be published in the early summer. Please let Paula know if you have any comments to be included.

Email: [secretary@yaos.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yaos.org.uk)

Website: [www.yaos.org.uk](http://www.yaos.org.uk)

**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO  
ALL!!**

