



## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018

### **Editorial**

Editorial – now isn't that grand!

I just wanted a place to tell you how I envisage the future of this newsletter – if there is to be a long term one. A newsletter is only as good at its contents. Some of them will arise out of items from the Committee Meetings, but others will need to come from you. I was thrilled to receive some positive feedback about the last newsletter and that three of the items in this one are as a result of other people approaching me. I really appreciate it. I would welcome more items like them. It does not need to be about our productions. I am (and I am sure other people) will be interested in the things our members are doing, even if it is nothing to do with acting. So please, do not be shy. If you want anything put in the newsletter, let me know and I will do my best to accommodate – within the realms of decency of course!!

If you have an ideas or want to make any comments on any matter in this newsletter please contact me by emailing [clare.moughton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clare.moughton@hotmail.co.uk) or ringing 01884 251958 / 07884 380071.

### **Training / Workshop**

We have received this information from our NODA rep, Joyce Pomeroy. If anyone is interested please let me know and the Committee will pass your details on.

“I have asked a dear friend, Ian Good, if he would tutor an acting workshop for the Societies in NODA District 5 and he has very kindly said yes! This workshop is relevant for both musical and drama groups. Ian has tutored at NODA Summer School for a few years. You can read more about his life and experience below.

The workshop will take place on Saturday 20th October and I, on behalf of NODA, have hired the Blackmore Theatre, Bicton Street, Exmouth. The day will be of morning and afternoon sessions with a break for lunch.

This email will be received by the twenty-five societies in District 5 and as the number for the day needs to be restricted to twenty-five people, potentially many of you could be disappointed. To avoid this being you or one of your members please email your wish to take part as quickly as possible.

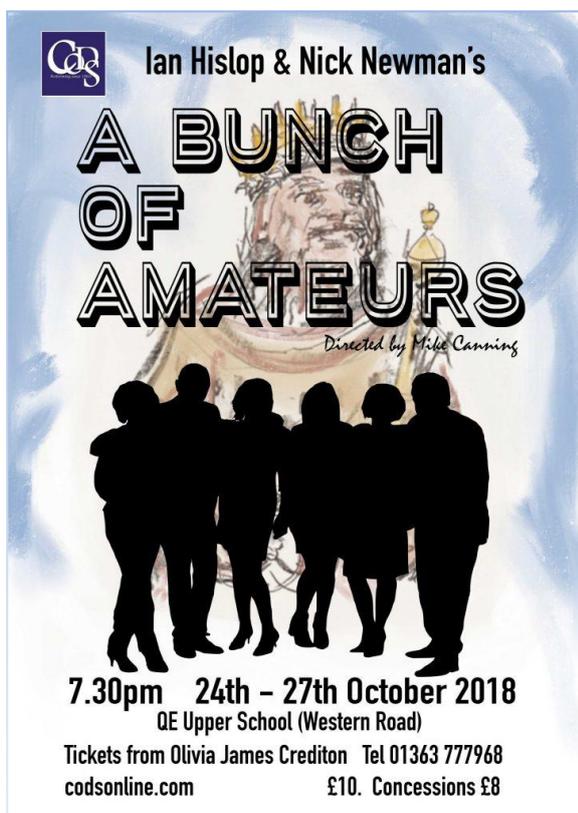
Further information for those who would like to take part will follow. I am anticipating the cost will be a maximum of £20 per person. Tea and coffee will be included. This workshop is for those who are eighteen years old and over.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.”

Ian Good

Joyce has given us extensive details of Ian’s directing experience – running into a couple of pages! Needless to say it is impressive and he has won a number of awards. “He has an extensive performing career that spans thirty years performing everything from Shakespeare to Sondheim in theatre, pantomime, radio, television and film”.

If you want further details please let me know and I will forward you the full information she sent to us.



### Crediton Operatic and Dramatic Society

One of our members, Cathy Lamb, was very impressed when she came to see our last production – “A Bunch of Amateurs”. So much so that she suggested it to CODS (Crediton Operatic Society) as a future production and they will be performing it From Wednesday 24th October until Sat 27th October. Cathy will be performing in it and Alison is loaning them some of her fantastic costumes.

I know she would be very pleased if anyone wants to go and see it. And CODS do put on a very good show.

### We Really Do Need You

One of the hardest and most under-appreciated jobs during each play is publicity. It is such an important job as eventually we will have to wind up if we cannot attract an audience in to see our productions. Every year we look around for a publicity officer and there are rarely any takers. So until someone volunteers (either on or off the committee) we all need to play a part.

We need to start handing out posters for “Blackadder” shortly and we are looking for anyone who can give some time to taking out posters to shops in Tiverton and surrounding villages and asking them if they will display them for us. Graham Sessions has very kindly agreed to cover Cullompton. Any offers would be appreciated, whether you would be good at organising the whole thing,

whether you would be happy to cover any particular villages or areas of Tiverton or whether you have any contacts with the media we can use for future productions. It would be fantastic if any of you were able to commit to a particular area on a regular basis so that the Committee knew we could always send out a few posters to you each time there is a play on. For example, I usually send a poster to someone I know in a local town to display in her front window – every little helps.

If you are able to anything, no matter how small, please contact me and I will ensure the right person gets to know about it.

### **“Votes for Women” Exhibition at Killerton House**



**Every Tuesday and Saturday until 3 November**  
**12, 1, 2 and 3pm**

See the 'Votes For Women' exhibition come alive in the garden with Killerton's Soapbox Dramas. Stories of the house, and its former residents, are being brought to life in 10 minute dramas, inspired by letters, political writings and speeches from over 100 years ago.

HM Government

1918 - 2018  
CELEBRATING  
Votes for Women

Call 01225 123456 for details  
[nationaltrust.org.uk/killerton](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/killerton)

When you visit, donate, volunteer or join the National Trust, your support helps us to look after special places for ever, for everyone.

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Martin Mogford initially made me aware of this as both Vickie Mogford and Alison Harris have been involved. Not only is this yet another important event to be commemorated, but as Tiverton Dramatic Society has been mentioned during the production they have inadvertently promoted our group too. They have been performing regularly since July and the event runs until 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018. Apparently Alison had done similar productions before and asked Vickie to get involved, along with another lady from the Bradninch Players

Alison kindly provided me with this additional information:  
“The National Trust at Killerton House is commemorating the centenary of women getting the vote by 10 minute dramatisations of the speeches and correspondence made by the women who lived at Killerton House and who campaigned on opposite sides of the argument. These included Gertrude and Charles Acland, Mrs Somervill and Mr Roberts (all of whom were

anti- Suffragists) and Eleanor Acland, who was a Suffragist – not forgetting a response from Christabel Pankhurst!

Both Vickie and Alison have been performing as Mrs Somervill and Gertrude Acland respectively though out the summer. There is also an exhibition of paintings on loan from the National Portrait Gallery – well worth a visit.

You can catch either the Anti-Suffragist vs Suffragist or Suffragist vs Suffragette debated being brought to life by various local actresses / actors at 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm and 3 pm every Tuesday and Saturday and some Fridays and Sundays until Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – please see their website for details. ”



### **More Training**

I was recently approached by Susannah Billeter of ActionStage Arts. Some of you may know her from Cullompton Allsorts. She is a qualified drama teacher and has offered to put on a course for us if we are interested. There will be a cost attached to it so we want to know if there is any interest in putting one on.

Susannah has made the following suggestions for Performance Art Training

- \* Brechtian theatre
- \* Stanislavski and the use of emotion
- \* Edward Gordon Craig – How the arts generally can influence and shape performance
- \* Jerry Grotowski – performing in a space, using a minimum of props
- \* The use of mime in performance
- \* How dance can steer the movements of our characters
- \* Exploring our voices
- \* Relaxation
- \* Developing the role of the Shakesperian character

She is more than happy to consider any other ideas if we have them. If you are interested at all please contact me using one of the ways detailed above.

### **Review**

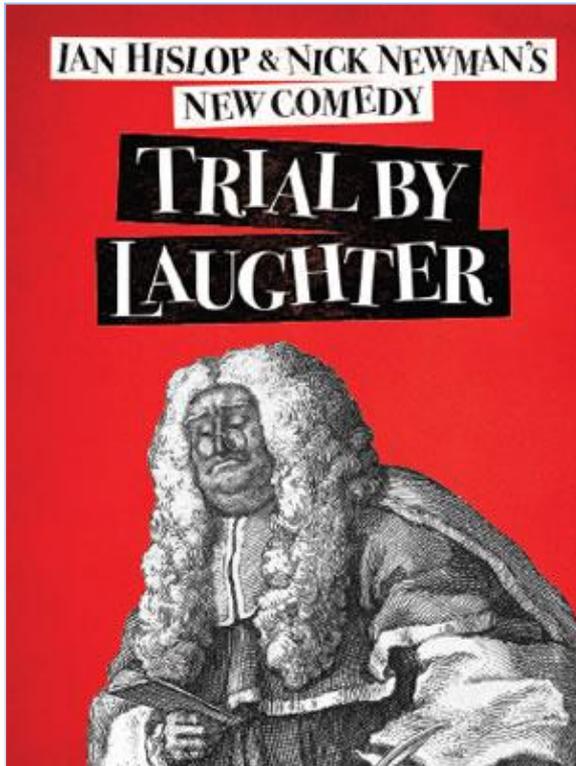
I remember watching the “Wipers Times” by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman (who also wrote “A Bunch of Amateurs” on TV, possibly a couple of years ago and really enjoyed it – it made me think without feeling bludgeoned. Martin Mogford contacted me to submit the following:

“As you are aware, The Wipers times recently visited the Northcott Theatre in Exeter. Vickie, Martin and James went to see this offering from the writers of A Bunch of Amateurs. Wipers Times was absolutely brilliant, the set was very clever depicting WW1 trenches and bunker area (probably suitable for Blackadder!). The story involves the development of a trench newspaper that pokes fun

at the top brass and staff officers. This boosted the morale of the troops during the battle of the Somme and at Ypres in Belgium from which the title of the newspaper derives its name.

The set changes were very slick as you would expect from a professional production, the actors were the stage crew and the set changes were accompanied by a variety of songs from the period, the changes were almost acted with a flourish of activity.

Producers say: "Following the sell-out success of *The Wipers Times* in the West End and across the country, Ian Hislop and Nick Newman have once again taken inspiration from real life events for their new play *Trial By Laughter*, based on their critically acclaimed original BBC Radio 4 drama of the same name."



Talking about the plot, the producers explain: "In 1817 bookseller, publisher and satirist William Hone stood trial for parodying religion, the despotic government and the libidinous monarchy. The only crime he had committed was to be funny. In 2018, the satirists Ian Hislop and Nick Newman rediscover this forgotten hero of free speech, and ask if just over two hundred years later our press has any greater freedom."

Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, who work together at Private Eye magazine, say: "In an age of 'fake news' and increased censorship, free speech and press freedom are still under threat as they were 200 years ago when William Hone took on the might of Royalty and a bullying Tory government. Hone dared to ask 'Is laughter treason?' - raising issues which are as relevant now as they were then."

"It's a tale of lawyers, lechers and libel - with added sedition and blasphemy. It is immensely exciting to bring this world to life on stage, with this funny, inspiring and true story of a satirical David versus Goliath."

The production, directed by Caroline Leslie, will be developed with The Watermill Theatre before playing at the venue for six weeks from 17th September - 27th October 2018. Following this, it will be heading on a UK tour visiting Guildford, Ipswich, Cheltenham and Brighton, with further venues to be announced. Watch out for a full tour in 2019."