



## DERBY OPERA COMPANY NEWS LETTER

### Chairman's message

Our first News Letter – the technology will be better next time!

When I wrote to you on behalf of the committee last month about cancelling the show, I promised to share with you our thinking on where we go from here.

As a committee, we have already started to look at ideas for the coming year, including fund-raising concerts and social events to bring the company back together again. We have even pencilled in a show date in November 2008 at the Assembly Rooms, provided of course, we can find something special that stands even a reasonable chance of breaking even. We have until February to let them know whether or not we are in a position to go ahead with a show. In the mean time we need to take a hard look at the other options, including performing at a smaller lower cost venue; or even amalgamating with another society.

One thing is certain; if we are to survive we simply cannot afford to slip back into just being a company with a largely transient membership. The committee you elected is prepared to work tirelessly on your behalf to try and turn events around, but we can't do it without you – we need your support in return.

With this in mind, it is important we have your views on how you see the company shaping and have enclosed a questionnaire, which we would like you to **complete and return by 8th October latest please.**

Despite not having performed a show this year, we felt it important to continue with our annual dinner at the Midland Hotel and you should have already received your invitation.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Paul

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### Who's who on the Committee

President: Colin Harrison      Treasurer: Lorna Harrington

Vice President:	Steve Dunning	Ass. Treasurer:	Sarah Sherrington
Chair:	Paul Kirkland	Business Manager:	Sharon Cooper
Vice Chair:	Jackie O'Brien	Ass. Bus. Manager:	Anna Church
Secretary:	Sue Dunstall	Ticket Secretary:	Andrea Sparham
Ass. Secretary:	Jean Brailsford	News Letter editor:	Matt Clay

## **Member's News**

Great news – we are delighted to report that Emma Davies is making good progress following a recent major operation. We send our love and best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

## **Who's Performing Where**

Andrew Nicklin is taking a production of 'Follies' to Waterford this month with a large contingent from Derby Opera, including Lorna, Luke, Jackie, Steve, Ann, Hilary, Becky, Jude, Jo, Penny and Matt, to name but a few.

Many of our members are appearing in Central's production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' at Landau Forte in March. Joe Robson is playing Motel, Matt Clay is playing Perchik and many other members are involved.

Apologies if we've missed anyone this time around. Contact Matt and let him know what you're doing.

## **Annual Dinner**

Have you booked yet?

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> November at the Midland Hotel, Derby

Doesn't hurt to remind you again!

## **Concerts**

Jean & Peter Gemmell have kindly offered Kilburn Hall as a concert venue on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November, to raise funds for the society. We've invited Andrew Nicklin and a handful of well-known names for this intimate venue, who it is felt will guarantee a capacity audience – a huge thanks to them. We can't sell tickets, but a donation of £20 each is suggested. Committee members will host the evening. Early reservations are advised, call Sarah on 01332 514815 for details.

Thanks also to Sharon who's been busy arranging community concerts. There's another one on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> September and at the moment one next March. Let her know if you would like to take part in either, or if you know of any community groups who would like us to provide some entertainment. We normally just ask for a donation. Call Sharon on 07939 128456.

## **Quiz Night**

We hope to arrange something for Christmas or the New Year; perhaps a pub Quiz night, which Andrea and Jackie have kindly agreed to organize – details to follow.

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