



# THE PROMPT

April 2010



## **Chairman's final remarks!**

I hope you have all had a good Easter and you've not over indulged on the chocolate! Thanks to all who attended the child protection evening. The turnout was impressive with 9 groups represented. It was very informative and we must thank Truro Operatic Society who allowed us to use Redannick Theatre to hold the event. It has certainly acted as a stepping stone for societies to start their own policies and procedures. Our policy is now in place and has been distributed to all our young people who are in 'The War of the Worlds'.

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March we helped celebrate Carnon Downs Village Hall's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. After an Open Day at the hall they completed their celebrations by holding a concert in the evening. Thanks to those of you who attended it was a lovely evening. The Drama Group was represented in the entertainment by Ann Lejeune, Franki Addey and Betty Gripper and their contribution was warmly received so thank you to them for giving their time.

Please don't forget the AGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and do come along and support the Group and the committee. See details further on in this issue.

Rehearsals for 'The War of the Worlds' continue to go well. Sam Barker has done a fantastic job with the choreography which is so much part of the show. It is building well and Linda, Paul and I are thrilled with the progress to date.

This is my last set of notes as Chairman as I stand down at the AGM. I wish to thank all the officers and committee members for their help and support over my 2 years in office and I wish my successor all the very best.

***Elainex***

**AGM REMINDER:** Please remember the new date is Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. 7.30pm in the South Room at Perranwell Village Hall.

Please also remember to bring your copy of last year's Minutes and this year's Agenda, both included with March Prompt.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** These fall due at the AGM. If not present, please send in your cheques (payable to CDDG) together with your membership forms, duly completed to our Membership Secretary.

N.B. As previously mentioned we will be sending future issues of The Prompt via e mail to all members with e mail addresses, unless they tick the box on the form, to say otherwise. Please print your e mail addresses clearly to avoid mis-direction.

## CDDG WEBSITE:

This is now well and truly up and running, thanks to Richard Turner, husband of Aline. Address: [www.carnondownsdrama.co.uk](http://www.carnondownsdrama.co.uk). If, some of you, like yours truly, have trouble reaching it do not try to Google it. Type it in at the top of the page putting http:// first.

Richard has worked very hard to make our site attractive and informative and for this we are extremely grateful. Thank you Richard.

We now have a request to all PAST DIRECTORS! We would like to publish details and your “memories” of the productions that you have directed for us, with a view to publishing them on the website under Past Productions. Please contact Aline Turner on 01326 251233. If you mislay your copy of The Prompt, you will find an edited copy on the website.

## IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD BYE:

Yes, sadly we are saying “au revoir” to Ann & Derek Yates who have been involved with CDDG since 1983. They are moving out of the county, to be closer to family. We are going to miss them terribly as both have given so much to the Group. Derek was our Stage Manager for many years. Building sets ad infinitum and what wonderful sets they were! Ann has served on our Committee as Chairman, general committee member and for the past few years, our very hard working Secretary. No mean task. As well as all this, she has been a great Fund Raiser for the group, which has entailed a lot of hard work and dedication.

Ann has sent in the following:

### AU REVOIR C.D.D.G.

The Yates Family came to Cornwall in 1976 to escape the Midland Rat Race and in search of The Good Life. We had bought a derelict cottage 'out Bissoe way' during 1975 and I told Derek that the children & I would join him when we had a habitable kitchen & bathroom. I forgot to mention that running water would also be useful! The summer of 1976 was the year of the famous heat wave. I naively thought that summers in Cornwall were always going to be like that! It was so hot and dry that we were able to leave the furniture piled up outside on the lawn, which was just as well as the rest of the cottage resembled a small building site.

Our introduction to Drama in the County was when the children joined Kea Youth Pantomime Group at Playing Place. This was a wonderful opportunity for the youngsters to sample stage discipline, and in the days of single sex schools, for girls to meet boys and boys to meet girls, our two being no exception. It was not long before Derek & I became involved. I had 'done a bit' up country, so I very quickly found myself making costumes, choreographing, make up etc. etc. When they found out that Derek knew his electrics and was a dab hand with a hammer..... well, say no more.....

At that time it would be fair to say, that with all due respect, comparing Playing Place Community Centre with Carnon Downs Drama Group would not be unlike comparing HfC with Drury Lane, such was C.D.D.G.'s reputation. But one day I heard an appeal on Radio Cornwall from C.D.D.G. for new members 'as our audiences are tired of seeing the same faces on stage'. The children were becoming more independent and doing their own thing so I thought it worth a whirl - think they might call it 'me' time these days.

My first appearance as a 'new face' was October 1983 in the musical show 'Go West'! This was followed by the part of the Blue Fairy in Mike Meer's production of 'Pinocchio'. The then Stage Manager was looking for a break, so Derek took over the reins. It was great for us both to be a part of this very professional group and Mike's renowned stagecraft expertise was to influence many of Derek's most memorable sets.

1990 was a big turning point. We had just finished the highly successful show 'Café Society' which is still talked about today. It had a cast of thou.....well dozens and Carnon Downs Village Hall was packed for every performance. So many disappointed punters were turned away that we held a repeat performance just for charity. It was for this reason, and for a few political issues besides, that we moved to Perranwell. At the time I was Chairman and this was probably my lowest point in my association with C.D.D.G. An E.G.M was held to tell the Village and the Membership of our decision. C.D Village Hall was packed and I had the difficult job of fielding off questions from a very irate audience. I was a complete novice in those days and I hated the confrontation. However, I was later able to use this experience in my C.V. and I am sure it helped me to get a foot on the ladder of a successful career in Local Government. (Young members take note!)

Yes, Cornwall and C.D.D.G in particular has been very good to us. Between us, in one capacity or another, we have notched up well over 200 Productions, Social Events, Awards Nights, not to mention Meetings and made so many friends (and maybe a few enemies!) along the way. We shall miss you all but it's time to move on. We are so looking forward to being 100 miles closer to all the family, in particular to our Surrey Grandchildren who find the very long journey to get to see Granny & Grandad tedious (not to mention frustrating for Mum& Dad!). I admit to feeling quite excited about starting again before we ....er.....hum .....get much older, in a location that we have got to know and love over the years.

We are a pebbles throw across the Teign from the Carlton Theatre where the One Act Play Festivals are held. It would be good to think that we may see some of you there sometime! Incidentally, we hear that The Carlton has been awarded £7 million for a State of the Art Theatre/Library which we will watch grow with interest. We shall keep up with C.D.D.G news via the 'The Prompt' and our contact with the many friends that we have made. We are leaving when C.D.D.G is on a very high note, with a strong committee, an exciting programme and the fine reputation that we enjoyed in those early days still very much intact.

We send our very best wishes to C.D.D.G for its continued success and hope to see many of you to say a few fond farewells at the A.G.M.

**Ann & Derek Yates**

Ann & Derek, you will not be too far away and we hope you will visit us again in the future to see our forthcoming productions. In the meantime, we thank you both for all your hard work and support for Carnon Downs Drama Group and we wish you all the very best in your new home. Ed:

#### **40th ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE:**

**A big thank you to everyone who helped out on the day and prior! Thanks initially must go to Elaine who came up with the idea, collected in the monies, the menus and created the amazing 40th anniversary cake with an amazing rose decoration.**

**For those not there, you missed a fantastic evening with Master of Ceremonies Trevor Gardiner, who kept us all nearly in order.**

Speeches were made by Life Members and Past Chairmen, Elaine Gummow & Michael Williams. David Ivall, Past Chairman and Life Member led the grace with his normal aplomb and our other Life Members soon to leave us Ann & Derek Yates cut the cake.

Thanks to Aline for the balloons and Sam & Kim Barker for the decorations and putting up with me!

Pete Gummow created one of his infamous quizzes, which was won by Yates, Ivall, Lejeune, Burnett & Church table, obviously the brains of the group.

It was great to see friends old & new and the whole evening was filled with laughter and finally dancing to midnight to the Roosters.

*Linda*

(My apologies, for not including this item in the March issue. Ed:)

*CATCHING ALL ABBA FANS!!! Saturday 5th June*

*Yes, by popular request, we are holding an "ABBA EVENING" at Carnon Downs Village Hall at 7.30pm. This will be another joint Fund Raising effort between CDDG and C.A.H. Committee.*

*It's going to be a great Fun Evening, so don your flares, get in the mood and Singalonga Abba. There will be a prize for the best dressed and Aline is organising a Quiz.*

*Watch this space for further info:*

**NONCDDG EVENTS:**

21<sup>st</sup> -

24<sup>th</sup> April: King Charles Mummers present "Glorious!" by Peter Quilter, at the King Charles Theatre, New St: Falmouth at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 available from The Cornish Store Tel: 01326 315514 or [kcmummers@btinternet.com](mailto:kcmummers@btinternet.com)

27<sup>th</sup> April -

1<sup>st</sup> May: Falmouth Theatre Company present Barry Manilow's colourful musical "Copacabana" at The Princess Pavilion, Falmouth at 7.30pm and 2.30pm Sat: matinee. Tickets, variable prices, available from Box Office Tel: 01326 211222; Hall for Cornwall or online [www.princesspavilion.co.uk](http://www.princesspavilion.co.uk)

May 14<sup>th</sup> Gweek Players present Supper, Singing and Splendiferous Entertainment 7.30pm Tickets - Tel: 0845 0948874 or on line [www.gweekplayers.co.uk](http://www.gweekplayers.co.uk).

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