

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

At the beginning of our A.G.M. we remember people who have passed away during the year who have given service to the Society over the years. Due to the situation, it would be remiss of us not to remember members who have passed away this last year. Our longest serving member Florence Dean. Josie Conway another long serving member and Peter Roberts. Peter was well known for his parts in musicals and plays, and along with his wife Carol were the make up team for Plays and the Youth Theatre.

I would also like on behalf of the Society to send our sincere best wishes to David Sutcliffe and his family. David is seriously ill in hospital, and we very much hope that his health improves soon.

The past year has been the most memorable in our history, but for all the wrong reasons. We started the year with a full programme of varied and exciting events that everyone was looking forward to. In fact, we only managed three productions before lockdown. The Youth Society's production "Imaginary", the play "The Kitchen Sink", and our experimental production in the round of "Grimm Tales". All of these will not only be remembered for some outstanding performances, but also some excellent and innovative staging, and all were much appreciated by our audiences.

During the lockdown we have been busy applying for numerous grants so that we can continue improving all aspects of the Theatre and the Props Bar. We have been so successful with these grants that people will see in the not too distant future a superb new look to the front of the building, and a new shop front to the Props Bar.

Due to loyal support of our members, their subscriptions have paid for the ongoing costs of running the Theatre, and this has allowed us to invest in numerous internal projects that basically could only be carried out when the Theatre is closed. Many of these projects are unseen to the general public but will make an enormous difference to the safe and smooth running of productions. I must say a huge thankyou to our skilled volunteers, many who have been on furlough from their normal employment, who have used their time to carry out numerous projects for the benefit not only of our members, but the general public who use our facilities.

We very much hope that we will be able to have some activity at the Theatre soon but with current restrictions it is very difficult. However, you can be assured that the Executive Committee will continue to use the time the Theatre is closed, to the best advantage.

In the meantime may I extend my best wishes to all our members, stay safe, and very much look forward to seeing you all in the not too distant future.

Kindest of regards,

George Mitchell
(President).