

Gerry's Gossip

Having recently returned from Leicester after the National Conference at the Marriott Hotel, the burning message is that next year we shall be holding the National AGM in the South-West at the Palace Hotel, Torquay, which is the same hotel where Mary Hobbs was installed as President in 2002. I am delighted and highly honoured that it will be my turn to hold that esteemed position, having been installed as Vice President this year, to Margaret Coltman's President. The dates have been reserved for the weekend 24th – 26th September 2010, so please book early once you receive the brochure, as we foresee it being a popular venue. Having the National at Torquay in September will affect our own AGM and weekend, which was successfully held this year at The Palace Hotel for the first time. Although numbers were down slightly on last year, the workshops were excellently received and we are scrutinising feed-back lists from members. However, next year's event will be held before the National and will consist of our AGM and Annual Awards ceremony, with possibly Sunday lunch included in the package. We shall distribute a brochure as early as possible to give you notice of the event, which will possibly be held at one of our previous venues, rather than Torquay. As mentioned in our previous magazine, four new regional rep's have been appointed to the SW committee, they are: Kathy West – District 2, Sue Pomeroy – District 9, Andrew Carpenter – District 10 and Frankie Telford – District 15 see back cover for relevant details. Please welcome them and involve them in your productions and societies' events. Grateful thanks are sent to Malcolm, Craig, Stuart, Carol and Alec for their work on our behalf, along with happy retirement messages for Carol and Alec. Whilst attending a production at Weymouth recently, in the company of our President, Margaret Coltman expressed the wish to be invited to productions in this region as it adjoins hers, so if any society is having a 'special' year or would just like a visit by the President, don't forget to invite Margaret. This year's Summer School was again most successful and all SW Bursary winners benefited hugely from the experience and have sent me fascinating feed-back, which is shown elsewhere in the magazine. Don't forget to apply to me before the end of the year, for application forms, which must be returned by end of January 2010. Next year's Summer School will again be held at Loughborough University and NODA is to hold another Youth Academy next year at Oakham School, Rutland between 6th-9th April 2010. Please encourage our young members to attend this worthwhile course. Our own SW Youth Workshop Day in Bath during May was most successful, with three excellent tutors producing amazing results from over 50 students. Many thanks to R.R Graeme Savage (Dis. 14) for arranging the day. We shall be holding another Chairmen's Lunch in November at Wellington, when Chairmen from Districts 8 and 8A will meet over an informal buffet lunch and open forum discussion, with hopefully either Chairman Eric Smart or CEO Tony Gibbs in attendance.

Our national and regional magazines are probably undergoing a change, with NODA East piloting a scheme for a new magazine format, in tabloid form. It is envisaged that in future, all show reports could be posted on the web as ours are, with hard copies sent on request. This may not suit all, so I am sure you will discuss this with your Respective Representatives. The prospective change-over could save NODA a considerable sum of money.

The programme and poster competition will follow the same format as this year, with number of pages being the deciding factor. Again, Regional Representatives will need to be contacted if you are unsure of procedure, but the criteria is printed in the magazine. Should you wish to enter for this year's competition, which runs from 1st May 2009 – 30th April 2010, please give five copies to your Rep. when he/she attends your production. Congratulations to Promenade Productions for the Runner-up award of The Underwood Quaich for their Basic Programme for "Robinson Crusoe".

NODA South-West – Autumn 2009
From the South-West Councillor

Finally, as I contemplate my 'promotion' I have to notify you that a replacement councillor will need to be appointed. You will find a nomination form with this magazine and should you wish to nominate someone for the position, the application must be accompanied by 25 votes – see Rule 23 and sent to SW Secretary, Iain Douglas, details on back cover.

I will close now, wishing you all the best and happiest of new seasons, super shows, fabulous pantomimes and the wish that you all get out and support each other's productions, especially our talented Youth members.

Kindest regards and I look forward to seeing many of you at Torquay next September.

Kind regards to you all and best wishes for your forthcoming productions,

Gerry.

National AGM & Awards Ceremony
Palace Hotel, Torquay
Saturday 25th September 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.

***Your attendance is expected on the occasion of the inauguration of
our very own Gerry Branton as National President***

Please put this date in your diary and encourage your members to come along too.