

Shenfield Operatic Society's

Spring Snippets - 2018

Hello!

Welcome to the Society's latest Newsletter, where you can read about our shows, S O S events and the latest news.

Betty Blue Eyes':

Performed at the 'Queen's Theatre' from 7th - 10th February.

Nostalgia was the order of the day for some of our more senior readers, as the cast stepped back to 1947. This was the year of the Royal Engagement; Princess Elizabeth with Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, when austerity reigned throughout the country. Our show was set in North Yorkshire and the first task for the cast was learning the language! This was difficult for some, as in the South, the letter 'r' appears in some words - like 'grarss' or 'barth' for example, when every Yorkshire lass or lad would undoubtedly say grAss or bAth. However, that hill was surmounted & the rehearsals went on!

Sadly, on the opening night, Rachel Lane, our leading lady who was playing Joyce Chilvers, was taken ill & had to leave the stage after only a short while. This was such a pity as she had worked ceaselessly to perfect her role; her accent was well-nigh faultless and her comic timing superb. Most fortunately, our Director, Sarah Barton stepped into the role - without a book - and carried the show absolutely brilliantly for the remaining run. How she did it, we will never know - but thank you so much!

Female roles were taken by Sarah Nuzum & Joanna Hunt who played mother & daughter in the Allardyce family; Joanna at 21 playing teenage Veronica with great gusto. Kate Smith, however, played a role much in advance of her tender years as Mother Dear - a grumpy, greedy, senior citizen and she raised many a laugh along the way. Beware of her walking stick! Diane Hills, Louise Byrne & Rachel Watson gave a beautiful rendition of 'Magic Fingers'; Steph Ironmonger, Wendy Clark & Kerry

Cook sang the 'Lionheart' trio delightfully; Kerry Cooke took the role of Mrs. Metcalf, a butcher's wife, who attempted to seduce poor Gilbert; and Rachel Watson, as Princess Elizabeth, raised the roof in 'Another Little Victory', with the handsome Greg Morgan as Prince Philip.

Alli Smith played the ever-downtrodden chiropodist [pardon the pun] Gilbert Chilvers, with his usual flair, skill & inventiveness; a newcomer with a lovely deep voice, James Llewellyn Smith, ably took on the role of the bullying Dr. Swaby; Mr. Allardyce's -or- David Cormack's love for Betty the Pig was most touching and our grateful thanks go to Mick Kiel for stepping into Accountant Lockwood's shoes so effectively. Iain Johnson was the villain of the plot, playing a Nazi- style Inspector of Meat; Peter Bernardon was a grumpy but realistic farmer looking after Betty; Jack Lloyd was the young village policeman and Bill Jaycock, Rick McGeouch & Rob Phillips were 3 village butchers. I wish they would come to Chelmsford - there's a dearth of butchers' shops here!

The real star of the show was Betty the Pig, who was led into all kinds of places and who made all kinds of 'faces', most successfully, by skilful puppeteer Caroline Green.

The rest of the cast sang their socks off with their ever tuneful & harmonious melodies. They filled the stage with their coming & goings, never failing to engage with each other, and wearing super 1947 style garments, provided by Dress Circle, who never fail to satisfy.

Our real thanks must go to our Director, Sarah Barton & Musical Director, Rachael Plunkett, without whom this most unusual show would not have happened.

During rehearsals, several fund-raising activities took place for 'Snap' & I'm delighted to be able to tell you the company raised a pleasing amount for the Charity.

The next Show will be our Concert:

'Let them eat Cake'

This will take place at Blackmore Village Hall on Friday evening 29th & Saturday matinee & evening 30th June 2018. It will take the form of a soiree, with tea & cake - what else? - in the interval. Our Director is Kate Smith & the MD will be Alli Smith - no relation. The clue to the content of the Concert is in the title!

If you are interested in taking part in our Concert, we'll be holding the Intro night at St. George's Church Hall, Ongar Rd. Brentwood CM15 9HG on Friday 23rd February from 7:45 - 10:15pm. Auditions will take place on Sunday 4th March at St. Peter's School, Wigley Bush Lane, Brentwood CM14 5QN - times to be arranged later.

Tickets are already available from Suzanne Gunn, our Box Office manager on boxoffice@shenfieldpertsociety.co.uk

Forthcoming Shows:

In **February 2019**, our show at the 'Queen's Theatre' will be '*All Shook Up*', with music for the entire show being that of the King Himself, none other than **Elvis Presley**.

Dates 30th January to 2nd February 2019

Artistic Director: David Street

Musical Director: Ben Summers

Contact us now to find out how to join us for this amazing show

Email membership@shenfieldoperaticsociety.co.uk

Social Events:

Sarah, our Social Secretary has arranged a 'Prosecco & Priscilla' evening on Saturday May 5th; the show is on at the 'Queen's Theatre'. She has already booked tickets for a number of people, but if you would like to go, please contact her on social@shenfieldoperaticsociety.co.uk and she will try to obtain further tickets.

A **Rock'n'Roll Evening** will be held on Friday 6th July at South Weald Parish Hall. £15 per head - bring your own drinks and nibbles. This will be a taster night before we start '*All Shook Up*'. Get out your bobby sox, frilly skirts, drainpipe trousers & be ready to hit the floor and **Rock'n'Roll!**

Contact Sarah on social@shenfieldoperaticsociety.co.uk for tickets

Congratulations:

I think this is a first? These go to our 'lady of the make-up', **Lesley Hall**, who has been awarded the **BEM** - British Empire Medal - for services to Education. She will collect her award from Someone in great authority at Windsor Castle, later in the spring. Well done Lesley, from everyone in the Society!

Committee changes:

At the AGM this coming September, I will be relinquishing my role as the Society's Secretary. I have been on the Committee for over 12 years & have been Secretary for 10.

I think it's time someone else [& possibly someone younger] took over!

If you have a yen to follow in my footsteps, please don't hesitate to contact me on: secretary@shenfieldoperaticsociety.co.uk or ring me on 01245 460516 and I will be more than happy to lead you gently through the intricacies of my role on the Committee. Thanks!

. . .**And finally:**

If you have anything you would like me to put in the next edition, which will come out after the Concert, please let me know, by emailing me on the above address.

Many thanks!

Lynne