



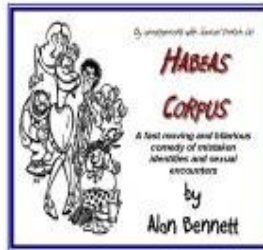
**Crandall Entertainers  
Community Association**  
Reg. Charity no. 1063032

## AGM 28 May 2008 – Chairman’s Report

2007-8 has been another busy year. We have had three successful productions and The Old Gym continues to be regularly used by a variety of community groups which ensures its financial stability. Unlike many local amateur dramatics groups, we make a surplus from our productions, which not only enables us to invest in our future, by carrying out maintenance and repairs to The Old Gym and to our lighting and sound equipment, but also enables us to offer support to other charitable causes.

I would like to thank all of the CECA Committee for their support and hard work but in particular the Old Gym Management Sub-Committee, Booking Clerk and Cleaner who have all worked so hard planning investments, maintenance and upkeep of our greatest asset The Old Gym. Whilst we are rightly proud of what we achieve, it is worth reflecting that CECA’s strength is built upon not only the success of TOG but also our continued good working relationship with the Village Hall Committee. The Old Gym and Village Hall together mean that Crandall Entertainers not only have excellent facilities for storage, construction and rehearsals but also a great venue for our performances. It is this winning combination, coupled with our ability to offer a range of different productions which enables our financial success. As with all community voluntary groups, we too need to constantly seek and encourage new recruits. This year the committee have once again been busy conducting leaflet drops and social events which have proven successful in welcoming new members to join the group. New faces and new ideas are vital if we are to continue and build upon our success.

### Productions



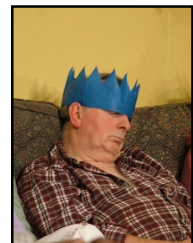
#### **Habeas Corpus – 21, 22 & 23 June 2007**

As 2007 was our 25<sup>th</sup> year we decided to revisit one of our favourite plays, Alan Bennett’s hilarious and very clever comedy Habeas Corpus full of mistaken identities and sexual encounters. Staged on a simple but striking set, the 11 cast were ably directed by Geoff Wickes. We last performed this show in 1987 and once again it proved to be a great success and very well attended with large audiences. Habeas Corpus not only allowed us to welcome Tom Worthington to the group but it also gave us a chance to ‘hang’ Dave Cole as Mr Perdue! We were delighted when the show managed to raise a magnificent surplus of approximately £1300! Many congratulations to everyone involved.

#### **Comfort & Joy 15, 16 & 17 November 2007**



Following a successful recruitment drive, series of leaflet drops and Social evening in September, we attracted 12 new faces to the the auditions and were finally able to be able to cast Comfort and Joy by Mike Harding. We first read the play five or six years ago during Play Readings, it immediately became a firm favourite and we have been wanting to perform it ever since.



With a cast of 13, a great set, live music, 2 Christmas trees, strange sound and lighting effects, an hilarious game of charades and complex present opening scene - the show was not easy to stage. As director I would like to thank all of the cast, crew and band for all of their hard work.



As the Friday night of the show was also the evening of the BBC Children in Need Appeal, we decided to pass a bucket round the audiences offering them the chance to donate any small change as the audiences arrived for both the Friday and Saturday performances. We were delighted to collect £261 and Crandall Entertainers were very pleased to be able to double this figure so that we were able to donate a total £522. After this was taken into account the show raised an impressive surplus of over £1000.



## Party Piece – 17, 18 & 19 April 200

“Party Piece” by Richard Harris is a comedy set in the back gardens of feuding neighbours. The designers and stage builders excelled themselves with this brilliant set.

During this show, the night of Michael and Roma's fancy dress house warming turns into a string of disasters with a distinct lack of guests, a burning shed and a marauding zimmer frame. A difficult play to stage with many complex entrances and exits, Party Piece was well directed by Deborah Hammond and Jo Storey.

‘Party Piece’ was an expensive production to stage and so surplus over expenditure was not as high as usual, but the play was still profitable, even after donation of the £253 raffle proceeds to the Accessible Boating Association.



## The Old Gym



During the year the facilities that TOG offers the local community have continued to improve as a result of the hard work and dedication of the Management Sub-Committee (Bev, Ellen, Barrie, David & Val with help from Colin) and Sue Gregory who is doing an excellent job as cleaner. I would also like to thank Bob for running the bookings and for arranging the insurance claims for the recent unfortunate spates of vandalism which affected various areas within the village including TOG's glass roof.

This year we have been working to arrange investment into the upkeep and maintenance of the building including: new lighting to the Main Hall, new guttering and repair of the fascias, tree surgery and ivy trimming, repair of the airbricks and landscaping the front pathway.

We shouldn't underestimate the impact that this building is having supporting other local community groups. The facilities continue to be well used by a variety of groups. I would like to thank our regular user groups, in particular Stepping Stones and to our neighbours of TOG for their cooperation and support .

## Social Events

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Margaret and Brian Grimwood for all of their hard work to support the social side of the Crondall Entertainers. Margaret's work as Social Secretary involves her working with Val and Ellen to organise visits (such as the one to see 'Noises Off' at the Haymarket, Social Evenings to welcome new members, the Christmas Party and participation in events run by other community groups such as Quiz Nights. Brian has for many years organised the licences and run the bars at our shows. Having a bar not only provides a social and welcoming atmosphere before and after our performances but also helps to raise significant funds for the group.

Regular social activities maintain and reflect the health of our group and we are all very grateful for all that Margaret and Brian do.

## Reflecting on this past year and looking forward to the next

We would like to thank and congratulate some of our longest serving members. NODA badges will shortly be awarded to: Ellen & Bev Heslop (25 Years) Tony Waite (20 Years) Deborah & Bob Hammond (15 Years) Margaret & Brian Grimwood (10 Years).

CECA's aims state, "We are an enthusiastic community amateur dramatic group who strive to achieve ever higher levels of excellence and enjoyment. To this end, guardianship of the Old Gymnasium is fundamental. One of our greatest rewards is being able to support other charitable and worthy causes". 2007/8 has been another very good year for the group when we have met and even exceeded these aims. We have had three successful productions, investment in our greatest asset The Old Gym and technical resources whilst still being able to donate substantial amounts to other charitable causes.

If we wish to continue to experience success, then the future of our group relies upon all of us being able to attract new members and offering a range of different productions and activities enabling them to become actively involved. This, along with investment in equipment and The Old Gym must remain the key foci for the Committee next year.

Thank you everyone for your continued support, I continue to be proud to serve as Chairman of CECA and look forward to what we can achieve during 2008/9.

**Matthew Newberry**

