

Feb 2008

### Children of Eden – Angela Barker

Now that the dust has settled on Children of Eden, I have had time to reflect on the Opera Club's splendid achievement. There was so much to admire – the first rehearsals where we sorted out choral irregularities in the score; the interaction of "family" groups; the children, the masks, lighting and costumes; and how could I forget my favourite moment of all – Pursuit of Excellence? (I'm even using this title in my Chairman's letter for the Reigate & Redhill Music Festival programme next year).

We knew the show was going to be ambitious and it came off and was highly acclaimed, deservedly so. Thank you all for your commitment and expertise. You looked and sounded, as usual, terrific.

So to next year for something entirely different. The Music Man. Trains, trombones, books and boys. A great Musical. Get the CD/DVD "That rhymes with P and that stands for Pool"....

See you soon.

*Angela*

### Chairman's Notes:

It cannot have escaped your notice that we are fast approaching our AGM and we need some more members to be on the committee. This last year we have been under extra pressure as Ralph had to step down for personal reasons and other members of the committee were either unwell or not available and that meant for the majority of the year we operated with a core of about 4 or 5 people on a regular basis. We had tremendous success with Children of Eden with a huge cast on stage, more even than Scarlet Pimpernel and that was a rousing success. If it hadn't been for the help of people like Alys Dreux, who organised the chaperoning of the children and all the paperwork therein and Lynda Pond who took on membership secretary roles, we would have really struggled.

We have a thriving club at the moment that has been built up over the last few years, but now is the time for you all to think hard about whether you can help run the club. We need two new members to take on specific roles: - Vice Chairman and Marketing. Job specifications for these positions will be posted on the website. As you know the committee as a whole steps down each year and the various committee members offer themselves for re-election which effectively means any job is up for grabs. We have some great things planned this year but we need some help.

Regards *Kevin*

A letter from Julian Ellacott (councillor):

Just a quick note to express my sincere thanks to yourself and the committee of the Opera Club for the ticket to see Children of Eden last Friday. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance, which reaffirmed my view of the strength of local talent, and the importance of having a local venue in which to showcase it. I will do all I can to ensure that Chris Wait and the other representatives of the users are involved as further discussions take place about future regeneration in Redhill – so that we can secure the continuation of (if not betterment of) theatre facilities in the town.

## 2008 show 'The Music Man'

12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Musical Director: Angela Barker

Producer: Helen Hardwick

1st rehearsal Wed 21<sup>st</sup> May, Micklefield school

Principal Auditions Sun 15<sup>th</sup> June

(For acting members only, see the rehearsal schedule attached.)



The DVD is available from Amazon for £4.98. Please order through our website, as we get a commission.

Angela can provide practice tapes before the first rehearsal so get your orders in now! Either contact Angela direct or Margaret on 01737 767659.

## 2009 'Scrooge' a joint production with ESOS

24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009



Representatives from both societies are meeting and planning the production.

[www.operacub.org.uk](http://www.operacub.org.uk)

Special thanks to Kevin Wood for all of his work on the club website. Specifically for updating the website so quickly with photos and reviews from Children of Eden.

Do take a look.

Congratulations to.....

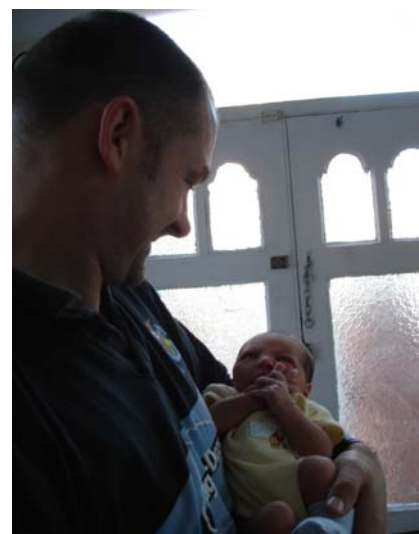
Neil & Vivienne Williams on the birth of their son.

Dear all,

Vivienne and I are very proud to announce the birth of our baby boy, Sebastian Paul Williams, born Saturday 22nd January 8:25pm weighing 7lb 8oz/3.4kg.

Mother, baby & father doing extremely well and very much enjoying these first precious moments together.

Fond regards - Vivienne & Neil Williams



.....and to Julia Wycherley

who has been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list for 'Services to Amphibian and Reptile Conservation'

## 2008 Subscriptions

Please don't forget that your 2008 subscriptions are now due: £50 for full membership. Please send payments using the attached form (+ change of address/E-mail details) to David Pond. Don't forget you must have paid your subscription to vote at the AGM.

## Stop Press. The Opera Club - Registered Charity Number: 1122724

After a somewhat drawn out process we can finally confirm that the Opera Club is now a registered charity.

The only immediate effect of this will be on membership subscriptions. Please complete the attached Gift Aid form and return it with your membership renewal. Also see the attached note explaining Gift Aid and why it is important to club finances that all tax paying members complete the form.

## Dates for your Diary

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 31 March     | <b>AGM</b> at Micklefield School. Agenda etc. will be delivered shortly. Please do try to attend. |
| 21 May       | <b>Wednesday.</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Music Man rehearsal.  |
| 15 June      | Music Man Principal Auditions, Micklefield School.  |
| 29 June      | CAR RALLY – Details to follow.  |
| 27 September | HELIER QUIZ NIGHT – Details to follow.  |
| Post show    | Themed cabaret evening.   |

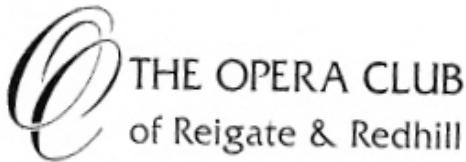
## Bits and Pieces

Hatton Operatic Society present **Jane Eyre** the musical from 19-23 February at The Magna Carta Arts Centre, Thorpe Road, Staines. Box Office Tel no 01784 256320

The BBC are looking for talented newcomers to play 'Oliver' or 'Nancy' for a West End production. Application forms & more info at: [www.bbc.co.uk/oliver](http://www.bbc.co.uk/oliver) or call 09001 800 300

## YOUR COMMITTEE 2007

- |                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Chairman –      | Kevin Hogg                    |
| Secretary –     | Margaret Churchley            |
| Treasurer –     | David Pond                    |
| Vice-Chairman – |                               |
| Member –        | Nicky Allen                   |
| Member –        | David Brown (not re-standing) |
| Member –        | David Eccles                  |
| Member –        | Sarah Esser                   |



THE OPERA CLUB  
of Reigate & Redhill

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name: Mr / Mrs / Ms .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Telephone (Day) ..... (Evening) .....

Mobile .....

E-mail .....

Subscriptions: (Please tick)	Full Acting Membership	£50	.....
	Non-earning young person	£25	.....
	Non-acting member	£5	.....
	Subscribing patron	£25	.....
	Additional high rate taxpayer donation	£20	.....

Please note that for the first year only of acting membership, new (adult) members will be allowed a 50% discount on the acting membership fees.

Please make cheques payable to "The Opera Club" and send it with this form to the Treasurer:

David Pond, 5 Claremont Road, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2JT

Or hand to any member of the committee.

Please also remember to complete a Gift Aid form if you have not already done so.

We will be pleased to welcome you to our society. If you have any queries, please telephone our Secretary, Margaret Churchley on 01737 767659.

# Opera Club Membership subscriptions - Tax

Now that the Opera Club is a registered charity, we are entitled to claim back the tax you have already paid on the money you pay: for your annual subscription, give as a patron's donation, or give as any other donation. See below for details. This will significantly help our finances at no cost to yourself. **Note especially the details for higher rate tax payers.**

However, to do this you must fill out a charity Gift Aid form. One of these is attached along with the membership renewal form for your convenience. This form can either be used for a one off donation or to cover all future donations. Thus once you have filled one in you won't need to again for future years. It can be cancelled at any time and does not hold you to any future payment to the club.

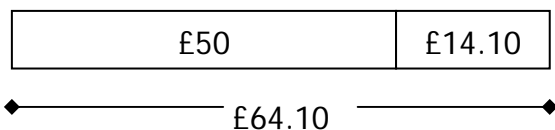
Also, given the club effectively became registered from the date of the original EGM where we agreed to become a charity, we are also allowed to reclaim tax on any subscription payment or donation you made last year as well. Thus please delete the declarations as appropriate.

## What we get back

Assuming you pay the full adult acting membership, currently £50, we can claim as follows. For lower subscription rates the tax reduces proportionally.

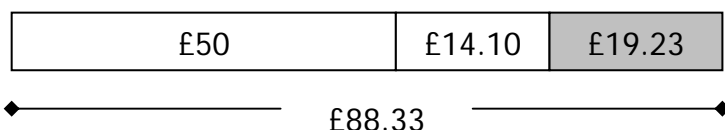
If you are a **basic rate** tax payer, you will have actually earned £64.10 gross of which 22% tax will have already been deducted [ $£64.10 * (1 - 0.22) = £50$ ]

This £14.10 tax we can now claim back if you fill out a gift aid form:



If you are a **higher rate** tax payer, you will have actually earned £83.33 gross of which 40% tax will have already been deducted. [ $£83.33 * (1 - 0.40) = £50$ ]

Here we can still only assume that you are a basic rate tax payer and claim back as if you'd earned £64.10 as above, but if you fill out a tax return you will personally be able to reclaim the additional amount up to the 40% paid. At this point you will have effectively only paid just over £30 for your acting membership, so we leave it to your conscience if you want to help the club out by passing the £20 saving on as an additional donation. (All payments received in full confidence.)



## Why we can claim

In the HMRC guidance on Gift Aid and the reclaiming of tax, it states that charity membership subscriptions can be treated as gifts (donations) to the charity (and thus be eligible for Gift Aid tax relief) so long as that membership is only providing: "the opportunity to take part in activities by which the charity carried out its charitable objectives" (See detailed guidance notes chapter 3 - Gift Aid section 3.46.7 and surrounding sections.)

In our new constitution we have several charitable objects. The constitution states that in furtherance of these objects we will "give amateur performances of Operas, Operettas and other musicals". Thus the full acting membership subscription which entitles you to take part in these productions can be classed as a donation in the same way as any other gift to the club.

# Gift Aid Declaration for The Opera Club of Reigate and Redhill

("The Opera Club") Registered Charity no.1122724

## Details of donor

Title .....

Forename(s) .....

Surname .....

## Home address

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Post Code .....

Date of declaration .....

I want the Opera Club to treat:

\* the enclosed donation / subscription of £ ..... as a Gift Aid donation.

\* all donations / subscriptions that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

\* all donations / subscriptions I have made for this tax year and the year prior to the year of this declaration, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

\*delete as appropriate

Signed .....

**You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give).**