



## Maggie Bradsell

It is with great sadness that I bring you the news that Maggie Bradsell has passed away. Our love and thoughts go to Peter and their family.

Maggie was known to many of us for being the most amazing properties mistress in the world. With the help of her husband Peter there was no prop too hard or complicated that they couldn't make.

(photo Maggie in '84 Charring Cross Road' in 1986)

**Maggie's funeral will be held at  
1:30pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September at Newport Crematorium. All welcome.  
Family flowers only. Donations to EM Hospice.**

**No unsigned copy will be accepted.**

**Please use full names (of members or authors, etc) at all times.**

**Copy deadline is the FIRST Saturday of each play.**

**Editors email address: [postmaster@sleeptite.force9.co.uk](mailto:postmaster@sleeptite.force9.co.uk)**

**Apollo Website: [www.apollo-theatre.org.uk](http://www.apollo-theatre.org.uk)**



Director's Chat

**Amy Burns**

**amy@masexodus.co.uk or 07886 389 561**

Firstly Welcome to the 44<sup>th</sup> season, who would have thought that in 1969 when John Hancock got the monies raised together to buy the building, we would be going from strength to strength this many years later. Thank you to all of those that were involved in raising monies, helping with the conversions and putting on the 316 productions that we have done since the beginning.

I would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who helped, supported and attended the Gala night. It was lovely to see so many faces old and new and was a fabulous evening.

Well done to the cast and crew of Ladies in Retirement for a good opener to the new season. Let's hope that the rest are as exciting and good.

Could I also say a huge thanks to Paul Jennings who has made a slide show of one photo from all the shows we have ever done, I hope that you all got the chance to see it. We may be producing copies for people to buy watch this space.

Keep up the hard work everyone. Lets make this an amazing season.



**Art's Manager 2015 - 2016**

**Maggie Cardew**

**cardewmaglet@gmail.com**

The 2015/16 season is off to a roaring start, good sized houses so far and mostly well received! Gala night was a great introduction for people who may have forgotten we are here and for those who have never been before, much will come from that I think, thanks Amy. The backstage management team did a fantastic job against great adversities and should be roundly congratulated as should the wardrobe for stunningly appropriate costumes. Thanks to everybody involved.

The Kitchen Sink is well into rehearsal and is going swimmingly I believe, really looking forward to that. Keep your eyes peeled for information on casting the next two plays, we had an hilarious time last week reading through The Witches which promises to be very popular indeed and Di Evans, who is directing Dangerous Corner has something in this copy of Apollonius so keep an eye out for that.

A final note...please remember that every member is able to audition for every play so please don't wait to be asked, auditions are a great way to get to know other actors and to register your own interest in acting and although not everybody that auditions can be cast you never know what may happen on the day. Good luck everybody and here's to a fantastic season.

# PROPS FOR "THE KITCHEN SINK"

Set in an ordinary kitchen in a fading seaside-resort, we are looking for a solid pine or Formica-topped kitchen table with two benches. The dark wood refectory tables we have in store are not really suitable. Contact Kate Fysh.

**NOTE:** One of the very important props, especially made for the production, will be on display in the bar or foyer during the run of the play. It will be raffled-off to raise money for The Island Women's Refuge charity.

## 100 Club

Our major Prize Winner of the year of £500 was Mr A Crowson. Unfortunately, he was unable to be at Gala Night since he would be on holiday in Ireland by then so, since he was already booked to come on the First Night Mike Whitehead, on our behalf, was kind enough to present Mr Crowson with his cheque.

We are tremendously grateful to all those who have supported the Trust over the years, together with those who may have only recently joined the 100 Club.

If you are interested in finding out more about the 100 Club the forms can be found in the Foyer of the Theatre but please follow the instructions carefully if you decide you'd like to be part of it. Make sure that we know your name and address so that you are included in our list and so that we are able to send the cheque to the right place when necessary. You would be supporting the efforts of the Apollo Trust in its work of maintaining the Theatre and of its object of education in the Arts amongst the Community. Cynara :- Tel 527606

## Tributes to Maggie Bradsell

So sad to hear this news, Maggie was a lovely lady and nothing was too much. Thoughts go to Peter and family. Rest well Maggie xx

So sad to hear this Maggie was an incredible lady and I loved helping her out with the props. Thoughts to Peter and family and everyone at the Apollo xx

Very sad news, Maggie was a wonderful person and a huge asset to the theatre! Thoughts are with her everlasting spirit and family, sleep well Maggie xx

Such a lovely lady. Will be greatly missed.

Horrible news. What a truly lovely lady - someone who championed me as a youngster making steps in the theatre. Her smile could change your day for the better. A great loss. Please send my love to Peter and family

A truly lovely lady, who alongside Peter, never let the need of a difficult prop to get hold of beat them. Love to Peter and family. R.I. P. Maggie, xx

She had such a love of life and a wicked sense of humour. One of the first three people at the theatre I was introduced to. Incredible lady does not do her justice.

## Maggie Bradsell

Maggie became a very dear friend over the years. We were colleagues in so many ways, even before she took over managing the Props Room. She thoroughly enjoyed working with Barbara Turner, learning so much about Barbara's methods of direction. I remember her comments after successfully producing an apron/sack which had enjoyed life as an inhabitant of a railway carriage that had been home to a flock of chickens for 'Breaking the Silence'. She was one of a team of three when I was directing my first production for the Apollo;- 1989 'the pantomime 'Dick Whittington', she was my prompt throughout and when we were actually in the production run she was more frequently sitting in Neptune's throne than the prompt chair and getting covered in all sorts of props that various members of the cast were dumping on her. She was my extra pair of eyes and ears on several more productions. Together we sorted out the huge pile of shoes that had accumulated in the Props Room given to us by a Cowes shoe shop which was closing down. We, together with Hilary Simpson, worked with our previous Wardrobe mistress, Nina French, and had great fun remembering with her so many of the Old Music Hall songs while we worked; Nina, being a cockney, knew them all. Maggie took charge of the Properties and Furniture and was meticulous in making sure that props supplied were absolutely correct both historically and socially. She helped me when I decided that our soft furnishings needed sorting. When she could no longer climb the stairs we both had to give up; it's a job that really needs two for accurate measurement and labelling. Latterly, she had been a regular with me on Day Time Box Office, and during any gaps in customers we swapped books, jokes, and news and worries about our relative families. Until her physical problems began she was always game for anything to help the Theatre be more efficient and effective.

We shared similar views in so many ways, and Maggie and Peter, Mike and I, became very close friends. I had been missing her for some time now because the person I visited in the nursing home wasn't the friend I had enjoyed for nearly forty years, but now it is final and I grieve for the loss of the friend I knew for so long and for Peter's sorrow, and our Apollo Theatre now has a hole in its organisation that will be very difficult to fill. Cynara

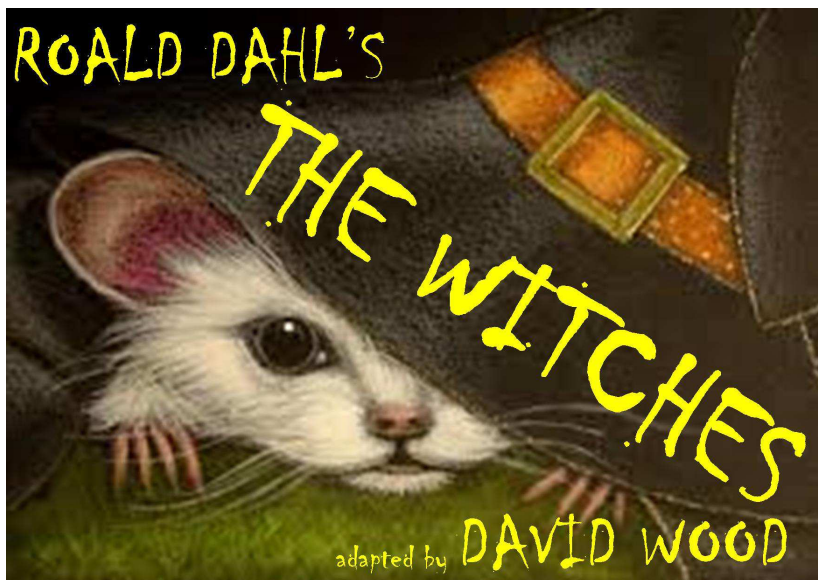
The next Conference and AGM will be the Southern Region's to be held in the Studio Theatre Salisbury, a member of our HUB Group, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The workshops will include: 'Writing for the Theatre', 'Changing Places, Changing Faces', and a walk around the locality.

I can pass on details to anyone who may be interested in finding out more. It's relatively close, an very interesting city and the workshops sound great - - - and it's a wonderful chance to get a look at how other groups manage problems that are common to most of the Little Theatre Guild member theatres.

Next year's National Conference and AGM will celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LTG and will be held at the Crescent Theatre Birmingham on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016. As part of the celebrations the Crescent have invited short showpieces from other member theatres and hope that each region will be represented.

Cynara Crump LTG Rep – [Tel:-527606](tel:527606) or email [cynara.crump@virgin.net](mailto:cynara.crump@virgin.net)



## Auditions for The Witches

Directors Amy and Dan Burns

**Auditions to be held Sunday  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 2:30pm  
at the Apollo Theatre**

Based on the book and film by Roald Dahl and  
adapted by David Wood

This production should be fun for all ages from  
8 till 108

**The main characters are:**

**The Boy and his Grandmother** who appear throughout,

**Mr and Mrs Jenkins and their Son Bruno**

**Doorman, Doctor, Sailor, Lawyer, Head Chef, Second Chef, Waiter, Frog**

**Grand high witch and various Witches and guests of the Hotel.**

The parts are all small character parts (original played by just 10 actors), with great scope for fun and comedy. But great for new actors or experienced ones who want some fun just before Christmas.

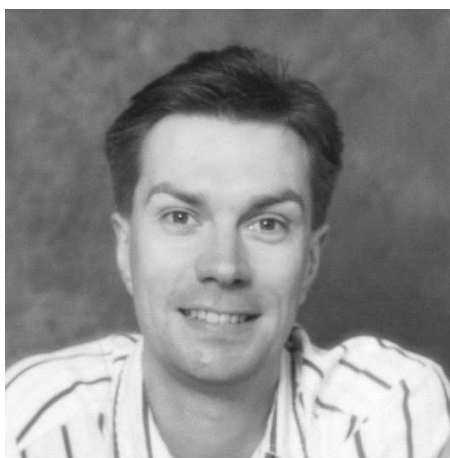
The play is quite physical, with lots of fast action at times. Keeping the flow moving at all times.

If you are interested in audition please come along on Sunday.

Audition pieces will be a Roald Dahl poem, Bring your own or contact us for one.

Amy 07886 389 561 [amy@masexodus.co.uk](mailto:amy@masexodus.co.uk)

Dan 07401 306 577 [dan@masexodus.co.uk](mailto:dan@masexodus.co.uk)



**Hello fellow members of Apollo players,**

I am presenting my new cabaret act "Chris n Chris" at the Apollo on 1st November 2015, curtain up at 7.30, the main purpose is to showcase the act to island hoteliers etc as a way to get some bookings. However it would be nice to have a good size audience, so I am throwing it open to Apollo members and friends of mine to come along, £5 for the evening, once I have covered my costs, there will be a donation to the Apollo. It should be a fun evening and I would love to have as large an audience as possible. Thank you all in advance,

John (Chris n Chris)



# Dangerous Corner

J B Priestley

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> 2016

(Note: This play replaces An Inspector Calls)

'Dangerous Corner' was first performed in 1932 and is of its time. It was Priestley's first solo play and was also his first experiment with 'Time' ; an idea that continued to fascinate him.

The setting is at an after – dinner gathering where prompted by a radio play, the hosts and guests reveal 'truths' about the death of the host's brother. These revelations lead to another tragic death. The lights fade and when they come up again the action is as in the beginning of the play, where the lives of the characters take a different turn into an alternative dimension of reality.

## Cast

Robert Caplan	30s-40s
Freda Caplan, his wife	30s-40s
Olwen Peel	30s-40s
Charles Stanton	30s-40s
Gordon Whitehouse	20s-30s
Betty Whitehouse, his wife	20s-30s
Maude Mockridge.	40s upward

The ages I have attached to characters are 'ideal' playing ages but can be adjusted to suit.

**The date for the read through has been changed and will now be on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 7:30 in the Bar. The auditions will be on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm in the auditorium.** Audition pieces will be available at the read through or on request from that time.

Di Evans (director), 883023, diandclem@hotmail.com

\*\*\*\*\* **Please note the change in date for the read through** \*\*\*\*\*

## Community Outreach Update Michael Arnell: 296388

The visits to our theatre by various Island groups continue. Remember, if you know of a group who would like to come on a weekday morning or afternoon, to enjoy a complimentary cuppa and biscuit, a brief history and tour of our theatre to show how "the magic is made", and rounded off with a simple page-to-stage practical workshop, let me know.

To encourage audiences to our Christmas production of "The Witches", I will be contacting all Island Primary schools to invite pupils to enter a painting competition. The subject will be "Nice or Nasty Witches" and the best will be displayed in the bar during the run of the play. The overall winner will receive a family-ticket.



House Manager

Paul Stevens

postmaster@sleeptite.force9.co.uk

If you have visited the bar lately you will have seen the progress made and hopefully before 'The Kitchen Sink' the coffee bar will also have been moved. It has been interesting hearing the rumours surrounding the work. Please be assured that no decision has yet been made concerning how many people will be needed to man Front of House in the future. When the decision is made it will appear in Apollonius.

The duties for the front of house team are being rewritten. If you are unsure of your duties at any time please talk to me and I will be glad to help. We are now able to take cards in the box office and this seems to be going well. If anybody would like to help with daytime or evening box office please let me know as I will be happy to train you at your convenience!

## PLAY READINGS

Traditionally, play readings have been taken by an outsider, first Edna Crosbie and then me, although I've often wondered why? Surely it makes better sense for the director, who knows the play, to take these readings?. Not that they're meant to be pre-auditions, just fun, with no commitments, which is why I've always been surprised that they're so poorly attended.

However the play readings of *Ladies in Retirement* and *Witches* were each taken by the director and co-director. This was so much better and I'm hoping that all future directors for this season will follow suit, although if you really can't bear the prospect of running the evening then of course, I'll do it but I'll need to have a copy of the play at least a fortnight beforehand to make notes etc.

The readings are usually on a Monday (the day when there is less likely to be rehearsals and when scenery builders, who might be interested, are often around). However, it will be up to the directors to choose the evening which suits them and also the date for the auditions. So, if I don't hear from you I will (thankfully) take it that you will be in charge.

[ritaboffin@peterboffin.force9.co.uk](mailto:ritaboffin@peterboffin.force9.co.uk)

## Read through dates

Listed below are the rest of the read through dates for our 44<sup>th</sup> season. Please remember that these are only for members to find out what a play is like and they are not auditions.

- Dangerous Corner Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>
- The Birthday Party Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>
- Little Gem Monday February 8<sup>th</sup>
- 'Allo 'Allo Monday March 28<sup>th</sup>

If you need any more information please contact the directors of each individual play or Maggie Cardew.

If undelivered, please return to: Apollo Theatre, Pyle Street, Newport,  
Isle of Wight, PO30 1JT



☎: 01983 527267

44<sup>th</sup> Season

### The Apollo Players

present

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October

and

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October

7.30 pm

Box Office Open Daily ☎: 01983 527267

From Saturday to Saturday (except Sundays)

between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and from 6.45 p.m. during the run

For information and booking online go to

[www.apollo-theatre.org.uk](http://www.apollo-theatre.org.uk)

**THE TITCHEN**  
**KINKS**

a delightful  
family comedy  
by TOM WELLS