



Sue Dowler, one of CDRC's team leaders, has been volunteering here for over 15 years. She helps co-ordinate the sewing team, oversees costume care, assists with children's storytelling, processes hires and returns, inputs into fundraising and staff meetings and finds the work varied and the cause worthwhile. We asked her why.

#### What did you do before you started at CDRC?

I was helping my husband to bring up our two children and working as a part time tutor to overseas students learning English.

Why should anyone volunteer? I believe it's a great way of working towards a common goal, and of working together with like-minded people, as a team, to make a difference to the person, charity or organisation you are involved with.

And He said to me.

2 Cor 12:9

My grace is sufficient

for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

at LifeWorks 260 High Rd Loughton **IG101RB** 

#### **OPENING TIMES**

Mon-Fri 10AM-3PM **Term Time Only** 

#### **CLOSED**

**Every Thursday** and Weekends



**CDRCtweets** 





cdrc inpicture



**Christian Drama** Resource Centre

Why CDRC?

A singing friend needed some costumes and props and invited me to come and meet Andrea. Running CDRC out of her attic room at the time, she made such an impression on me. So a few years later I asked if she needed any more volunteers, and here I still am and everyday is different!

#### Why is the work we do an important service?

At CDRC we provide costumes and props for busy teachers, parents, worship leaders and drama facilitators. The pleasure we see on people's faces when they leave with what they need is very satisfying. Our Christian message goes into our local schools when they request a visit from our story telling team.

Do you still have time to do other things? Yes, of course. CDRC is only one day a week.

What's your favourite era?

We have stunning medieval costumes in our collection (see Pg7), but I love those from

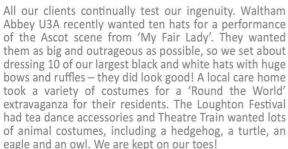
the 20s and 30s and especially the evening wear, which is truly elegant.

What's your favourite play or musical?

Opera: La Boheme. Play: Twelfth Night. Musical: Cats SUE DOWLER

# COMMUNITY

# HATS OFF TO U3A





Pictured above, a life-size skull was donated yesterday by Elaine Pritchard of Waltham Abbey U3A . She got this for use in a scene with Yorick that she recently produced and directed. by BARBARA LANE



**COVER STORY** See sew up & down COMMUNITY PG2 Hats off to U3A SCHOOLS.....PG3 Russian into it CHURCHES.....PG4 Club med STORYTELLING.....PG5 Chimp the champ VOLUNTEERS......PG6 Not a royal mess PROPS PG7 To do list EVENTS.....PG8



MONDAYS

Barbara Lane, Sue Dowler Janet Baldwin, Lina Wright Craig Hagan, Norma Albright Liz Samuel and Jasmin **TUESDAYS** 

Pat Johnson, Lauren Page Karen Myles & Karen Davies WEDNESDAYS

Fiona Brooke, Chris Walls and Joan Carthy **FRIDAYS** 

Donna Heney, Lauren Page & Anisa King

# THE EDITOR'S WORD

# SCHOOLS



RUTH SOUNDARAJAH CDRC MANAGER

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2017 edition of *Greatel* the quarterly newsletter with updates from the team at CDRC. After a slow start to the school year, orders have started to come in. But we've kept busy with hosting our first ever Creative Forum alongside Life-Works and welcomed Jasmin, our new volunteer, via the charity Spark. Read how the team got inspired at shows, dabbled in millinery and told tales.

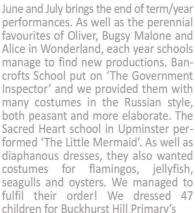




#### MORE SCHOOL NEWS....

Seb Ventura, Assistant

Head Teacher, of Debden Park High School has been proactive in getting teachers from other faculties to dress the part too! From Open Evenings to special curriculum days Seb has stirred up the idea of engaging pupils on topics with a visual kick start to discussions and texts. Here is a cleverly doctored photo of him in various guises. As the former Head of Drama, you can see how his background lends itself well to enhancing learning in the all-important core subjects. Wow!





production of 'Robin Hood'. Whitebridge School had two productions. Their Tudor production required costumes for Henry VIII, his 6 wives, 10 courtiers and several sailors. Their other production was based on nursery rhymes and amongst the characters that we dressed were Miss Muffett, Billy Goat Gruff, a cow and Jack Sprat. The biggest order was probably from Brittons Academy for their Arabian Nights production. As well as costumes, they had props and cushions and drapes for scene setting. We had a busy summer! by BARBARA LANE





We provided costumes and props for two interesting summer holiday clubs. LMC had items for their Messy Science club. Romford Methodist Church had a circus theme and we provided a ring master and clown costume. We had an interesting request for a leavers mass based on the Rio carnival. We were able to provide leis, feathers, skirts and carnival wings (a la the Notting Hill Carnival).



Know a church that should  $\eta \ell \ell \psi \eta$  about us?  $\eta \eta \eta$ ! Tell them we can help sort out the drame.



Andrea was invited to a church in Stoke Newington at the end of the summer holidays for a puppet workshop with a group of teenagers. The theme was Noah and the Ark and the idea was that the youngsters would perform a puppet play out of doors at a special outreach weekend the following week. Much fun was had as they chose and dressed the puppets, created the story and stood behind a tall coat rack hung with dark drapes. Discussion of who would say what, the need for a narrator and the need for holding the puppets upright so they could be seen!

Practice makes perfect and by the end of the session they had put together a good presentation which would tell the bible

story in a lively and vibrant way.

Their leaders are really helpful and plans were going ahead for more work on it during the week as Andrea left. Although the puppets story was only one part of the outreach weekend the young people were very enthusiastic and looking forward to the event knowing that they could contribute in a fun and interesting way.

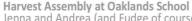








Puppets are a real focus for telling bible stories. Andrea, Sue, Liz and Ruth went to St John's School in Buckhurst Hill. They had asked for a series of stories based on miracles, for their return-to-school assemblies. The first story was of the paralysed man being lowered through the hole in the roof by four loyal friends to be healed by Jesus. Fudge the monkey played the leading role. The children were keen to take part and receptive to the story.



Jenna and Andrea (and Fudge of course) went together to Oaklands school to celebrate their Harvest Festival with bible stories. There are two assemblies, one for the younger children and one for the older ones.

Andrea, with Fudge's help, told the parable of the growing mustard seed, as one child dressed as the growing mustard plant stood in the centre and many others holding puppets and cuddly toys rested under the shade of the branches. All the children could join in with actions and words at appropriate times. The message was that faith can start quite small but get really big in any of us.

Jenna brought out the message of the parable of the Sower and the seed in a different way for the older children, giving them something to think about as well as illustrating the story. The children could appreciate how the seed of faith can grow differently in each of us as we learn about Jesus but we need to listen to his words. Oaklands school is very welcoming to us and it is a real pleasure to go there. by ANDREA MOLES



# VOLUNTEERS



# NOTA SCENES TOUR TO INSPIRE ROYAL MESS

I recently visited the production workshop and costume centre of the Royal Opera House at Thurrock. This is a purpose built venue where you can see backcloth painting, set construction and costume making for the operas and ballets that are performed at the ROH. It was a fascinating tour. I was particularly interested in the costume department and their storage system. If only we could adopt the way they store their hats!



# MAKING A BEELINE

WHEN YOUR INTERESTS DRAW YOU IN



I recently enjoyed a great day out at The Great British Sewing Bee Live show at Excel. As well as lots of stalls with fabulous fabrics, there was a fashion show of garments made from some of the well known pattern books (McCalls, Vogue etc), a display of garments made by sewing bee competitors and a display of items from various decades from the Fashion and Textile Museum (see photo).

■ by PAT JOHNSON



CDRC is looking for more volunteers to join the team.

Sewing & costume assistants, data wizards & fundraisers. Email Ruth Soundarajah at resources@cdrc.co.uk for more information.

## POP COUTURE

CDRC volunteers Jonathan and Anisa also ventured out to the Comic Con show in London that brings together movie, gaming and TV buffs. They were able to see characters in costume.









Since bringing all the props on site earlier this year, most have now found a home following the purchase of some outdoor storage and a rearrangement in the office to accommodate an additional unit. Sue and Barbara carried out great work to achieve some logical order to the myriad shapes and sizes - think ship's wheel, palm tree with leaves, telephones! We've also now produced the first list to help us find everything. The challenge is naming and cross-referencing. Take baskets - these can include flower, bread, laundry, Ali Baba, snake charmer! We've also had to carry out a certain amount of culling. Some large items in the garage were past their best or too specific (a pair of very large dice) so we really couldn't justify keeping them.







WEDDING DRESS DONATION

### FULL **SEA** AHEAD

Our sewing team meets every Monday morning. When there's a full compliment we have four volunteer team members that help us mend, remake, alter, create and protect our costumes and sometimes props. They are amazing at what they do. Could you join us too? Please email Ruth at resources@cdrc.co.uk



MEDIEVAL DRESS DONATION

by PAT JOHNSON

# **EVENTS**





Celebrate the festivities with us at CDRC. Bring along your team, friends, family and make a difference for a great cause.



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING | SAT 9TH DEC 2017 at 10AM-1PM AT WESLEY'S CAFE IN Gingerbread LOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

🌙 HOMEMADE CAKES 🗦 MINCE PIES COFFEES & TEAS AMULLED WINE JUICE ▼ FESTIVE CRAFTS ▼ TABLE TOP SALE ▼ RAFFLE STORYTELLING & COOKIE DECORATING







LAST WORKING DAY OF TERM | FRI 15TH DEC 2017 closing at 3PM

Please note that we will be closing for Winter break on  $15^{\rm H}$  December. We will be fully open on  $8^{\rm H}$  Jan 2018 at 10am for costume and props hire.

#### RAISE THE FUN WITH US. IN AID OF CDRC

2018 LET'S GET QUZZICAL | SAT 27TH JAN 2018 at 6.30PM



Book a table for your family, neighbours and friends at our very own Quiz Night. Put your knowledge to the test and be part of an enjoyable evening. Light meal and refreshments will be included on the night. £6 per head. At Wesley Hall, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Street, IG10. Please call us on 020 8508 7048 for more information.



#### FARMERS' MARKET STALL | SUN 11TH MAR 2018 at 10AM-3PM

CDRC will be selling crafts and holding a table top sale at the Loughton Farmer's Market on Mothering Sunday, which is the 11<sup>1H</sup> March 2018. Come and grab a gift for mum, or get started for Easter which would be just three weeks away.





#### CREATIVE FORUM | TUES 27TH FEB 2018 at 5PM

We have reserved the date of Tues 27<sup>TH</sup> Feb, straight after school at 5pm for our next one. If you are the Head of Arts, Drama, Dance or Music, or run an organisation that works with youth,

CDRC hosted its first ever Creative Forum in partnership with LifeWorks at LMC. It was the first of what we hope to be many throughout the year where we will create space for a dialogue on how we can help schools, churches, and organisations with our joint creative resources to avail grants, impact learning and empower young people.

It was encouraging to see a number of key people from a variety of education, church and charity backgrounds attend. A huge thank you to Adele from Spark, Collette from Kidz Club, Ray from the Sunflower Group, Rebecca from Red Balloon and Seb from Debden Park High School for their valuable input Why don't School for their valuable input. Why don't you join us next time?



please join in the conversation