

AUTUMN / WINTER 17 NEWS

# Encore!

CHRISTIAN DRAMA RESOURCE CENTRE



SEE  
SEW  
UP &  
DOWN

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.

### 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

And He said to me,  
"My grace is sufficient  
for you, for My strength  
is made perfect  
in weakness!"  
2 Cor 12:9

at LifeWorks  
260 High Rd  
Loughton  
IG10 1RB

OPENING TIMES  
Mon-Fri 10AM-3PM  
Term Time Only

CLOSED  
Every Thursday  
and Weekends

FOLLOW US

CDRCtweets



CDRCcharity



cdrc\_inpicture



Christian Drama  
Resource Centre



# COMMUNITY

## Encore! THE LINEUP

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

## HATS OFF TO U3A



All our clients continually test our ingenuity. Waltham Abbey U3A recently wanted ten hats for a performance of the Ascot scene from 'My Fair Lady'. They wanted them as big and outrageous as possible, so we set about dressing 10 of our largest black and white hats with huge bows and ruffles – they did look good! A local care home took a variety of costumes for a 'Round the World' extravaganza for their residents. The Loughton Festival had tea dance accessories and Theatre Train wanted lots of animal costumes, including a hedgehog, a turtle, an eagle and an owl. We are kept on our toes!



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**

## THE CAST

AT  
CDRC

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*

Pg 2

Visit our Jane Austen display at **Loughton Library**, as we commemorate the 200th year anniversary of her death. She wears Regency.



# THE EDITOR'S WORD



# SCHOOLS



RUTH  
SOUNDARAJAH  
CDRC MANAGER

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2017 edition of *Encore!* 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. ■



## RUSSIAN INTO IT



ALICE AS A VIKING AT ST JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

June and July brings the end of term/year performances. As well as the perennial favourites of Oliver, Bugsy Malone and Alice in Wonderland, each year schools manage to find new productions. Bancrofts School put on 'The Government Inspector' and we provided them with many costumes in the Russian style, both peasant and more elaborate. The Sacred Heart school in Upminster performed 'The Little Mermaid'. As well as diaphanous dresses, they also wanted costumes for flamingos, jellyfish, seagulls and oysters. We managed to fulfil their order! We dressed 47 children for Buckhurst Hill Primary's production of 'Robin Hood'. Whitebridge School had two productions.



GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR  
AT BANCROFTS SCHOOL

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

## 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 started 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! ■



# CHURCHES

## CLUB MED



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). ■ by BARBARA LANE

Encore!

Loughton Methodist Church



**HOLIDAY CLUB**  
 Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August to  
 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September

9.30am- 12 noon  
 4-13 age group  
 £20 per child

Contact Tom at [tom@loughtonmethodist.org.uk](mailto:tom@loughtonmethodist.org.uk)

Know a church that should *hear* about us? *Yay!* Tell them we can help sort out the *drains*.

# PULLING THE RIGHT STRINGS

A SUMMER PUPPETRY WORKSHOP



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. ■ by ANDREA MOLES



# STORYTELLING



## CHIMP THE CHAMP

FUDGE THE  
PUPPET MONKEY  
TAKES LEAPS  
AND BOUNDS  
AS THE HEALED  
PARALYZED MAN



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.



FUDGE & ANDREA

### Harvest Assembly at Oaklands School

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



## NOT A ROYAL MESS

A BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR TO INSPIRE

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!

by BARBARA LANE



HAT STORAGE

## MAKING A BEELINE

WHEN YOUR INTERESTS DRAW YOU IN



DISPLAYS AND STALLS

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](mailto: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.



JONATHAN



ANISA

# STOCK

## TO DO LIST

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.

■ by PAT JOHNSON



ASK FOR OUR LATEST LIST OF COSTUMES & PROPS. AN INVENTORY OF WHAT WE HAVE MAY HELP YOU TO PLAN.

**CAN'T REFUSE TO REUSE**



Frequently after a first visit to us, you tell us you have items lying unused at home and ask if we would find them useful. Whilst we have no spare space and are constantly reviewing our costumes, we always appreciate your generosity and say that if we are unable to keep items for our own use, we will aim to sell them to provide additional funds, give them to a charity shop or, in the case of gents' clothing, pass them to the Whitechapel Mission, which is supported by Loughton Methodist Church. Items in good condition can replace our similar but worn out things; garments can be adapted: with the addition of a drape, a flowing dress can become Greek or Roman; a large size can be useful alongside similar versions. And sometimes we are offered something truly unique which we can't refuse.

■ by PAT JOHNSON



WEDDING DRESS DONATION

## FULL SEAM 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](mailto:resources@cdrc.co.uk)



MEDIEVAL DRESS DONATION

# EVENTS

AUTUMN 2017 NEWS  
*Encore!*  
CHRISTIAN DRAMA RESOURCE CENTRE

## A CRACKER

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



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

- HOMEMADE CAKES
- MINCE PIES
- COFFEES & TEAS
- MULLED WINE JUICE
- FESTIVE CRAFTS
- TABLE TOP SALE
- RAFFLE
- STORYTELLING & COOKIE DECORATING

*Gingerbread*  
DECORATING  
FOR  
£1  
*catch them if you can*



**LAST WORKING DAY OF TERM | FRI 15<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2017 closing at 3PM**

Please note that we will be closing for Winter break on 15<sup>TH</sup> December. We will be fully open on 8<sup>TH</sup> Jan 2018 at 10am for costume and props hire.

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



**LET'S GET QUZZICAL | SAT 27<sup>TH</sup> 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 11<sup>TH</sup> MAR 2018 at 10AM-3PM**

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

AT THE HIGH STREET LOUGHTON



**CREATIVE FORUM | TUES 27<sup>TH</sup> 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, please join in the conversation.



CDCR 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 you join us next time?

CDCR IS A REGISTERED UK CHARITY | No 1061265

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS AND OUR PATRON LADY HEATHER MURRAY