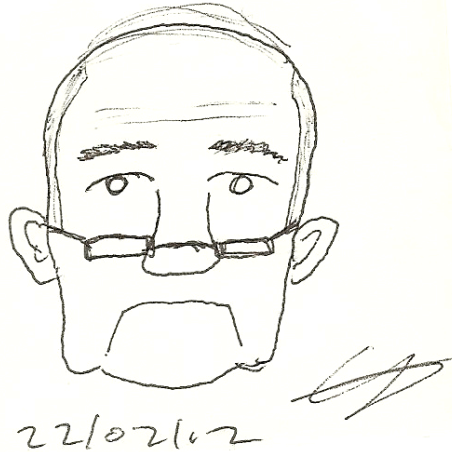


# RAVING MAD

NO 23

*'Leaping into 2012 with a spring in our skip'*

## A word from the Chair



MAD has really gone through an extraordinary time in the last few months of 2011 and the first few of 2012. All our hopes, visions and aspirations were focused on one thing, 'Are You Being Served' being a success in order that we could continue, and I can remember some abstemious meetings with Garry, our Treasurer, on the lead up to the production deciding which bills we could pay and which we could leave unpaid a little longer. Maybe that was one reason why you have had to wait so long for this Newsletter or maybe it was just laziness on my part, however I am pleased to report we have done it and 'Are You Being Served' has literally pulled us out of the mire (for the next six weeks at least).

Would you believe it has come in with a profit margin of just under £2000 similar to 'Allo 'Allo but don't get excited after all bills that were owed from last year and on going expenses we go ahead with at least £400 for our next production, so you see we are not out of the recession yet.

So I would like to thank all those actors, backstage staff, front of house staff, supporters and those who came to see us, and finally a quick tribute for David Croft, (who passed away last year) and Jeremy Lloyd who wrote the dazzling scripts which have resulted in

those two amazing successes for us over the last five years.

No complacency though, businesses and groups are going 'belly up' every day so into the future at a 'farce' rate of knots. As comedy seems to be doing well for us at the moment and as no one wants to take the Director's reins, I will be directing 'Cash on Delivery', an extremely funny comedy by Michael Cooney (brother of Ray). All I can say is I have to believe in the play before I direct it, so if you liked our last two comedies, you will enjoy this because, take my word for it, it is funnier and is faster paced than our last two were.

The Committee have also been looking at different ways to keep the 'wolf from the door'. So apart from having another fund raising event soon, which I will come onto later in the Newsletter, the first change is we are looking to have our production over two weekends, from Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 May and the following Thursday 24 to Saturday 26 May. All at 7.45pm at Meeching Hall except the first Saturday (19) being a 3pm matinee performance only, when tickets will be £7 (a reduction of £1 on the usual price). Tony Gibbs

Meeching Amateur Dramatics  
Proudly Presents

# Cash On Delivery

A comedy  
by Michael Cooney

Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th May  
&

Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th May 2012

7.45pm except Saturday (17th) Matinee only at 3pm.

Tickets £8 (Matinee £7)

Meeching Hall,  
Fort Road  
Newhaven

Tickets from  
Meeching Estate Agents  
High Street, Newhaven,  
Tel:01273 515566



## MAD Trivia

Jim Harvey, who has been one of our most consistent and popular actors over the last 14 years, he was in our first production 'The Chinese Pendant' and 'the Gypsy Curse' 1998 and our last 'Are You Being Served' 2012. We now welcome his granddaughter Sophii, who will be making her first adult stage debut in 'Cash on Delivery'.

## The Future

Well, what is happening? – Wednesday 26 to Saturday 29 September is MAD's 2<sup>nd</sup> Music Hall, our first in September 2011 proved to be an unexpected success and even I was taken aback, especially as we are not a musical society. However the learning curve was good for us because it was the variety of acts, songs comedy and energy which made the show a success.

This year, those I have approached are so keen to be part of it as they think we have got the balance right. We hope to have Margaret, last year's pianist on board earlier and Keith will again be Master of Ceremonies, the topics, comedy and songs will range from Circus to Rio, and will be open to as many fun loving performers as we can muster – Tuesday 29 and Thursday 31 May will be the days to come down to Meeching Hall at 7.30pm to find out what is planned.

PS A favourite piece of last year's show was Garry & Edd's rendition of 'The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God' which proved a sensational party piece. Looking to January 2013, its got to be funny its got to be well known, stage versions of 'Up Pompeii,' 'Last of the Summer Wine' and 'Faulty Towers' have been suggested and are being looked at so who knows! – Not finalised yet.

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'If all the worlds a stage and all the people merely players  
who the f \_ \_ \_ \_ has my script!'

## Date for your Diaries (Meeching Hall unless stated)

**Sunday 25 March 3pm 'The marvellous & unlikely fete of Little Upper Downing' Selmeston & Alciston Village Hall** (a tale of two villages) Presented by Little Bulb & Farnham Maltings Theatre group – Tickets £9 Adults, Child/Student £4.

**Saturday 21 April 9am onwards** Clean up & De-clutter day for the Green room, store and some minor set building. All welcome plenty of 'just jobs' to do.

**Saturday 28 April 7.30pm** Bumper Fund Raising Games Evening – Come along and take part in a variety of games some very cool, some a little more stimulating. A Raffle and your favourite barmen (Garry & Edd) will be in attendance to cater for your every whim! Tickets £4 to include nibbles.

**Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 May, 'Cash on Delivery' 7.45pm.**  
**(Sat 3pm Matinee) and**  
**Thursday 24 to Saturday 26 May, 'Cash on Delivery' 7.45pm.**

**Saturday 2 June 0930am Fish Festival**  
West Quay Lawns, help to man a table for the day to promote MAD.

**Wednesday 26 to Saturday 29 September, MAD's 2<sup>nd</sup> Music Hall 7.45pm.**

## Finally

MAD is always on the look out for people to help, not necessarily on the stage but with sound or lighting, despite our shortage of funds we have managed to purchase our own second hand lighting system within the last year. Remember !

To Act is human, to Tech is divine  
without lights, it would just be radio.

Our great friend Tom kindly produced DVDs of 'Are You Being Served', not for public showing of course, but to those involved a little reminder of the fun of being involved, complete with the classic 'out take' of Mrs Slocombe's knickers, or more to the point where they landed. See Tony if you want one.

Thank you Edd for the pencil drawing of the Chair, drawn during a last 'high powered' Committee Meeting and last but not least if you don't want future copies of the Newsletter let Tony know and you will be taken off the E-mail list otherwise it can be assumed you are one hell of a 'happy bunny', being part of the MAD family.

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Chair

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