

CLUN AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY REVIEW 2024/25



CADS was resurrected in April 2022. During the past three years, we have staged six major productions at the Memorial Hall as well as several smaller performances at the Green Man, Carnival and at other venues in the Clun Valley. Each time we have become more daring with multimedia and audience interaction and our latest variety show, CADS Celebrates Drury Lane Theatre, was the most ambitious so far.

We have grown in size from around ten people to now having a cast of 22, including 8 youngsters, two directors, a technical team of five and two musicians.

We are indebted to the Clun Memorial Hall committee for their support and, indeed, if they had not created a corridor between the bar area and the green room, we could not have staged our last show as we would have been in breach of safeguarding regulations and would have been closed down. We recently passed a safeguarding inspection but there is still work to do in creating safe dressing areas.

Taking an overview, there are two features of CADS that we think make us asset to our Valley. Firstly, it is how we have grown, not only in numbers, but also both as a group and as individuals. We are not afraid to experiment with new ventures and cast members, who previously would have almost hidden behind the curtains, are now holding centre stage, belting out their lines and their song and dance steps. Some of us have even amazed ourselves at the latent talents that have been unlocked by our stage directors. We are as much a social club as a drama society with an age range from 12 to 85 years, providing physical, mental and emotional development and support. I believe the technical term is 'social prescribing'.

Our second feature is our inclusivity. Everyone is welcome and everyone is involved to whatever level of commitment they want. No-one is ever left out. Rehearsals for the big shows can take several months but anyone joining during that period is always given a part. It is a credit to our writers that they can be so flexible!

So, where do we go from here?

1. We would like to expand our youth element as we (and their parents) have witnessed the benefits to the children in terms of social skills, creativity and confidence.
2. We want to expand our repertoire, but are becoming limited by the sound and lighting equipment available in the Memorial Hall which we feel needs updating. We would be delighted to work with the Clun Memorial Hall committee and the Clun Town Council to decide what is needed and how it might be funded. What is installed would also enhance the hall in general for future events that are planned and add value to Clun as more users could be attracted to the venue.
3. We want to expand our marketing reach. We are building a good reputation and developing links with other groups and various cultural agencies but we would like bigger audiences. Between the three performances of a show, we typically get an attendance of up to 200. More paying customers would bring more money into the town.

(541 words)