

Welcome to the November 2019 edition of your newsletter - keeping you up to date with society news. After the great success of "Oliver", we're getting stuck in to rehearsals for our February concert 'Dare to be Different'! A brilliant evening was had by all who came along to our 95th Anniversary Ball. With Christmas fast approaching, we're looking forward to the next opportunities for everyone to get together for some festive carol singing. Last but not least, check out news of our next shows!

"Oliver!" – a joyous experience for all involved

We were overwhelmed by all the fabulous feedback from folks who came along to see 'Oliver' at the 'Mercury Abbey Fields'. Here's a few of the comments we received:

"...the most exquisite performance of "Who Will Buy" that I have ever seen! The Street Cryers were superb and it was immaculately directed".

"Seen lots of Colchester Operatic Shows over the years but this is quite possibly the best one ever! Awesome with a Great Cast, Chorus + Set/Production"

"Better than Butlins" !!

"Brilliant performance. A must see."

"Consider yourselves a massive hit" ([Gazette Review](#))



(Photos courtesy of the Mercury and credit Pamela Raith.)

Rehearsals well underway for February 2020 Concert

'Dare to be Different'



Our concert cast is working hard with Director Katie Cutmore and Musical Director Richard Harrison on what's shaping up to be a great show. With songs ranging from 'Step in Time' to 'Born this way', and from 'Radio Gaga' to 'Come Alive' it's got something for everyone.

The Concert will take place from 12th to 15th February 2020 at the Headgate Theatre.

There will also be a later performance, in aid of Leprosy, on Saturday 22nd February at the Lion Walk Church – you can book [here](#).

COS 95TH Anniversary Ball: a fabulous evening

A great night was had by all at our recent Ball – dressing up, catching up, dancing to our live band, and celebrating 95 years since the Society began. Katie Cutmore, our first woman Chair, welcomed everyone, and John Enfield, in his capacity of President, shared some lovely stories of earlier days, taking everyone on a trip down the memory lanes of Colchester and COS!

The evening was made even more special by all the COS touches dreamt up by the Marketing Committee – including a wall of programmes through the ages, themed tables, a fabulous cake, and last but not least, some wonderfully named cocktails.



Join us for some Festive Fun!

Fancy some festive fun?! Come along and join us for this year's carol singing events – a great opportunity to get in the festive spirit and catch up with COS friends:

Sunday 1st December - 12-1pm at Culver Square for Colchester Christmas lights switch on, **AND THEN** on to Marks and Spencer for more singing between 2-3pm

Saturday 7th December – Marks and Spencer between 2-3pm

Tuesday 17th December – 8pm at The Swann, Chapel.

Friends and family are welcome to join. Look forward to seeing you there.

And our next shows are.....

We're exciting to announce that our next shows will be:

SHREK!... for COS (to run from Wednesday 27th Jan 2021 to Saturday 6th February 2021); and

FAME!.... for CO₂ (dates to be confirmed).

Watch this space more news next time!

Member news

Wishing Abi Bower all the best for her adventures in Canada – hope you have a wonderful time!

Thanks to Trevor Walton for all his work with the Society, most recently as CO₂ Youth Liaison Officer. Following his recent 'retirement', Trevor sent a 'big thank-you to the CO₂ Committee':

"Firstly, thank you all for the gifts upon my "retirement" - dictionary, thesaurus and the wine. All well received.

Secondly, to Ann in particular for the support over many years as the child protection rules change and re-change.

I have always been fortunate to have worked with excellent Chairpersons, who always put the membership first.

Thirdly, a thank you to everyone, who over the last 20 years have placed and kept CO₂ at the very top of youth theatre.

So many friendships are born out of CO₂, both members and the adult helpers. Long may that continue.

Love and best wishes

Trevor"

Wishing you a happy 'retirement', Trevor, although we'll surely see you again soon!

Get Involved!

We are always keen to hear from anyone who would like to get involved in the Society, in whatever capacity. This could range from director and musical director, through to other aspects of production and backstage help. If you're interested in any of these roles, please get in touch at any time, with details of your area of interest and any credentials. It's not always possible to advertise roles, and previous speculative contacts have gone on the Choreograph shows for the Society. You can contact us via our secretary, Amanda.

Committee news

Welcome to the latest member of the Marketing and Events Committee, Claudia Haswell. Claudia will be looking after social media – you may have already seen her posts on the upcoming Carol Singing.

Keeping in touch

www.colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk

Follow Colchester operatic society on [facebook](#), Twitter

[@ColchesterOpSoc](#) and Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/colchesteroperatic/>

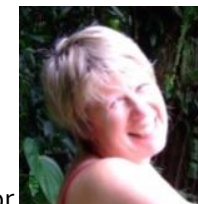
Executive committee contacts

Chair: chair@colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk



Katie Cutmore

Vice-chair and Chair of CO2



Ann Taylor

Secretary



Amanda Powell

secretary@colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk



Laura Hicks

Business Manager



Sarah White

Membership secretary



Paul Kusel-Baum

Cos1theatre@hotmail.com

Treasurer & Music liaison / orchestra fixer



Neil Somerville

Marketing & Events

Barbara Pears

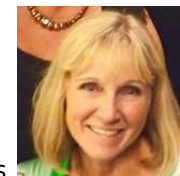
Marketing and Events Chair



Sally Cutchie

marketing@colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk

Minutes and Newsletter



Celia Greaves

Social media



Becky Clemens

Please feel free to contact the Executive Committee (via cos1theatre@hotmail.com) with any ideas / issues you may have so we can be more informed on an ongoing basis.

CO2 can be contacted at co2theatre@hotmail.co.uk

Marketing and events committee contacts

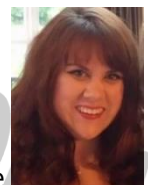
colchesteroperaticsociety@gmail.com or
marketing@colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk

Chair, Social Account Treasurer & Mercury Contact



Sally Cutchie

External Events co-ordinator



Sarah White

Secretary, Social media (Facebook & Instagram) & Advertising (COS)



Becky Clemens

CO₂ liaison, programme (CO₂) and Internal events co-ordinator



Charlotte Butcher

Personal Liaison & Promotional Material Distribution Coordinator

Barbara Pears

Internal events, media contact and correspondence



Maeve Borges

Social media
Claudia Haswell

Social media (Twitter)
Sarah Miles

COS programme
Gabby Skinner