

THE OLD CLUB TRIP

FOREWORD BY DAVE CHERRY

Information for the sponsors



The Musical is set in the 1960's Coal Mining Town of Barnsley in an era when people had different moral values, manners and customs.

The Play revolves around the Annual Working Men's Club Trip. This was the only time that most of the children went away, and it is a boy meets girl story that is doomed from the start, due to the class difference and prejudice that prevailed at that time.

I have tried to interlink the songs, music and dialogue together in the 1960's style.

I did not realize it at the time but the songs that I had written for the Hospice rendered themselves ideal for the storyline. It was simply a case of fitting a narrative to the songs.

The idea of the Musical, originated, in all places, on a beach in New Zealand and came from my lad Simon, who emigrated there. One day in his deckchair he said to "Why not write a Musical Fatter?" It was strange how a sunny beach on the other side of the world conjured up ideas of 1960's Barnsley. Like the *Stairfoot Rarndabart*, I knocked up the main storyline in minutes on the back of the wife's crossword book, but the knob polishing took weeks.

I have tried to appeal to all ages and am encouraged by the fact that my songs do just that. I had always thought that the songs belonged to children and the older people and was astonished to find that teenagers liked them as well. I have steered away from bad language and tried to make it as funny as possible.

I am also fortunate in the fact that the dialect and working class humour of the time still sounds as comical today. Social History has

always been a pet subject of mine but it was fascinating in my researches to find how the endemic dialect had shifted slightly and some words had nearly disappeared altogether.

(“larum” –for the clock and—“cornish” for the mantelpiece cornice and “brussen” from brusque. I remembered the “chip hoyle talk”—or loose talk, from my Dad and could not resist the scourge of the Wigfalls man who came on a Friday night)

This is the first time that I have ever attempted anything as massive as this project and it has been hard work doing it in my spare time. Being sixteen in 1962, I myself started at the local pit, Barrow Colliery in Worsborough, and also learnt to play the guitar in the same year, so I have used a lot of my personal experiences and situations gained both in the pit and club land in the story line. Both of my jobs ran parallel then and indeed all the material came from my memories.

In going back to the early 1960’s when everybody worked in very labour intensified environments such as mining. There always seemed to be more camaradie and togetherness and I suppose “cocking a snook at the Establishment”. I have however tried to steer clear of the politics and poverty of the times and concentrated on the happier, funnier, and innocent aspects of a now lost era.

There are not many research books on this period and it has all had to come from memory and peoples recollections.

Being in the centre and heartland of a tremendous amount of talent I am indebted to a lot of people for their ideas and guidance and I just hope that the project is a success. I have used a lot of gags and stories from the 60’s and hope it all transmits into the modern day setting.

I know a lot of folk are waiting to see the musical performed live and of course making money for the Hospice is the most important objective.

The intention is to give a chance to unknown actors and singers and maybe we may find fame and fortune for someone.

I am still surprised at the way that the so-called 'Establishment' has helped me and being an ex-miner was always suspicious of them but they have always been fantastic with me and always batted my corner.

It has taken nine months of hard slog and has nearly driven my wife Sandra ballistic. My worst fear is that I have "over-egged the pudding."

We shall see. Here's hoping...

Dave Cherry